



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held on TUESDAY, 2 JUNE 2020 via Zoom at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs V Cook (Chairman), G Favell, M Kiloh, L Samms, H Sharman and C Would

In attendance: One member of the public, Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

Public Question Time

None.

Cllr Cook thanked everybody in the community for all the efforts made during the current challenging times of Covid 19. She recorded the diligence displayed by the Clerk and Asst to Town Clerk to the benefit of residents and Council.

1. **Apologies for absence** – None.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of previous Meeting held on 4 February 2020** were approved by members and duly electronically signed by Cllr Cook.
4. **Report from Town Clerk**
 - Hastings Borough Council had confirmed that their site could not accommodate any additional **grass cuttings**.
 - There has been no communication from the agreed joint Surveyor appointed to deliberate the ownership of the **Tills Courtyard boundary wall**. Groundstaff regularly replace hazard tape on George Meadow side.
 - Although the planning application for the **Pump Track (cycle skills area)** was submitted on 2nd March, processing by Rother District Council (RDC) was delayed due to the Covid-19. A decision is due by 2nd July.
 - Approval for the alterations, including roof solar panels, to the **Pavilion** has now been received. A tender package is being produced and will be published shortly.
 - Several items remain outstanding due to the effect of Governments instructions for companies and organisations. As restrictions are easing, it is hoped that more matters will be brought to the next meeting.

5. **Correspondence & Communications**

A request for a **larger litter bin in the Cherry Garden** had been received. It was agreed that a reorganisation of Council's bins will allow for this once the dual use bins for the Abbey Green have been purchased and installed. The Clerk highlighted that further proposals for the area will be brought to the next meeting.

The Chairman reported:

- that the **footway between Sunnyrise and Battle Gates** is overgrown with vegetation and this will be passed to East Sussex County Council (ESCC) for attention;
- the **verge at Coronation Gardens**, owned by RDC, also required attention.

Battle Town Council

6. Allotments

- a) The **report from Assistant to Town Clerk** including current allotment vacancies was noted, as attached.
- b) The detailed **action plan** for allotments was noted, as attached. It was agreed that dates would be adjusted as appropriate; particularly in light of the cancellation of some activities this year due to Covid-19 and confirmed at the next meeting.

7. Cemetery

- a) Revisions to **Cemetery Regulations** were discussed. These were agreed as attached. It was noted that only two toys per interment should be permitted in the children's area. No solar lights will be permitted. Names of deceased buried elsewhere may only be added to memorials with clear wording.
- b) Examples of **lighting schemes** were considered for the **Ceremonies room**. It was agreed to defer until all Members had an opportunity to visit the site. If possible, the next meeting would be held in the Ceremonies room.
- c) Members agreed that a simple **bench** should be installed in the '**betty**' shelter. The Clerk was asked to research and, if possible, the workstaff to build. Costs to be taken from (345) PWLB Ear Marked Reserve.
- c) d) The detailed **action plan for the Cemetery** was noted as attached. It was agreed that dates would be adjusted as appropriate; particularly in light of the cancellation of some activities this year due to Covid-19 and confirmed at the next meeting.

8. Recreation Grounds

- a) Cllr Favell was delighted to report, on behalf of **Fit for Battle**, that funding is in place for the Battle Health Pathway; cycle skills facility; and sensory garden and soft planting. It is hoped that installation will commence on 29th June, subject to satisfactory contract, time-scale etc being in place. Following a meeting on Monday, it was agreed that an announcement of the good news should be made, to include a publicity photograph.
- b) Mr Perkins had issued a brief update confirming that some funding is in place and further options are being explored to provide a **tennis practice wall**.
- c) Following agreement by Council to waive the fees for pavilion and pitch hire for **Battle Baptist Football Club(BBFC)** in lieu of annual charges for maintenance to allow a grant application for pitch improvements, further information had been received from the grant awarding body that match funding is required. BBFC had reported that they are unable to fund the additional costs. The grant is encouraged as part of the bigger bid for funds for the Pavilion. Members noted that the expected income from BBFC for 2020/21 is £1336. **Members agreed that £1336 should be transferred from the Project budget. (210/4800).**
- d) The recommendation to **contract the work for application of funding bids for the Pavilion** replacement was overlooked at the meeting.
- e) Members were reminded of previous discussions on options for encouraging use of the **Telham playing field** including parking provision and better signage. These had been discounted for safety reasons on the advice of East Sussex Highways. Further options were considered and Members agreed that there is no solution at present.
- d) f) The detailed **action plan for the Recreation Grounds** was noted, as attached. It was agreed that dates would be adjusted as appropriate; particularly in light of the cancellation of some activities this year due to Covid-19 and confirmed at the next meeting.

Battle Town Council

9. Street Furniture & Lighting

- a) Members noted that a majority of the **street lights** on residential roads are the Council's responsibility for repair, maintenance and upgrading. Environmental, pavement lighting is favoured on new developments and **Members agreed not to take responsibility for further lighting schemes.**
- e) b) The detailed **action plan for Street Lighting and Furniture** was noted, as attached. It was agreed that dates would be adjusted as appropriate; particularly in light of the cancellation of some activities this year due to Covid-19 and confirmed at the next meeting. It was suggested that signage should be reviewed again.

10. Remainder of BTC's Estate

- a) The Clerk reported that although it is understood that the **tree survey** has been completed, this had not yet been received. It will be circulated to Members with any recommendation for urgent works.
- b) It was noted that **Beautiful Battle** wish to take over the planting of **Chequers Corner** to continue the scheme in the town. Subject to groundstaff approval, this was agreed.
- c) A design selection of **mixed use litter bins** had been circulated for consideration for installation on the **Abbey Green**. **The Middlesbrough joint litter and recycling bin at £530.89 was agreed unanimously.**
- f) d) The detailed **action plan for the Remainder of BTC's Estate** was noted, as attached. It was agreed that dates would be adjusted as appropriate; particularly in light of the cancellation of some activities this year due to Covid-19 and confirmed at the next meeting.

11. Financial Matters

- a) The provisional **budget report at 31 March 2020** was noted, as attached. The Clerk reported a request from **Netherfield PCC** for the annual donation of £250 towards grass cutting, as previously agreed. No request had been made by the **Netherfield Village Hall** and Cllr Sharman agreed to investigate if this was still a requirement. **The Clerk was authorised to pay both sums as appropriate.**

12. Matters for information / future agenda items

Items carried forward due to Covid-19 crisis:

- To consider alternative designs for gym equipment
- To consider alternative flood lighting options for MUGA
- To receive data on allotment tenancy activity
- To consider proposals for Cherry Garden

- To consider changeover of petrol based to battery operated power tools

13. Date of next meeting: 4th August 2020

The meeting closed at 9.06pm.

CLLR V COOK
CHAIRMAN