**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held in the

Council Chamber, Civic Centre on Monday 13th November 2017 at 7.00pm.

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. M. Dean (Chairman) Cllr. D. French

 Cllr. J. Beesley Cllr. S. Mayhew

Cllr. K. Everett Cllr. I. Smith

Cllr. H. Firth Cllr. D. Ward

 **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor P. Meakin

1 Press (1 recorded the meeting)

5 members of the public

Holly Goring – Town Clerk

Minutes taken by Holly Goring

**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.

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

**EL.86.11.17** It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

Mr Selby wished to comment on agenda item 6.1 regarding the gated access
 between Ridgewood Recreation Ground and the Millennium Green. He
 questioned whether it was necessary to install a gate along the boundary as this
 would incur additional cost for the Council and wondered whether it would be
 wise to wait until the Spring to re-evaluate.

 Mrs Coombs wished to comment on agenda item 8.4 regarding the gated access
 between Victoria Pleasure Ground and St Philips Catholic Primary School. Mrs
 Coombs wished to support the school’s application to keep the gate open.
 Residents of College Place were concerned about the safety of the children.
 College Place Road was not suitable – there was no room for parking or turning,
 so vehicles would still have to park in the pleasure ground anyhow.

 Mrs Nolan wished to comment on agenda item 8.4 and also supported the
 request to maintain access through the gate. The footpath along Old Timbers
 Lane stopped at College Place and was therefore a safety risk. Last summer
 there were a large number of children playing in the pleasure ground after school
 and it helped to enhance the area.

 A resident from College Place also noted that they would also support the
 school’s request to maintain access via Victoria Pleasure Ground. He
 advised that the Town Council should review patterns of behaviour within the
 car park as it was likely that a number of the vehicles parked there were
 commuters using the railway station. The resident had often seen children
 playing in the pleasure ground after school and felt that the access provided
 through to the pleasure ground was valuable.

**EL.87.11.17** It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

**3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. D. Bennett.

**4.0. MINUTES**

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 2nd October 2017

**EL 88.11.17** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 2nd October 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.

EL78.08.17 – Lewes Road Twinning Sign

EL82.10.17 – Wealden District Council Public Spaces Protection Order
 consultation

EL84.10.17 – Request from the League of Friends of Uckfield Community
 Hospital

In response to questions raised, the Town Clerk advised that DEFRA had been chased and a holding email had been received to say that we would hear shortly regarding the byelaws. The Town Clerk would also investigate if the action relating to Harlands Farm Pond was now complete.

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

 The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had also received additional grant funding from Wealden District Council for the amount of £1,500 towards the Weald on the Field event which was not showing on the financial forecast. Therefore although the events expenditure were showing as an overspend, sufficient funds were made available to cover the costs of the events.

One member questioned whether the asterisk key was recorded incorrectly against streetlight expenditure. The Town Clerk acknowledged this and would advise the Responsible Financial Officer.

Members subsequently noted the financial forecast.

5.3. 2018/2019 Draft Budgets and New Initiatives

 The Town Clerk advised that the estimate referred to in agenda item 6.1 (fencing) was recorded within the new initiatives on the draft budget spreadsheet but at present, the wording referred solely to the pathway at Ridgewood recreation ground. The wording would therefore be altered to include the fencing works.

Members discussed the suggestions put forward under new initiatives which included (i) the erection of a shelter at Victoria Pleasure Ground and (ii) the installation of single corporate litter bins for all Town Council locations.

 Members noted the suggestions, the costs involved and importance of the materials used. It was suggested that a small bandstand/shelter would be desirable at Victoria Pleasure Ground but it would depend on whether there was a suitable location and it would need to be vandal proof.

Members considered the proposal regarding the bins and agreed that some form of cover would be useful to reduce litter spreading across the open spaces. The Town Clerk advised that the concrete bins were useful in specific locations to reduce the risk of vandalism as these were fire proof.

