



# Battle Town Council



## MINUTES of a Meeting of the ESTATES COMMITTEE held on Tuesday, 24 January 2012 at 7.30pm at The Almonry, High Street, Battle

**Present:** Cllr J Boryer - Chairman  
Cllrs R Bye, J Carter, Mrs T Farr, Mrs P Fisher, R Harris, Mrs M Howell, R Jessop and D Wilson.

John Harmer, Footpaths Advisor and representatives from Battle for Tennis were also present.

**1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Ms M L Neill.

**2. Disclosure of Interest** – Cllr Mrs Fisher disclosed a personal and prejudicial interest in the first matter to be discussed under item 7 as a close friend of the applicant.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 October 2011.** Cllr Bye proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Mrs Fisher. This was agreed and they were duly signed.

### **4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

Agreement with the owner of the **Old Deanery** about **sharing the cost of trimming the hedge** remains unresolved. He has not been in touch despite several reminders. In the circumstances the Committee agreed that the Council should only cut the hedge on the Churchyard side.

### **5. Correspondence & Communications**

The main items were circulars relating to the planting of **trees to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee**. Via the Lord Lieutenancy, English Woodlands are providing an established container grown English Oak together with related planting materials at a cost of £41.32. A plaque with appropriate wording commemorating the Diamond Jubilee is also available at a cost of £50. The Committee thanked Cllr Jessop for an offer to sponsor these items so agreed that they should be ordered with a view to the tree being planted at the recreation ground.

Regarding the **tree** which **the Lions** would like to plant (reported at the December Council meeting) the Committee felt that the Cherry Garden would be appropriate.

More significantly, there is a **Jubilee Woods project** being coordinated by the **Woodlands Trust**. They are offering packs of saplings in two sizes (105 or 420 trees) which they would wish to see planted in order to create a Jubilee wood. The packs also contain a single Royal Oak sapling. Cllr Mrs Fisher has submitted an application for a pack of 105 saplings. If this is successful the saplings will arrive in the next few weeks, and it was agreed that they should be planted along the cricket ground footpath to create a Jubilee Walk. Cllr Carter advised that they should be planted in groups of 5-7 in well prepared ground. If necessary, they can be thinned out at a later date. Cllr Bye offered to co-ordinate a site inspection by Committee Members so that precise planting arrangements can be determined.

### **6. Footpath Matters**

Regarding two matters raised at the previous meeting – the reference to **FP 15** should, in fact be to **15a** which is in Catsfield Parish; the Council's workforce have repaired the stile on **FP 8** and cleared the adjoining area. Cllr Boryer asked that stiles on **FP 6** be repaired.

John Harmer reported that **FP 30** remains ploughed out and Cllr Mrs Fisher queried the repositioning of a related direction sign pointing to a route along the edge of the field. Parts of

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**FP 54** have also been ploughed out. John Harmer continues to press County about the reinstatement of the **tumbledown stile**.

## 7. Recreation Ground

*Cllr Mrs Fisher repeated her personal and prejudicial interest in the following item and left the room.*

The Committee considered a request from the **Battle for Tennis** group to mark out two further **mini-tennis courts at the MUGA**. Although these additional markings would overlay those provided for 5 a-side football and basketball, Cllr Jessop felt that this would not be a problem, nor the fact that, if all four mini-tennis courts were in use other activities would be precluded. He therefore proposed that the request be agreed in principle. This was supported subject to the Clerk establishing what the cost would be if the work is incorporated with the proposed resurfacing of the main tennis courts.

The discussion then turned to the question whether organised (ie pre-arranged) mini-tennis sessions would conflict with the general purpose of the MUGA to allow informal ad hoc use for mixed activities. On behalf of Battle for Tennis Mr Perkins explained the current arrangements whereby U3A are invited to attend at fixed times during the week and coaching for younger people is provided on Saturdays to fit in with the availability of the coach. The Committee were particularly concerned that the Saturday coaching sessions could pre-empt a large part of a day when the general public might wish to use the MUGA facility and said that, for the moment, this should be limited to a maximum of 2 hours. There were also discussions about the need for formal booking arrangements and related payments such as those which apply to the Tennis Club. It was agreed to review this later in the year in the light of a full summer's use of the MUGA. In the meantime the current informal regime should continue.

The Committee then discussed design options for the **replacement fencing** around the **children's play area**. Members agreed that something less formidable and more appropriate to the surroundings should be used such as a wooden palisade style. The Council's staff will take down the existing and retain what can be reused. In view of the desire to get both this fencing work and the tennis court resurfacing completed as soon as possible in the new financial year, the Committee agreed that tenders should now be invited.

## 8. Mansers Shaw

The Committee noted the satisfactory completion of the project and the Clerk has submitted the necessary report to the Lottery Fund. Some further tidying up work will be carried out in the Spring, using volunteers. Cllr Boryer asked that the condition of the edgings to the new paths be monitored and additional pegs inserted as necessary.

## 9. Budget Report 2011-12

The report was noted. In the light of the Clerk's assurance that the cost could be kept within the overall expenditure forecast, the Committee agreed that expenditure on posts marking the rear of the overflow car park could be incurred.

## 10. Budget 2012-13

The budget, as approved by Council, was noted.

## 11. Matters for Information/Future Agenda Items – None.

## 12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 3 April 2012

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

**J BORYER**  
Chairman

