

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of **UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre on Monday 20th February 2017 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Cllr. D Eastwood (Town Mayor)
Cllr. M. Dean
Cllr. K. Everett
Cllr. H. Firth
Cllr. D. French

Cllr. J. Love
Cllr. C. Macve
Cllr. S. Mayhew
Cllr. P. Meakin
Cllr. I. Smith
Cllr. D. Ward

IN ATTENDANCE:

2 members of the Press
4 members of the Public

Holly Goring – Town Clerk

Minutes taken by Holly Goring

1.0 TO CO-OPT A YOUTH MEMBER TO UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

As part of a new initiative with Uckfield Community Technology College, the Town Council invited students with an interest in politics to become involved in local decision-making by engaging with the Town Council. Youth members could become fully involved in debates but not vote by becoming a non-voting co-opted member of the Council. Mr Coleman had expressed an interest in the project and would be the first 'youth member' to join the Town Council.

The Mayor, Councillor Eastwood welcomed Mr Coleman to the Full Council meeting and invited him to introduce himself.

Mr Coleman explained that he was a Year 13 student studying at Uckfield Community Technology College Sixth Form. He was currently studying Politics, RS and Drama and was hoping to become a Primary School Teacher in the future. He was looking forward to the experience.

The Mayor asked for members to take a vote by show of hands on the co-option.

FC.95.02.17

With unanimous support, it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mr Coleman onto Uckfield Town Council as a Youth Member.

1.1 To receive declaration of Acceptance of Office

Mr Coleman and the Town Clerk signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2.0 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.

Cllr. J. Love declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 12.0. On the advice of the Town Clerk they would not be participating in discussions on this item.

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

Mr Smith wished to speak on Item 12.0 - to consider the funding of traffic speed surveys.

FC.96.02.17 It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mr Smith to speak.

Mr Smith informed members that he lived in Ringles Cross. It was a fantastic place to live but traffic was becoming more of an issue. Both Mr Smith and his neighbours had witnessed a few accidents in this area, and with a number of businesses along the road and junctions, this was a particularly busy area.

Mr Smith had set up a campaign to gather some support to address the speed of traffic through Ringles Cross and increase road safety. Councillors Dowling, Love and Reynolds had liaised with Mr Smith, and had advised of the importance of collecting data and evidence to justify the need for traffic calming. Evidence would also highlight the difference between perception and actual speed.

Residents were concerned with the speed of traffic between Budletts roundabout and Browns Lane. Speed restrictions varied in this area between 60, 40 and 30mph.

Mr Smith had sent a letter to the Town Clerk requesting financial support to help fund two speed surveys within this area, in order to create a solid foundation and build a case for change. This letter was referenced in Agenda Item 12.0.

4.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Town Clerk advised that unfortunately due to annual leave and work commitments, District and County Councillors were unable to make the meeting.

In their absence, the Town Clerk informed members that an update had been received from the County Council to advise that their budget for 2017/18 had now been adopted by Full Council. East Sussex County Council would continue to support the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and continue to support youth services.

FC.97.02.17 It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

5.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor D. Bennett and Councillors J. Anderson, J. Beckford and P. Sparks.

6.0 MINUTES

6.1 To resolve that the minutes of the Full Council meeting on the 9th January 2017 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor

FC.98.02.17

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting of the 9th January 2017 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

6.2 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.70.12.16 - To consider the Draft Strategic Plan for 2017-2022

FC.71.12.16 - To consider the Draft Annual Plan for 2017/18

FC.72.12.16 - To consider the Draft Annual Budget for 2017/18

FC.88.01.17 - To consider the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (2017-22) and Budget (2017-18) for Wealden District Council

FC.89.01.17 - To formally adopt the Town Council's Strategic Plan 2017-22

FC.90.01.17 - To formally adopt the Town Council's Annual Plan 2017-18

FC.91.01.17 - To formally set the annual budget (precept) for 2017-18

7.0 COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

(a) Plans Committees – 3rd January, 16th January and 6th February 2017

FC.99.02.17

It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Plans Committees of the 3rd and 16th January and, 6th February 2017.

