

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre on Monday 30th January 2017 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

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

Cllr. D. Ward
Cllr. S. Mayhew

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr. P. Meakin
Cllr. P. Sparks
Cllr. C. Macve
1 member of the public
1 member of the 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, but none were forthcoming.

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

EL.46.01.17 It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders.

Mr Selby wished to comment on 4.1; Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on 19th December 2016. He felt the minutes did not convey his comments correctly.

He also wished to speak on Agenda item 8.2. Parkrun. He stated that he organised an event at Ridgewood in 2012 and would be interested in parkrun and attending any meetings where this was being discussed.

Cllr. P. Meakin wished to speak on 8.1; Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve Public Footpath No. 41 draft proposed works by East Sussex County Council. He stated that the site meeting with East Sussex County Council (ESCC) was successful and was pleased that the Ironstone Way access was to be used. He urged the Town Council to wait for the response from the County Council Ecologist and the Environment Agency. He also asked for clarification that the proposal set out in the report was still valid as he thought the paths were going to be constructed differently in some areas.

EL.47.01.17 It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D. Bennett, J. Beckford, K. Everett and H. Firth.

4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on 19th December 2016.

With regards to the Ridgewood play area Cllr. Smith felt that the comments raised at Full Council had already been covered in the Chairman's letter. He took issue on the statement that local Councillors had not been involved with residents. He had attended a meeting with concerned residents, with the outcome being that they should write to the Chairman with those concerns, which they did and these were now being addressed by him.

EL.48.01.17 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 19th December 2016 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Sports Working Group – It was suggested that signage for Victoria Pleasure Ground be passed to Active Uckfield for their comments and to report back to the Committee.

EL.21.07.16 Service Working Group – the Committee was advised that a maintenance agreement had been reached with Wealden District Council which would commence on the 1st April 2017.

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:-

Committee draft budgets for 2017/18.

EL.43.1.2.16 – To consider whether to introduce Cold Calling Zones.

Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve Public Footpath No 41, Draft proposed works by ESCC.

4.3. Project Monitoring List

Members noted the project monitoring list and asked that land at Hunters Way be placed on the next agenda.

With regards to Ridgewood Recreation Ground, the working group was asked to submit a report as to whether they felt their work had been completed with regards to the whole recreation ground and report back to the next committee.

5.0. FINANCE

5.1. To note bills paid

Members noted the bills paid.

5.2. Financial Forecast

Members noted the financial forecast.

Clarification as to the exact cost and number of hanging basket brackets is to be placed on the Members Briefing.

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

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

Members agreed that the idea of the tent needed to be refreshed as the same people turned out every year and there was a lack of volunteers on the day. It was acknowledged that some members were already involved in other organisations' displays on the field.

It was suggested that Councillors could walk about and generally chat to people and perhaps hand out information. It was further felt that the tent could be erected on the 'Weald on the Field' Day or information displayed in the entrance to the Civic Centre. This item would be placed on the Briefing for members to make suggestions and the feedback would be reported to the next Environment and Leisure meeting where a firm decision would be made as to whether to participate on Festival Day.

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

7.1. Request to purchase land Adjacent to 54, Mallard Drive, Uckfield

Members discussed the report and thought that a precedent would be set if in agreement to selling the land. It was also felt that all requests to purchase land should be consider separately.

EL.49.01.17 Following further discussion it was **RESOLVED** not to sell the land adjacent to 54, Mallard Drive.

7.2. To consider whether to introduce Cold Calling Zones

Members noted the report and were advised that there had been some difficulty in contacting some residents associations. They were also advised that the Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents Association had spent a lot of time talking to Trading Standards and felt that the window stickers were more beneficial as they were legally enforceable whereas the signs would not be. Trading Standards have been contacted and they are happy to let the Town Council have 1,000 stickers. A mini campaign could be organised to promote Cold Calling Zones and stickers could be held at the Town Council offices if residents wanted one to display. Councillors could also hand them out if they attended Festival Day.

EL.50.01.17 It was **RESOLVED** not to proceed with Cold Calling Zones but to organise a mini-campaign and distribute stickers accordingly.

8.0. LEISURE

8.1. Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve Public Footpath No. 41 draft proposed works by East Sussex County Council

Members discussed the report and noted the previous comments regarding the specification to the path.

EL.51.01.17 It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and agree to the County Council's proposals, subject to receiving positive views from the Environment Agency and County Ecologist and clarification as to the materials to be used on some parts of the path.

- 8.2. Parkrun
Members noted the report and agreed that this was not a Town Council initiative and was to be run solely by volunteers. The Town Council would offer support in agreeing a venue for the runs. Members asked that Active Uckfield explore the parkrun initiative 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
Members noted the report and it was thought that two cuts would be too costly. The timing of additional cuts was also questioned. How East Sussex classifies urban and rural areas for grass cutting was also questioned as the road between Goldcrest Drive and Fernley Park is classified as a rural cut, which some disputed.

EL.52.01.17 Following further discussion it was **RESOLVED** that we do not proceed with any additional cuts and that we monitor the grass cutting this year.

- 9.3. Road Safety
Nothing to report.

10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- 10.1. Uckfield Railway Line Parishes
Members noted the 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
Nothing to 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

The meeting finished at 7.52pm.