



# Battle Town Council



MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
held on TUESDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2022 at  
The Almonry, High Street, Battle at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs G Favell (Chairman), S Burton, V Cook, J Gyngell, M Kiloh.

In attendance: C Harris (Town Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public question time – None.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs A Barton and H Sharman.
2. **Disclosure of interest** – None.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022** were agreed and duly signed by Cllr Favell.
4. **Clerk's report**
  - It was noted that the **Estate Management Programme**, as detailed in the Action Plan, will be reviewed at the next meeting. **Telham play area** will be included in this discussion.
  - **Picnic benches** have been erected in Cherry Gardens; the recreation ground, close to the cycle skills areas; and Skate-ramp Park. All will be permanently secured when time permits.
  - The widening of the **Mansers Shaw bridge** has been postponed due to materials being delayed and should be completed shortly. It was noted that the cost of materials had increased to £573.34, which includes handrails and fixings.
  - Quotes for removal of deadwood in trees at **the Cemetery** had been received and, due to the potential risk, delegated authority had been used to contract the work to Kirby Mckay, who had carried out satisfactory work for the Council previously, at a cost of £1100.
  - Licences from East Sussex Highways for the **bench at Marley Lane** have been applied for.
  - **Improved vehicle parking marking** had been applied at the rec car park. The Asst to Town Clerk and grounds staff were thanked for adding rear kerb markings.

#### 5. Correspondence & Communications

An email of appreciation for the **resurfacing of footpath 82** between Mansers Shaw and Almonry Farm had **requested extra bins** to accommodate the additional use. Members noted that there is a budget for litter bins and that one should be placed close to the Mansers Shaw entrance on Council land.

A request for **deer proof fencing at Watch Oak allotments** was discussed. Members asked that staff ensure that no fence repairs are required and the cost of alternative fencing be investigated for discussion at the next meeting.

#### 6. Graffiti wall

It was noted that this could be an appropriate project for the Safer in Sussex Community Fund that provides the opportunity for groups that aim to cut crime & improve community safety but that applications are required by 10<sup>th</sup> June. An alternative source of funding could be the Proceeds of Crime Fund. It was noted that a local artist had expressed an interest in assisting with this scheme. Members

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discussed potential sites for a removable wall together with the perceived benefits and disadvantages. The Clerk was asked to seek views from the local youth outreach service.

## 7. Report from the Newt Conservation Partnership

It was noted that none of the suggested Council sites were appropriate for this project and was grateful for the advice received on improvements to individual locations.

## 8. Vehicle parking at George Meadow

The Clerk had reported to Battle Cricket Club the Council's decision to permit up to four cars parking on the grass at George Meadow on match days for a period of one year. Further emails had been received requesting further consideration. The Clerk had confirmed that, without significant additional information, this matter could not be discussed for a period of six months but that Council has agreed to pursue an alternative, permanent parking solution.

## 9. Allotments

- a) The **report from the Asst to Town Clerk** was noted, as attached. Members were pleased to note that there are now waiting lists for some allotment sites. It was suggested that all allotment tenants be encouraged to collect water rather than use the taps provided.
- b) A request to reduce an **Oak tree at the Cherry Gardens** site was discussed. Members felt that it was inappropriate to alter a healthy tree and agreed to offer the tenant an alternative plot. The Clerk was asked to ensure that any future tenant is aware of the shading caused by the Oak tree.
- c) It was agreed that Cllrs Favell and Sharman would judge the **allotment competition** on a date to be agreed.
- d) The **judging criteria** for allotment competition was agreed as attached.

## 10. Cemetery

- a) The Clerk reported that **items raised at the site visit** had been added to the Grounds staff task list and many had already been completed: clearing of ceremonies room drains; planting of replacement trees at natural burial area; replacement of entrance mats in Chapel; sycamore seeds removed from shingle path close to the cemetery entrance; chapel floor to be re-painted. Quotes for the replacement of roof tiles on the Chapel and Betty roof are being sought.
- b) Members agreed the provision of **ashes interments with memorial tablets** on one side of the new cemetery area. As the tablet would be surrounded by grass, it was highlighted that maintenance of the area would be the responsibility of the owner. The Cemetery Regulations will be adapted to reflect this decision.
- c) The **annual memorial inspection** will be carried out on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Cllr Favell agreed to assist with this task.
- d) It was agreed that **guided walks** would be arranged:
  - Inspects and butterflies – August 2022
  - Interesting graves – Autumn 2022: Cllr Kiloh to coordinate
  - Dawn walk in Spring – March 2023
  - Wildflowers – May 2023: Hastings Botany Group would be contacted.
- e) To **display cemetery leaflet and other information** such as the Tree Trail, Members agreed to purchase two A4 waterproof leaflet holders and one 1/3<sup>rd</sup> A4 pamphlet holder to replace existing from Cemetery PWLB Ear Marked Reserve 345.

