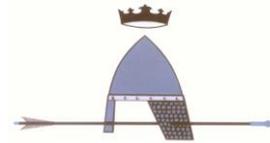




# Battle Town Council



## MINUTES of a Meeting of the ESTATES COMMITTEE held on Tuesday, 25 June 2013 at 7.30pm at The Almonry, High Street, Battle

**Present:** Cllrs J Boryer, R Bye, J Carter, Mrs P Fisher, R Harris and R Jessop.

**John Harmer, Footpaths Advisor was also present**

### 1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Mrs Fisher was proposed by Cllr Boryer, seconded by Cllr Bye. With no other nominations Cllr Mrs Fisher was duly elected unanimously to serve as Chairman for the ensuing year.

### 2. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Boryer was proposed by Cllr Mrs Fisher, seconded by Cllr Bye. With no other nominations Cllr Boryer was duly elected unanimously to serve as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year

3. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs Ms M-L Neill, Mrs S Pry and D Wilson. Cllr Furness was absent.

4. **Disclosure of Interest** – None.

5. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 April 2013.** Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Bye. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

6. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings** – None.

7. **Correspondence & Communications** – None.

### 8. Footpath Matters

John Harmer offered his services as Advisor for a further year which the Committee were delighted to accept.

He highlighted several issues relating to **FP30**(? Shown as 32b on latest maps) suggesting that it had been diverted around the edge of the field; that the correct route is obstructed by crops and that informal way-marking signs had been introduced.

On **FP73** near Branshill Farm ramblers had recently been confronted by the landowner claiming that it would be dangerous to use the path as bulls and cows were in the field. This has been reported to the County Rights of Way team.

**FP81** has been narrowed following the installation of a fence and is becoming a bit overgrown. Cllr Mrs Fisher hoped that the Ramblers might be able to tackle this.

Cllr Boryer thought that a verge had been cut on **FP5a** and **6** which takes walkers away from the correct route.

Concluding his report John Harmer repeated his offer to lead **familiarisation walks** and wondered whether something immediately preceding the next Council meeting might attract interest. Cllr Mrs Fisher felt that a greater priority would be to get all Members more familiar with the areas for which the Committee is responsible.

Cllr Carter said that there is an old **iron kissing gate** by the Church Hall on **FP34** which might

# Battle Town Council

be worth salvaging and restoring.

## 9. Tree Survey

The Clerk said that the tree hazard survey report had now been received highlighting where action is recommended. This will require more detailed study in order to establish priorities but it is clear that significant funds will need to be earmarked for tree work in the next couple of years. In the meantime, and as a matter of urgency because a very large limb had already fallen into a neighbour's garden, the Clerk had ordered work to fell and coppice 3 oak trees in the recreation ground, including removal of the fallen limb from the adjacent property. The location makes access, and the work itself, difficult and, as a result, the cost will be £2400. **This action was endorsed by Cllr Mrs Fisher and seconded by Cllr Jessop. It will need to be drawn to Council's attention for retrospective approval as an expenditure exceeding £1000.**

## 10. Strategy

There seemed to be some uncertainty about the precise status of the work undertaken by the Committee in recent months. Whilst there had been a detailed discussion at an informal meeting on 26 March, as recorded in the Committee meeting minutes of 2 April, this was to be followed up with further action being co-ordinated by Cllrs Ms Neill, Jessop and Boryer. This remains outstanding hence there has yet to be any formal approval of a strategy by the Committee. Cllr Jessop and Boryer will now follow this up.

Cllr Mrs Fisher reminded the Committee that one of the ideas previously discussed is a hard surface route around the recreation ground. This had been discussed by the Local Action Plan Steering Group, including suggestions for funding.

## 11. Budget Report 2013-14

In circulating the report the Clerk drew attention to various forecast figures different from the budget, although the net expenditure remains the same. There should be savings on fuel and litter but machinery repairs and rates will probably exceed budget.

Not yet shown in the forecast figures are potential extra rent income, as arrears are recovered from the farm tenant, and the cost of the tree work referred to in item 9 above.

Rather than allocate funds for future tree work to different locations Cllr Carter suggested that a single budget should be set up.

## 12. Matters for Information/Future Agenda Items

Updates on the general strategy and the prioritisation of tree work.

## 13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 8 October 2013

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

**CLLR MRS P FISHER**  
Chairman

