

# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of **UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. K. Bedwell	Cllr. C. Macve
Cllr. B. Cox	Cllr. S. Mayhew (Town Mayor)
Cllr. J. Edwards	Cllr. A. Smith
Cllr. H. Firth	Cllr. P. Sparks
Cllr. D. French	Cllr. D. Ward
Cllr. J. Love (Deputy Mayor)	Mr. A. Brunsdon
	Mr. L. Westwood Flood

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

1 member of the public  
1 member of the press (recording)  
County Councillor Chris Dowling  
County and District Councillor Claire Dowling

Holly Goring Town Clerk

Minutes taken by Holly Goring

## **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.

Three members declared interests in agenda item 10.0. Councillor P. Sparks declared a prejudicial interest as a result of being a Trustee of the Uckfield Phab. Councillor C. Macve's wife was the Treasurer for Uckfield Phab, and Councillor J. Love expressed a personal interest.

## **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**

**FC.99.03.20** It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to enable updates to be provided from District and County Councillors.

Cllr C. Dowling advised that ESCC had recently published a list of their achievements which would be circulated to the parishes. They were waiting for announcements the following week from central government on grant funding; hoping for an indication on the Department for Transport funding to improve the roads across the county. This would be a one-off payment - last year's funding had been used for patching works during the summer months. It was acknowledged that February had been one of the wettest on record, so this had had a substantial impact on the roads.

Cllr B. Cox arrived at 7.03pm.

On 11<sup>th</sup> February, ESCC Full Council had agreed the budget for 2020-21; agreeing to spend an additional £6.5million in the budget, with £1million of that funding being used to tackle the backlog of dropped kerbs, lining and road patching works.

Cllr Chris Dowling referred to matters in his constituency. Potholes in Harcourt Road had now been properly repaired and updates had been provided at the recent Newtown Action Group meeting. There was a slight backlog in Blue Badge applications, as new legislation had affected processing times.

Cllr K. Bedwell had observed a traffic survey undertaken near to the Highlands Inn in February half term, and commented that the school holidays were not ideal for obtaining a true indication of traffic flow. It was uncertain who had carried out these surveys but it was noted by Cllr Dowling that more traffic had been recorded during half term in previous studies than a normal weekday.

The verges in Downsview Crescent were discussed. Cllr P. Sparks advised that the Site Manager took an extremely strict view on the management of the site and had advised that if any contractor vehicles were present along Downsview Crescent, to let him know. Concerns were raised with contractor vehicles, construction traffic and school traffic. It was suggested that a review of the original planning conditions may be necessary, to review the timings of the construction vehicles and waiting restrictions for the works.

Cllr J. Edwards highlighted his concerns regarding the impending closure of Broad Oak Primary School. It was advised that this had been a Lead Member decision.

Discussions then focused on the Wealden Local Plan and costs involved in developing a new plan. The cost of the Public Examination and consultant fees were thought to be excessive. Councillor P. Sparks advised that he had spoken against the increase in member allowances at Wealden DC and the proposed council tax increase but unfortunately lost in the vote.

Councillor D. Ward asked if localised flooding and those areas worst affected could be reviewed and local areas supported, following the extent of the rain over the winter.

**FC.100.03.20** Councillors were thanked for their input and updates, and subsequently **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders.

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

Apologies had been received from Councillors J. Beesley, D. Bennett, G. Johnson and C. Snelgrove.

#### **5.0 MINUTES**

- 5.1 To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council on the 20th January 2020 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**FC.101.03.20** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Full Council on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

#### **5.2 Action List**

Members requested that the following action be removed:  
FC93.01.20 – To formally adopt the Asset Management Plan as this was now being progressed by the General Purposes Committee.

Members subsequently noted the action list.

#### **6.0 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- 6.1 To note the acts and proceedings of the following committee meetings:-  
(a) Plans Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**FC.102.03.20** It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Plans Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

- (b) Environment & Leisure Committee of the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**FC.103.03.20** It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the Environment & Leisure Committee of the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

- (c) General Purposes Committee of the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**FC.104.03.20** It was **RESOLVED** to note the acts and proceedings of the General Purposes Committee of the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

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

- (i) The Uckfield Town Centre Regeneration Joint Committee  
Nothing to report at present.

- (ii) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
Nothing to report at present.

- (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  
(to be considered under confidential business)

- (ii) Uckfield – Events Working Group  
Members noted the report.

(iii) Uckfield Dementia Forum  
Members noted the report.

**9.0 TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY**

Members considered a revised version of the Town Council's Code of Conduct Policy, which reflected on recent best practice and changes to the policies of Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council.

**FC.105.03.20** Members **RESOLVED** to accept the proposed changes to the revised Code of Conduct Policy and adopt the revised version.

**10.0 TO NOTE THE DECISION OF THE URGENT CONSULTATION PANEL**

Members were advised that the Town Council had been approached before Christmas by Uckfield Phab who had been required to move to a new venue in 2020, as a result of the works at Uckfield College and their associated buildings. They had requested support in light of the new expenditure and the Town Mayor had suggested to the Urgent Consultation Panel that support could perhaps be provided through fundraising at a future event. The Urgent Consultation Panel agreed.

Members noted the report.

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

Members noted the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's engagements.

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

One deed of grant had been received:  
Nicholas Rawlinson, Jessica Webber and Hollie Rawlinson

**FC.106.03.20** It was **RESOLVED** to sign the above deed of grant.

**13.0 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED**

None received.

**14.0 TOWN CLERKS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk announced that the Hospitality Manager was leaving for pastures new and his last day would be 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The Hospitality Manager had worked at the Civic Centre for two and half years and helped to increase the events programme for the Civic Centre, review the menu for Luxfords and was pivotal in the refurbishment of the restaurant. The Town Clerk hoped members would join her in wishing him well in his new role.

**15.0 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**16.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**FC107.03.20** 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.

- 16.1 To receive an update from the Civic Centre Working Group  
Members reviewed recent events such as the Opera evening in Luxfords Restaurant and noted the contents of the report.
- 16.2 To receive an update on Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council's Town Centre CCTV connection  
Members noted the update provided.

The meeting closed at 7.51pm.