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- f) Members agreed to form a **working party to assist in preparation of the cemetery** for South & South East in Bloom judging on the afternoon of Wed 29<sup>th</sup> June and/or the morning of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. All Councillors would be invited to join.

## 11. Recreation Grounds

- a) Cllr Favell reported that the **Fit for Battle group** had met earlier in the day to discuss funding for the Pavilion project. It was noted that the preferred contractor had confirmed an increase in costs to £687,040. Members agreed that a 10% contingency and professional fess of £10,000 should be added to this cost. A project cost of £765,765 was agreed. Rother District Council had invited Council to submit a bid for Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy funds as this project falls within its pitch improvement scheme etc and is ready to progress. It was noted that the closing date is 24<sup>th</sup> June. **Members agreed to recommend to Full Council that an application for £500k is submitted to RDC for its Strategic CIL fund and £100k from the Council's local CIL fund.** It was noted that the Football Foundation has expressed an interest in supporting an application for up to £250k. A funding advisor has also submitted applications/expressions of interest for grants to the Lottery and Sport England.

Members agreed the Working Group membership:

Fit for Battle WG
Cllr Glenna Favell
Cllr Jill Gyngell
Kevin Tyrell, Chairman Battle Town Football Club
Gary Walsh, Battle Town Football Club

- b) A member of the public wishes to fund a **sight screen for one tennis court**. An additional donor has offered to make up any difference in cost, so that there is no charge to the Council. It was agreed to purchase a green screen at a cost of £104.78.
- c) The Clerk reported on a discussion with an Officer from the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty unit in relation to making an application to **Sussex Lund for grant funding for a hay bailer** to assist with improvements to the wildflower meadows in Telham Playing Field; Amenity Field; recreation ground; and any other potential areas in adjacent parishes. **Members agreed to progress with the application to Sussex Lund for a grant of approx. £10,000 subject to confirmation of available appropriate equipment.**
- d) The Clerk reported that an invoice has been submitted to the proposed temporary tenant at the **Pavilion to provide a refreshment kiosk**. He has confirmed that all insurances and risk assessments will be provided prior to opening. The tenant has repainted and cleaned the area. The Council's insurance company have been informed and confirmed that they have no interest in the scheme.
- e) It was noted that **planted areas at the Health Pathway** require a blitz to bring back to good condition followed by regular weeding. A Friends of the Rec group is to be sought. Cllr Gyngell agreed to contact the Wild About Battle group to seek assistance and the Clerk was asked to publish on social media for additional volunteers.

## 12. Street Furniture & Lighting

No actions required.

## 13. Remainder of BTC's Estate

- a) Members agreed the use of the **Abbey Green by Battel Bonfire Boyes** for the 10k run and Bonfire events.
- b) Members noted the estimate for **Abbey Green resurfacing** for consideration at budget setting.

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## 14. Action Plans

These were agreed, as attached.

## 15. Areas of responsibility

It was agreed that the following Members should progress the relevant Action Plans:

- Allotments – Cllr Hazel Sharman
- Cemetery – Cllr Glenna Favell
- Recreation grounds – Cllr Jill Gyngell
- Street Furniture & Lighting – Cllr Andrew Barton
- Rest of the Estate, including Amenity Field, Mansers and Guild Shaw – Cllr Sue Burton

## 16. Battery operated equipment

A report on the recent demonstration had been circulated to Members. It was noted that grounds staff felt reassured at the effectiveness of battery operated equipment. The Clerk reported that the grounds staff for the Cemetery is undertaking a great deal of the grass cutting by strimmer and Members agreed to the purchase of a battery operated mower from New Machinery Ear Marked Reserve 415. The Clerk was authorised to arrange a demonstration on Stihl and Ego and purchase as preferred.

## 17. Financial Matters

- a) The final **budget report to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022** was noted, as attached.
- b) Members agreed to accept the increase in service charge by 9.5% to £286.46 per calendar month for **public toilet facility** servicing from Specialist Hygiene Services.

## 18. Matters for information / future agenda items

- To consider reduced rents for allotment plots for residents on means tested benefits.

## 19. Date of next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Cllr G Favell  
Chairman