



Battle Town Council



**MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
held on Tuesday, 24 January 2017
at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), J Boryer, C Davies, P Fisher, D Furness, J Gyngell, M Howell and J Reeves.

In attendance: Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence – Cllr M Kiloh.

2. Disclosure of Interest – None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 6 December 2016

These were approved by Members and duly signed by Cllr Favell.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings, not on this agenda

The Clerk reported:

- both memorial posts have now been installed at the Cemetery;
- benches donated by Battle Baptist Football Club(BBFC) had been delivered and were awaiting installation;
- an additional litter bin has been installed at the recreation ground;
- that she had met with the Community Payback Team Leader who had confirmed only one-off projects may be requested.

Cllr Jessop confirmed that he has passed to the Clerk details of the relevant forces personnel to discuss bridge building.

5. Correspondence & communications

The Clerk reported a:

- letter from a local resident expressing concern at the visual impact of the new ramp for the Chapel building and the replacement of the Pews with chairs. The Clerk was asked to obtain a cost for the replacement of more suitable hand rails on the ramp;
- request from a member of the Virgins Lane Neighbourhood Watch group requesting support for the provision of a defibrillator in Virgins Lane. It was suggested that funds could be raised for the purchase but the Council would be asked to provide a structure to place the equipment at the Virgins Croft allotment site. Members were reminded that the Council have provided a defibrillator at the Memorial Halls and there is an existing one at the Fire/Ambulance Station. It was suggested that a more community based facility would be to provide a First Response service. The Committee did not feel that a defibrillator could be supported for use in one road, but asked for the matter to be referred to ER&TD Committee;
- letter of appeal against the decision not to allow a resident's 18yr old daughter to be interred in the new children's section at the Cemetery. Cllr Favell confirmed that she and the Clerk had met with the resident to discuss various options and to confirm the Council's Cemetery policy. The resident had agreed to give the options some thought. The Clerk was asked to continue to communicate sensitively on this matter.

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6. Allotments

Cllr Davies confirmed that an article had been in the previous week's Observer and that a further new piece would be published at Easter. It was suggested that an article could be included in the Newsletter.

Cllr Boryer expressed concern that re-letting of allotments is occurring too soon after the initial application of weedkiller. It was agreed that the Council's workstaff should monitor this and make further applications of weedkiller if necessary, then advise when allotments are ready for a new tenant.

The Clerk confirmed the **current vacancies** on allotments are: Cherry Gardens – 8; Netherfield Hill – 1; Virgins Croft – 4; and Watch Oak – 8. This is a slight reduction on the previous meeting.

7. Cemetery

Cllr Favell reported on a meeting of the Cemetery Working Group at which several recommendations had been made. Discussion took place on some items, including acknowledgement that:

- any cushions for the pews would need to be fire retardant;
- no cleaning materials should share a cupboard with electricity meters. The Committee agreed that the Clerk should investigate suitable options.

Subject to these items **the Committee agreed to the recommendations as attached.**

Cllr Favell confirmed that the cemetery extension has been formally handed over with only a couple of spring activities to complete.

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Favell had met with Mark Anderson from JD Clarke Architects to discuss a suitable flooring for Chapel 2. He had suggested that sisal carpet with a breathable underlay would be a good, cost effective solution. Mr Anderson was happy with the decision to retain the opening windows and had recommended monitoring the damp issue. Members agreed that an official opening ceremony should take place during the week commencing 24 April at 3pm.

The Clerk reported that a local resident had offered to cull rabbits in the Cemetery. Members discussed this and agreed that this was neither necessary or suitable in the Cemetery.

Members agreed that the Cemetery should be entered in the South & South East in Bloom competition for a further year.

8. Recreation Ground, Play and Games Facilities

Cllr Gyngell reported that the play equipment appears to be in good order although more bark is required by the monkey bars. She suggested that a notice be displayed by the play area advising of the new toilet facility. Cllr Gyngell highlighted the large amount of litter; particularly in the MUGA area and that 27 cars were in the car park despite there being nobody in the recreation ground. **Members agreed that notification be made via the Observer, website and notices in the car park that, as the car park is a "short term" amenity for users of the recreation ground facilities only, it would be closed between the hours of 8am and 10am.** The Clerk was asked to arrange for chicken wire to be fixed to the steps at the car park to help prevent slipping. In response to concerns that there are still gaps in the hedge above the football pitch, the Clerk confirmed that the donated benches are to be installed and all gaps will then be filled. She also reported that the cracked plaster to the wall and ceiling in the accessible toilet will be rectified by the contractor shortly. Cllr Boryer

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confirmed that the vehicular access to the workshop appears to be working well.

Cllr Reeves reported that the Café project has been pushed back to Easter 2018 for budget and practical reasons. The newsletter had included a questionnaire which was also available on the website and would soon be available electronically. It was highlighted that this is a subsidiary consultation to compliment the previous one carried out by the Battle Health Pathway group. Cllr Reeves confirmed that she would be obtaining advice from catering companies on health requirements etc.

The Clerk reported on a meeting with Gary Walsh(BBFC) and Cllr Favell to discuss the request from BBFC for permission to reconfigure the showering facilities in the Pavilion. It had been made clear that the Council have no funds available to assist in the cost although physical and admin labour could be provided together with general fund raising support. The issue of storage remains and the Clerk was asked to pursue a possible solution to this. **Members agreed to support BBFC's proposal to provide further showering facilities in the Pavilion.**

The issue of car parking at the recreation ground had been covered under Cllr Gyngell's report above.

The Clerk reported email communication with John Lawson Circus relating to increase in fees for hire of recreation ground. She had confirmed that the Policy identifies 2 charging rates dependent on the number of commercial visitors expected. **Members agreed that John Lawson Circus be limited to 99 visitors per show, with no charge for one day to set up and take down; the deposit would be required against potential damage, poster removal etc.**

9. Street Furniture & Lighting

Cllr Howell confirmed that the final finger post is in place and that the A board has been moved away from the post near the kebab shop. The issue of Rother's open topped bins was raised and the Clerk was asked to request those at Mount Street and Darvel Down to be replaced with lidded bins.

10. Remainder of BTC's Estate

Cllr Boryer reported that work to the large Ash at the recreation ground was ongoing and that Mansers Shaw is showing good progress. He asked that further work to the Shaw be considered a regular item. **Members agreed that Cllr Boryer and the Clerk identify suitable work at the Shaw for the Community Payback Team.**

Cllr Fisher confirmed that the installation of the bollards on Abbey Green had been completed. She highlighted that the Churchyard paths require weeding and that there are some loose bricks. The Clerk was asked to arrange for drawing pins to be removed from the noticeboard in the bus stop and then for it to be painted.

Cllr Favell reported that the Action Plan for the administration actions have been completed for the current year (2016/17).

11. Budget report

The income and expenditure to date was noted.

12. Matters for information / future agenda items

Cllr Furness reported on the wild flower meadow project that had been supported by the MP and

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Fergus Garrett. He suggested that the roundabout would be a suitable site to promote the scheme. Members agreed that this should be referred to Full Council for a timely decision. Cllr Jessop confirmed that planning permission is not required for the lighting of the roundabout and that discussion is ongoing with ESCC in relation to the way forward for a power supply. He highlighted the cost of the lighting will be covered by public subscription.

- To receive written reports from co-ordinators.

13. Date of next meeting: 7 March 2017

There being no further business the meeting closed 9.20pm.

Cllr G Favell
Chairman