

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **General Purposes Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre on Tuesday 29th August 2017 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Cllr. D. Ward (Chair)	Cllr. P. Meakin
Cllr. J. Love (Vice-Chair)	Cllr. I. Smith
Cllr. M. Dean	Cllr. P. Sparks
Cllr. K. Everett	

IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of the press (recorded the meeting)
Cllr. D. French

Holly Goring – Town Clerk

Minutes taken by Holly Goring

At the start of the meeting, the Chairman advised members of the sad news that former Councillor Jim Moleworth-Edwards had passed away on Sunday afternoon. The Chairman informed members that he was an inspiration and had given her a lot of information in preparation for her role as a Councillor. Councillors had often enjoyed listening to Mr Molesworth-Edward's stories from his days working for AJS Motorcycles, and referred to the hard work he put in to deliver the annual road safety day year on year with local primary schools. On behalf of the Town Council, the Chairman wished to pass on the council's sincerest condolences to the family.

A one minute silence was then held to enable members to pay their respects to Mr Molesworth-Edwards.

1.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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.

None were forthcoming.

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

No statements were received.

3.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors L. Eastwood and H. Firth.

4.0 MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the meetings of the General Purposes Committee held on the 17th July 2017

GP13.08.17 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee on the 17th July 2017 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2 Action list

Members considered the action list and agreed to remove the following items which had either been completed or appeared elsewhere on the agenda:-

GP50.04.17 – To consider the works required to the Town Clock

GP09.07.17 – To consider the recommendations of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 20th June 2017

GP10.07.17 – Banking Update

4.3 Project list

A member enquired as to when the new toilet doors would be fitted at Victoria Pavilion. The Town Clerk advised that the latest information received suggested that these would be installed at the end of next week (8th September 2017). The charge for entry would be 20p but the toilets would now be accessible 24/7 rather than just during daytime hours. Any denomination of coin could be added into the door to pay the 20p charge.

Members subsequently noted the updated project list.

5.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS

5.1 To note bills paid

Members noted the bills paid.

5.2 To note income and expenditure

One member queried when the RHI payments were due to be received for the Civic Centre boiler. The Town Clerk informed members that she would check but thought that a payment was imminent. It has since been noted that a payment was received by the Town Council shortly after the agenda was published for this meeting.

A second member questioned the variation in restaurant income between April and other months. The Town Clerk advised that school holidays were in April and income was also dependent on functions within the Civic Centre. The Town Clerk advised that they would check the breakdown in figures and advise members accordingly.

Members noted the income and expenditure reports for General Purposes Committee and Luxfords Restaurant.

5.3. Bad Debts

The Town Clerk informed the Chairman that one of the bad debts had now been paid and both were for amounts less than £100. Members noted the current bad debts recorded.

6.0 BUILDINGS

6.1 To note the current position with the Council's buildings

One member asked about the proposed works to the Signal Box steps. The Town Clerk confirmed that full replacement was no longer necessary, previous works had been sufficient, but future works would assist in strengthening the steps further.

Members subsequently noted the report.

7.0 POLICY

None – nothing to report at this time.

8.0 ADMINISTRATION

8.1 To receive a report on the administration of the Council

Members noted the update provided.

8.2 To receive Members' audit reports

Nothing to report at this time.

9.0 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

9.1 To consider reports from:-

(i) Citizens Advice Bureau

Nothing to report at this time.

(ii) Ridgewood Village Hall Management Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

(iii) Uckfield and District Preservation Society

Nothing to report at this time.

(iv) Uckfield Volunteer Centre

Nothing to report at this time.

(v) Wealden District Association of Local Councils – Management Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

(vi) Wealden District Association of Local Councils – Planning Panel

Nothing to report at this time.

10.0 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman wished to congratulate Councillors D. French and J. Love on the charity walk they had completed at the weekend from Eastbourne to Arundel with their colleagues and friends. The group that they were walking with had raised a large amount of money for the Alzheimer's Society and the Chairman wished to give them a big 'pat on the back' for their hard work and dedication.

11.0 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Clerk wished to reassure members and members of the public in relation to an article published in a previous edition of the Sussex Express newspaper.

The article related to Education, and was published in response to discussions at Full Council on 31st July 2017 whereby members highlighted their concerns with school funding in the local area, and schools nearing capacity in terms of intake.

The article had referred to Holy Cross Primary School and could have potentially caused concern for parents with children at that school, as the article suggested that if regeneration plans went ahead in Uckfield, it could close.

The Town Clerk wished to clarify that this was not the case, the school was very much open and had recently achieved a very good Ofsted report. Even if regeneration plans were discussed in the distant future, the school would not close, and would consider a range of options including the possibility of moving site.

12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

GP14.08.17

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.

12.1 To consider a report on Luxfords Restaurant

Members considered the confidential report and noted its contents.

The meeting closed at 7.33pm.