(b) Environment and Leisure Committee – 30th January 2017

FC.100.02.17

It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment and Leisure Committee of the 30th January 2017.

(c) General Purposes Committee – 23rd January 2017

FC.101.02.17

It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the General Purposes Committee of 23rd January 2017

8.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

(i) The Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Joint Committee

Members discussed the minutes of the last Joint Committee meeting which took place on 27th January 2017.

Members noted that:

- the Town Council needed to keep putting pressure on partner agencies and the need for public conveniences, particularly in phase 3 of the town centre improvement scheme;

- it was disappointing that no further progress could be made with longer term plans for Uckfield Town Centre at this time;
- there was no mention of further improvements of the town hall square (area outside Hartfields) and would any work be incorporated in future schemes;
- there was no set date as yet for the contractors to return and address snagging issues which were still outstanding.

Members subsequently noted the minutes of this meeting.

- (ii) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
Members noted the report.
- (iii) Gatwick Airport Consultation Group
Members noted the report.

9.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- (i) Civic Centre Working Group
The report would be reviewed under confidential business.
- (ii) Dementia Friendly Working Group
Members noted the report.
- (iii) Uckfield Events Working Group
Members noted the report.

10.0 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE WEALDEN PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL ON TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES FOR 2016/17 AND 2017/18

Members considered the report which explained that an independent remuneration panel organised by Wealden District Council had put forward proposals in respect of members' allowances in Wealden Parish and Town Councils for 2017/18 as part of the budget setting process.

Whilst reviewing these figures, it had been noted that the allowance paid to members during 2016/17 was not currently in line with their recommended figures. The Assistant Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer had therefore suggested that if members approved, the figures could be rectified by amending the allowances paid to Councillors at the end of the financial year.

FC.102.02.17 With nine votes in favour, out of eleven members present, it was **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) rectify members' allowances for 2016/17 in line with current recommendations;
- (ii) adopt the proposed 1% recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel, in members allowances in 2017/18.

11.0 TO PROVIDE INPUT INTO A POTENTIAL PHASE 4 OF HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS: ACCESS CORRIDORS LEADING TO THE TOWN CENTRE

Members were informed that assuming that phase three of the town centre improvement works were delivered on or near to budget, that further development contributions had been secured from sites within and around Uckfield Town Centre specifically for the use of local transport improvements. It had therefore been proposed to bring forward a Phase 4 of highway improvements, which would address issues in the access corridors leading into the town centre.

Utilising past feedback from local councillors and local residents, five access corridors had been identified (*Bell Lane to Tesco roundabout, Framfield Road, Ridgewood - Lewes Road and Eastbourne Road, Church Street, London Road/High Street*). The Town Council was being asked to input on the issues in these five areas, and the Town Mayor invited comments from around the table.

Members noted the following issues in addition to those already listed:

- Framfield Road junction - the filter light which directed southbound traffic into Framfield Road was not fully operational. If the filter light were turned on whilst traffic was leaving Framfield Road, it would help to ease traffic congestion in the early mornings and evenings. The Chamber of Commerce had undertaken a traffic survey at the junction some time ago, and the findings of this would still be available for traffic engineers to refer to;
- the traffic lights at the Church Street/High Street junction needed to be re-phased to provide vehicles travelling southbound a few more minutes to pass through the junction and turn into Church Street;
- it was agreed that traffic calming initiatives were important at Ringles Cross to improve road safety;
- pedestrian safety needed to improve in Manor Park, and a crossing was needed for students walking to the College and nearby primary school;
- despite the one-way system in The Drive/Manor Way it was often difficult for vehicles to move past parked vehicles. It had been suggested by residents previously that the grass banks lining the road could be made into parking bays to improve traffic flow;
- the 20mph zone within the High Street needed to be extended to areas of New Town and roads off Framfield Road (including Alexandra Road, Harcourt Road, New Place);
- traffic calming initiatives were required in Eastbourne Road, to reduce traffic speed.

