



Battle Town Council



DRAFT MINUTES of ESTATES COMMITTEE MEETING held on Wednesday, 24 June 2014 at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr P Fisher – Chairman
Cllrs G Favell, D Furness, A Ratcliffe, J Sydes and D Wilson and the
footpaths advisor J Harmer.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllrs Boryer, Jessop, Kiloh and Sydes.
2. **Disclosure of Interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 4 June 2014 were agreed and they were duly signed.

4. **Health Pathway**

It was agreed that Cllr Favell would be the Council's representative on the Health Pathway Group and that she would report back to this committee.

5. **Correspondence and Communications**

1. A request from a resident to **install two more steps** for access to the public footpath by the cricket ground was agreed
2. A request from **Beautiful Battle** to **install a bench outside the library** paid for by a supporter (and including the maintenance fee) was agreed but members asked that the design of the bench be amended; a Lister bench to match the existing ones are preferred
3. A request from a resident for an additional bench outside the library was treated as part of the previous item
4. A request from a resident for **more dog bins** especially in the Caldbec Hill area to be passed on to the Services Committee for consideration.

6. **Footpath Matters**

The reported problems with **footpath 82** were discussed and Mr Harmer advised that it does appear to be in the right place; due to long term neglect, members of the public have been unknowingly walking on private land. However, **East Sussex County Council (ESCC)** will be visiting the site to check the position of the path and look at the condition of it. It was agreed that resolving the issues with this footpath is the number one priority for footpaths in Battle at the moment and the Clerk will take this forward with ESCC. The Clerk will ask to meet with the **Footpaths Officer** from ESCC on the site visit and members asked that the Clerk arrange a separate meeting with them so that other issues can be discussed.

Outstanding signage issues, **footpaths 21/105** – the Clerk was asked to find out when ESCC will be dealing with them. **Footpath 4**, Mr Harmer advised that there are problems with this (the footpath is being illegally diverted) and that ESCC are dealing with this. The Clerk was asked to find out what ESCC are doing to resolve the problem. **Footpath 87**, Mr Harmer advised that this would open up a new route if the issues were resolved. Mr Harmer offered to lead a **familiarisation walk** for councillors and members of the public.

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Cllr Kiloh has asked for approval to find out more information about the **Community Self-Serve** initiative in relation to the Council managing our own footpaths. The Committee agreed that she can take this forward.

7. **Grounds Maintenance** – the committee noted that an additional member of staff had been employed temporarily to cover staff absences.
8. **Feedback from Councillors on lead areas**
Cllr Fisher reported on her lead areas and will be meeting with the Clerk to agree a priority order of work. All other reports were considered and Cllr Fisher thanked everyone for their hard work. Again, Cllr Fisher will be meeting with the Clerk to discuss priority of work.
9. **Matters for Information/Future Agenda Items** – members are asked to consider what can be done to improve the **picnic area** at Mansers Shaw Amenity Field. The **future use of the recreation ground** will be discussed as several requests to build on or use the ground have been received. The Clerk will work with Cllr Fisher to develop a selection criteria.

10. Date of Next Meeting: 29 July 2014.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chairman
Cllr Fisher

