



# Battle Town Council



## MINUTES of a Meeting of the ESTATES COMMITTEE held on Tuesday, 26 June 2012 at 7.30pm at The Almonry, High Street, Battle

**Present:** Cllrs J Boryer, R Bye, Mrs P Fisher, R Harris,  
R Jessop, Ms M-L Neill, and D Wilson

**John Harmer, Footpaths Advisor was present together with his colleague  
Bev Marks**

### 1. Election of Chairman

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

### 2. Election of Vice Chairman

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

### 3. Apologies for Absence – Cllrs Carter, Mrs Farr and Mrs Pry

**4. Disclosure of Interest –** Cllr Ms Neill declared a personal interest in Item 7 relating to cycle parking at the recreation ground as a member of the 1066 Cycle Group.

**5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 April 2012.** 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

The Clerk had advised that an area close to the entrance of the recreation ground had been identified for the **planting of Jubilee Oak**. The Committee agreed with this suggestion and felt that it should be planted in early autumn with a PR opportunity being taken. It was agreed that a wrought iron tree guard of about 2' x8' should be purchased. Cllr Jessop volunteered to source one and Cllr Ms Neill offered to fund it.

Although the contract for the **replacement fencing at children's play area, North Trade Road** had been let at the beginning of April and the Clerk has chased the contractor there has still not been a start date given for the work. **Cllr Wilson proposed that the contractor be given a further opportunity to provide a firm start date confirming the right to cancel the contract if this is not adhered to. This was seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed unanimously.**

### 7. Correspondence & Communications

*Cllr Ms Neill repeated her personal interest in the following item.*

Following the discussion at the latest Council meeting, it was confirmed that the **cycle stands for the recreation ground** have now been manufactured and collected. However, a response to the request from a local contractor for a firm price and date for installing had not been received. The Committee agreed that if this is not received shortly another contractor should be invited to quote for this work.

A **request for public toilet facilities at the recreation ground** had been received from a local resident. Discussion about the implications of cleaning, supervision and potential for vandalism to the facility took place. Cllr Harris said that there are sources of funding for this type of scheme. Cllr Jessop agreed to research specification and prices of specialist sanitary ware. The Committee agreed that this should be investigated as a long term project and be an agenda

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item for further discussion at the next meeting.

## 8. Footpath Matters

John Harmer reminded the Committee of the **notification of public inquiry regarding claimed bridleway and footpath at Uckham Lane/Coarsebarn Farm, Marley Lane** and highlighted a small section on FP56 that due to the ground profile is only suitable for walkers, not shared use with horse-riders as proposed. Members had previously confirmed their support in principle to the modification order but had acknowledged that this section needed further consideration. **Cllr Ms Neill proposed that a written representation be submitted to the Inquiry confirming the Council's general support highlighting that a width sufficient for proper and safe use for dual purpose of a bridleway and footpath should be provided.**

John Harmer reported that **FP 85** has substantial holes by the Powdermill Lane/Senlac junction but also that it is a seldom used footpath. He advised that he recently met with Matt Harper of the Rights of Way team who had confirmed that he hoped to have the **tumbledown stile** installed shortly. He agreed to check the progress of this.

Mr Harmer reminded the Committee of his offer to carry out a **'familiarisation walk'**. It was agreed that Cllr Ms Neill would propose dates to the Committee and other Members of the Council to consider and let him know preferred options.

He then advised of a Ramblers Worker's Meeting at which Matt Harper had agreed to 2 members of the local Ramblers identifying and supplying a report with photographic evidence of issues to the Rights of Way Team. A majority of cases could then be acted on without the need for one of their officers attending. John Harmer confirmed that issues on **FPS 54** and **57** had already been reported and action put in place. The Committee agreed that this was good news but requested that the Town Council be copied in on any reports.

Bev Marks advised the Committee that the Ramblers had arranged **'Walks in the Evening'** as part of the Battle's Big Event. There have also been 4 walks prepared to present to the County Council for **way marking**.

The Chairman thanked John Harmer and Bev Marks for their contributions.

## 9. Tennis Court Resurfacing

The Committee was advised that the work to the tennis court surface was beginning on 2 July and that notices had been erected to inform users of this. Cllr Jessop confirmed that Tony Perkins has plans to arrange a tennis competition once the work has been completed as part of Battle's Big Event. Cllrs Jessop and Ms Neill agreed to speak with Mr Perkins and the Battle Tennis Club to arrange a suitable opening event.

## 10. George Meadow Flooding

The Clerk had reported to the Committee a flooding problem adjoining part of the footpath in George Meadow which has also affected the cricket ground. The cause remains a mystery despite intensive and ongoing investigations by both South East and Southern water. Members suggested that a land ditch may be required and that the wet area by the back gate of Lansdells, Parks Yard should be looked at.

## 11. Budget Report 2011-12 and 2012-13

The Committee noted that the end year expenditure figure was slightly lower than previously forecast. However, as recently reported to F&GP and Council the budget for the current year includes an under provision for the **replacement fencing at the children's playground** and the **tennis court resurfacing**. In the light of Council approval to go ahead with these projects the cost is shown in the forecast column in the attached report. It was agreed that the purchase of a replacement **swing at Telham** should be a priority item and put on the agenda for the next

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meeting.

## **12. Matters for Information/Future Agenda Items**

Cllr Wilson suggested that a biennial check on the **condition of trees** on the Town Council's land should be carried out. This was agreed. The Services Committee to be consulted in relation to trees at the cemetery.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 9 October 2012**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**CLLR MS M-L NEILL**  
**Chairman**