The Town Clerk advised that these comments would be passed on with the feedback received by residents in the past, to the County Council for consideration by their traffic engineers. (*N.B since the meeting, the feedback has been passed on and includes comments made by the public in response to recent press articles*).

12.0 TO CONSIDER THE FUNDING OF TRAFFIC SPEED SURVEYS

Members considered the request put forward by member of the public, Mr Smith to ask for funding to cover the costs of two speed surveys between Budletts roundabout and Brown's Lane. The surveys would help to provide the necessary data and evidence base for any future traffic calming initiatives in this area.

The Town Clerk had suggested within the report that if the Town Council considered funding towards these speed surveys, that they should also consider whether they wished to contribute to the funding of speed surveys in other areas of concern such as Eastbourne Road and Church Street.

Members discussed the proposal and the need for clarification on whether only match funding was required or the full amount.

FC.103.02.17 Subject to clarification of costings, members **RESOLVED** to contribute to the funding of speed surveys in:

- Eastbourne Road x 1;
- Church Street x 1;
- London Road (Ringles Cross) x 2;
- Framfield Road x 1.

13.0 TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE FUTURE OF THE HIGH STREET DOUBLE HEIGHT BRICKS

Members reviewed the report which provided an update on the various options for using or removing the bricks currently located in Library Way. The bricks had been extracted from the High Street during the improvement works and were now in the ownership of the Town Council.

One member had been in discussions with the Rotary Club to consider re-building the planters outside the railway station. Another member had liaised with community group, the Women's Institute. Another member noted that community groups such as the New Town Action Group may wish to use some of the bricks for works within Selby Meadow.

FC.104.02.17 Following discussions, members subsequently **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations:

- (i) to retain at least one or two bricks for heritage purposes and display these within the glass cabinets of the Council Chamber;
- (ii) make contact with the four mentioned community groups to arrange a time for them to collect the bricks that they need for their own projects;
- (iii) promote and advertise a set time in which other local community groups or individuals can safely collect the bricks for their own re-use, with oversight from the Town Council's Grounds staff;
- (iv) if there were any bricks remaining, that they be disposed of safely using the accurate skip size and collection.

14.0 TO SIGN AND SEAL THE BYELAWS FOR HEMPSTEAD MEADOWS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE AND WEST PARK LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Members reviewed the byelaws for the town's nature reserves as recommended by DEFRA.

Members sought clarification on a couple of areas with the use of terms such as 'disability vehicles' and activities such as flying a kite.

FC.105.02.17 Members **RESOLVED** to sign and seal the byelaws for Hempstead Meadows and West Park Local Nature Reserves.

15.0 TO NOTE THE MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

Members noted the Mayor's engagements.

16.0 SIGNING OF GRAVE CERTIFICATES AND TO NOTE TRANSFERS OF DEEDS OF GRANT

One grave certificate had been received.

FC.106.02.17 It was **RESOLVED** to sign the grave certificate for the following:
D. Herman

17.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED

None received.

18.0 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk welcomed Mr Coleman to the Town Council and hoped he enjoyed the opportunity to participate in debates about local issues.

19.0 CHAIRMAN'S (TOWN MAYOR'S) ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor wished to give mention to the Rag & Bone Man, whose single reached No. 2 in the UK Singles Chart, and No. 1 in Germany, Belgium, Austria and Switzerland. His album 'Human' had reached No.1 that week.

On behalf of the Town Council, the Town Mayor, congratulated him on his recent successes and wished him well.

20.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

FC.107.02.17 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.

20.1 Update from Civic Centre Working Group

Members noted the update provided.

20.2 To consider options (in principle) for a new CCTV system in Uckfield Town Centre

FC.108.02.17 Members reviewed the options available and **RESOLVED** to enter into the Sussex CCTV Partnership and install the latest modern camera technology as part of this review.

The meeting finished at 8.38pm.