



# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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**Town Clerk – Holly Goring**

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Meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** to be held on  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.00pm**

in

**REMOTE MEETING (VIA ZOOM)**

## **AGENDA**

Under The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, members of the public are able to film or record during a committee meeting.

### **1.0. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members and Officers are reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this Agenda. Should any Member consider that they require a dispensation in relation to any prejudicial interest that they may have, they are asked to make a written application to the Clerk well in advance of the meeting.

Notice should be given at this part of the meeting of any intended declaration. The nature of the interest should then be declared later at the commencement of the item or when the interest becomes apparent.

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

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

### **4.0. MINUTES**

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

(Attached)

4.2. Action list – For information only

(Attached)

4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only

(Attached)

### **5.0. FINANCE**

5.1. To note bills paid

5.2. To note the income and expenditure report for 2020/21 (end of Dec 2020)

(Attached)

## **6.0 ADMINISTRATION**

(nothing to report at this time)

## **7.0. ENVIRONMENT**

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

(Attached)

7.2 Updates on Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

(Attached)

7.3 To note an update from our Ranger on tree works and Ash dieback

(Attached)

7.4 To consider the revised Tree Policy

(Attached)

## **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 Allotments Working Group

(Attached)

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

10.1. Active Uckfield

(nothing to report at this time)

10.2 Age Concern

(Attached)

10.3 West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group

(nothing to report at this time)

10.4 Luxford Centre Management Committee

(Attached)

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

(Attached)

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**

**12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

To consider whether to **RESOLVE** to exclude the press and public (pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) during consideration of the following confidential business to be conducted: -

- 12.1 To consider a report on the Marketing programme  
(Attached)
- 12.2 To consider future building/maintenance works to the Pavilions  
(Attached)



**Town Clerk**

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held on  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.00pm**

## REMOTE MEETING (VIA ZOOM)

### PRESENT:

Cllr. J. Beesley (Chairman)  
Cllr. K. Bedwell  
Cllr. J. Edwards  
Cllr. S. Mayhew

Cllr. D. French (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr. B. Cox  
Cllr. G. Johnson  
Cllr. A. Smith

### IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Holly Goring – Town Clerk  
Mark Francis - Estates & Facilities Manager  
Rachel Newton – Senior Administration Officer  
Minutes taken by Rachel Newton

## 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.

Councillor K. Bedwell declared an interest in relation to item 7.4 regarding an interim update on the outstanding issues at Ridgewood Recreation Ground and Car Park and as Chairman of Ridgewood Village Hall.

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

**EL.24.11.20** It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to enable Town Councillor but non-E&L Committee member, Councillor Macve to speak.

Councillor C. Macve was granted permission to speak in relation to item 7.2 on the agenda regarding Strengthening Local Relationships. He wanted to include an item in relation to the rainwater disposal problems that had occurred in Spring Meadow off Hempstead Road, a matter which had been discussed at the Uckfield College all-weather pitch meetings and with a local resident. During periods of heavy rain, a manhole at the top of Spring Meadow had severely overflowed with the torrent of rain which indicated that this was obviously not how the drainage system should operate and would be dangerous during cold weather. There had been reports that this had only occurred since the all-weather pitch had been built on the Uckfield campus and East Sussex County Council had connected the drainage to an East Sussex drain. Councillor C. Macve and Councillor C.

Dowling had both raised this matter previously with ESCC and a CCTV survey was subsequently carried out inside the drainage system and a problem was located. Although ESCC had not yet submitted their findings Councillor C. Macve suspected that it could have been root ingress which had caused the blockage but ESCC had said that they would not be doing any repair works until the beginning of the new financial year. Councillor C. Macve said that it would be dangerous to leave this over the winter period and asked if this could be raised at the next Strengthening Local Relationships meeting in January. Discussions had been scheduled to take place with ESCC before the meeting today but had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 and there would not be another All-Weather Pitch meeting until February.

Councillor S. Mayhew commented that this was not a new complaint and that he knew residents who had bought a brand new house in this area and had raised the same issue seven years ago but eventually moved away as nothing had been done.

**EL.25.11.20** It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

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

Apologies were received prior to the meeting from Councillor D. Bennett due to work commitments.

### **4.0. MINUTES**

#### **4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**EL.26.11.20** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **4.2. Action list**

Members noted the action list and Councillor J. Beesley raised items that no longer required action:

EL.16.09.20 – To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates. The issue concerning the broken lock on the gate at the Bird-in-Eye allotments leading from Keld Avenue had been sorted out – the lock had been re-installed and residents of the Bird-in-Eye allotment site had all been given the new code. The fence panel had also been damaged and re-fixed. No further action.

Members agreed to remove this item from the list and subsequently noted the action list.

#### **4.3. Project Monitoring List – For information only** Members noted the report.

### **5.0. FINANCE**

#### **5.1. To note bills paid**

Members noted the bills paid.

#### **5.2. To note the income and expenditure report for 2020/21** Members noted the report.

#### **5.3 Update on new initiatives for the draft budget 2021/22**

Councillor D. French stated that there was no proper path linking Victoria Pleasure Ground up to New Barn Estate and Boothland Wood, and asked if something could be done here as this was often where people tended to walk but were cut off from Victoria Pleasure Ground.

The Town Clerk reminded members about the Welbeck ownership of the Ridgewood Farm site and previous discussions with developers about having a footway link between that site through Boothland Wood, which would go around New Barn and border the hedgeline to link up with Victoria Pleasure Ground near to the bottom of the cricket pitch and mentioned that there may be some funding for this in the future.

Councillor S. Mayhew added that drainage was a massive problem in this area and more concrete development would mean more flooding in the skate park so proposed for some proper drainage there as well.

Councillor J. Beesley asked if the Estates and Facilities Manager could add this to his report and if we could look at the budget to combat some of the ASB and vandalism in other areas of town too; not just at Ridgewood, for monitoring incidents of anti-social behaviour in town.

Members subsequently noted the report.

## **6.0. ADMINISTRATION**

(nothing to report at this time)

## **7.0. ENVIRONMENT**

### **7.1 To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates**

Members noted the report and thanked the Estates & Facilities Manager for the report.

Councillor D. French also thanked the grounds team for the removal of graffiti on the bins in Elizabeth Gardens as this was resolved promptly.

### **7.2 Updates further to the Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Councillor D. French asked if the overgrown vegetation opposite the petrol station at the top of the high street had been cleared as a result of this being one of the points she had previously raised. The Town Clerk stated that this matter had been addressed with the owners directly and with East Sussex Highways prior to the SLR meeting and they had appointed contractors who were able to work on the side of the highway during autumn months so this matter had been dealt with outside of the SLR meeting.

