

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre on Monday 13th March 2017 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr. M. Dean (Chairman)
Cllr. D. French
Cllr. I. Smith
Cllr. H. Firth

Cllr. D. Ward
Cllr. S. Mayhew
Cllr. K. Everett
Mr. O. Coleman

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr. P. Meakin
1 Member of the public
1 Press

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 an interest in item 8.1. but none were forthcoming.

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

EL.47.03.17 It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

EL.48.03.17 It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

Mr. Selby wished to comment on 4; Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on 30th January 2017. He stated that he was arranging a meeting with Cllr. I. Smith and that he would respond to the Chairman in due course.

Cllr. P Meakin wished to speak on 7.1; Olives Meadow Street Light Upgrade. He stated that he thought it was a positive proposal and was pleased to see that shields would be offered to properties should bedrooms be affected by the new lights.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. J. Beckford and D. Bennett.

4.0. MINUTES

- 4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 30th January 2017

EL.49.03.17 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 30th January 2017 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Members considered the action list which had been previously circulated and agreed to remove the following items which had either been completed or appeared elsewhere on the agenda:-

EL.21.07.16 – Services Working Group

EL.42.12.16 – Possible transfer of ownership of two parcels of land off Batchelor Way and Markland Way
Uckfield Promotion Tent

4.3. Project Monitoring List

Members noted the project monitoring list.

5.0. FINANCE

5.1. To note bills paid

Members noted the bills paid.

5.2. Financial Forecast

Members noted the financial forecast.

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

6.1. Uckfield Town Council Promotion Tent – Uckfield Festival Big Day 8th July

Members discussed a previously circulated report and noted that no suggestions had been received from Councillor's.

EL.50.03.17 It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would not erect a 'tent' this year but available Councillors would mingle on the day giving out literature. The Festival organisers are to be advised.

6.2. To note the Strengthening Local Relationships Liaison meeting of Wednesday 18th January 2017

Members noted the minutes of the meeting and agreed that members of the committee be invited to the meetings if the Chairman or Vice Chairman are unable to attend.

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

7.1. Olives Meadow Street Light Upgrade

Members discussed the previously circulated report and agreed that shields should be provided as soon as possible if required. Residents are to be consulted on the project.

EL.51.03.17 It was **RESOLVED** that the report be accepted and the Clerk is asked to proceed with the upgrade of the street lights in Olives Meadow.

7.2. Request from Southern Water for permission to discharge water onto Town Council land at Harlands Farm

Members noted the report and agreed that the works should be carried out to alleviate flooding to a property. It was confirmed that Southern Water would be responsible for the maintenance of the headwall. The Clerk is to negotiate with Southern Water regarding the proposed fee.

EL.52.03.17 It was **RESOLVED** to support the proposed works and that Southern Water be advised accordingly.

8.0. LEISURE

8.1. Request for the temporary access from Victoria Pleasure Ground to St. Philips Catholic Primary School to become permanent

Members discussed the previously circulated report and were advised on the current policy of not allowing accesses to be created onto Town Council land. Some members felt that the current situation was much safer for children. The new road through the development has yet to be completed and some felt that it was too soon to grant permanent permission for the footpath and time should be given to monitor how the system worked. It was also questioned as to how many people walked from the Forge Rise area to the school. It was suggested that a survey be carried out to establish user locations.

EL.53.03.17 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** that we extend the current permission for a further six months providing the gates are locked and secured out of school hours. A survey is also to be undertaken to establish user locations.

8.2. To consider funding the extended 262 Saturday Bus Service, from Forest Row to Heathfield 2017/18

Members considered the report and thought that residents of Heathfield would have easier access to Uckfield on a Saturday. Concern was expressed regarding reduced access to the Ashdown Forest.

EL.54.03.17 It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the General Purposes Committee that the funds be taken from Reserves on the proviso that all other Councils agree to proceed, if one declines then Uckfield would not contribute.

8.3. Update on the Hughes Way play area
Members noted the report.

8.4. Footpath in Nightingale Wood
The logistics of providing a new pushchair/pram friendly footpath through the wood were discussed. The current steps on private land would need to be replaced with a slope; Tree Preservation Order restrictions and the potential cost were discussed.

EL.55.03.17 Following further discussions it was **RESOLVED** that we do not explore the footpath further.

9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS AND TO AGREE TERMS OF REFERENCE

9.1. Ridgewood Recreation Ground
Nothing to report.

9.2. Services Working Group – Community Extras Grass Cutting

EL.56.03.17 It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and that the Services Working Group ceases to operate until such a time that contact is received from the District or County Council in 2017/18 or beyond, to discuss the devolution of their services.

9.3. Road Safety
Nothing to report.

10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

10.1. Uckfield Railway Line Parishes
Nothing to report.

10.2. Informal Wealden Line Steering Group – no meeting
Nothing to report.

10.3. West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group – no meetings
Members noted the report.

10.4. Uckfield and District Twinning
Nothing to report.

10.5. Age Concern
Nothing to report.

10.6. Luxford Centre Management Committee
Nothing to report.

10.7. Uck Valley Flood Forum – no meeting
Nothing to report.

10.8. Active Uckfield Group
Members noted the report.

10.9. Wealden Bus Alliance
Nothing to report.

10.10 Millennium Green Trust
Nothing to report.

11.0 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS
None

12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

EL 57.03.17 It was **RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

12.1. Land at Hunters Way
Members discussed a previously circulated report.

EL 58.03.17

It was **RESOLVED** to note the importance of having set procedures in place for the designation and disposal of land parcels, and ensure this is incorporated within the draft Asset Management Plan 2017/18.

EL 59.03.17

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate further.

The meeting finished at 20.12pm