



Battle Town Council



DRAFT MINUTES of a SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
held on Tuesday, 29 April 2014
at The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30pm

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

Member(s) of the public were present.

- 1. Apologies for Absence – Cllrs R Bye and M Howell.**
- 2. Disclosure of Interest - None.**
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting** held on 25 February 2014. Cllr Wilson proposed approval of the minutes, seconded by Cllr Pry. This was agreed and they were duly signed.
- 4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings – All covered as agenda items.**
- 5. Correspondence & Communications** the Clerk advised (1) she had been advised that there was Japanese Knotweed along the left side path at Cherry Gardens Allotments - members authorised the Clerk to take necessary action to remove the knotweed and (2) that carpet (to prevent weeds on the vacant allotments) was in short supply, *standing orders were suspended to allow a member of the public to speak, who advised that she had asked the supplier not to cut the carpet into strips and to supply us with as much as possible.* The Clerk advised (3) that a request had been made to sell a burial plot purchased in the 1960s and the proceeds to go to St Mary's Church; the Committee approved the re-sale of the plot and that once sold (at the current value) the proceeds to be donated to the Church as per the applicants requests.

6. Allotments

Update on vacant plots - the Clerk advised that there were 12 vacant plots in total.

Cllr Wilson had circulated his report prior to the meeting and summarised it as follows:

Watch Oak and Cherry Gardens have the vacant plots

He has met with the Allotment Association (report circulated)

Watch Oak – need to let the site representative know before the site is mowed, boundary at the top has a large hole in it and unauthorised persons are using the site, concerns over the state of vacant plots, reports of youths smoking on site (Clerk to notify the PCSO and make the site more secure,) sloping paths are troublesome.

Watch Oak – loose manhole cover – Clerk authorised to escalate this as a health and safety issue to Southern Water due to lack of action.

Dogs – Clerk to put up signs about dogs on site and speak to the Allotment Association.

Standing orders were suspended to allow a member of the public to speak: allotments pathways need some work especially at Cherry Gardens, there is confusion about the maintenance of hedges as tenants have different agreements and letters from the Clerk, the dog issue is important. The Clerk was asked to put the Allotment Agreement on to the agenda for the next meeting and circulate a copy to all members.

Trees at Virgins Croft Plot 6b – members agreed that the trees should be cut down to the agreed height but not removed. However if the owner would like to remove them then he could but at no cost to the Council and after October.

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Allotment pathways – Members expressed concern at the recent trips and falls at Cherry Gardens and agreed that the main pathways should be trimmed and that a longer term solution should be considered. Clerk to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

SE in Bloom Competition – the Committee were happy to support the entry of Netherfield Hill Allotments in the competition but were concerned that the deadline for entry had passed. Clerk to contact the allotment holder who made the request. If the site is entered into the competition maintenance work on site to be scheduled to fit in with the date of judging.

Request for sheds to be put on plot 7b Netherfield Hill – approved.

7. Cemetery

The Chairman updated members that CDSL were waiting for a decision from the Environment Agency. The Chairman advised that once we have the decision the next step is to instruct a consultant to complete the planning application and that a sub-committee would need to be formed.

Free hedging had been offered by the Woodland Trust and the Clerk was asked to investigate this with the help of the Chairman.

8. Fingerposts. The Committee gave delegated authority to the Clerk and Cllr J Ormonde-Butler to proceed with the purchase and installation of the posts to the agreed sum of £5,000.

9. Budget Report 2013-14

This was noted. The costs of the future Cemetery consultancy fees to be taken from 141 PWLB loan. The Committee authorised Cllr J Eldridge to conduct a structural survey of the Chapel and report back with estimated costs. The Clerk informed the Committee of the recent car accident (unknown driver and unreported) where the lighting column on the edge of Wellington Gardens had been badly damaged; estimated repairs likely to be in the thousands.

10. Bus Shelter – the Clerk was authorised to obtain a quote for repair of the shelter opposite the Abbey Green from Eldridge Bexley.

11. Matters for Information and Future Agenda Items

The Chairman confirmed that a special meeting would be convened when the decision on the Cemetery Extension is received from the Environment Agency.

11. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 8 July 2014.

CLLR KILOH
Chairman