Councillor K. Bedwell then raised an item regarding numerous emails received from a local resident who lived along the Eastbourne Road about speeding between Goldcrest Drive and Fernley Park roundabout where cars would often suddenly brake. Councillor K. Bedwell said that she had forwarded all these emails to Sussex Police and that this gentleman was worried that his house may take the brunt of a serious accident that was likely to occur on this road and did not feel that his fears were being met and asked for speed monitors to be installed.

Councillor S. Mayhew said that he had been involved in a meeting that morning with the Police & Crime Commissioner, where they discussed the subject of road safety. It was noted that the new Chief Constable of Sussex Police was

particularly focused on this matter.

The Town Clerk clarified that there had been two groups previously set up – the SID (Speed Indicator Device) working group set up by the Town Council and led - by Councillor P. Sparks. A Community Speedwatch Group was being set up in the Ridgewood area by local residents. This had a certain level of enforcement attached, with warning letters and the involvement of Sussex Police at the point of the third warning. . Councillor S. Mayhew said that the Police had carried out a day of speed checking in this area and agreed that there was a serious issue along Eastbourne Road.

Councillor A. Smith asked if the Town Council could apply for a speed limit reduction but the Town Clerk said that this would involve a long process which would require a lot of supportive evidence and said that even from analysing traffic calming measures for the new development along the Lewes Road the actual speedsurveys did not always reflect what you would expect in terms of data and statistics. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had previously paid for detailed speed surveys to be undertaken in all access corridors to the town. Average speeds determine whether speed restrictions can be reduced in a particular area and would involve both the Police and East Sussex Highways.

It was pointed out however that one difficulty had been the funding which would come back to us most likely through the Community Match Initiative and parish councils would be required to part-fund any scheme, so it would ultimately come down to gathering the necessary evidence to make a case for change.

Councillor J. Edwards agreed that we would need something in place to catch drivers speeding as a proper deterrent, such as the Community Speed Watch Group and on social media, although he did not think that a speed limit reduction alone would ultimately reduce cars speeding along this road.

Councillor G. Johnson commented that speed and noise were all valid complaints but argued that some drivers simply did not care or would maybe drive to work in a daydream so suggested that if a sign were to flash up they might take more notice. He also raised concern about the hierarchy of speed awareness and that Councillor P. Sparks had looked at this last year with Councillor C. Dowling along with ESCC and members were reminded that this was difficult to get up and running and maintain momentum. He added that the signs that flashed up and showed drivers what speed they were doing when they came in to a town were useful and that SID would most likely be the next step.

The Town Clerk stated that Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils had sent some information about the latest kind of flashing signs on the roadside and this would be circulated to members to look at and that the SID Group and Community Speed Watch Initiatives could all be set up whilst investigations begun.

Councillor J. Edwards agreed that the overall statistics would not show a true trajectory of the problem at hand and would include those drivers who were not speeding along this road so this would be really unfair on the majority of those residents who were not breaking the law. He added that this would not be taken seriously until an accident occurred.

Councillor B. Cox agreed that instead of looking at the majority of drivers it would be better to monitor those who exceeded the speed limit later in the day along

this road and retrieve the average speed, especially when many drivers felt safer to drive at stupid speeds.

Councillor J. Beesley concluded that members were obviously keen on doing something about speeding issues generally and highlighted the ongoing problem at Ringles Cross with a proposal to move this forward with these initiatives and go from there.

Councillor S. Mayhew suggested that he would contact the previous groups and if they could not participate for any reason, he would ask other Councillors to assist. Since this problem had always required volunteers, Councillor S. Mayhew highlighted that residents might also like to get involved and the local media may wish to help promote the need for support

**EL27.11.20** Members **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) note the report;
- (ii) liaise with the Community Speed Watch Group in Ridgewood to re-establish in the New Year and raise awareness of speed restrictions between New Road and Fernley Park roundabout;
- (iii) continue to look at phase four of the access corridors into town around highway improvements to combat speeding.

**7.3** To note the current position with the Town Council's Grounds vehicles

Councillor J. Edwards asked if the proposed vehicle would be a good enough replacement for the Ranger. The Estates and Facilities Manager remarked that this would depend upon which direction members wanted to go, whether fully electric or hybrid, as the UK did not build pick-up trucks in these designs yet. He said that this was the only fully electric Gator type vehicle currently on the market, at quite a reasonable cost compared to a pick-up truck and could add a trailer to it as well as good access in to wooded areas so was considered to be a more versatile option. Councillor J. Edwards agreed and said that it would therefore most likely come down to the John Deere v the Polaris and asked if more information on the Polaris would be available as seemed to be more powerful and could take more load. The Estates and Facilities Manager also pointed out that the John Deere only came with grass tyres so was mainly designed a golf course, whereas the Polaris came with all terrain tyres and was 4x4 compared with the John Deere's tyres which were only 4x2.

Members agreed that going down the electric route was the best option and also agreed that this vehicle was smaller, a lot more versatile and cheaper than a diesel truck, so the Estates and Facilities Manager said that he would provide some more informative data on this type of vehicle for members to make a more informative decision.

Councillor A. Smith asked to compare with other local authorities for their experiences of the electric vehicle market and Councillor D. French asked to look at the extra £500 discount if two were purchased. Councillor B. Cox asked if the range of 30mph was sufficient.

The Estates and Facilities Manager said that it would usually only be driven by the Ranger to either Hempstead Meadows or West Park and would not be going very far from Victoria Pleasure Ground nor be used all day and would be charged overnight for eight hours so would keep going all day. Also, two Gator type vehicles would be the same cost as one full Ranger although a date could not be concluded yet as to when the next vehicles would need replacing.



Proposals for an electric vehicle were seconded by Councillor D. French who said that this tied in nicely with our climate change objectives. The Estates and Facilities Manager would now be asked to report back at the next meeting on the options available.

**EL28.11.20** Members **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) note the report and;
- (ii) agree to go fully electric for a replacement grounds vehicle and for an update report to be present on currently availability in the UK market at the next E&L meeting.

7.4 To provide an interim update on the issues outstanding at Ridgewood Recreation Ground and Car Park

Members noted the report - no comments.

Councillor J. Beesley informed members of the latest meeting with the Town Clerk and Head Groundsman and would put a full briefing together for the next Full Council Meeting so that members could discuss in more detail how to move agenda items forward.

**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

**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

The Chairman thanked Councillor C. Macve and members noted the report.

10.9 Uckfield Youth Club Board

Nothing to report at this time.

10.10 Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link  
Members noted the report.

10.11 All Weather Pitch Operational Group  
Nothing to report at this time.

**11.0 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor. J. Beesley had nothing to report at this meeting.

**12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**EL.29.11.20** 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 note a report on the Marketing programme.  
Members noted the report.

