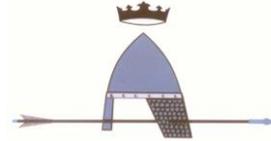




Battle Town Council



MINUTES of ESTATES COMMITTEE MEETING held on TUESDAY, 4 February 2014 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr P Fisher – Chairman
Cllrs C Boryer, R Bye, M Kiloh, D Furness, R Jessop, S Pry
and D Wilson.

In Attendance: Mr B Marks, Battle Ramblers, Mr J Harmer, Footpaths Advisor.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr J Sydes
2. **Disclosure of Interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 22 October 2013. Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Wilson. This was agreed and they were duly signed.
4. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**
 - **Gate near Church Hall** - Cllr Fisher informed the meeting that the ivy had been cleared from the gate and the tank traps.
 - **Flag Poles on Abbey Green** – Cllr Jessop reminded the meeting that the flag poles had been provided by Mr Mike Dawes, Battle Partnership, for the Big Event. He stated that no application had been received by Council for raising flags on the poles, nor from Beautiful Battle for using the poles for hanging baskets. Cllr Kiloh reported that this matter had now been dealt with.
 - **Oak Planters** - Cllr Kiloh reported that the planter in the cemetery needed repair and she had received a quote for relining it in fibre-glass but this was too expensive. It was agreed that all planters, including those on Abbey Green, should be emptied and checked. Cllr Kiloh stated that Beautiful Battle would deal with this.
 - **Farm Tenancy** – It was reported that the tenant had concerns about the signage and it was agreed that Cllr Fisher would contact him to discuss his concerns. Cllr Jessop proposed that Mrs J Cuppini could be consulted first, along with the SALC solicitor. This was unanimously agreed. Cllr Wilson informed the meeting of a broken fence and fallen trees on the land adjoining Almonry Farm.
5. **Correspondence and Communications** - None
6. **Footpath Matters**

Footpath 30 – unofficial diversion signs had been erected and walkers were using the diagonal track. It was stated that they could be Permissive Path signs but unless they had been officially erected the original Right of Way remained the official path. It was agreed that the sign be checked prior to the next meeting.

Footpath 56 – Mr Marks stated that the current path was unsafe and needed much work. He reminded the meeting of the introduction of a bridleway which was the subject of a Public Inquiry which ESCC was re-advertising following a request to landowners to fence relevant parts of the footpath. If agreed at the Public Inquiry, this would result in the renumbering of the footpath to 108 (footpath) and 109 (bridleway).

Footpaths 105/21 - Mr Harmer reported that he had been in contact with ESCC regarding

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the need for the signing of public footpaths in Battle because some residents had erected 'private road' signs.

Cllr Jessop reported that Mr R Williams, Head of ESCC Highways, had attended the Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC) recent meeting and invited town and parish councils to part fund some of its operations. Cllr Jessop suggested monies could be vired in the next financial year to undertake footpath signage.

Footpath 34 – Cllr Fisher reported that this had been turned into a quagmire by developers lorries and she had informed the ESCC Rights of Way Officer.

Footpath 87 – Mr Harmer requested the Committee to consider upgrading entrances and replace stiles with gates at Mansers Shaw. It was agreed to place this on the agenda for the next meeting on 1 April. He also reported that the recent heavy rains had made a hole at the entrance to Mansers Shaw, in the bottom right hand of the field, which needs reinstating.

The Chairman thanked Mr Harmer for attending.

7. Recreation Grounds – North Trade Road and Telham

Upgrade on Tennis Wall

Cllr Fisher updated the meeting stating that a committee had been formed to deal with this and its inaugural meeting was on 20 February 2014. It had been confirmed by Rother District Council that no planning permission would be required but the committee would have to have the majority of the funds needed before work can commence.

Repairs to Pavilion

Cllr Fisher reported that at a cost of some £495 there was not enough money in the budget but she suggested speaking to Harmers with a view to the work being carried out now with payment after 1 April 2014. This was unanimously agreed.

Update on Exercise Track/Pathway at North Trade Road Recreation Ground – Joint Project with Battle Schools Greenway

The meeting was shown a map outlining the pathway round the children's play area and down by the hedge to the corner of the southern boundary. Cllr Boryer drew the meetings attention to a proposed new bridge on the footpath over the ghyll at the southern end of the Recreation Ground. The meeting unanimously agreed the proposals.

