



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
held on TUESDAY, 5 February 2019 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle AT 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), D Furness, M Dass, J Boryer, J Gyngell

In attendance: Jane de Garston (minutes), Bev Marks

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr M Howell
Cllr P Fisher was absent
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 4 December 2019** were approved by members and duly signed by Cllr Favell.
4. **Town Clerk's report was noted**
5. **Correspondence & Communications**
Notification was made by groundstaff that a **bench at Telham Lane** has been damaged beyond repair. Members agreed to await any request from the public for a replacement before options are considered.
6. **Cemetery**
 - a) The detailed **action plan** for the **cemetery** was noted.
 - b) Members agreed to increase the previously delegated authority for the **path repairs to £9,000 from £5,000.**
 - c) Members agreed not to enter **South & South East in Bloom competition** in 2019
 - d) Members agreed the **Hastings Botany Group Wild Flower Walk** be held on **Saturday 18th May.** Refreshments will be available in the ceremonies room following the tour, for a voluntary donation.
 - e) Members agreed a budget of **£3,000 PWLB EMR 345** for work experience students from Sussex Coast College to restore the **mortuary building.**
7. **Allotments**
 - a) The detailed **action plan** for the **allotments** was noted.
 - b) The (t) Deputy Town Clerk's **report** was **noted.**
 - o Members agreed the submerged water tank at Watch Oak allotments should be completely removed.
 - c) Members **discussed** the **proposal** to agree a policy that, in response to any future requests, the **keeping of chickens is only to be allowed on outside plots.** *Standing orders were suspended to receive a comment from BM* that one boundary is adjacent to the public footpath and allowing chicken coups on the boundary would alter the view of the public amenity. *Standing orders were reinstated.* Members resolved to monitor any reports of rats and **not** to make any **policy amendment** at this time.
8. **Recreation Grounds**
 - a) The detailed **action plan** for the **Recreation Grounds** was noted. The only outstanding item is the monitoring of the zip wire at Coronation Gardens.
 - b) The minutes of the **Battle Health Pathway** were noted, as attached.
 - c) The notes from the meeting of the **Fit For Battle Working Group** were noted, as attached.

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- d) Members agreed to the **purchase** of a replacement **basket swing** from Recreation Facilities **EMR 440**
- e) Members agreed to a charge of £10 per session, per tennis court for a commercial hire. Booking can be monthly in advance. To be monitored. Members agreed an annual fee of £150 per session for the use of courts by Battle clubs.
- f) Members agreed final amendments to the Battle Health Pathway plan and specifications for the Pathway and Cycle Skills Area (pump track)
- g) Members agreed to **seek tenders** to construct **Battle Health Pathway** and obtain quotes for the **Cycle Skills Area** at a maximum cost of **£750 from Project budget (4800 / 210)**
- h) Members agreed to **seek tenders** to remove existing and rebuild extended **Pavilion** at a maximum cost of **£750 from Project budget (4800 / 210)**
- i) Members agreed to **vire £200 from General Maint (4205 / 240)** to enable a **defibrillator** for the **Pavilion** to be purchased using a donation of £900 from Hastings Direct offered to Battle Baptist Football Club towards the purchase
- j) Ideas for the use of **Telham Field** for reporting to **F&GP in March 2019** were discussed
Standing orders were suspended to allow Bev Marks to request members be aware that the playing field is identified as a green space in the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. The Right Of Way that is adjoining land has been successfully redirected without issue. Also, the gates on the entrance to the playing field are in a poor condition. *Standing orders were reinstated* members agreed to take the following suggestions to F&GP:
 - Remove the play equipment, cultivate as wild meadow and lease land for bee keeping
 - Site temporary container housing to support local housing needs
 - Explore development options
- k) **Cllr D Furness** agreed to **liaise between BTC and CCC School Council** to raise the remaining £400 to enable BTC to use the RDC Community grant to install the youth shelter

9. Street Furniture & Lighting

- a) The detailed action plan for Street Lighting and Furniture was noted
- b) The replacement of lamp column 112 – Marley Lane was noted

10. Remainder of BTC's Estate

- a) The detailed action plan for the Remainder of BTC's Estate was noted
- b) Requests for use of Abbey Green by: Cancer Research; Sussex Wings; Age UK (possible regular advice sessions) were noted.
- c) Members agreed to request a licence from East Sussex Highways to secure a seat in the bus shelter near to Battle Memorial Hall
- d) Members agreed to discuss with **Sussex Lund** the possibility of applying for **grant funding** to install an additional stone pathway in Mansers Shaw **to allow disabled access** to the existing path from the Recreation Ground end. *Standing orders were suspended to allow BM to report* Battle Health Walkers use the Mansers Shaw footpath, at least once a fortnight and are pleased with the progress of this area. However, the footbridge needs to be widened and strengthened and this would be required to be able to apply for permissive footpath status. *Standing orders were reinstated.*

11. Financial Matters

- a) The budget report at 31 December 2018 was noted. Notification was made that the Tesco Bags of Help grant funding had been received but does not appear in the presented budget report.
- b) Members agreed to vire unspent budgets for incomplete projects into Earmarked Reserves for those projects

12. Matters for information / future agenda items

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- Members noted information from TCV that there is a native wild Laurel in Mansers Shaw.
- Members noted a verbal report from Cllr Boryer that he has been in discussion regarding a reed bed for the gill. This would create a feature in the stream but some work would be required to complete this.

13. Date of next meeting: 2 April 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Cllr G Favell
Chairman

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