



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held on Tuesday, 26 May 2015 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr G Favell – Chairman
Cllrs J Boryer, M Kiloh.

In attendance: Deputy Town Clerk (DTC)

1. **Apologies for Absence** - Cllrs D Furness, J Gyngell and M Howell. Cllr J Lay was absent.
2. **Disclosure of Interest** - None.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 27 January** were approved and signed by Cllr Favell.

4. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

Further to a meeting between the Town Clerk and **Battle Baptists FC** (BBFC) regarding the football pitch at the Recreation Ground, BBFC had requested an opportunity to present outline proposals to the next Committee meeting. A draft had been received and the DTC was asked to circulate this to Members for information. The Committee agreed that their presentation should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The DTC was asked to contact Rother District Council regarding the use of the **pitch at Coronation Gardens**.

Quotes for the **Chapel** survey and **cemetery path** repairs were awaited.

5. **Correspondence & Communications**

An email had been received reporting a **rope swing** that had been erected in **Mansers Shaw** which appears to be attached to a dead tree branch. It was agreed that the rope should be removed for safety reasons.

6. **Allotments**

The DTC reported on an inspection carried out with the Council's lead worker for allotments:

Netherfield Hill: number 1 is vacant and will be strimmed to keep tidy. All are in a good condition;

Watch Oak: numbers 24 and 25 appear uncultivated - the tenant is believed to be releasing these and this will be requested. There are 5 vacant allotments;

Virgins Croft: number 1 is in a very poor condition and it was agreed that a letter should be sent giving a date by which work should be seen to be undertaken. No vacant allotments.

Cherry Gardens: tenants of 15a and 27 have requested more time to cultivate the allotments. The end of July has been agreed. There are currently 2 vacant allotments.

There have been several positive comments regarding the improved maintenance regime carried out by the Council's workstaff and the effectual communication between the Allotment Association and the Council. It was agreed that carpet will no longer be used to cover vacant allotments.

Cllr Kiloh agreed to coordinate inspections for the **Watch Oak** site.

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7. Cemetery Extension

Cllr Favell reported on a meeting with CDSL that she and Cllr Kiloh had attended the previous week to finalise the design plan as attached to these minutes. CDSL had confirmed that the planning application will be submitted by the end of May and it had been suggested that expressions of interest should be invited via Horticultural Weekly. The cost of this was discussed and it was agreed to subscribe to an online advertisement for a period of 4 weeks at a cost of £565. CDSL will then take the project through the tender process. BTC will also request additional costings for other works within the existing cemetery in conjunction with the tendering process. It is hoped that work could commence in September 2015. The DTC was asked to contact CDSL for advice regarding the excess water at the lower part of the existing cemetery and the contractor at the School to enquire about excess material waste that may be useable for the cemetery extension roadway.

8. Recreation Ground, Play and Games Facilities

An inspection of the play areas had been undertaken by the DTC and lead worker for the recreation grounds. The **MUGA** is being used inappropriately in the evenings by youth who are leaving large amounts of debris in the area. The Police are aware and have agreed to monitor the situation. The **ROSPA inspection** has been arranged for June with regular checks being carried out by the Council staff. It had been noted that a large **Oak tree** had been cut down on the perimeter of the recreation ground and the DTC was asked to investigate further. (Post meeting note: the tree appears to have been within the boundary of a property in Saxonwood Road). A refurbishment programme has been undertaken at **Telham** with only one item now requiring work.

A report of an accident on the **steps approaching the Pavilion** had been received with the suggestion that a handrail may have prevented such a fall. The Committee agreed that a handrail should be installed by the Council staff.

The DTC highlighted the work carried out on several **bus shelters** and suggested that the one by Uckham Lane would benefit from a complete replacement of exterior and roof timber. This was agreed. Cllr Kiloh requested that the bus shelter by the Abbey Green receive some attention.

9. Town Improvement Group

Cllr Kiloh reported that the **In Bloom** competitions had been the recent focus together with discussions relating to the replacement of the planters on the Abbey Green. Costs and opinions from users are being sought.

The competition for a **structure on the roundabout** has been publicised with approximately 20 application forms already issued.

It was reported that English Heritage are not enthusiastic about the idea of the **St Valery memorial stone** being placed on the Abbey Green and it was suggested that the DTC approach ESCC regarding licences for the possible siting of the stone near the Abbey Green and also for plant troughs along the High Street. She was also asked to speak with RDC about the requirement of planning permission for the siting of the memorial stone.

10. Working Groups

Membership was agreed as follows:

Cemetery

Cllr Glenna Favell (convener)

Cllr Margaret Howell

Cllr Margaret Kiloh

Sports and Leisure

Cllr Justin Lay (convener)

TBC

Cllr Glenna Favell

Cllr Andrew Ratcliffe

Town Development

Cllr Margaret Kiloh

(convener)

Cllr Margaret Howell

Cllr Sylvie Pry

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Jacqueline Ormonde-Butler
(external)
David Wilson (external)

Paula Fisher (external)

Cllr John Boryer

Marilyn Waughman
(Beautiful Battle)
Barbara
Clements/Brooks (BB)
Simon Alexander
(Chamber of
Commerce)
Peter Mills (Battle
Rotary Club)

11. Detailed Action Plan and Areas of Responsibility

The proposed Action Plan as attached had been circulated to Members. This was agreed in principle with the detail to be reviewed by the area coordinators. The areas were agreed as: Cemetery – Cllr Favell; Short term plans for the remainder of the Estate, including trees in all areas – Cllr Boryer; Recreation Grounds – Cllr Gyngell; Street Furniture & Lighting – Cllr Howell (TBC); Allotments – Cllr Lee (TBC); Medium and long term plans for the remainder of the Estate – Cllr Kiloh.

12. Budget Report

This was noted. The Committee agreed that the Cemetery and Allotment budgets should be identified separately to enable ease of monitoring.

13. Matters for information / future agenda items

Cllr Boryer reminded the Committee of the faded lettering on the **War Memorial** and suggested that Roy Calthorpe be asked if he would be interested in renovating this. The DTC was also asked to request permission for this from the Dean.

Items for the next Agenda: Presentation by Battle Baptist Football Club; St Valery Memorial Stone.

14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 28 July 2015

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Cllr Favell
Chairman

