



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of a Meeting of the ESTATES COMMITTEE held on Tuesday, 2 April 2013 at 7.30pm at The Almonry, High Street, Battle

Present: Cllr Ms M L Neill - Chairman
Cllrs J Boryer, R Bye, J Carter, Mrs P Fisher, R Harris, R Jessop, Mrs S Pry and D Wilson.

John Harmer, Footpaths Advisor was also present.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – None.
2. **Disclosure of Interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 February 2013.** Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Wilson. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

4. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

As requested at the previous meeting the Clerk had identified a potential consultant to carry out a **tree survey**. He had done so in discussion with other Rother Clerks who had experience in organising such survey work. He had accompanied the recommended consultant on a tour of all the areas under Town Council management, including those for which the Services Committee is responsible. In the light of that inspection the consultant has submitted a proposal which will provide an electronic database of all trees and include recommendations regarding the priority of work. A digital copy of the schedule containing this information would be provided and which would form the basis for future records. The estimated total cost of setting this up is about £2000. For the avoidance of doubt, this excludes any physical tree work required as a follow up to the report. Although no provision currently exists in the budget **Cllr Jessop proposed that Council be recommended to accept this quote. This was seconded by Cllr Harris and agreed unanimously.**

The Clerk confirmed that the new **swing at Telham** has now been installed.

5. **Correspondence & Communications** – None.

6. **Footpath Matters**

John Harmer reported that **FP29a** beyond the Cherry Gardens allotment leading into the field is very wet. In part, the solution would be to clear the adjoining ditch which would allow a continuation of the walk directly onto **FP30**.

John Harmer also queried whether fencing erected as part of the construction of the new Methodist Church building might be intruding on **FP76**. The Clerk will check this with those responsible for the project.

Along **FP56** the route of the proposed new bridleway has been cleared of undergrowth but, at present, simply remains a footpath.

John Harmer expressed his concern that a number of signage issues remain outstanding.

It had not been possible to organise the proposed familiarisation walk. In order to avoid any uncertainty it was agreed that this **will** take place immediately before the next meeting and John Harmer will circulate the details.

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7. Budget Report 2012-13

The attached budget report was tabled. The Clerk pointed out that this is effectively the end year report and differs little from that presented to the previous meeting.

8. Strategic Plan

Cllr Ms Neill referred to the informal discussion which had taken place on 26 March and apologised that she had not been able to prepare a summary of the outcome. She will do so shortly with a view to prioritising and costing the various suggestions which had been put forward. In this connection, Cllr Jessop offered to do some research into the cost of providing toilets. One idea which had been suggested was the introduction of planting in order to soften the impact of the new fencing around the children's play area at the recreation ground. Though not relevant to the development of Town Council land it was agreed that a further approach should be made to Claverham Community College expressing the hope that their swimming pool could be made available in future.

Concluding the discussion Cllrs Ms Neill, Jessop and Boryer agreed to coordinate further action. In this context the Clerk will provide a brief summary of Rother's current leisure strategy.

9. Matters for Information/Future Agenda Items

Cllr Wilson reported that part of the **hard surface footpath in Mansers Shaw** is being eroded and that a plank on the **bridge** has come away. The Clerk agreed to attend to these things.

Cllr Bye reported increasing problems with **dog litter in Battle Great Wood**. The Clerk was asked to raise this with the Forestry Commission.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 28 June 2013

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Ms M L NEILL
Chairman

