



Battle Town Council



MINUTES of a SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
held on Tuesday, 25 February 2014 2013
at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr M Kiloh - Chairman
Cllrs J Gyngell, M Howell, S Pry and D Wilson.

- 1. Apologies for Absence – Cllrs R Bye, J Eldridge, J Ormonde-Butler and M Palmer.**
- 2. Disclosure of Interest - None.**
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 11 February 2014. Cllr Pry proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Wilson. This was agreed and they were duly signed.
- 4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings – All covered as agenda items.**
- 5. Correspondence & Communications – None.**
- 6. Allotments**

Cllr Kiloh confirmed that the materials for the **fencing at Cherry Gardens** has been purchased and will be erected next week.

The Committee agreed that used carpets, as agreed at the January meeting, should be put onto **vacant plots** as soon as possible. This would also help to identify those that are available.

Cllr Kiloh circulated a photograph of a **plot marker** in wood with white painted numbers on a black background and suggested this would be suitable for all allotments. This was agreed with sites being marked in order of: Watch Oak; Cherry Gardens; Virgins Croft and Netherfield Hill. Cllr Wilson volunteered to help with this project over the Easter school holiday if required.

The Chairman welcomed Anne Gavin from the **Senlac Allotment Association** to the meeting. Mrs Gavin thanked the Committee for the positive action being taken. She asked that the Deputy Clerk confirm dates for the usual provision of skips at Cherry Gardens and Virgins Croft sites. The poor condition of the paths, particularly the north to south one at Cherry Gardens, was highlighted and the Committee agreed that these would need to be reinstated properly as soon as feasible. Mrs Gavin reminded Members that the hedges at various sites remain overgrown. Cllr Kiloh suggested that, once the allotment sites are in good order, an Open Day might be a good way of showing what is available and how they are managed. Mrs Gavin said that this idea may be considered in the future and that the SAA are planning a summer BBQ. The Chairman thanked Mrs Gavin for her report.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that there are still **16 allotment plots available** with a majority (9) at Watch Oak. They are being advertised on the website and it was suggested that once plots have been covered and better marked a further promotion, possibly in the newsletter, could encourage groups and clubs to consider taking an allotment.

A letter had been received from a **tenant at Watch Oak** requesting permission to extend his allotment to the side. It was noted that the Deputy Clerk had suggested that he could take an adjacent vacant plot but the tenant had indicated that this would be too large. Bearing in mind the number of vacant allotments, the Committee felt reluctant to extend but suggested that the adjacent plot could be split into manageable sizes.

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7. Cemetery

The Chairman reminded the Committee that Council had approved the instruction of CDSL to progress and present the proposals for the cemetery extension to the Environment Agency. It was agreed that Cllrs Wilson, Howell and Kiloh would form part of the **Working Group** to coordinate and take forward this project. The Deputy Clerk was asked to circulate an email to all Councillors inviting Members to this Group.

The Chairman agreed to investigate a suggestion that there is scrubland at the perimeter of the existing cemetery that may be available for extra burial plots. The question of whether there is an existing natural burial area is also to be clarified. Cllr Kiloh reminded Members that the recommendation from CDSL was for the new area to be a secular burial ground to enable burials for all faiths. The idea of incorporating a pet cemetery area was also raised. Members felt that once the extension has been approved proper advertising of the award winning cemetery should be instigated.

8. Budget Report 2013-14

This was noted. The Deputy Clerk was asked to progress the correction of invoiced amounts from Haven prior to the end of this financial year. The Committee agreed that a repair and maintenance survey should be carried out for the Chapel in the next financial year although it was acknowledged that this had not been budgeted for.

9. Budget 2014-15 and Forward Plan

The budget for 2014-15 as agreed by Council was noted. It was agreed that the zero based budgeting should be carried out in sections once the full year figures are known, starting with the Allotments at the next meeting.

10. Matters for Information and Future Agenda Items

Cllr Howell asked if there had been any progress on the lighting in the **Market Square** area. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she has written to Musgraves (Budgens) who it was now believed to be responsible for the repairs and maintenance to that area under the terms of a lease. This will be monitored.

Members noted that the **Gateways** are, conditions permitting, to be installed at the end of this week.

11. Date of Next Meetings: Tuesday, 29 April 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

CLLR KILOH
Chairman