The meeting finished at 20:03pm

## UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

### ACTION LIST - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

#### Environment and Leisure Committee

Please note no resolutions can be made from the action list and is for information only.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<b><u>EL.28.09.16</u></b>	<u>To consider revised byelaws for the Town Council's Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)</u> Members reviewed the amendments to the byelaws which still require Natural England and DEFRA's approval. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the revised byelaws.	05.09.16	HG	The Town Council has sealed and signed the byelaws. A public notice will be published soon to provide the public with an opportunity to view the byelaws, prior to their submission to the Secretary of State.
<b><u>EL.26.01.19</u></b>	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Supporter Groups for both reserves be consulted with a view to shorten the byelaws in accordance with DEFRA's comments and report back to the Environment & Leisure committee.	28.01.19		
	<u>Harlands Farm Pond</u> The Ranger is to be asked for ideas to captivate children's interest whilst at the pond.	18.4.17	CW	These initiatives can be reviewed by the new Ranger once they have settled in post.
	Harlands Farm Pond, VCT and Sussex Wildlife Trust are to be contacted to establish if they can assist with ideas etc. regarding children involvement in the pond.	30.4.18	CW	
<b><u>EL07.06.19</u></b>	<u>Historical plaques</u> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> in order to try and move the scheme forward, that this be advertised to the wider audience.	03.06.19	TA	At a previous meeting of Full Council, one member suggested involving Memories of Uckfield in this initiative, to help build up interest.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<b><u>EL26.10.19</u></b>	<p><u>7.2 – Review sheltered seating area in Ridgewood Play Area</u></p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to:</p> <p>(i) note the report; (ii) work with Sussex Police to run a campaign focused on encouraging the reporting of incidents of anti-social behaviour and crime;</p> <p>(iii) further investigate the statistics and evidence available and present this information to the next meeting of the Environment &amp; Leisure Committee.</p>	07.10.19	HG	<p>This action has been superseded by discussions at Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.</p> <p><b>NFA – to be removed.</b></p>
<b><u>EL27.10.19</u></b>	<p><u>7.3 Initially consider the costs of adding permanent CCTV cameras to Ridgewood Village Hall and Ridgewood Recreation Ground</u></p> <p>Seven members voted in support and <b>RESOLVED</b> to further investigate the provision of CCTV in New Road (Ridgewood Village Hall and Ridgewood Recreation Ground) and open up this investigation to include other areas of the town.</p>	07.10.19	HG	<p>This action has been superseded by discussions at Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.</p> <p><b>NFA – to be removed.</b></p>
<b><u>EL28.10.19</u></b>	<p><u>7.4 Note the initial investigations into the addition of a gate/security on Ridgewood Village Hall Car Park</u></p> <p>Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to further explore the costs associated with installing an entry system on the entrance to the Ridgewood Village Hall Car Park.</p>	07.10.19	HG	<p>This action has been superseded by discussions at Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.</p> <p><b>NFA – to be removed.</b></p>
<b><u>EL.42.01.20</u></b>	<p><u>6.1 To consider the renewal of the licence of Selby Meadow</u></p> <p>Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to:</p> <p>(i) note the report;</p> <p>(ii) renew the licence agreement for Selby Meadow with the Newtown Action Group, for a term of 10 years, with a review undertaken every three years.</p>	06.01.20	HG	<p>This action has been completed. The licence agreement has been signed and sealed and shared with the Newtown Action Group.</p> <p><b>NFA – to be removed.</b></p>

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<b><u>EL.43.01.20</u></b>	<p><u>7.2 To receive an update on the ecological report on the Town Council's Land at Bellbrook</u>  Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to:</p> <p>(i) note the report;  (ii) investigate the costs involved of installing an otter holt at the base of the riverbank of Bellbrook open space; (iii) rename Bellbrook open space to 'Riverside Wood' to give it an identity.</p>	06.01.20	MF/HG	Work is in progress to explore these matters. Town Council Solicitors have been asked to arrange an update with land registry.
<b><u>EL.51.02.20</u></b>	<p><u>7.3 To consider the support the Town Council can provide to the Uckfield Community Fridge Campaign</u>  Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to:</p> <p>(i) Note the report, and;  (ii) request that staff organise a visit to the community fridge schemes in Forest Row and Brighton.</p>	17.02.20	HG/Amy/Coral	A further update report has been received from the steering group – this has been going through a funding process and has been moving quite fast so a positive outlook.
<b><u>EL.60.05.20</u></b>	<p><u>7.3 To consider a suggestion by Councillor D. French re: ancient trees to be felled at Mallards Drive</u>  Members <b>RESOLVED</b> for all Councillors' suggestions be put forward to developers to cover costs of producing something from the wood which would be useful the community, using a local crafts person.</p>	04.02.20	MF/RN	Suggestions put forward include: donation to Tree for Tree scheme, bench or seat for Harlands School, or remembrance/memorial bench and in meantime, request for Cllrs to come up with own ideas and/or put out to the public.
<b><u>EL.03.06.20</u></b>	<p><u>7.1 To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates</u>  <u>The Town Council had been offered a gingko tree from a resident who knew Councillor C. Macve; an 8-foot tall non-native tree</u>  Members agreed for the Estates and Facilities Manager to liaise with Councillor A. Smith for further guidance on the best area to place the ginkgo tree.</p>	15.06.20	MF	<p>The resident wished to hold on to the tree until the Autumn, as it would be better to plant before the frost sets in.</p> <p>The resident has been in touch to arrange. In progress.</p>

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<b><u>EL.08.07.20</u></b>	<u>6.1 To consider suggestions put forward for a memorial in West Park Nature Reserve</u> Members noted the report and agreed for the Estates and Facilities Manager to liaise with the Groundsmen and make a decision from thereon for the best ideas for a memorial.	27.07.20	HG/RN	A crowdfunding platform is being used to welcome contributions towards the suggested proposal of installing a granite bench in West Park Nature Reserve. In progress.
<b><u>EL.09.07.20</u></b>	<u>7.1 – To consider the current position of the Town Council's estates</u> The Estates and Facilities Manager spoke about the recent shortage of football pitches since lots of groups had increasing numbers of players and there were not enough pitches. Members agreed for the Estates and Facilities Manager to explore the various options available and increasing the Town Council's sports grounds.	27/07/20	MF	Two football pitches have been installed at Harlands, one for adults and the other slightly smaller (goal posts to accommodate different size pitches). Pitches not being used due to pandemic but discussions with clubs still underway for future bookings.
<b><u>EL.11.07.20</u></b>	<u>7.3 To consider installing electric charging points at the council buildings</u> Members noted the report and discussed various areas for charging points and agreed for the Estates and Facilities Manager to look in to liaising with Wealden DC and proposals for installation of electric car parking points at various sites.	27/07/20	MF	The Estates and Facilities Manager will provide an update in due course.
<b><u>EL.18.09.20</u></b>	<u>7.3 To consider - Sharing boxes idea from local resident</u> Idea was submitted on behalf of a local resident by a council member who wished to add that this idea would be down to residents to design, implement and deliver with one person to look after a sharing box each. Councillors would decide on the best places to put them. Various suggestions were given at the meeting, one being to approach community groups such as the Men's Shed to make them or the Lions Club to monitor and maybe propagate a little bit of advertising at the same time. One member mentioned that this was raised in a	07/09/20	RN	The Senior Administrative Officer has spoken with the publisher of the Uckfield Allotments Association Newspaper to see if this might be something that could be started by local volunteers.

