



# Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of a SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
held on Tuesday, 30 September 2014  
at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr J Boryer – Chairman  
Cllrs D Furness, J Gyngell, M Kiloh, J Ormonde-Butler and D Wilson.

**One Member of the public was present.**

**1. Apologies for Absence – Cllrs R Bye, M Howell and M Palmer.**  
Cllr J Eldridge was absent.

**2. Disclosure of Interest - None.**

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 8 July 2014. Cllr Kiloh proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Ormonde-Butler. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

**4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

The Committee noted that the repair to the **bus shelter** is on the Council's workstaff schedule of work.

*The Chairman agreed that items 7 and 8 be taken out of order.*

**8. Cemetery**

Cllr Kiloh confirmed that at the recent **S&SE in Bloom 2014** award presentation the Cemetery again won Silver Gilt. The judges' comments had been circulated to Members and it was noted that points had been lost on the Marketing, brochures, leaflets and public information section. It was agreed that a sum should be allowed in the budget to identify rare and interesting trees and then to provide literature and labels for visitors of the cemetery.

Cllr Kiloh reported that a meeting has been arranged with CDSL on 14 October to discuss the process of the planning application including pre-planning advice and an estimate for the overall cost for the **cemetery extension project**.

The Chairman suggested that the offer of radiators for the **Chapel** should be pursued and that, if this was no longer available, costs for 2 storage heaters be obtained. This was agreed.

The Acting Town Clerk (ATC) reported a **request for additional access off Cemetery approach road**. Members agreed to postpone decision on this to the next meeting to enable Councillors to carry out a site inspection.

The **poor condition of the cemetery approach road** was discussed. It was agreed that 3 tenders should be obtained for the planing out and resurfacing. Contributions for any repairs would be requested from other users of the road

*Cllr Kiloh gave her apologies and left the meeting.*

**7. Allotments**

The ATC confirmed that, at the time of issuing the agenda the **vacant plots** were: **Cherry Gardens 3; Netherfield Hill 0; Virgins Croft 2** and **Watch Oak 3**. She reported that a rent reminder to all tenants had been issued and that some allotments had subsequently been given up as is usual at this time of the year.

Mrs Gavin, secretary to Senlac Allotment Association (SAA) reported on recent **shed break-ins at Cherry Gardens** and the consequent **meeting with the Police**. She confirmed that several items had been stolen and that a Police representative had given advice on correctly marking

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items and suggested that sheds have no valuable items left and they be kept unlocked. Alarms had been offered but it was felt these are inappropriate on an allotment site close to residential properties. Any suspicious persons should be reported on 999.

Cllr Wilson reported that Cherry Gardens is looking unkempt with some allotment boundaries overrunning pathways; **Watch Oak** is improving although the disused cesspool requires attention and some allotments at **Virgins Croft** need more work. He had met with representatives at **Netherfield Hill** to investigate flytipping, which has now mostly been cleared, but has also requested information on the proposal to build on the adjacent land. A request had been made by the SAA representative at **Watch Oak** to allow a quarter of plot 15 (currently vacant) to be used as a **play area**. A majority of plot holders had been supportive and SAA proposed that they pay the annual fee and keep the area neat and tidy. Subject to the area being safe and children monitored the Committee agreed to this use.

*Member of the public left the meeting.*

## 5. Correspondence & Communications

A suggestion had been received for a strapline on the town gates "Site of the Battle of Hastings". The Committee agreed that the cost of adding a reference to the historic battle should be investigated but felt that the reference to Hastings should be avoided.

*Cllr Furness gave his apologies and left the meeting.*

## 6. Street Lighting

The ATC advised that despite numerous attempts, she had been unable to ascertain whose vehicle was responsible for the **damage to a Street light column at Virgins Lane**. She suggested that a claim for both this and the previous vehicle damage to a column at Wellington Gardens be made to the insurance company. She confirmed that the excess is £250 per claim but that the cost of repair far exceeds this. The ATC was asked to confirm that this would not impact on the renewal of the insurance policy before proceeding with the claims.

The **Energy contract renewal** is due in November and a price comparison is currently being undertaken by a third party.

## 9. Budget Report 2014-15

The ATC highlighted the reduction of expected expenditure for water supply and repairs and maintenance at the allotments and general maintenance at the cemetery. However, the forecast for income at the cemetery is grossly below that anticipated. This resulted in a forecast figure of £10,000 over budget.

## 10. Zero Based Budgeting for the Street Furniture and Cemetery

The Committee reiterated the need for the resurfacing of the cemetery road, the cost of loan repayments; regular maintenance of bus shelters – suggested £200pa and seats. Items to be added to the allotments budget: fencing at Watch Oak and a water supply at Netherfield Hill, although Cllr Wilson reminded Members that if Amicus Horizon develop their area this would have a beneficial impact on this.

## 11. Matters for Information and Future Agenda Items

The ATC was asked to investigate the **Chestnut tree** at the **Cemetery** which appears to be dying and the poor condition of **trees** at the bottom boundary of the **Watch Oak** allotments site.

## 12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 9 December 2014

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

CLLR BORYER  
Chairman

