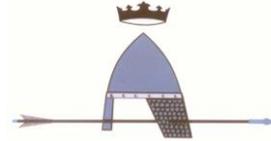




Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of ESTATES COMMITTEE MEETING
held on TUESDAY, 1 April 2014
at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr P Fisher – Chairman
Cllrs C Boryer, R Bye, G Favell, R Jessop, S Pry, J Sydes
and D Wilson.

In Attendance: Mrs S Bonell, Bursar at Battle Abbey School, Mr B Marks, Battle Ramblers, Mr J Harmer, Footpaths Advisor.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Glenna Favell to her first meeting of the Committee.

1. Apologies for Absence – Cllr A Ratcliffe.
Cllr D Furness was absent.

2. Disclosure of Interest – None.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 February 2014. Subject to the amendment to item 6 that Cllr Wilson had reported a hole at the entrance to Mansers Shaw, Cllr Bye proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Pry. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

4. Battle Abbey School – Proposal for Sports Hall

Cllr Fisher welcomed Sue Bonell to the meeting.

Mrs Bonell confirmed that the School had fully understood the reasons for the Council's refusal to consider a Sports Hall on the George Meadow but are still anxious to be able to provide a facility for both the school and the community. She asked that the Committee discuss the option of the suitability of the recreation ground as an alternative site. The other site that had been suggested is Blackfriars but the School is now aware that this does not belong to the Town Council. She highlighted the preference of the recreation ground as being within walking distance of the school with footpath access. Mrs Bonell reminded the Committee that the school is small and is not financially wealthy but would be able to have the sports hall built and managed on a leased area of land. The facility would then be available for use by the community evenings, weekends and school holidays. If a fitness suite was provided this may also be open to the public during school hours. She said that if no partnership with the Council was agreed the School had 2 options: to continue renting other facilities or to buy a plot of land and build something much smaller for the School's use only. In response to a query Mrs Bonell confirmed that English Heritage would not allow any building on the Abbey site although an area on the other side of Powdermill Lane had been suggested but this was not viable. Cllr Sydes reminded the meeting that a swimming pool was high on the wish list of residents and asked Mrs Bonell if the School had considered this as part of the proposals. She advised that the School have a pool at Bexhill which is rented out but is still a loss leader. It was therefore not a financial possibility immediately but may be considered in the future. Cllr Sydes distributed documents and suggested that Blackfriars would be a preferred site as it would offer sports facilities on the other side of town. Concern was raised that the Council would have no influence on this site. Cllr Jessop circulated a map of the recreation ground suggesting that there was sufficient space for the building without taking away the facilities from other users and that it could be possible for the school to provide further car parking.

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The extra traffic along North Trade Road and the issue of exiting from the car park was highlighted. **Cllr Jessop proposed that a recommendation to Council be made that Battle Abbey School's application for a Sports Hall on the recreation ground be supported in principle. This was seconded by Cllr Pry and agreed by a majority.**

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

Cllr Fisher confirmed that the **Tenant Farmer** has now paid the outstanding **rent**. The agreed **signs** have been purchased and are to be erected, in conjunction with the Farmer's wishes, this week.

Footpath 30 – signage to be covered by the Footpaths Advisor, item 7.

The Chairman confirmed that the **work to the Pavilion** has been ordered. Unfortunately, due to the delay there is now more damage at an extra cost of £50.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that advice has now been received from ESCC confirming national guidance exists to ensure safety which includes **visibility on roundabouts**. The starting point is to keep most planting at a low level but there is a possibility of a feature in the centre.

Cllr Fisher confirmed that the **memorial seat and springers** purchased from a legacy left by Pamela Harrison have now been installed at **Telham recreation ground**. This will be reported in the Observer.

6. Correspondence and Communications

The Committee considered requests:

- from a resident at **George Mews for a gated access** to the public footpath by the Cricket Ground. The Committee was advised that there is another property in that area that already has this facility. Members agreed this on the basis that an annual peppercorn rent be arranged together with the condition that a gate in keeping with the surroundings be installed and kept in good repair;
- to use the **NTR recreation ground for food and craft markets** during July and August. Members discussed this and **Cllr Bye proposed that two food and craft markets be approved during July with a fee of £100 for each event. If this was considered successful, a further two in August would be considered. The usual terms of insurance, litter clearance and reinstatement of any damage to the ground would apply. No boot sales would be allowed. This was seconded by Cllr Sydes and agreed by a majority.**
- from Own Grown Roadshow to place a stand on the Abbey Green in conjunction with the National Apprenticeship Service in Hastings and Rother. **Cllr Sydes proposed that the use of the Abbey Green on 20 June by Own Grown Roadshow be granted free of charge. This was seconded by Cllr Bye and agreed;**
- to provide details of land owned by the Town Council in relation to the proposed **Battle Schools Greenway project**. This item had been covered at a previous meeting;
- from **Amicus Horizon** to use the **NTR recreation ground for a Fun Day**. **Cllr Bye proposed that the Fun Day for local residents on 13 August at the recreation ground be approved free of charge. This was seconded by Cllr Jessop and agreed;**
- by **Battle Cricket Club for directional signage**. The Committee agreed that as

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this is in the conservation area it is a planning issue.