	previous meeting maybe last year and asked for the Senior Administration Officer to look at previous minutes to see if there was any action taken.			
<b>Resolution No.</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Date Raised</b>	<b>Action By</b>	<b>Date Complete</b>
<b><u>EL22.10.20</u></b>	<p><u>7.2 To consider a Tree report from Uckfield Town Council's Ranger</u></p> <p>Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to:</p> <p>(i) agree with the report and commended the new Ranger for his hard work providing suitable areas to plant trees around Uckfield;</p> <p>(ii) agree for the Queen's mountain ash tree to be replanted in Elizabeth Gardens as a commemorative event.</p>	19/10/20	RN	This report highlighted that tree works would be ongoing, some for several years, so would feedback if any issues are raised by the Ranger.
<b><u>EL26.11.20</u></b>	<p><u>7.2 Updates further to the Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020</u></p> <p>Members noted the report and raised an ongoing matter about speeding along Eastbourne Road and proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to reinstate a voluntary Community Speed Watch Group in Ridgewood to raise speeding awareness between New Road and Fernley Park roundabout;</li> <li>• set up a SID working group to combat potential speed reduction;</li> <li>• phase four of the access corridors in to town around highway improvements</li> </ul> <p>Staff to look in Sussex and Surrey Association of Local Councils for latest flashing signs and maybe extra surveys carried out.</p>	16/11/20	RN	<p>These items were added to the agenda for the SLR meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021.</p> <p><b>NFA – to be removed.</b></p>
<b><u>EL27.11.20</u></b>	<p><u>7.3 To note the current position with the Town Council's Grounds vehicles</u></p> <p>Members agree to go down the fully electric route and for a Gator type vehicle and requested an update on what was currently available on the uk market at the next E&amp;L meeting.</p>	16/11/20	RN	A further comparison report will be submitted at the next E&L meeting.

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2020-21**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Leisure</b>		
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Tree for Tree Scheme</b>	<b>Project Number</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Resolution Number</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b><u>FC92.01.20</u></b>	£2,500	27.04.20	Work to commence once Covid-19 restrictions have eased.
	Minus £1129.55 = £1,370.45	01.02.21	Trees have been purchased for planting.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Leisure</b>		
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Bench on London Road (by Southview Drive)</b>	<b>Project Number</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Resolution Number</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b><u>FC92.01.20</u></b>	£1,000	27.04.20	Work to commence once Covid-19 restrictions have eased.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Environment &amp; Leisure</b>		
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Memorial Plaque/Art Project</b>	<b>Project Number</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Resolution Number</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
<b><u>FC92.01.20</u></b>	£1,500	27.04.20	Work to commence once Covid-19 restrictions have eased.



**PROVISIONAL Environment Leisure Committee as at 31 Dec 2020**

	Apr 20 Actuals £	May 20 Actuals £	Jun 20 Actuals £	Jul 20 Actuals £	Aug 20 Actuals £	Sep 20 Budget £	Oct 20 Budget £	Nov 20 Budget £	Dec 20 Budget £	Actuals at 31 Dec 2020	Budgets at 31 Dec 2020	Jan 21 Budget £	Feb 21 Budget £	Mar 21 Budget £	Total £	2020/21 Budgets
<b>Sales</b>																
Contribution to Town Centre Security	0	0	0	0	575	0	0	0	0	575	650	0	0	0	575	650
Weald Hall Events	(119)	(99)	(26)	(39)	0	14	59	0	20	(191)	20,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	6,559	27,000
<b>Allotments</b>	77	86	20	35	(21)	(21)	0	0	0	176	3,536	838	438	438	1,890	5,250
Allotment Deposits	357	51	102	2	(50)	(50)	0	51	0	463	599	67	67	67	664	800
<b>Playing Fields &amp; Pitches, Sport Income</b>	0	50	0	383	213	1,309	(76)	0	(24)	1,856	7,875	875	875	875	4,481	10,500
Playing Fields & Pitches, Event Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,126	458	458	458	1,374	5,500
WDC- WPark Culverts Agreement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	360	360	360
Cemetery - Interments	2,953	5,332	2,566	1,652	3,460	3,456	4,490	3,372	1,207	28,487	20,624	2,292	2,292	2,292	35,363	27,500
Cemetery - Memorials	0	802	254	918	530	205	736	314	157	3,915	4,126	458	458	458	5,289	5,500
Cemetery - Sundry income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	336	38	38	38	114	450
Cemetery Maintenance Charge	290	579	290	193	290	579	676	386	97	3,378	1,949	217	217	217	4,029	2,600
Env Sundry Income	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	(25)	0	21	149	17	17	17	72	200
Litter/bus station	0	331	0	0	331	0	0	331	0	994	949	0	331	0	1,325	1,280
Roundabout income	0	0	0	0	864	0	0	0	0	864	850	0	0	0	864	850
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>3,603</b>	<b>7,132</b>	<b>3,205</b>	<b>3,144</b>	<b>6,192</b>	<b>5,492</b>	<b>5,884</b>	<b>4,429</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>40,538</b>	<b>66,019</b>	<b>7,510</b>	<b>7,441</b>	<b>7,470</b>	<b>62,959</b>	<b>88,440</b>

Water rates were delayed. Allotment invoices went out in January 2021.

Football season invoices for Sept 2020 to May 2021 will be issued after the Covid-lockdown and split into two due to the uncertainties.

The streetlight repairs paid out in August 2020 will be funded by Community Infrastructure Levy funding within UTC Earmarked reserves

