

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre on Tuesday 2nd January 2018 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr. M. Dean (Chairman)

Cllr. J. Beesley

Cllr. K. Everett

Cllr. D. Ward

Cllr. D. Bennett.

Cllr. S. Mayhew

Cllr. I. Smith

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillors P. Meakin and P. Sparks

1 Press

2 members of the public

Christine Wheatley – Assistant Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Minutes taken by Christine Wheatley

1.0. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda.

Cllr S. Mayhew declared a personal interest in item 8.4 relating to access between Victoria Pleasure Ground and St. Philips School. Cllr I. Smith declared an interest in item 10.1. Uckfield Railway Line Parishes as Chairman of the Committee.

2.0. STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

EL.94.01.18 It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow a member of the public to speak.

Frances Baily wished to comment on agenda item 8.2. regarding the gated access between Victoria Pleasure Ground and St Philips Catholic Primary School. She wished to support the school's application to keep the access open as her husband, who is blind, walks their children home every night safely without having to use the main road.

EL.95.01.18 It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. D. French

4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 13th November 2017

EL 96.01.18 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 13th November 2017 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Members considered the Action List that had been previously circulated and agreed to remove the following items which had either been completed or appeared elsewhere on the agenda.

EL53.03.17 – Request for temporary access from Victoria Pleasure Ground to St Phillips Catholic Primary School to become permanent.

EL90.11.17 – Uckfield Millennium Green boundary with Ridgewood Recreation Ground

EL91.11.17 – Allotment Competition

EL92.11.17 – Promotion of our Town's green spaces and encouraging good health and wellbeing

4.3. Project Monitoring List – For information only

Members noted the project monitoring list.

5.0. FINANCE

5.1. To note bills paid

Members noted the bills paid.

5.2. Income and Expenditure Financial Forecast

Members noted the financial forecast.

5.3. 2018/2019 Draft Budgets and New Initiatives

Members discussed the suggestions put forward under new initiatives which included (i) the erection of a shelter at Victoria Pleasure Ground and (ii) litter bins.

Although two locations for a shelter had been identified both could pose a problem, the possibility of gaining access to the pavilion roof and too close to the beacon. A further suggestion for a shelter to be placed adjacent to the car park could be too close nearby residents.

EL 97.01.18 Following further discussion it was **RESOLVED** to agree in principle to the provision of a shelter, subject to a suitable location being found, and that this idea be incorporated in the Council's 5-year Business Plan.

Members noted the draft 2018/2019 budgets.

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

6.1. To consider a request from the Uckfield Rotary Club to erect a memorial at Victoria Pleasure Ground.

Members discussed the request from the Rotary Club, however it was felt that there was insufficient information to make a decision. Concern was expressed as to whether a memorial of this type would, if approved, set a precedent and alternative suggestions were made, including a park bench or a memorial plaque on the pavilion wall. It was also suggested that as the Rotary Club had donated Elizabeth Gardens to the Town Council this could be an alternative area for some form of memorial. The Cricket Club are to be contacted to establish their views.

EL 98.01.18 It was **RESOLVED** to engage with the Rotary Club to obtain more details and other memorial ideas.

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

Nothing to report at this time

8.0. LEISURE

8.1. Hughes Way Play Area Update

Members expressed their disappointment at the continued delay in the project. The Clerk is to obtain a proposed start date from the play company, which should allow for current weather conditions and to give residents as much notice as possible.

8.2. Access from Victoria Pleasure Ground to St Philips Catholic Primary School Survey

Members noted the report and information provided and agreed that the temporary access from Victoria Pleasure Ground had improved safety for school pupils which they felt was paramount.

EL 93.11.17 It was **RESOLVED** that the access from Victoria Pleasure Ground to St Philips Catholic Primary School becomes permanent subject to:
i) the gate always being locked when school has finished;
ii) that we formally review the operation of the access each year;
iii) the Town Council to give notice to rescind the agreement if terms of the licence are not met.

9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

9.1. Road Safety

Nothing to report

9.2. Speed Indication Device (SID)

Members noted the report.

10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

10.1. Uckfield Railway Line Parishes

Cllr Smith said that a recent report commissioned by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer had concluded that the business case for re-opening Uckfield to Lewes had not been proven, but it added that local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships working together could possibly build the case for reopening. The Committee had asked local authorities to take the initiative on this suggestion.

10.2. West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group

Nothing to report.

10.3. Uckfield and District Twinning

Nothing to report.

10.4. Age Concern

Members noted the report.

10.5. Luxford Centre Management Committee
Members noted the report.

10.6. Active Uckfield Group
Nothing to report.

10.7. Wealden Bus Alliance
Nothing to report.

11.0 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was report that Cllrs. P. Sparks and I. Smith would be attending the Strengthening Local Relationship meeting on 9th January.

The meeting finished at 7.34pm.