



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
held ON TUESDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2018 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), M Dass, P Fisher, D Furness, J Gyngell and M Howell.
In attendance: Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr J Boryer.
2. **Disclosure of Interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 7 August 2018** were approved by Members and duly signed by Cllr Favell.
4. **Town Clerk's Report**
 - **Signage** erected at **Mansers Shaw** and assistance given to tenant farmer to replace damaged fencing;
 - Publicity had been circulated for **Tesco Bags of Help** toward the **outdoor table tennis** equipment;
 - The **war memorial** had been professionally cleaned, inspection to be carried out;
 - The **Ash tree at the recreation ground** had been cut down and the timber sold for £100;
 - The **redundant play equipment** had been removed and fencing replaced in new position. The equipment had been sold for £75 and will be recycled. An offer to purchase the elephant springer had been received and Members authorised the Clerk to negotiate best value for the item;
 - A response had finally been received from ESCC in relation to the **Amenity Field**. A Lease is now offered for a term of 7 years: 5 years certain and the remainder on a rolling mutual break on 6 months' notice. The rent would be peppercorn and legal fees in the sum of £250 was suggested. **Members agreed with these terms.**
5. **Correspondence & Communications**

An email had been received advising that one of the **benches on the Abbey Green** had fallen into the High Street when 2 young children had jumped onto it. Fortunately, there were no injuries. The Clerk had arranged for all benches to be checked and this will form part of a regular task to produce written evidence of safety. She reported that regular removal and reinstatement may not be helping with the deterioration of the fixings. Members agreed that users should reimburse workstaff time in checking benches after reinstatement.
6. **Cemetery**
 - a) The detailed **action plan** for the **Cemetery** was noted.
 - b) The Clerk reminded Members that one of five **dead trees** has been replaced in the natural burial area. Cllr Dass suggested 2 x river birch, one alder 'Imperialis' and one swamp cyprus be purchased to replace the remaining 4 trees. This was agreed.
 - c) Members agreed to delegate authority for the **renewal of electricity supplier**, due January 2019, to the Clerk.
 - d) Members ratified the agreement that **burials of non-resident children** are charged at half the adult non-resident rate but with no admin fee.

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- e) Members were reminded that the cemetery now covers an extensive area and the lead workstaff member for the Cemetery has requested a more appropriate means of transport equipment. It was suggested that the old Etesia, which is not often used, could have a trailer attachment. **The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Clerk to purchase a trailer with appropriate fixings to a maximum cost of £200 (EMR 345).**
- f) Tree work to an **Ash adjacent to a Langton Close** property had been agreed some time ago when there was an in-house tree surgeon. Unfortunately this had not been carried out. Quotes had been received for £450, £455 and £875. **It was agreed to offer this work to K McKay Tree Surgery at a cost of £450.**

Members agreed to a recommendation received from Gary Champion, lead Cemetery workstaff, that a **wreath** be placed at the Cemetery Chapel for **Remembrance Day**.

7. Allotments

- b) The (t)DTC's report had been circulated and was noted. This included a report on the **latest inspections** carried out and that renewals are currently being distributed. **Current vacancies:** Cherry Gardens 6; Netherfield Hill O; Virgins Croft 4; Watch Oak 6.
- a) The detailed **action plan** for **allotments** was noted.
 - a. Review usage of allotments with regard to rationalisation of plots/sites
Members agreed that this was not currently necessary but would be monitored.
- c) The Clerk reported that tenants at Cherry Garden had requested reassessment of the decision not to carry out work to the **trees at the boundary to Little Park Farm** land. Advice had therefore been sought from a tree surgeon who had suggested that remedial work would be sufficient to allow light through. The quotes received were £250, £295 and £350. **Members agreed to have the crown lift work carried out at a cost of £250 by K McKay Tree Surgery.**

8. Recreation Grounds

- a) The detailed **action plan** for the **Recreation Grounds** was noted.
 - a. The **petanque court design** recommended by the English Petanque Association had been circulated. It was highlighted that Battle Muffins may be prepared to offer both financial and practical assistance with the project and the Clerk was asked to clarify. Members agreed the design recommended.
 - b. Three designs and quotes had been circulated for outside table tennis equipment at £1,272, £1,624.18 and £2,302.97. **Members agreed to purchase the Cornilleau Park outdoor table tennis table with sand trays and ground anchors from Table-Tennis-Tables.co.uk at a cost of £1,624.18.**
 - c. The annual report from **play equipment inspections** had been circulated. The Clerk highlighted the recommendations: to replace the basket swing; add further bark material and carry out various remedial works. None of which were considered high risk items. It was noted that there was some comment that sections of the new Eibe play equipment did not satisfy BN EN 1176 Part 1 4.2.7.2 and the Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the Eibe representative. **Members agreed to purchase a replacement basket swing and further bark material.** The Clerk was asked to arrange for the swing play area to be checked for hardcore.
- b) Members noted the successful **grant** application for the **junior pitch from Rother District Council**.
 - a. Members authorised the Clerk to arrange works with **Judges at a cost of £8,093 (EMR 410).**

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b. A grant condition had been to support **walking football** for over 50's. A request had subsequently been received for free use of Pavilion, MUGA and junior pitch for this activity. **Members agreed that this should be encouraged and agreed one year use free of charges.**

c) Members acknowledged the successful **grant** application for the **shelter from Rother District Council.**

a. It was noted that **Claverham Community College** (Friends of Rec) need to **raise £400** to benefit from the grant. The Principal had agreed to speak with the School Council about this.

d) The minutes from the **Battle Health Pathway** meeting were noted, as attached.

e) **Fit for Battle**

a. The notes from the meeting on 28 August were received, as attached. Cllr Favell reported that there had been several tasks identified at the meeting held earlier in the day and these will be actioned.

f) An offer to Councils had been received from the **Conservation Volunteers** for work to be carried out at a reduced rate of £150per day for a short period of time. Members agreed that:

a. clearing out streams in Mansers Shaw

b. felling of an extraneous Oak tree in Mansers Shaw (as recommended by a High Weald AONB Officer)

should be carried out over a maximum of 3 days. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation and agree work as appropriate.

9. Street Furniture & Lighting

a) The detailed **action plan** for **Street Lighting and Furniture** was noted.

a. Cllr Dass had produced a comprehensive report, as attached to these minutes. It was agreed that this should also be forwarded for the forthcoming SLR meeting as many items will be of interest to ESCC. **Members agreed a directional sign should be fixed to the fence at the boundary of Park Lane and George Meadow, pointing to the Cricket Ground and Market Road.**

b) The **street light contractor** had identified a variety of required works. Many of the items relate to pruning of trees and the Clerk was asked to research whether this could safely be carried out in-house. The LED replacements and damaged columns would need to be budgeted for under item 11.

10. Remainder of BTC's Estate

a) The detailed **action plan** for the **Remainder of BTC's Estate** was noted.

a. Members agreed **fees and charges for 2019-20:**

- no change to Recreation Ground;
- a 2% increase for Cemetery
details as attached;

b. The **fees** for use of the **Abbey Green** were agreed as:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------|
| • Community | no charge | £25 deposit |
| • Single trader | £50 | £50 deposit |
| • Multiple traders | £200 | £100 deposit |

Payment for water and electricity as per Terms & Conditions of hire on the Council's website.

These would remain in force for 2019-20.

