

# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of **UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Cllr. S. Mayhew (Town Mayor)      Cllr. J. Love (Deputy Mayor)  
Cllr. J. Beesley                                      Cllr. C. Macve  
Cllr. M. Dean                                        Cllr. D. Manvell  
Cllr. L. Eastwood                                Cllr. P. Meakin  
Cllr. I. Smith                                        Cllr. P. Sparks  
Cllr. D. French                                      Cllr. D. Ward

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Three members of the public.  
One member of the press (*recorded the meeting*)  
Councillor Chris Dowling (East Sussex County Council)  
Councillor Claire Dowling (East Sussex and Wealden Councils)

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. They were advised that notice should be given at this part of the meeting of any intended declaration and that the nature of the interest should then be declared later at the commencement of the item or when the interest became apparent.

However, no such declarations were forthcoming.

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

**FC.45.09.18** It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to enable Susan Spicer to speak on agenda item 10. To Consider a Motion Submitted by Councillor P. Sparks. Ms Spicer stated that she was a pensioner who used a mobility scooter. She explained that she has difficulty coming into the town on her scooter due to the cars and lorries parked on pavements, especially in the High Street and has taken registration numbers of these vehicles. Parents also struggle with buggies, sometimes having to walk into the road to pass the vehicles. At times she has also been verbally abused.

Standing Orders remained suspended to allow Councillors Chris and Claire Dowling to speak

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

Councillor Chris Dowling updated members on East Sussex County Council matters.

The roadworks in Lewes Road had now cleared and this had helped to ease congestion in the area.

Residents had expressed concern regarding the recent car crash in Lewes Road which is still pending a police investigation.

The Newtown Action Group are holding a WW1 event on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September and hoped everyone would support the event.

Councillor Dowling re-iterated that East Sussex County Council were not in the same financial position as Northampton and were currently going through the process for core offer budgets.

Councillor Dowling was advised that there were currently 3-way lights in Lewes Road for the next three days.

Councillor Claire Dowling advised that East Sussex County Council's children's service had its first inspection since 2014. They had excellent results and were given an award for an outstanding service. A report on the Music Service was to be discussed next week and would be safe until September 2019. Long term options were to be investigated for the future.

The Wealden Local Plan is now open for a period of consultation as to the whether the Plan is sound, all representations are to be forwarded direct to the Planning Inspector.

The Household waste collection is still causing problems. Wealden DC have deployed further action bringing in a third-party last week to clear rounds. Pressure is being put on Kier on a daily basis which they claim is down to vehicle and staff problems. She wished to reassure residents that any money spent by Wealden DC would be claimed back from Kier.

Councillor Dowling referred to Streatfield House and its tired condition and the possibility of the roof having to be replaced in the next 10/15years. Wealden DC's Cabinet were looking at the possibility of a new build scheme similar in quality to Grants Hill House which would provided 55 homes instead of the current 44. No further details were forthcoming at this stage as a bid was being prepared for government funding.

Councillor P. Meakin expressed concern regarding the extent of the District borrowing figures. Cllr. Dowling assured the Committee that Wealden DC's finances were in a good sound position.

Councillor P. Sparks asked if Wealden DC had any plans for car electric charging points. It was stated that Hailsham currently had a point and Wealden DC's energy policy is to lead by example.

Councillor M. Dean stated that people were worried about the option to demolish Streatfield House as they may have to go to Grants Hill House or move. Councillor Dowling explained that they have brilliant officers who would be working with residents and re-iterated that at this moment in time it was only a bid for funding and if successful they would be speaking to residents.

Councillor C. Macve stated that as there were to be a further eleven properties on the site would this mean a three-storey building, if so there would be concerns regarding the of overlooking existing properties.

Councillor D. French asked if residents had been consulted before the issue was reported in the paper. Councillor Dowling stated that she had no idea.

Councillor D. Manvell asked about the review of the Duke of Edinburgh licence scheme. Councillor Dowling explained that individual schools would have to have their own licence after March 2019.

**FC.46.09.18** It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

#### **4.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors D. Bennett, H Firth, K. Everett, and District Councillors B. Marlowe and P. Waldock.

#### **5.0 MINUTES**

5.1 To resolve that the minutes of Full Council on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

**FC.47.09.18** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of Full Council on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 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 agreed to remove the following items which had been completed or appeared elsewhere on the agenda;-

FC.43.07.17 - Update from Civic Centre Working Group

FC.25.02.18 - To consider the Draft Asset Management Plan for 2018/23

FC.35.07.18 – To note the consultation for proposed parking and waiting restrictions for Uckfield High Street (Experimental Traffic Regulation Order)

FC.42.07.18 – Questions by members previously notified, update to be emailed to all members shortly.

