



# Battle Town Council



## MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held on TUESDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2021 at The Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane, Battle, at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs V Cook (Chairman), G Favell, M Kiloh and H Sharman.

In attendance: C Harris (Town Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Public Question Time** – None.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs C Davies, C Hartley and C Would.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of previous Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021** were approved by members and duly signed by Cllr Cook.
4. **Report from Town Clerk**
  - The works, as agreed by Full Council, to the **pathway at St Mary's Churchyard**, has been contracted and is due to commence on 14<sup>th</sup> June. It was reported that St Mary's Church had not been able to contribute to the cost due to a significant decrease in their income due to Covid-19. The works to the **turning circle in the new cemetery** will be undertaken immediately after this work.
  - **Swings, gym equipment and skate ramp** have been ordered. Swings and gym equipment are due mid-June. The contractor for the skate-ramp has been asked to attempt to bring forward the installation from the end of August.
  - There has been further communication with the **Asten Fields** resident in relation to **signage and water issues**. Optivo have agreed to attend to existing drain issues and a query has been raised if this action does not resolve the matter.
  - The suggestion of a **memorial bench** by the library was not accepted. It will now be placed on Market Road by the 'waterfall' plant stand.
5. **Correspondence & Communications**
  - The **88 (Battle) Sqn Air Cadets** had requested formal use of the recreation ground to undertake various outdoor activities as part of their programme, twice a month in summer and possibly twice every two months in winter. Members agreed that notification of use should be requested to avoid any double booking.
  - A further communication that there is an increase in **rat** activity at the **Cherry Gardens allotment** site. Members agreed that tenant with chickens should be advised that a move will be required to a perimeter plot as soon as one becomes available. Staff assistance may be provided to assist with this move.
  - Subject to the agreement of English Heritage, Members agreed the use of the **Abbey Green on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021** by the **Streets of Battle** to perform free of charge between 11am and 3pm. Brochure attached for information.

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## 6. Allotments

- a) The **report from the Asst to Town Clerk (AtTC)** had been circulated, as attached. It was noted that all allotments are tenanted and there is a waiting list.
- b) Cllrs Cook and Sharman will **judge the allotment competition on 15<sup>th</sup> July**. There are 3 judging categories for both small (up to 120sqm) and large (over 121sqm) allotments. The AtTC and grounds staff for Allotments will judge separately due to annual leave.
- c) The **inspection dates for 2021/2022** will follow the pattern of previous years: June; September; December; and March.
- d) The **detailed action plan for allotments 2020-2021** was noted, as attached. Cllr Sharman agreed to continue to represent the Council on the Senlac Allotment Association.
- e) The **action plan for 2021-2022** was agreed, as attached.

## 7. Cemetery

- a) It was agreed to carry out this year's **memorial safety inspection** on 8<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr Favell will assist staff with this task. It was noted that formal memorial inspection training is being considered with Hastings and Rother.
- b) It was noted that some drainage and other remedial works had been carried out at the **children's cemetery** to attempt to retain the **yew bushes**. However, this has been unsuccessful and the grounds staff has suggested, in keeping with the nearby rose garden, the yews are replaced with rose bushes. **Members agreed that a soil test should be carried out and the shrub rose *Tottering by Gently*, as recommended by David Austin Roses, should be purchased at an approximate cost of £1200 from the PWLB Ear Marked Reserve (345).**
- c) For the purpose of preserving historical data, Cllrs Cook and Kiloh agreed to research the **digitising of cemetery records**.
- d) Members agreed that a **cemetery guided tree walk** for the autumn should be organised. Cllr Favell will arrange.
- e) The **detailed action plan for the Cemetery 2020-2021** was agreed, as attached.
- f) The **action plan for 2021-2022** was agreed, as attached.

## 8. Recreation Grounds

- a) The notes from an informal meeting for the Council's representatives of the **Fit for Battle Group** and the Clerk had been circulated, as attached. Members discussed the recommendations for the Pavilion project:
  - **an Option to Tax for the Pavilion to be submitted as soon as possible**. It was agreed to recommend this to Full Council;
  - **for the sum of £100,000 to be considered for allocation from Local Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds towards the project**. It was agreed to recommend this to Full Council;
  - **an application to Rother District Council (RDC) for £400,000 Strategic CIL funding**. It was agreed to recommend this to Full Council;
  - **a business plan is produced to assure Council that a café will not run at a financial loss should it be necessary to take the running in-house**. This was agreed;
  - **agree Step Up Sports Consultant's fee of £225 to prepare a Sport England Stage 1 bid, should a suitable fund open**. This was agreed.
- b) Members agreed to reconsider the suggestion of a **water fountain and bike charging facility** when the Pavilion project is completed.
- c) The **proposal for sports education use of football pitch** and response from priority users, Battle Town Football Club, had been circulated to Members. Following a full discussion, and with consideration to comments made in the document at item 8a, Members agreed that Pass & Move

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be permitted to use the pitches at the recreation ground to offer a BTEC in Sport and Football Development for a 2 year period. The condition of the pitches will be monitored and, if felt detrimental to the grounds, notice will be given that no further courses will be permitted.