**EL 89.11.17** It was **RESOLVED** to investigate the provision of a cover from inclement weather at Victoria Pleasure Ground (including alternatives and potential size/location) and carry out a review of litter bins, wherever sited, to ensure they are suitable for their location and reduce the risk of turn out by wildlife.

**6.0.** **ADMINISTRATION**

6.1. Licence to create a gated access between Ridgewood Recreation Ground and the Uckfield Millennium Green Trust

Members discussed the report and proposal to move forward with a licence agreement for creating a gated access between Ridgewood Recreation Ground and Millennium Green.

**EL 90.11.17** It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and agree the Licence conditions between the Town Council and Uckfield Millennium Green Trust.

**7.0. ENVIRONMENT**

None.

**8.0. LEISURE**

8.1. Allotment Competition

 The Chairman provided members with an update following the Allotment Conference. Allotment holders had been invited to provide suggestions for a future competition but no suggestions had been received to date. Proposals had therefore been put forward by the Town Council office.

 It was proposed that a competition be held in July 2018, using an independent judge. A local nursery/garden centre would be approached to see if they wished to sponsor prizes for the competition and a range of awards would be available including a competition for children.

**EL 91.11.17** It was **RESOLVED** to agree to hold an allotment competition in July 2018 with an independent judge.

8.2. Hughes Way Play Area Update

 Members noted the update provided, although raised concerns at the length of time that the Town Council had been waiting for the play area company to receive the necessary equipment and set a date for installation. Members acknowledged that it was now unlikely that works would commence before Christmas but would await an update from HAGS-SMP.

8.3. Promotion of our Town’s green spaces and encouraging good health and wellbeing

 The Town Clerk presented the report and explained that Uckfield was very fortunate to have such beautiful green open spaces but residents did not always know of the facilities available. This project plan provided an opportunity to work in partnership with Wealden District Council; utilising their skills and facilities to help the Town Council deliver these initiatives and encourage greater use of the town’s open spaces, as well as increase physical activity and improve residents’ health and wellbeing.

 It was suggested that a campaign be run through various editions of the Voice – focusing on key areas of the town to promote the green spaces and facilities available.

**EL 92.11.17** Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to proceed with the initiatives outlined in the action plan, in partnership with Wealden District Council.

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

 Members noted the report and information provided. There was a polarised response from committee members who had mixed views with regard to the use of Victoria Pleasure Ground and maintaining access.

Members noted the difficulties that local businesses and the town council’s grounds staff had experienced at school drop-off and pick up times, with parents creating congestion and blocking vehicles in within the car park. However they also noted that the temporary access from Victoria Pleasure Ground had improved safety for school pupils.

It was acknowledged that Old Timbers Lane was not designed to cope with a large amount of traffic and the mirror could only provide some help towards visibility on the corner, but recognised that College Place did not have suitable space for vehicles to park or turn.

Members also noted that the school had not yet responded as to whether they would be willing to pay the legal costs for extending the arrangement and making this permanent.

**EL 93.11.17** It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council make contact with St. Philips Primary School to receive an update and understand their intentions regarding the monitoring of parking and to discuss how, together, we could achieve a positive outcome. The item would be deferred to the next committee meeting on 2nd January 2018, when a decision would be made with the necessary information.

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

9.1. Road Safety

 Members noted the report.

9.2. Speed Indication Device (SID)

 Nothing to report.

**10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE**

**ORGANISATIONS**

10.1. Uckfield Railway Line Parishes

Nothing to report at this time.

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

 Members wished to say a big thank you to Sandra Wiles and
 Geoff Pollard the Ranger for their hard work

 Members congratulated both winners and gave thanks to Mr David Hall and
 Councillor P. Meakin for their work over the year in supporting the nature
 reserves. Members subsequently noted the report.

10.3. Uckfield and District Twinning

 Nothing to report.

10.4. Age Concern

 Members noted the report.

10.5. Luxford Centre Management Committee
Nothing to report.

10.6. Active Uckfield Group

 Members noted the report.

10.7. Wealden Bus Alliance

 Members noted the report.

**11.0 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

The meeting finished at 8.06pm.