

# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held on  
**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.00pm**

## **REMOTE MEETING (VIA ZOOM)**

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr. J. Beesley (Chairman)	Cllr. D. French (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. B. Cox	Cllr. J. Edwards
Cllr. S. Mayhew	Cllr. G. Johnson
Cllr. A. Smith	Cllr. K. Bedwell

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Two members of the press (recorded meeting)  
Two members of the public  
Councillor C. Macve

Holly Goring - Town Clerk  
Sarah D'Alessio – Assistant Town Clerk  
Mark Francis - Estates & Facilities Manager  
Rachel Newton – Senior Administrative Officer  
Minutes taken by Rachel Newton

Before the commencement of the meeting, a tribute was held in memory of Countryside Ranger, Geoff Pollard, who sadly passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Messages of condolence were offered to his family followed by a one minute silence. Geoff was a truly dedicated member of the team and would be greatly missed for all his hard work and inspiration.

### **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. No declarations of interest were announced.

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

None received.

### **3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor D. Bennett.

#### **4.0. MINUTES**

- 4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**EL.01.06.20** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

- 4.2. Action list

Members noted the action list.

- 4.3. Project Monitoring List – For information only

Members noted the report.

(Councillor D. French joined the meeting at 7.08pm)

#### **5.0. FINANCE**

- 5.1. To note bills paid

Members noted the bills paid.

- 5.2. To note the income and expenditure report

There were no income and expenditure reports until accounts are completed for 2019/20.

#### **6.0. ADMINISTRATION**

- 6.1. To note the draft minutes of the Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) Meeting in January 2020

Members noted the draft minutes.

- 6.2. Members were provided with a revised version of the terms and conditions which picked up changes in relation to the football season in particular.

**EL.02.06.20** Members **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) note the report; and;
- (ii) agreed to the revised alterations.

#### **7.0. ENVIRONMENT**

- 7.1. To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates

The Estates and Facilities Manager raised two points for members to consider.

The Estates and Facilities Manager had been advised that the Town Council had been offered a Gingko tree from a resident who knew Councillor C. Macve; an 8-foot tall non-native tree. He was therefore interested in how members felt about planting it on Town Council land. The Estates and Facilities Manager suggested he could ask Wealden District Council if the tree could be placed in Horsted Park. Members did not object to the idea. Councillor B. Cox suggested maybe having a plaque to highlight it's history, as one of the oldest species of trees it could grow up to 115-feet. Another member suggested placing the tree in Luxford Field and incorporating it into a shady area with the newly upgraded play area. Councillor S. Mayhew suggested having the tree as a memorial to our Ranger, Geoff Pollard. The Estates and Facilities Manager advised that he would liaise with Councillor A. Smith who informed in the meeting that her husband had acquired his own tree nursery and would be able to offer more knowledge and understanding on the best place to locate it.

**EL.03.06.20** Members **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) note the report, and;
- (ii) agreed for the Estates and Facilities Manager to liaise with Councillor A. Smith for further guidance on the best area to place the tree.

**To consider whether to use the budget from general reserves to cover the costs of repairs to the tractor**

Another issue raised for concern was that the tractor required an air conditioning replacement. The budget set for the full financial year was £1,500 and repairs had come in at £1,562.11 plus vat. The Estates and Facilities Manager suggested that it was preferred not to use the vehicle replacement budget earmarked reserves of £2,000 at this time of uncertainty.

Councillor B. Cox highlighted the need to think about the hot weather and Health and Safety reasons during the summer months for staff, and it was agreed that this needed to be done.

Councillor D. French suggested splitting the funds between the 2020-21 revenue budget and the Town Council's general reserves in order to meet this requirement. Councillor J. Beesley (Chairman) proposed to take out £562 out of the revenue budget and £1,000 out of the general reserves. Seconded by Councillor S. Mayhew.

**EL.04.06.20** Members **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) note the report, and;
- (ii) agreed to split the cost between the revenue budget (£562.11) and general reserves (£1,000) to make repairs to the tractor.

7.2 **To consider an update on 'Our Parks' Initiative**

Councillor A. Smith said that this was a great initiative to bring to the town, and that she watched the video, but wanted to know more about how 'Fields in Trust' connected with the event. The Senior Administration Officer explained that the initiative was originally recommended to us by Wealden District Council following the success of the same project in Hailsham and that they had been given funding by 'Fields in Trust' to protect a field. The Town Clerk pointed out that 'Fields in Trust' was just a link in terms of funding, but we would also have to think about the area that would be best to hold classes in the first instance. A number of grounds were protected in other ways, with various covenants such as Ridgewood which was regarded as commonland, and there had been discussion in the past about village green status.

One member also asked how this could be managed so it was re-iterated that the leader did not have to be a council officer or member. It was an initiative being introduced to the town, and this initiative would need support from a voluntary group such as Active Uckfield together with Our Parks in order to evolve.

Suggested locations included Luxford Field and Harlands Playing Field.

Councillor A. Smith suggested Luxfords Field, as an older generation were within walking distance there, and the leisure centre was currently closed. Councillor B. Cox suggested Harlands as a good location as a large housing development was planned adjacent to the field and an older age demographic nearby.

**EL.05.06.20** Members **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) Members noted the report, and;
- (ii) asked the Senior Administration Officer to look at progressing the project further and making an application for funding from Fields in Trust;

(Councillor J. Edwards joined the meeting at 7.30pm)

## **8.0 LEISURE**

(nothing to report at this time)

## **9.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**

### **9.1 Climate Change Working Group**

(nothing to report at this time)

### **9.2 2020 VE Anniversary Working Group**

(activities placed on hold until autumn 2020)

## **10.0 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

### **10.1 Active Uckfield**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **10.2 Age Concern**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **10.3 West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **10.4 Luxford Centre Management Committee**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **10.5 Uckfield and District Twinning Association**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **10.6 Uckfield Parkrun Board**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **10.7 Uckfield Plastic Free Working Group**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **10.8 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **10.9 Uckfield Youth Club Board**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **10.10 Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **10.11 All Weather Pitch Operational Group**

Nothing to report at this time.

## **11.0 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had nothing further to add, but was aware that the Estates & Facilities Manager wished to speak.

The Estates and Facilities Manager asked to speak about an additional matter at this point in the meeting - there had been a few concerns from residents regarding the tree planted at West Park. The Groundstaff were watering the tree and buds were growing on it, they had checked a branch and it was green and healthy. The brown leaves were left over from last winter and due to the timing of when the tree was planted, it had caused shock to the tree but was now under observation and the tree was fit and healthy.

## **12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**EL.06.06.20** 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.

- 12.1 To consider a report on the Marketing programme.  
Members discussed and subsequently noted the report.

The meeting finished at 19.44pm