

# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of **UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.00pm

## **PRESENT:**

Cllr. L Eastwood (Town Mayor)	Cllr. C. Macve
Cllr. D. Bennett (Deputy Mayor)	Cllr. S. Mayhew
Cllr. J. Beesley	Cllr. P. Meakin
Cllr. K. Everett	Cllr. I. Smith
Cllr. D. French	Cllr. P. Sparks
Cllr. J. Love	Cllr. D. Ward
	Mr D. Manvell (Youth Member)

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

3 members of the Press  
2 members of the Public

Holly Goring – Town Clerk

Minutes taken by Holly Goring

## **INVITATION TO NEWLY APPOINTED TOWN CRIER TO BE INTRODUCED TO FULL COUNCIL**

The Mayor, Councillor L. Eastwood explained that interviews had been held the previous week to find a Town Crier for the town of Uckfield. She had undertaken interviews which included a specimen cry, with the Town Crier for Seaford, Mr Peter White and the Town Clerk.

Cllr Eastwood was pleased to announce that Mr Ian Bedwell, had been successful and appointed to the new voluntary role of Town Crier. Cllr Eastwood invited Mr Bedwell to say a few words. Mr Bedwell, had lived in Uckfield for 20 years. He had a window cleaning business and was involved with Ridgewood Village Hall. He was happy to carry out any duties sent his way and do them to this best of his ability and to do the best for the town.

## **1.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

None were forthcoming.

**2.0 STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE MAYOR'S DISCRETION**

None received.

**3.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Apologies were received from Councillors Chris and Claire Dowling.

**4.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Anderson, M. Dean and H. Firth.

**5.0 MINUTES**

5.1 To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

**FC.103.04.18** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council of the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

5.2 Action list

Members considered the action list and requested that the following actions be removed from the table as no further action was required at this time:

- FC 46.08.16 – Appoint a Town Crier
- FC 88.01.18 - Quarterly Progress Update
- FC 96.02.18 - Wealden District Council's Homelessness Strategy
- FC 97.02.18- Highway Proposals for Ridgewood Farm
- FC 98.02.18 - East Sussex County Council Grass Verge Cutting

**6.0 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

6.1 To note the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:-

**FC.104.04.18** (a) Plans Committees – 12<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018  
It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Plans Committees of the 12<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018.

**FC.105.04.18** (b) Environment and Leisure Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment and Leisure Committee of the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**FC.106.04.18** (c) General Purposes Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018  
It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment and Leisure Committee of the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**7.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

(i) The Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Joint Committee  
Nothing to report at this time.

(ii) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
Members noted the report.

- (iii) Gatwick Airport Consultation Group  
Nothing to report at this time.

#### **8.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**

- (i) Civic Centre Working Group  
A report is due to be considered under confidential business.
- (ii) Uckfield Events Working Group (Celebrate Uckfield)  
Members noted the report.
- (iii) Dementia Friendly Working Group – Uckfield Dementia Forum  
Members noted the report.

#### **9.0 TO CONSIDER A MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PAUL SPARKS**

Members reviewed a short report which set out a motion put forward by Councillor Paul Sparks which recognised that plastics cause great environmental damage and in view of this, wished Uckfield Town Council (including the Civic Centre) to explore alternatives with the aim of becoming a plastic free town council by the end of 2018.

The Mayor asked if Councillor Sparks wished to add anything further to his motion. He accepted that some research would be required initially and therefore proposed that an audit be undertaken by council staff of the current usage of single use plastic or other plastic materials across the council and the alternatives available. If the Town Council initiated such an initiative it would send a message to the town, to local businesses and organisations to review their plastic usage. Frome Town Council and Brighton Council had undertaken similar exercises.

Members discussed the proposal and suggestions were put forward to include events held by the Town Council such as Weald on the Field. It would also be considered useful if the Town Clerk could consider the cost implications associated with the use of alternatives.

**FC.107.04.18** It was therefore **RESOLVED** to accept the motion with the following additions:

*“It is widely accepted that plastics cause great environmental damage. In view of this, Uckfield Town Council will commence a process of undertaking an audit on current usage of single use plastics and exploring alternatives with the aim of becoming a plastic free Town Council by the end of 2018.*

*This audit will cover all areas of the Town Council including the Civic Centre and events organised by the Town Council. The Town Clerk is requested to investigate the cost implications of using alternatives as part of this process. It is envisaged that this will be a catalyst to make Uckfield a plastic free Town working with the Chamber of Commerce and other local bodies.”*

## **10.0 TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON WEALDEN WORKS**

Members considered a report which provided an update on the work of Wealden Works since a one off financial contribution was provided by the Town Council back in April 2017.

Members were reminded that Wealden Works were an organisation located in Heathfield who supported young people aged 16 – 24 years and classified as NEET (not in education, employment or training).

Members were delighted to see the positive work achieved by the organisation. An application had been received by the Town Council during the community grants process and was considered by the Finance Sub-Committee in September 2017. Their application had been turned down on this occasion as a large financial contribution had been given only months before.

