

## UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of **UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber,  
Civic Centre on Monday 11th September 2017 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. H. Firth	Cllr. I. Smith
Cllr. D. French	Cllr. P. Sparks
Cllr. J. Love	Cllr. D. Ward
	Mr D. Manvell (Youth Member)

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

1 member of the Press  
1 member of the Public

Holly Goring – Town Clerk

Minutes taken by Holly Goring

### **A MINUTE'S SILENCE AND TRIBUTE**

The Town Mayor asked the room to join Town Councillors in a one minute's silence in honour of former Councillor Jim Molesworth-Edwards who had recently passed away. Mr Molesworth-Edwards had been a valuable member of the Town Council for many years and would be dearly missed.

The Mayor also welcomed new Town Councillor, J. Beesley to the table for his first Town Council meeting. Councillor Beesley would be representing residents in Ridgewood ward.

### **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.

A late declaration of prejudicial interest was received by Councillor C. Macve in relation to Item 17.2 under confidential business.

### **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**

None received.

**4.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Anderson, M. Dean and K. Everett.

Apologies were also received from District and County Councillors Cllr. Claire Dowling and Cllr. Chris Dowling.

**5.0 MINUTES**

5.1 To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council on 31st July 2017 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

**FC.45.08.17** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council of the 31st July 2017 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.29.06.17 – To provide input into Wealden District Council's Review of Parking Issues in Uckfield town.

FC.39.07.17 – To consider Wealden District Council's Draft Housing Strategy 2017-20

FC.41.07.17 – Chairman's Announcements

**6.0 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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

**FC.46.08.17** (a) Plans Committees – 14th August and 4th September 2017  
It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Plans Committees of the 14th August and 4th September 2017.

**FC.47.08.17** (b) Environment and Leisure Committee – 21st August 2017  
It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment and Leisure Committee of the 21st August 2017.

**FC.48.08.17** (c) General Purposes Committee – 29th August 2017  
It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the General Purposes Committee of 29th August 2017.

**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 of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

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

**8.0 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**

- (i) Civic Centre Working Group  
The report would be reviewed under confidential business.
- (ii) Dementia Friendly Working Group  
Nothing to report at this time.
- (iii) Uckfield Events Working Group  
Members noted the report.

**9.0 TO SIGN AND SEAL THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE SOURCE (THE HUB)**

The Town Clerk advised members that the lease agreement reflected previous conversations at General Purposes Committee and was a one-year extension of the existing agreement albeit one alteration to clause 4.6.1. This reflected the use of the Source by other community groups, and need for them to obtain consent from the Landlord (Uckfield Town Council).

**FC.49.08.17** Members **RESOLVED** to approve the one year extension of the lease agreement with the Source, which was confirmed with the signatures of two Town Councillors.

**10.0 TO SIGN AND SEAL THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (THE HUB)**

The Town Clerk advised members that the lease agreement was in fact the same agreement that had been signed by Full Council some 12-18 months ago, but the signed document had gone astray between parties.

**FC.50.08.17** Members **RESOLVED** to approve the lease agreement between the Citizens Advice Bureau and Uckfield Town Council, which was confirmed with the signatures of two Town Councillors.

**11.0 TO REVIEW THE SOUTH EAST WATER DROUGHT PLAN FOR 2018-2023**

Members reviewed the executive summary of the draft South East Water Drought Plan which was currently out for consultation.

One member had digested the full 300 page technical report in detail. The report discussed the likelihood of a drought and what measures South East Water planned to put in place to mitigate and respond. This consisted of a phased process.

Phase 1 would apply a traditional hosepipe ban but allow for concessions i.e. the elderly and blue badge holders would still be allowed to use their hosepipes during a drought period. It was suggested that it would be helpful to provide more specific criteria such as an age band, and if a blue badge holder were allowed access to a hosepipe, did this enable the entire household to use the hosepipe or just the individual?

If this phased process were to be introduced, restrictions would be placed on the use of water on sports fields and allotments (*which would affect the day to day activities of the Town Council*). It would also restrict home owners or businesses from filling a pond, which would pose a risk to the wildlife and any fish, present.

Phase 2 saw all concessions removed, and a complete ban applied, which included car washing and most businesses (except for those who required water for their activities such as food processing).

This was followed by Phases 3 and 4 which saw more technical techniques discussed.

Members further discussed to what extent age and disability were relevant and whether other conditions should also be considered i.e. whether South East Water had completed an Equality Impact Assessment on the draft document.

Members felt it was a valid document but did not help to address the long term problem of water leakage from non-maintained water mains. There was a need for the water companies to look at their water storage capacity, and for local planning authorities to stress more heavily in planning applications, the need to impose conditions around water management.

Members also wondered if the Town Council would become a hub or important point of contact in times of drought to assist with the supply of water. The Town Clerk would check with South East Water.

**FC.51.08.17** Members **RESOLVED** to welcome the draft Drought Plan for 2018-2023 produced by South East Water and requested that the Town Clerk provide a response to the consultation which highlighted the issues raised by members.

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

Members noted the Mayor's engagements and addition of 'Weald on the Field' festival on Saturday 5th August 2017, which the Town Mayor opened.

**13.0 SIGNING OF GRAVE CERTIFICATES AND TO NOTE TRANSFERS OF DEEDS OF GRANT**

Six grants of deeds of burial had been received:

**FC.52.08.17** It was **RESOLVED** to sign the certificates for the following:

Mrs Cathy McDonald  
Mrs G. Pearson  
Reginald Frederick Sands

Sue Edwards  
Jane Monk  
Nicola Pauline Morden and Helen Julie Grenville

**14.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED**

Councillor P. Sparks wished to make a point of order and wondered if the standing orders could be reviewed to enable members to speak on the agenda without prior notice.

The Town Clerk advised members that she would review the legislation and the Town Council's standing orders, and inform members in due course.

**15.0 TOWN CLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None received.

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

The Town Mayor, Councillor L. Eastwood wished to thank the Uckfield Bonfire & Carnival Society for their hard work and for organising another fantastic children's procession and evening torch procession on Saturday 2nd September. A big well done was given to everyone who was involved in putting it together.

**17.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**FC.53.08.17**

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.

17.1 Update from Civic Centre Working Group  
Members noted the update provided.

17.2 Update on CCTV  
Members considered the update provided.

**FC.54.08.17**

It was **RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to continue discussions with the Uckfield Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting finished at 8.03pm.