<b>Purchases</b>																
Clothing - Corp & Prot - Indoor staff	0	0	0	0	0	51	42	0	0	93	488	54	54	54	255	650
Weald on the Field & Revival	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	0	0	3,000
Street lights, New	0	0	0	0	9,723	0	0	0	0	9,723	0	0	0	0	9,723	0
Street lights, supply & maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	50	6,750	750	750	750	2,300	9,000
Street light repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,876	208	208	208	624	2,500
Bus shelters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	8	8	8	24	100
Allotments	23	7	0	0	81	849	790	0	0	1,750	1,523	169	169	169	2,257	2,030
Playing fields and pitches	15	44	1,514	6,765	957	2,572	1,490	1,022	657	15,034	12,001	1,333	1,333	1,333	19,033	16,000
Play Areas	0	0	0	169	1,253	0	685	206	0	2,313	2,250	250	250	250	3,063	3,000
Dogs - bin signs/bags	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
Cemetery, grave digging	0	1,280	1,280	320	0	1,600	740	640	960	6,820	3,749	417	417	417	8,071	5,000
Cemetery, rates & water	148	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	1,308	943	105	105	105	1,623	1,258
Cemetery, litter	130	130	167	120	111	148	265	148	232	1,450	1,201	133	133	133	1,849	1,600
Cemetery, maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	301	33	33	33	99	400
General equipment repairs	0	0	191	210	0	0	0	0	0	401	1,499	167	167	167	902	2,000
New Equipment	0	0	311	929	217	0	351	0	0	1,807	1,125	125	125	125	2,182	1,500
Ground Maintenance Contract	2,244	2,244	2,244	2,403	2,244	2,244	2,244	0	0	15,867	12,375	1,375	1,375	1,375	19,992	16,500
Ground Maintenance General	0	71	67	51	38	116	93	19	0	455	1,350	150	150	150	905	1,800
Hire of Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100
LNRS & Sites of Interest (Ranger)	2,429	2,029	2,029	0	0	1,489	1,842	1,842	1,842	13,502	22,604	2,511	2,511	2,511	21,035	30,137
LNRS & Sites of Interest (Working budget)	0	0	0	0	0	47	945	205	565	1,762	1,876	208	208	208	2,386	2,500
Transit	75	76	661	119	49	191	158	39	0	1,369	1,499	167	167	167	1,870	2,000
Ford Ranger	52	0	56	57	1,335	111	58	123	0	1,792	1,499	167	167	167	2,293	2,000
Tractor maintenance & running costs	0	48	182	1,406	47	14	42	45	0	1,784	1,125	125	125	125	2,159	1,500
Movana Vehicle	78	106	78	81	84	120	110	0	77	734	1,499	167	167	167	1,235	2,000
Fencing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	561	63	63	63	189	750
Trees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	450	1,000	1,450	2,624	292	292	292	2,326	3,500
Graffiti removal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	4	4	4	12	50
Litter bins	0	0	0	0	0	0	718	0	0	718	3,001	333	333	333	1,717	4,000
Litter collection, open spaces	189	353	358	395	295	316	213	290	332	2,741	2,700	300	300	300	3,641	3,600
Horticulture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	225	25	25	25	75	300
Roundabout expenditure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	8	8	8	24	100
Weald Hall Events	0	0	0	0	54	111	0	0	0	165	14,999	1,667	1,667	1,667	5,166	20,000
Corp dev- signage outside areas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250	250	250
Groundsmen - salaries	5,658	5,382	5,658	6,037	6,189	7,230	6,443	5,950	5,830	54,376	59,549	6,617	6,617	6,617	74,227	79,400
Groundsmen - National insurance	478	478	478	530	551	695	587	518	501	4,815	4,644	516	516	516	6,363	6,192
Groundsmen - Pension	716	1,067	1,107	766	760	1,242	1,018	942	1,105	8,724	12,402	1,378	1,378	1,378	12,858	16,536
Town Security/CCTV	1,171	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	1,739	2,250	250	250	250	2,489	3,000
Road Safety Wk (Climate Change EXPO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,600	1,600	1,600

**PROVISIONAL Environment Leisure Committee as at 31 Dec 2020**

	Apr 20 Actuals £	May 20 Actuals £	Jun 20 Actuals £	Jul 20 Actuals £	Aug 20 Actuals £	Sep 20 Budget £	Oct 20 Budget £	Nov 20 Budget £	Dec 20 Budget £	Actuals at 31 Dec 2020	Budgets at 31 Dec 2020	Jan 21 Budget £	Feb 21 Budget £	Mar 21 Budget £	Total £	2020/21 Budgets
Floral displays	0	803	873	459	459	459	0	0	0	3,053	3,500	0	0	0	3,053	3,500
Repair and replace street furniture	0	0	0	1,200	0	0	0	0	0	1,200	1,125	125	125	125	1,575	1,500
Cleaning materials	0	0	158	0	0	0	0	0	0	158	100	0	0	0	158	100
Performing rights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	374	42	42	42	126	500
Event Advertising Marketing	712	0	420	0	0	530	207	80	575	2,524	3,001	333	333	333	3,523	4,000
HMLNR & WPLNR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	374	42	42	42	126	500
Town Twinning Hospitality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100
<b>Total Purchases</b>	<b>15,118</b>	<b>14,332</b>	<b>18,047</b>	<b>22,233</b>	<b>24,662</b>	<b>20,352</b>	<b>19,306</b>	<b>12,735</b>	<b>13,891</b>	<b>160,675</b>	<b>193,152</b>	<b>20,617</b>	<b>20,617</b>	<b>22,667</b>	<b>224,576</b>	<b>257,053</b>

**New initiatives 2020/21**

Additional tree planting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	570	570	2,500	0	0	1,930	2,500	2,500
Bench on London Road by Southview	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
ESCC Grass Verge cutting	4,271	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,271	4,300	0	0	0	4,271	4,300
Memorial plaques/art project	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500	0	0	1,500	1,500	1,500
<b>Total New Initiatives 2020/21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,841</b>	<b>9,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,430</b>	<b>9,271</b>	<b>9,300</b>

**Projects being delivered in 2020/21**

Luxford Field Play Area	0	0	0	99,645	58,877	0	0	0	0	158,522	161,522	0	0	0	N/A	161,522
Ridgewood Village Hall Improvements	0	11,000	0	0	0	19,800	0	0	0	30,800	N/A	0	0	0	N/A	48,500

## **Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **Agenda Item 7.1**

#### **TO NOTE THE CURRENT POSITION WITH THE COUNCIL'S ESTATES**

##### **1.0 Summary**

1.1 This report sets out the current position with the Council's Estates.

##### **Minimal services due to the current lockdown to reduce staff numbers.**

###### Victoria Pleasure Ground

Nothing new to report.

###### Victoria Skatepark

Investigation required in dealing with drainage issues, awaiting meeting with developers at Ridgewood.

###### Hempstead Lane Play Area

Nothing new to report.

###### Hempstead Meadows

Works are due to take place on the gravel footpath byway by ESCC, following the flood damage in December 2019. No further update at this time.

###### Rocks Park Play Area

Nothing new to report.

###### West Park Recreation ground

Nothing new to report.

###### Boothland Wood

The Forest School had been going well with two visits each week by Harlands Primary School but currently on hold due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. Trees are being worked on by the Town Councils Ranger.

###### Equipment & Vehicles

Nothing new to report.

###### Street Furniture & Lighting

Planters on the high street are getting old and tired, causing some H&S issues.

###### Ridgewood Recreation Ground

Nothing new to report.

###### Elizabeth Gardens

Nothing new to report.

###### Selby Meadows

Nothing new to report.

West Park Local Nature Reserve.

Sheep have been in the static field and grazing in the temporary fenced area.

Luxfords field and play area.

