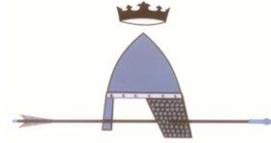




Battle Town Council



MINUTES of ESTATES COMMITTEE MEETING held on TUESDAY, 22 October 2013 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr P Fisher – Chairman
Cllrs C Boryer, D Furness, R Jessop, S Pry and D Wilson.

- 1. Apologies for Absence – Cllrs R Bye and J Carter.**
- 2. Disclosure of Interest – None.**
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 8 October 2013. Cllr Jessop proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Wilson. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

4. Budget 2014-15 and Forward Plan

Cllr Fisher reminded the Committee that a tree survey had recently been carried out that had identified a significant number of trees requiring work. These had been given priority numbers 1-5. Quotes for the work on trees identified as priority 2-3 had been requested. It appears that this work would cost in the region of £20,000. Cllr Fisher felt that approximately 20 of these trees are the responsibility of the Estates Committee. Cllr Boryer agreed to investigate the possibility of a contractor being interested in carrying out some of the work in return for the timber. Cllr Pry suggested that Plumpton College be asked if their tree surgeon students would be interested in the practice. Cllr Wilson said that any trees that are cut down could be chipped and used for bark replacement at our recreation ground play area. For the purposes of the budget the Committee agreed that £10k should be allocated for the next two years.

The Committee agreed that, to better maintain the Town Council grounds it was necessary to employ a further full-time member of staff. This would incur further costs to the Committee of about £12,500.

Cllr Fisher reminded the Committee that in the past there had been a bench in each of the three Beech shelters at the North Trade Road recreation ground. The Committee agreed to include 2 vandal proof seats at cost of £1,500.

Cllr Jessop had circulated a spreadsheet for a proposed 'sinking fund' for the Pavilion and play equipment. He suggested an annual transfer to earmarked reserves of £10,500 which excludes costs to replace the tractor and trailer which have only recently been purchased.

Cllr Jessop proposed to recommend to Council a budget of £97,980. This was seconded by Cllr Boryer and agreed unanimously.

5. Future Planting on the Roundabout

Cllr Pry reported that the Battle in Bloom group had discussed the roundabout planting and hoped to produce a display of red this year to commemorate WWI. The group felt that the cordylines should be removed as they drain the soil and make it very hard to plant around them. Cllr Fisher reminded the Committee that this issue has been raised several times over the years with many opposing views. **Cllr Pry proposed that it be recommended**

Battle Town Council

to Full Council that the cordylines be removed. With 3 in favour, 2 against and one abstention the proposal was carried.

6. **Date of Next Meeting:** provisionally, 4 February 2014

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman
Cllr Fisher