Mr Marks informed the meeting that ESCC had selected Bexhill, Battle and Rye for greenway proposals and Battle Town Council was asked to identify land that it owned along the route. He confirmed he was meeting with English Heritage to discuss the pathway proposals.

Legacy from the late Pamela Harrison

Cllr Fisher confirmed that the seat had been delivered and would be placed in the children's play area at the Telham Recreation Ground along with two new springers.

8. Planting of Roundabout and Other Areas

Cllr Kiloh, representing Beautiful Battle, confirmed that the cordylines on the roundabout had been removed. It was confirmed that the Town Council own the roundabout and Cllr Kiloh agreed to find out about sponsorship. Beautiful Battle proposed planting up the roundabout with grass and red poppies/flowers to commemorate WW1. Some discussion followed on the possible plants to replace the cordylines and Cllr Kiloh agreed to return to the next meeting on 1 April with Beautiful Battle's planting plans.

Concern was expressed about the health and safety and insurance requirements of anyone carrying out work on the roundabout. Cllr Jessop suggested some temporary safety fencing being erected about two feet from the roundabout to protect personnel, although permission would be required from ESCC Highways and the Police. It was also

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suggested that the Deputy Clerk seek guidance on this aspect. Cllr Fisher stated that planting on the roundabout should be by Town Council employees because they were covered by Council's insurance. It was also mentioned that Cllr Kiloh's proposals for Almonry Gardens go through the Finance and General Purposes Committee and it was felt that those for the roundabout should also.

Cllr Fisher stated that the roundabout was the entrance to the town and it was important to give a good first impression. She suggested that next year local organisations could be invited to send in suggestions for permanent planting with a view to this being implemented by 2015. This was agreed.

Abbey Green Proposals – It was clarified that Beautiful Battle and Battle Town Council made up the Battle in Bloom Committee which would take part in the national competition. Full Council had agreed in principle to apply under the Town Centre section of the South East in Bloom Competition, the requirements of which were to enhance the environment and visitor attraction. English Heritage had stated that nothing should obscure the Abbey and its buildings and no further planting would be allowed, but the planters and hornbeam trees on the apron had been approved by English Heritage and would be retained. Suggestions were made regarding using the planters and creating a feature in the centre providing it was all movable for any events taking place. Cllr Kiloh stated that costings had been estimated at £15,000 with Beautiful Battle contributing £1,000, and that grants would be applied for. An application had already been made to Battle Partnership and discussion followed on other possible grant awarding bodies. It was suggested that a proposal should be put to other organisations in the town asking them for their thoughts, particularly as evidence of public consultation would be needed for any grant applications. Cllr Fisher extended the Committee's thanks to Beautiful Battle and looked forward to further news.

9. Tree Work Update

Cllr Fisher reported that nothing had been done owing to the weather. The tree in the churchyard adjacent to Herringtons needed trimming and Cllr Boryer suggested the grade 3 trees in Mansers Shaw should also be done as soon as possible.

It was resolved that in accordance with Council's Standing Order 3(a) and Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following items.

10. Land Use

- Battle Abbey – Committee's recommendation be forwarded to full Council.
- Existing Overflow Car Park – Committee's recommendation be forwarded to full Council
- Car Park Extension – Committee's recommendation be forwarded to full Council
- Footpath – Little Park Farm Lane Access – Committee's recommendation to be forwarded to full Council.

11. Budget Report 2013/14 – The report was noted but the Committee requested clarification of two items under churchyard maintenance, ref. 107 and 144.

12. Matters for Information/Future Agenda Items

Cllr Fisher reported that she had met with the Air Cadets who are keen to have a larger meeting place, similar to the Guides hut. Councillors views on the use of part of the North

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Trade Road Recreation Ground were sought. Cllr Wilson expressed concern about filling the Recreation Ground with buildings and the meeting agreed more information was needed before making any decision.

Cllr Jessop reported that water was overflowing on to Town Council land on George Meadow and he would draft a letter to English Heritage.

Cllr Wilson stated that the drain in the bottom corner of the Rother District Council car park was muddied and silted up.

13. Date of Next Meeting: 1 April 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Chairman
Cllr Fisher