#### **6.0 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

(a) Plans Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**FC.48.09.18** It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Plans Committee of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August\_2018.

**FC.49.09.18** (b) Environment and Leisure Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018  
It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment and Leisure Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018.

**FC.50.09.18** (c) General Purposes Committee of the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018  
It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the General Purposes Committee of the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

## **7.0 TO RECEIVE UPDATES FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

(i) The Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Joint Committee  
Members noted the minutes of the meeting.

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

(iii) Gatwick Airport Consultation Panel  
Nothing to report at present.

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

(i) Civic Centre Working Group  
Nothing to report at present.

(ii) Dementia Friendly Working Group – Uckfield Dementia Forum  
Members noted the report.

(iii) Uckfield Events Working Group - Celebrate  
Councillor D. French reminded members of the Classic Vehicle Parade on the 6<sup>th</sup> October and asked for volunteers for the event.  
Members subsequently noted the report.

## **9.0 TO CONSIDER A MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR D. MANVELL**

Councillor D. Manvell spoke to his motion of adopting the IRHA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition of antisemitism in full and stated that if adopted it would give families in Uckfield security.

The Chairman stated that the Town Council's current Equality policy covered the concerns expressed.

Members felt that national party politics should not enter Town Council level and that the current policy covered everyone. This was a national party problem and not a local issue so could not support the motion.

Councillor D. Manvell was happy to withdraw the motion if Councillors thought the current policy covered the issue, the motion was then withdrawn.

## **10.0 TO CONSIDER A MOTION BY COUNCILLOR P. SPARKS.**

Councillor P. Sparks spoke to his motion of supporting possible changes to by-laws by the Department for Transport making the parking of vehicles on pavements illegal.

He stated that the public, especially wheelchair users had at times been trapped by vehicles parked on pavements as they could not go into the road due to the

lack of dropped kerbs. Ms Spicer had at times had to return home as she was unable to proceed into town.

Members agreed that a change to the by-law would be appreciated but questioned how this would be enforced especially when current double yellow lines and waiting time restrictions were being ignored. It was also felt that a blanket restriction in the town would not be feasible as in some areas parking on pavements was the only way traffic could move freely.

**FC.51.09.18** Members **RESOLVED** to write to the local MP to give support for the change in by-laws to make parking on pavements against the law.

Councillors D. French, D. Manvell, and D. Ward wished to be recorded against this resolution.

**11.0 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN PROPOSED SUBMISSION (AUGUST 2018)**

Members were asked to consider the key elements of the proposed submission which related to Uckfield and to forward their comments to the Town Clerk no later than Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Members also agreed to set up a working group to review the comments prior to submission.

**FC.52.09.18** Members **RESOLVED** to set up a working group to review the Wealden Local Plan comments. Councillors C. Macve, P.Meakin, and P. Sparks offered to sit on the Working Group.

**12.0 TO CONSIDER A NEW PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING SURPLUS LAND – TO FORM AN APPENDIX TO THE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018-23**

Members consider an appendix to the Asset Management Plan regarding the procedure for disposing of surplus freehold assets.

**FC.53.09.18** Members **RESOLVED** to approve the addition of the Procedure for Disposing of Surplus Freehold Assets, as an Appendix A to the Asset Management Plan 2018-23.

**13.0 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE TOWN COUNCIL'S USE OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC**

Members noted the report and were encouraged by the work undertaken so far.

**14.0 TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**

Members noted the engagements of the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

**15.0 SIGNING OF GRAVE CERTIFICATES AND TO NOTE TRANSFERS OF DEED OF GRANT**

One deed of grant had been received.

**FC.54.09.18** Members **RESOLVED** to sign the grave certificates for the following:  
Susan Mary Colchester- Bassett

**16.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED**

None

**17.0 TOWN CLERKS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**18.0 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor, Councillor S. Mayhew wished to thank all of those involved in the bonfire and carnival evening which was a great success.

He also reported on how well AFC Uckfield were playing at the moment and his pending visit to Arques-la-Bataille.

**19.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**FC55.09.18**

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.

19.1 Update on CCTV Installation

Members reviewed and noted the update provided.

The meeting closed at 8.23pm.