Damage caused to instrument in the play area, awaiting new part for replacement.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: Mark Francis

# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the Strengthening Local Relationships Liaison Meeting held remotely via Microsoft Teams on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 9.30am

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Chris Dowling                      East Sussex County Council  
Cllr. Claire Dowling                      East Sussex County Council  
Ian Johnson                      East Sussex County Council  
Corinne Black                      Customer Service Manager - (ES Highways)  
Sophie Walker                      Customer Service Manager – (ES Highways)  
George Morris                      Highway Steward (ES Highways)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Holly Goring – Town Clerk  
Rachel Newton – Senior Administration Officer  
Minutes taken by Rachel Newton

**1.0 APOLOGIES**

Cllr. Jeremy Beesley                      Uckfield Town Council

**2.0. ONGOING FLOODING ISSUE IN SPRING MEADOW**

Councillor C. Macve had raised an item at the last Environment and Leisure Committee meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November in relation to the rainwater disposal problems that had occurred in Spring Meadow off Hempstead Road. This had been discussed at the Uckfield College all-weather pitch meetings and with a local resident. During periods of heavy rain, a manhole at the top of Spring Meadow had severely overflowed with the torrent of rain which indicated that this was obviously not how the drainage system should operate and would be dangerous during cold weather. There had been reports that this had only occurred since the all-weather pitch had been built on the Uckfield campus and East Sussex had connected the drainage to an East Sussex drain. Councillor C. Macve and Councillor C. Dowling had both raised this matter previously with ESCC and a CCTV survey was subsequently carried out inside the drainage system and a problem was located.

ESCC had conducted investigations and works would be undertaken in the next financial year. It had been identified that there had been some flooding but not as severe recently and that no houses had been directly involved.

Councillor C. Dowling said that the area to be rectified included thirty-five metres from the junction at Hempstead Road to Spring Meadow to re-connect a new system to make any future works easier to manage. Initial works at Hempstead Road had stopped the flooding but the second phase would be the junction at Spring Meadow.

**3.0. HEMPSTEAD LANE, PEDESTRIAN ONLY SECTION NEEDS ATTENTION AS IT IS COVERED BY WET LEAVES**

Councillor P. Sparks asked for this issue to be raised as a safety concern to prevent any trip hazards. The Customer Service Manager said that she had reported this to Wealden DC and asked if any further issues had been reported - there were none at this time.

#### **4.0. DOWNSVIEW CRESCENT – UPDATE ON VERGE WORKS AND ROAD SAFETY**

The Customer Service Manager provided an update. Works had been carried out outside Uckfield College – meshing had been installed for the grass to grow through to alleviate any trip hazard concerns. However, members raised the need for further works leading up to Manor Park Primary School as there was nothing at present. Active Travel had also been working with the schools to come up with a plan to make these areas safer with the possibility of grasscrete to be placed on the verge immediately outside Manor Primary School. Members will seek to make further enquiries on any existing proposals such as ongoing grasscrete on high risk areas as well as road safety in this area. Councillor C. Dowling mentioned that there was also a request for a disabled bay but that this needed to be separated from any temporary emergency works that had already been identified. Councillor C. Dowling and IJ to further investigate.

#### **5.0 FLOODING ISSUE ON SNATTS ROAD AND LONDON ROAD JUNCTION**

It has been reported that each time it rained, this area became flooded and a lake formed across the junction whenever rain was particularly heavy. ES Highways had previously spent a great deal of money re-doing this area.

Further investigation works would be scheduled in to assess the capacity of the previous upgrade.

#### **6.0 OUTER PLASTIC COATING IS PEELING OFF THE BENCHES ON HIGH STREET**

Councillor D. French reported that the outer plastic coating was peeling off the benches in the High Street at both ends of the town and provided a photograph to highlight the problem. The Town Clerk pointed out that the one outside WH Smith is particularly bad and had been reported some time ago to ES Highways under the High Street Project. Further investigation would be carried out to find out if this was still under warranty and what could be done to rectify this.

#### **7.0 DAMAGE TO THE PAVING JUST UP FROM CARVILLS**

Councillor D. French had also provided a photograph of the damage to the paving slabs on the slip road next to Carvills. Although there was a lack of loading bays here there had been a bollard installed on the pathway opposite Carvills front window to prevent parking and might be a good idea to have another bollard installed the opposite side to prevent further damage to the paving slabs as vehicles entered the side road. When the High Street was renovated there was some snagging carried out regarding the gradient of the yorkshire paving – ES Highways were asked to look at options to prevent further damage.

#### **8.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### Flooding reports from resident on Baker Street off Framfield Road

A local resident reported flooding problems along this side road where the rain has created excessive run off from Framfield Road. The Town Clerk asked if a particular team would be able to build up a table along the top as the road enters Framfield Road (like a hump - similar to works carried out along Nevill Road) to move water away after flooding occurred. The Highway Steward at ES Highways said that he would have a look at this issue. HG to send over the information.

##### UK Power Networks

The Town Clerk also raised another issue regarding the traffic lights at Framfield Road not coping with traffic at Bell Lane during temporary roadworks and asked if someone could have a look at the sequencing of temporary lights between the two junctions. Councillor C. Dowling said that the placement of the temporary lights had also moved so you could only have one line of traffic going over the bridge which

did not help with traffic congestion and said that she would ask the Grants Permits Officer to send out an Inspector to look in to this. Councillor Chris Dowling also mentioned that the workmen appeared to be parked along the path opposite Boots even during times that they were not working which made the traffic worse.

The Town Clerk also said that no information was given yet about possible roadworks to the side of the Civic Centre so it would be good to receive some communication about this as there were daily deliveries along this road so we would need to let them know in advance.

#### Lewes Road flooding – Southern Water

The ES Highways Customer Service Manager informed members that she had been frequently trying to reach the Drainage Team about this ongoing problem and would provide an update report to Councillor Chris Dowling once she managed to speak with them.

#### Highview Avenue – lighting issues

A local resident had reported that the lighting was not working sufficiently - this was reported to ESCC who were already looking at measures to rectify the problem which could be a possible miscalculation with the sensors in the lighting itself.

#### Browns Lane – water problems at property number 53/54

A private property on Browns Lane had works carried out a couple of years ago and a spring underneath has caused water to flow out on to the highway. Councillor D. Dowling had written to the property owner and a Wealden Engineer had found water coming from the spring onto the geological boundary. The Highway Steward said that adding this area to the gritters route would not be straight forward as they would have to make an additional turn and in effect go back on themselves which would not be viable at this crescent. The Highway Steward added that he would have to get the Enforcement Team involved if water continued to flow on to the carriageway and footpath but if there were more isolated pockets of ice then as a temporary measure this could be done by hand salt.

#### Matters arising from last meeting:

None raised.

### **9.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 9:30am

## **Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **Agenda Item 7.3**

#### **ASH TREE DIE BACK DISEASE BRIEFING**

##### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides a summary from our Ranger regarding Ash Tree die back disease.