Members were keen to see more information on the financial circumstances of the organisation and what support they would be seeking for 2018/19 and beyond.

The Town Council representative for Wealden Works had attended three meetings and had been extremely impressed with their success rate and how they changed people's lives. It was requested that the Town Council keep a watching brief.

**FC.108.04.18** After some discussion, members subsequently **RESOLVED** to request the Town Clerk to liaise with Wealden Works and recommend that they:

- (i) put forward an application through the community grants process for 2019/20;
- (ii) provide further information on their financial situation and demonstration of their work with Uckfield residents, to be considered as part of the 2019/20 budget setting process.

## **11.0 TO CONSIDER EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION PROPOSALS ON HOUSEHOLD WASTE SITE SERVICES**

Members reviewed the survey questions put forward by East Sussex County Council in respect of household waste and recycling centres.

One member had reviewed the information in some detail and presented his views to the rest of Full Council.

It was felt that the proposals being put forward would be a retrograde step. Every year East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council had commented on the impact of fly-tipping and how much it cost to handle and clear this waste. The member was concerned that this could exacerbate this problem. There was no clear national definition of 'household waste' and therefore caused confusion when it noted that rubble, soil, plasterboard and tiles were not household waste.

The proposed closure of part-time sites at Forest Row and Wadhurst was also of concern, as this would then encourage people to travel to Crowborough or Maresfield via the Ashdown Forest and therefore worked against any future proposals to reduce traffic flow and subsequently pollution levels within the Forest.

The consultation noted that the Forest Row site was a small site but no statistics were available to explain the number of visitors or amount of material deposited there.

The proposed costs associated with disposing of rubble and soil far outweighed the costs of hiring a skip for example and there was concern that this would encourage small businesses to set up to meet in the middle and make a profit from waste collection whether disposal be legal or illegal.

Furthermore Q12 requested views on whether people would be willing to pay to access their local site – the survey did not specify if this would be in instead of or additional to the proposed fees for disposal of non-household waste. Members thought this proposal was unacceptable.

Members also noted that West Sussex County Council who had previously brought in fees and charges for these services, had recently suspended their charges subject to an announcement made by the Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs that it is the Government's intention to review its guidance with regard to charges that can be made at local civic amenity sites and the disposal of DIY materials generated by householders.

**FC.109.04.18** Members **RESOLVED** to request that all Town Councillors respond to the consultation individually as local residents and encourage residents to complete the survey, and for the Town Clerk to complete a response on behalf of the Town Council.

## **12.0 QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE ON UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL PRIORITIES FOR 2017-18 (Q4 – END OF YEAR)**

Members reviewed the report and made a couple of statements with regards to works noted:

(i) could an update be provided on phase 3 of the highway works (bus station) and (ii) could consideration be given to review the drains system present under the bus station area to ensure improvements are made when works are undertaken.

Members thanked the Town Clerk and officers involved in delivering the priorities within the plan and noted the contents of the report.

Youth Member D. Manvell arrived at the meeting (7.46pm).

### **13.0 TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Town Mayor wished to add a further engagement to the list – lunch with Father John Wall on 4 April 2018. His food and company was excellent and it was asked if the Town Council could write to him to thank him for his hospitality.

Members subsequently noted the Mayor's engagements.

### **14.0 SIGNING OF GRAVE CERTIFICATES AND TO NOTE TRANSFERS OF DEEDS OF GRANT**

One grant of deed of burial had been received:

**FC.110.04.18** It was **RESOLVED** to sign the certificates for the following:  
Heather Elaine Rogers.

### **15.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED**

None received.

### **16.0 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk circulated a one page document which requested that now a Town Crier had been appointed, it was imperative for the Town Council to set aside a budget for the appropriate clothing, hat and membership fees to be paid for.

The Town Clerk explained within her short report that the costs of such clothing could range between £200 to £2500 depending on the quality and materials used.

Members noted the importance of obtaining suitable clothing of a decent standard and to ensure the new Town Crier felt appreciated in this prestigious role. It was suggested that it would be good if something could be added to the outfit to incorporate the identity of Uckfield

**FC.111.04.18** It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to enable the newly appointed Town Crier to speak.

Mr Bedwell added that he wouldn't want to be seen to use too much of tax payers money but he had also started to investigate styles and associated costs. At his height at 6ft 6, and shoe size of 13-14 he was aware that it may be necessary to obtain a made to measure outfit rather than off the shelf. He was happy to wear whatever the Council wished him to wear and could see the addition of the Sussex Martlets or UTC emblem/badge.

**FC.112.04.18** It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

**FC.113.04.18** After some discussion, members **RESOLVED** to set aside a budget from general reserves of up to £1,000 to provide suitable clothing and accessories, and membership to the Guild for the new role of Town Crier.

**17.0 CHAIRMAN'S (TOWN MAYOR'S) ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nothing to report.

**18.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**FC114.04.18** 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.

18.1 Report of the Civic Centre Working Group

Members noted the update provided.

The meeting finished at 8.03pm.