

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on
Monday 8 February 2021 at 7.00pm

REMOTE MEETING (VIA ZOOM)

PRESENT:

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|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Cllr. J. Beesley (Chairman) | Cllr. G. Johnson |
| Cllr. B. Cox | Cllr. J. Edwards |
| Cllr. S. Mayhew | Cllr. A. Smith |
| Cllr. K. Bedwell | |

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Mark Francis - Estates & Facilities Manager
Sarah D'Alessio – Assistant Town Clerk & RFO
Rachel Newton – Senior Administrative 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. 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 and Councillor D. French.

4.0. MINUTES

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

EL.30.02.21 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 16th November 2020 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Councillor J. Beesley noted the following items that no longer required action:

EL26.10.19 – To review sheltered seating area in Ridgewood Play Area. This action had been superseded by discussions held at Full Council on 7th December 2020.

EL27.10.19 – To initially consider the costs of adding permanent CCTV cameras to Ridgewood Village Hall and Ridgewood Recreation Ground. This action had been superseded by discussions held at Full Council on 7th December 2020.

EL28.10.19 – To note the initial investigations into the addition of a gate/security on Ridgewood Village Hall Car Park. This action had been superseded by discussions held at Full Council on 7th December 2020.

EL42.01.20 – To consider the renewal of the licence of Selby Meadow. This action had been completed. The licence agreement had been signed and sealed and shared with the Newtown Action Group.

EL26.11.20 – Updates further to the Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting held on 15th July 2020. These items were added to the agenda for the SLR meeting on 13th January 2021.

Members agreed to the removal of the above items.

- 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
Members 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.

- 7.2 Updates on Strengthening Local Relationships Meeting held on 13th January 2021
Members noted the report.

- 7.3 To note an update from our Ranger on tree works and Ash dieback
Members noted the report.

- 7.4 To consider the revised Tree Policy
Councillor A. Smith wished to speak in relation to additions to tree planting in this report and stated that this did seem to be sensible to stick to the native species as much as possible within the woodland areas and to consider a mix of non-native trees in more ornamental locations. A proposal was made asking for members to consent to the information provided in the Ash dieback report and members accepted this.

Councillor J. Beesley agreed that the report demonstrated their hard work and gave gratitude to the Ranger for his superb efforts. Councillor K. Bedwell also

added that she had been to Nightingale Wood recently and was pleased to have seen all the coppicing and works underway that had been left over the years due to all the concentration going on at West Park. She had also been listening to the Ranger talking through the management plans for both that and Boothland Wood and said that he was doing a fantastic job.

EL.31.02.21 Members **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) note the report, and;
- (ii) agree that the Ranger had provided excellent feedback in the revised tree policy and approved the revised version of the Town Council's Tree Policy.

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.

Councillor A. Smith mentioned that there had been no meeting since February last year and asked if they could reconvene a working group meeting electronically in the same way as council meetings were being held. She noted that climate change was happening despite the pandemic having stopped working progress. Councillor J. Beesley agreed and asked if this could be arranged via zoom by those members previously appointed.

9.2 Allotments Working Group

Members noted the report.

10.0 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

10.1 Active Uckfield

Nothing to report at this time.

10.2 Age Concern

Members noted the report.

10.3 West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group

Nothing to report at this time.

10.4 Luxford Centre Management Committee

Members noted the report.

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

Members noted the report.

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

Councillor J. Beesley announced that the Town Clerk had asked for the following to be read out at the meeting:

Through Wealden District Council, the Town Council had been advised that the Sussex Local Nature Partnership were bringing together a number of partners to deliver a new pilot project whose focus would be on publicly owned green spaces. They were looking for four case study sites in Wealden district and Uckfield Town Council had been approached as a potential location for one of these sites. For each successful site that was chosen to participate in this pilot project, they would undertake a baseline ecological survey and assessment of the wider natural capital value of the green space, engage with the local community and users of the green space, undertake a health audit to identify characteristics of the site that could offer health and wellbeing benefits and would develop a wider assessment of the space. They would also leave the landowner with the methodology and toolkit used to enable us to then carry out these tasks on other sites in future years, so would be very beneficial to the Town Council with a large portfolio of assets. The Town Council said that in principle that it would be interested in participating, and had suggested three potential sites for consideration as one of the case study sites, and would look forward to receiving more information.

Members acknowledged this submission from the Town Clerk.

EL32.02.21 It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to enable Town Councillor but non-E&L Committee member, Councillor Macve to speak.

Councillor C. Macve had entered the meeting at this point (7:13pm) and so was granted permission to relay a further update in relation to item 10.8 - the Railway Line Parishes Committee. In the written report there was mention of the lack of passengers on the line, but further communication had been received from GTR to say that from 22 February onwards they had developed a revised weekday plan which would better match demand. The plan would focus on maintaining services earlier in the mornings and later in the evenings based on feedback from keyworkers and stakeholders. They also hoped to maintain train services for schools at suitable times for students returning. Although weekend services were not due to change, engineering may continue to amend regular patterns. Unfortunately, this would mean significant changes to the Uckfield route to London Bridge which would run as an hourly service at busy times and half-hourly between 07:19 and 08:19 to coincide with the start of Oxted School with no change to the first and last trains. However, during quieter periods throughout the day the service would be reduced every two hours during the following periods - Uckfield to London Bridge 10:30 to 16:30 and London Bridge to Uckfield 09:07 to 15:07 and 21:07 to 23:07 so that during the day we would only have a two-hour service rather than an hourly one.

EL33.02.21 It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

Councillor J. Beesley said thank you to Councillor C. Macve for providing this additional feedback.

12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

EL.34.02.21 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 noted the report.

12.2 To consider future building/maintenance works to the Pavilions
Members discussed initial ideas and subsequently noted the report.

The meeting finished at 20:48pm