##### **2.0 Briefing report from our new Ranger**

- 2.1 As you may have noticed going around the town we have been conducting works on the many ash trees Uckfield boasts. Ash die back (ADB) well and truly made its presence felt in 2020 and a number of ash trees have been affected. Part of my role as your new Countryside Ranger has been to identify trees that present a threat to property and a possible risk to the public and to find ways to mitigate the risk they pose.

- 2.2 Ash die back is a condition caused by a fungus that was introduced into Britain quite recently. The fungus has spread quite rapidly and is highly lethal to native ash. Total losses of native ash are expected to be between 70-95% of all ash trees within the country. Younger trees are highly susceptible but large mature trees, especially those that stand alone seem to be able to co-exist with the disease for some time. Ash trees are very common in our part of the world forming a key component of our woodlands.

##### **3.0 Works carried out**

- 3.1 Surveys have been conducted on trees throughout the town working with both the Forestry Commission, Arboricultural Association and other experts to identify infected trees, the current health of the tree and possible works required.
- 3.2 Priority has been given to trees on property boundaries and those near high use areas.
- 3.3 The current advice from the UK Government is not to remove trees if they do not present a risk to the public. However, removing some trees has been shown to slow both the spread and advance of the fungus giving both light air and wind flow to the remaining trees.
- 3.4 We are therefore removing trees that present a risk to the public.
- 3.5 We are actively managing the woodlands to slow the advance of the disease.
- 3.6 In accordance with UK Government policy we are retaining as many ash trees as possible. Fortunately, the woodlands of Uckfield have low deer pressure so we can hope that one of the many, many seeds that ash drop might be one of the “golden seeds” that produces resistant trees.



- 3.7 We are also restocking the reserves and woodlands with ecologically appropriate species.

#### **4.0 What you can do**

- 4.1 You will be able to hear us when we are conducting works in the woods, but if you can't we always use signs and hazard tape to keep everyone safe, please respect these notices, tree work is a very dangerous business.
- 4.2 We are leaving some wood in situ to offer important habitat for wildlife, please prevent your children from playing on these stacks.
- 4.3 Please use the footpaths, we have a system for prioritising work and are working on areas around footpaths first.
- 4.4 When the trees are in leaf, feel free to report any ash trees you believe are infected. We would welcome reports on trees which are showing less than 50% of crown cover or pom poming (yes that's the technical term). That said the frequency of our surveys has increased.

#### **5.0 Conclusion**

Ash die back is a very serious threat to native British woodlands and will likely change the landscape of Britain for generations.

We are managing this situation to minimise disruption to residents and to maintain and enhance the landscape and beauty of the town's natural resources.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Public/Ash-Dieback-%E2%80%93-Practice-Guidance>

Neal Matheson  
Countryside Ranger

#### **6.0 Recommendation**

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the report.



# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



## TREE POLICY

Policy Number 48		
Issue No.	Date completed	Details of amendments
01	24.11.08	EL61.11.08
02	24.11.14	EL48.11.14
03	31.10.19	
04	18.11.19	EL.34.11.19
05	08.02.21	Environment & Leisure Committee 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2021 Additions of sections 8.0 and 9.0

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Trees and woodlands have many landscape and wildlife benefits and even dead trees have a high wildlife value.
- 1.2. The Town Council owns significant areas of land within the Town and is responsible for the management of the trees and shrubs in those areas.
- 1.3 The Town Council appreciates the importance of encouraging the planting of native species, but accepts that in certain locations the planting of non-native and ornamental trees could be appropriate. However, wherever possible priority will be given to planting native trees on land owned or land which is donated to the Town Council.

## **2.0 Tree Preservation Orders**

- 2.1. Wealden District Council has a duty, under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, when dealing with development proposals, to retain trees and woodland to enhance their contribution to the landscape character of the District. This duty involves the administration of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) and other forms of tree and hedge protection.
- 2.2. The District Council actively monitors sites and where a contravention of a TPO occurs formal enforcement action may be considered necessary. Anyone who cuts down, uproots, or wilfully destroys a tree or hedge or tops, lops or wilfully damages a tree or hedge in a way that is likely to destroy it is guilty of an offence. Anyone found guilty of this offence is liable upon conviction, to a fine of up to £20,000.
- 2.3. Many of Uckfield Town Council's trees are covered by Tree Preservation Orders and permission must be sought from the District Council before any works can take place.

## **3.0 Aims**

- 3.1 The Council feels it is important that trees, whether protected by TPOs or not, are not felled or lopped unnecessarily on the basis of perceived threats and simple inconvenience.
- 3.2 Uckfield Town Council's policy regarding trees in its ownership is to retain trees and woodlands wherever possible.

## **4.0 Care of Trees**

- 4.1 The Council does, however, have a duty of care to ensure that trees remain safe and will carry out appropriate works if a tree is dangerous.
- 4.2 The Council will carry out a survey of trees in its ownership over a cycle of five years.
- 4.3 Should residents adjacent to woodland feel that tree work is required, they should in the first instance write to the Town Council detailing the problem, e.g. overhanging branches etc. The Council will assess each request individually and respond accordingly, but at all times will have regard to this policy.

- 4.4 Should a resident wish to obtain a professional assessment of the trees from an experienced and qualified tree surgeon or Arboriculturist, the Council would consider such an assessment and may reassess the request.

## **5.0 Common Law**

- 5.1 Under Common Law anyone can prune branches that overhang their boundary, only to the boundary, providing they return the debris to the tree's owner. However, unnecessary pruning can damage a healthy tree and reducing the height can be highly disfiguring and result in decay of structural parts of the tree.
- 5.2 Anyone wishing to exercise this Common Law right should ensure that all works comply with BS 3998: 2010 Tree work recommendations. A copy of which can be obtained from the British Standards Institution, 389, Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL by Tel: 0208 996 7000 or downloaded from their website  
<http://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=000000000030089960>
- 5.3 Before carrying out work to any trees, it is up to the individual to check whether or not any Tree Preservation Order or other statutory protection exists. This information can be obtained from Wealden District Council, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham. East Sussex, BN27 2AX. Tel: 01323 443322. Additional information about TPOs can be found at [www.wealden.gov.uk](http://www.wealden.gov.uk)
- 5.4 Anyone wishing to prune a tree, under this law, should advise the Council in writing prior to any work being undertaken.

## **6.0 Tree Wardens**

- 6.1 Tree Wardens are volunteers who are appointed by the Town Council who gather information about their local trees and get involved in local tree matters. They report any concerns regarding dangerous or diseased trees and any unauthorised works on trees under Preservation Orders. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can contact the Town Council for further information. Periodic training can also be arranged for volunteers.