- d) RDC had confirmed that it would not be possible to include a **football pitch at Coronation Gardens** citing lack of space, particularly since the installation of a zip wire, and lack of changing facilities. A further suggestion of an informal small marked pitch would be suggested. It was highlighted that a report produced by RDC had confirmed a general inadequate sports provision within Rother.
- e) Members noted that the AtTC had completed the **Lawn Tennis Association(LTA)** Safeguarding training and the welfare officer designation had been confirmed. The LTA **booking system** is now being set up for one tennis court. The Clubspark webpage is being prepared in the layout used for Egerton Park Tennis Courts. Members agreed that an A3 size notice board be installed by the courts to display the Terms and Conditions for the booking system, as attached. It is proposed that the booking system will go live on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June to coincide with the tennis practice fence opening event.
- f) Members considered the request by a local **mother and toddler group**, who usually meet in the Guide Hall, to use the **Multi Use Games Area** on Friday 11th June, Friday 25th June and Friday 9th July due to ongoing concerns at the possible effects of the Covid pandemic and continuity for the young children. It was agreed that this is approved subject to no wheeled vehicles being permitted and that no future use would be allowed.
- g) Members agreed the **Battle & Langton CE School leavers' event on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**, to include an inflatable assault course on the junior football pitch (with permission for the vehicle to drive to the area to unload, ensuring the red hatched areas of the Health Pathway are crossed); an ice-cream van down close to the Guide Hut. It was noted that Insurance documents had been received and that all relevant Risk Assessments would be completed.
- h) Members noted the **request for an outdoor performance area** at the recreation ground but felt that there was insufficient space at the recreation ground and that the existing bandstand should be considered for improvement for this use.
- i) Members asked the Clerk to investigate methods and costs for **line marking of parking bays at the recreation ground car park** for consideration at the next meeting.
- j) The **detailed action plan for the Recreation Grounds 2020-2021** was noted, as attached.
  - Members agreed that the proposal to install a **zip wire** should be postponed in favour of improving existing facilities. This should include the removal of the wooden fence, which frequently suffers from vandalism, and the bark surface that quickly deteriorates to be replaced by topsoil and grass. It was agreed to replace the double flat seat swings and lay a mulch/wet pour surface underneath this and the basket swing, in keeping with the aeroskate. This would be funded from the Recreation Ground facilities EMR (440). It was noted that the outdated sign by the western entrance requires removal. The Clerk was asked to bring designs for replacement swings to the next meeting.
  - It was noted that the Rother Voluntary Action advises that evidence for need of disabled play equipment will be required by potential funders. Members felt that facilities should be provided without the need for this data.
- k) The **action plan 2021-2022** was agreed, as attached.

## 9. Street Furniture & Lighting

- a) Following the addition of a further memorial bench at **Mountjoy**, a request for a **litter bin** had been received. Members suggested that the requester contact RDC for this, as the authority for litter clearance.
- b) Members noted that upgrading/replacement of older style **County street light columns** to some lights in Abbey Green, Caldbec Hill, Market Road and Sunnyrise will be undertaken shortly.

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- c) The **detailed action plan for Street Lighting and Furniture 2020-2021** was noted, as attached. Members expressed their thanks to S Chilton for his excellent bench repairs.
- d) The **action plan for Street Lighting and Furniture 2021-2022** was agreed, as attached.

## 10. Remainder of BTC's Estate

- a) The Clerk was asked to issue a firm letter to the Battle Cricket Club following its unauthorised laying of **tarmac on either side of the footpath and vehicular parking at George Meadow.**
- b) The Clerk was asked to confirm costs with **The Conservation Volunteers** for any appropriate work. Suggested projects: clear previous compost area at the Cemetery; maintenance of the Amenity Field entrance by B&L School; and a solution to the constant mud slipping at the lower section of Western Avenue (it was noted that this is a RDC responsibility); improve access to Mansers Shaw for pushchairs and wheelchair users.

*Cllr Favell left the meeting.*

- c) The **detailed action plan for the Remainder of BTC's Estate 2020-2021** was noted, as attached.
  - Improve access to Mansers Shaw for pushchairs and wheelchair users. Included in the above item.
  - Refurbish the surface of Abbey Green. Contact has been made with English Heritage to being discussions.
- d) The **action plan for the Remainder of BTC's estate 2021-2022** was agree, as attached.

## 11. Financial Matters

- a) The **budget report to 31 March 2021** was noted, as attached.
- b) There were no **applications for Post Covid-19 Recovery Grant.**

## 12. Matters for information / future agenda items

- To consider 'no parking' signs on the Abbey Green

## 13. Date of next meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

CLLR V COOK  
CHAIRMAN