The Committee discussed an offer of **free sapling trees from the Woodland Trust**. **Cllr Jessop proposed that 30 wetland saplings be requested. This was seconded by Cllr Sydes and agreed.**

7. Footpath Matters

Footpath 87 – the issue of replacing stiles with gates at Mansers Shaw would not be considered by ESCC unless a new route would be opened.

Cllr Sydes gave his apologies and left the meeting.

John Harmer reported on the following footpaths:

FP 30 – this route now appears to be clear of signs;

FP 56 - ESCC is in discussion with the landowners regarding a Definitive Map Modification Order;

FP 21/105 – better signs are required. The Committee agreed that 21 should be considered but that 105 would be a low priority;

FP 33 – now open and the condition is to be monitored;

FP 9 (Bridleway 10) and Bridleway 11 – closed for safety reasons;

FP 82 – the hedge has been cut back and a new wire fence erected. Part of the barbed wire fencing is on the wrong side and could be dangerous. In some places the width is less than that nominally required. The Deputy Clerk was asked to investigate ownership of the land and to advise of these issues.

John Harmer advised that he is attending a meeting with other Footpath Volunteers and will raise some of these issues with ESCC.

Cllr Fisher confirmed that she had spoken with the developer of properties off the High Street who had promised to reinstate **footpath 34** but this has yet to be carried out.

8. Recreation Grounds – NTR and Telham

Cllr Fisher confirmed that she is shortly meeting with the **Battle Baptist Football Club** manager to discuss **pitch maintenance** and will report back to the next meeting.

The Chairman confirmed that a small section of fencing had been erected along the **hedge by the car park at NTR** but that more holes had become apparent. The Committee agreed that sheep netting should be installed to prevent access and further damage. Replacement hedging should also be planted in due course. Cllr Wilson reported that the hedge on either side of the telegraph pole to the left of the car park entrance is above the agreed height. The Deputy Clerk was asked to arrange to get this reduced.

The Committee discussed the options for ensuring the **NTR car park** is used correctly and not overnight. It was suggested that a sign be erected warning that the barrier will be locked down overnight.

An application with costs for the **annual play facility inspection** had been received from the usual contractor. Members agreed that this should be accepted.

Members were advised that there is an **Ash tree fallen** at the edge of **the recreation ground**. This is to be investigated.

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The Deputy Clerk was asked to contact **Southern Water** to request that their **materials** left behind from work carried out in the **recreation ground** be removed.

A request from **Battel Bonfire Boyes** that the memorial bench on the Abbey Green be refurbished and that the **brass plaque on the Bull Ring** be refitted.

9. Grounds Maintenance

Cllr Fisher reported that she had met with the Chair of Services **to consider contracted out work** particularly in the light of there now being an additional full-time member of work staff. She confirmed that analysis of workload and changes to the current regime are still to be considered.

10. Dry Garden at Glengorse

Cllr Fisher reported that the Beautiful Battle volunteer previously maintaining this area is not able to continue and the Town Council had therefore been asked manage it. The Committee agreed that this should be returned to a grass area.

11. Budget Report 2013-14

The report attached was noted.

12. Matters for Information/Future Agenda Items

Cllr Fisher reported a request from **Concorde 1066** that the bollards and oak planters be removed from the Abbey Green to facilitate a Brass Band during this event. The Committee asked that more information be requested to enable an informed discussion at the next meeting.

Bev Marks was asked to speak about the progress being made on the **Health Pathway**. He confirmed that an architect had agreed to survey the proposed route and draw up plans for planning application/cost estimation on a no fee basis. This was now in progress. As there are a few issues that require discussion it was agreed that this should be an item on the next agenda.

The management of the **Market Square** was raised and Cllr Fisher confirmed that Mr S Jempson has suggested that this matter will be resolved shortly. Cllr Fisher agreed to speak with Mr Jempson to invite him to a forthcoming meeting.

14. Date of Next Meeting: 24 June 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Chairman
Cllr Fisher