## **7.0 Tree for a Tree Scheme**

- 7.1 Uckfield Town Council has initiated a scheme whereby if a tree is removed due to being dead, dying or decaying, a new tree will be sought and planted on a suitable location, whether it be in the same location, or a more appropriate location across the town, on Uckfield town Council Land.

## **8.0 Understanding of British arboriculture**

- 8.1 Trees in Britain have come under a great deal of stress over the past decades, with numerous pests and diseases affecting many species and some with landscape changing implications.
- 8.2 Priority of native trees  
Britain has a relatively small native tree palette due to the inundation of the channel preceding the succession of forests in post glacial Europe. Moreover, several native tree species are under intense disease pressure, including elm, ash, oak, juniper and alder further reducing options for

re-stocking. Whilst it is accepted that re-stocking with exotic trees would be undesirable in Uckfield's woodlands more consideration could be given to non-natives in Uckfield's open spaces.

Britain has a highly suitable climate for the cultivation of conifers, walnuts, maples, and non-native variations of oaks and ash should all be considered. Trees should be selected for their suitability for the Wealden landscape, their resilience and their addition of structural, genetic and landscape diversity.

It should also be recognised that sweet chestnut, elm, sycamore, Scots pine, horse chestnut and many other trees which greatly improve our landscape are considered by some experts non-native to this region.

Priority should be given to native trees in nature reserves and woodlands and consideration given to suitable non-natives on open spaces such as our parks and common lands.

- 8.3 A more active surveying regimen.  
The tree policy is reviewed every five years although trees are checked and monitored on a continual basis.

A tree may be infected and decline due to failure within a five-year cycle and may also develop a mechanical failure within this time frame and also may become dangerous to arborists.

Forestry England are advising Landowners that many climbers are refusing to climb ash trees in advanced stages of decline which has the potential to make removal operations difficult and costly.

Our Countryside Ranger has highlighted that a tiered system should be considered whereby high use areas are surveyed more routinely with less surveying in less used areas. Species that are presently under stress would be ash as a good example and should be monitored more closely.

## **9.0 Planting**

- 9.1 Tree planting is a hot topic amongst arborists and conservationists at present. Government initiatives are welcomed but with reservation.
- 9.2 Any tree planting must factor in aftercare of planted trees for at least five years and mulching, watering, pruning must all be accounted for in planting plans. Tree planting failure rates are recorded as being higher than 50%.
- 9.3 Though the exact mechanism is not presently understood it has been observed that trees that have naturally regenerated are far more resilient than planted trees.

- 9.4 Summary of factors that will be taken in to consideration to include:
- where suitable, natural regeneration of woodland should be allowed to occur;
  - factor in both time and budget for after care of planted trees as part of planting costs;
  - ensure good biosecurity and purchase stock from reputable sources with preference given to stock grown in the UK.

## **10.0 Recommendation**

- 10.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

## **Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **Agenda Item 9.2**

#### **ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP SHORT UPDATE**

##### **1.0 Overview**

- 1.1 An Allotment Working Group has been set up in order to review our fees and charges, and working practices.
- 1.2 The local demand for allotments is met and enjoyed by many local residents so it is vital that we preserve and utilise our open spaces better in order to provide value for money and also to makes ends meet.
- 1.3 The Town Council is keen to ensure the management of the allotments aligns with the council's overarching strategies and to ensure fairness and transparency, will embark on providing adequate notice of any future changes.

##### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact officers: Rachel Newton



## **Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **Agenda Item 10.2**

#### **AGE CONCERN UPDATE**

##### **1.0 Summary report**

- 1.1 Whilst there have been no meetings since my last report either in person or online, a report by the transport organiser shows a continuing need for the car service which they provide.

The figures for the last quarter show a 30% increase in the number of requests for travel to a hospital or doctors' surgery.

However, whilst this increase in requests has occurred the number of available drivers has decreased by 50% since the beginning of the year. This is obviously as a result mainly of Covid-19 but also various other reasons.

There is a desperate need for additional drivers if anyone knows of someone who could help. It would be much appreciated.

Councillor C. Macve

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report and provide any comments.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

## **Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **Agenda Item 10.4**

#### **LUXFORD CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE**

##### **1.0 Summary report**

- 1.1 The Executive Committee held their bi-monthly meeting by Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Whilst the centre is closed again during this current lockdown and therefore there are no lettings or meetings, it was reported that the external redecorations had been able to proceed and were now completed. The order has been placed to renew the delayed kitchen window timber framing with a new PVC unit to avoid future maintenance. The contractor has been advised this cannot take place until 2021 when hopefully we will have further funds from grants and for lettings available.

During the shutdown we were able to also carry out the annual fire extinguisher service and five-year electrical testing.

It is hoped that following this lockdown some limited lettings can recommence to provide much needed income and social interaction within the user groups.

Discussions on the security of the building whilst in lockdown and the cleaner being on furlough provided a rota of members to regularly inspect the property to ensure compliance with the insurance policy.

A report on the procedures to close the original Charity Trust following transfer to the C10 noted with thanks the efforts of the Secretary and Treasurer who had spent a lot of time on this task with the charity commissioners.

The House Committee had no events to report as 2020 had been a total wipe out.

There was consideration on the way forward to hold the AGM for the year 2019 as this would enable conclusion of several minor items and compliance with the constitution. A virtual meeting was considered the only viable option but there was the problem of those members without the internet.

In conclusion, everyone hoped that 2021 would be a better year than 2020 and that the centre could return to some degree of normality.

Councillor Chris Macve

##### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

## **Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **Agenda Item 10.8**

#### **REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: UCKFIELD RAILWAY LINES PARISHES COMMITTEE**

1.0 A meeting of the committee was held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 via Zoom.

The Chairman opened the meeting wishing all members a happy and hopefully better new year.

There was considerable discussion on the policy and objectives for TFSE around their strategic plan and in particular the South Central Radial which encompasses the Uckfield Line. It was agreed to invite Councillor Andrea Turrell to a future meeting.

The passenger lift at Eridge Station was due for completion in March 2021 and investigations were currently being carried out on the feasibility of a similar installation at Crowborough to enable disabled access to the down platform. The Wealden MP had been liaising with ESLL regarding the discussions to provide blue badge parking at Eridge Station reinforcing the Committee's earlier representatives.

It was agreed that the Chairman would submit comments to Wealden DC on The Direction of Travel Consultation to reaffirm the need to protect the Uckfield/Lewes track bed together with that to Tunbridge Wells incorporating the former East Grinstead chord.

The transfer of Southern Car Park Management to APCOA was noted and it was felt that this would be beneficial based on the experience of their Uckfield unit.

The service of trains had generally been satisfactory albeit with very low passenger numbers and a revision of time tabling is expected as a result.

There is currently no information on the replacement of the rolling stock but this maybe an agenda item for the GTR Stakeholders Conference on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021.

The members were sorry to receive the resignations of a Buxted and Maresfield representative as both had now left the area.

Councillor C. Macve

#### **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.