



# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
held ON TUESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2018 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), M Dass, J Gyngell and M Howell.

In attendance: Carol Harris (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr J Boryer, D Furness and P Fisher.
2. **Disclosure of Interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 2 October 2018** were approved by Members and duly signed by Cllr Favell.
4. **Town Clerk's Report**
  - Confirmation from English Heritage that the existing **Lease for Abbey Green** will be extended for a further 10year period. It had been highlighted that a regular commercial use of the area is not permitted without additional lease and fees.
  - The **firm surface path at Telham** had been mostly carried out by volunteer dog walkers. The work will be completed at the end of the week by Council staff from the budget previously agreed (General maintenance 4205 to a maximum £300).
  - The reported owner of **land adjacent to Mansers Shaw** had indicated that no permission for a Right of Way across his land would be accepted.
  - Cemetery staff member had suggested that the **replacement trees in the natural burial area** should not be planted immediately as the area was extremely waterlogged. Members asked that the trees be purchased for delivery when conditions are suitable.
  - The first stage of levelling to the **junior football pitch** has been completed. This will be completed in early spring.
  - An onsite meeting at **Mansers Shaw** had been held with the **Conservation Volunteer Service** to agree work to **clear the stream**. They will forward advice on work to one Oak after consultation with the High Weald AONB Officer.
5. **Correspondence & Communications**

A request for a **seat within the children's area** of the cemetery had been requested. Members were reminded that an offer to build one had been made but this had not been confirmed. The Clerk was asked to obtain a cost for a bespoke seat for this area and a further bench seat close to the natural burial area.
6. **Battle Heritage Charter**

Members agreed that the Cemetery Chapel, football pitch (built by Canadian service personnel during WW2) and Mansers Shaw: ancient woodland should be recommended to the Heritage Charter group for consideration.
7. **Cemetery**
  - a) The detailed **action plan** for the **Cemetery** was noted. Cllr Favell agreed to contact South Coast College in January in relation to the refurbishment of the mortuary.
  - b) A request to include 7 names of living children to the **memorial for Mr Smith** had been received. Members rejected this request on the basis that there is no formal evidence that this forms part

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of the Traveller community tradition. It was agreed that the names could be added to the central, free standing vase.

- c) An appeal against the **cemetery road contribution** had been received from the daughter of an elderly, housebound resident with no significant means. **Members agreed to this request.** A further notification of non-payment had been received from a resident that appears to have a legal obligation to contribute towards repairs and maintenance and the Clerk was asked to pursue this.
- d) **Members agreed to delegate authority to the Clerk to obtain best value path repairs for terrace at C section to a maximum cost of £5,000 from PWLB(4600/345 EMR).**
- e) **Members agreed to purchase a shelter for the new cemetery area from Tate Fencing at a maximum cost of £5,000 to include roofing, groundwork and installation PWLB(4600/345EMR).**
- f) The **Friends of Battle Cemetery** had reported that the events had received positive comments and the group recommended:
  - o Guided nature walks: butterflies, bats, trees, wildflowers, birds. Members agreed that Wildflower, butterflies and bats should be implemented initially;
  - o A further event on Wednesday 11 September 2019. This was agreed.

## 8. Allotments

- a) The detailed **action plan** for allotments was noted.
- b) The minutes from the **Senlac Allotment Association AGM** were noted, as attached.
- c) Members noted **current vacancies**: Cherry Gardens - 4; Netherfield Hill - 0; Virgins Croft - 5; Watch Oak - 6. The (t)DTC reported that:
  - o there are still payments outstanding and tenants had been advised that agreements will be cancelled unless rents are received by 7 December;
  - o a letter of thanks had been received for tree work carried out at Cherry Gardens;
  - o a heavy duty padlock had been provided by a tenant at Watch Oak to replace the 2 broken locks;
  - o a complaint of shadowing by an Ash tree had been received. In light of the length of tenancy, the Clerk was asked to meet with the tenant and a tree surgeon but suggest a change of allotment plot.

## 9. Recreation Grounds

- a) The detailed **action plan** for the Recreation Grounds was noted.
- b) The minutes of the **Battle Health Pathway** minutes were noted, as attached.
- c) The **Football Development Plan** had been circulated. Members accepted this document for submission for grant funding. Members were disappointed to learn that the Battle Baptist Football Club had reneged on their agreement to fund the production of this document, particularly in light of the efforts made by the Council to provide a pitch and pavilion to accommodate their specific demands.
- d) If planning consent is received, to progress the Pavilion project, **Members agreed the appointment of Pump House Designs to:**
  - o **produce Building Regulations drawings and Construction Note document, suitable for builders to works from;**
  - o **submit Building Regulation application;**
  - o **liaise with external consultants as required****for a fee of £750. Additional costs for application and inspection fees at £1264.80 will be required as appropriate.**

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- e) The successful application for a contribution for **external table tennis equipment** to **Tesco Bags of Help** had been confirmed to the sum of £1,000. The levelling of the area had now been completed and the equipment will be installed when the conditions are appropriate.
- f) The Clerk advised that research had indicated that RoSPA inspections will not approve the installation at **Michael's Mayhem** as not built to full British Standard. The Clerk confirmed that equipment is tested for safety by the trained workstaff on a regular basis. Members agreed that the height of the climbing blocks should be reduced, chippings be laid in the area and the natural dip be channelled to remove the excess water.
- g) Members were reminded that there is one property in Saxonwood Road that has a Peppercorn Access agreement to the recreation ground. A further request for **access from property in Saxonwood Road has been received**. Subject to an understanding that no structures are to be built within the area and that grass cuttings will remain on the Council's side, a Peppercorn Access could be permitted for the current residents. This to be reviewed for any future owners of the property.

## 10. Street Furniture & Lighting

- a) The detailed **action plan** for Street Lighting and Furniture was noted.

## 11. Remainder of BTC's Estate

- a) The detailed **action plan** for the Remainder of BTC's Estate was noted.
- b) The Clerk reported that the new contact at East Sussex County Council had indicated that a Farm Business Tenancy could be implemented to allow animal grazing at the **Amenity field**. However, further research with wildflower meadow specialists had indicated that, whilst this is the most cost effect method, this could be problematic and time-consuming. **Members agreed to accept the usual Lease agreement**. The cutting regime is being clarified and will be commenced, as recommended, once the Lease is in force.

## 12. Financial Matters

- a) The **budget report** at 31 October 2018 was noted, as attached. The Clerk recommended that £5300 from the Street Furniture & General(240) General Maintenance budget(4205) be vired to the equivalent budget for Street Lighting(230). This was agreed.

## 13. Matters for information / future agenda items

The Committee had no objection to the request for Christmas Yarn Bombing on the Abbey Green.

- Disabled Access to Mansers Shaw

## 14. Date of next meeting: 5 February 2019

There being no further business the meeting closed 9.05pm.

Cllr G Favell  
Chairman