

# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 7.00pm

## REMOTE MEETING (VIA ZOOM)

### PRESENT:

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

### IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Holly Goring – Town Clerk  
Mark Francis - Estates & Facilities Manager  
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 G. Johnson.

### 4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**EL.35.03.21** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Members noted the current action list with items pending further action.

4.3. Project Monitoring List – For information only

Members noted the report.

## **5.0. FINANCE**

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

Members noted the report.

### **5.2. To note the income and expenditure report**

Members noted the report.

## **6.0. ADMINISTRATION**

### **6.1 To consider an opportunity to light the Town's beacon – TRBL Centenary**

As part of the The Royal British Legion (TRBL) Centenary, our Town had been approached by the Sussex County Remembrance Lead and members were asked if they would like to participate in the Torch of Remembrance across both East and West Sussex. The aim would be to start this on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August and end on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August, the end date would be for as many Councils across both counties who had access to Beacons, to light their Beacon at a set time on this Saturday evening as a mark of Remembrance and celebration of the Centenary. TRBL were also requesting that we take responsibility for the Filling, Lighting, Safety and Dampening. They hope to engage the local branch or nearest one to us, to organise a small ceremony at the same time, possibly a Bugler playing 'The Last Post' and maybe a few words recited by the Branch Chairman.

The Senior Administrative Officer said that if Uckfield Town Council did wish to participate then we would ask for at least two Council Members to assist and that this invitation would be to all committee members, not just to those from Environment and Leisure Committee. Councillor J. Beesley suggested that this could be taken to the next Full Council meeting.

Members were happy with this engagement and two members, Councillor B. Cox and Councillor K. Bedwell showed interest in organising the lighting the Beacon at Victoria Pleasure Ground at a set time (tbc) on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

### **EL36.03.21 Members **RESOLVED** to:**

- (i) note the report, and;
- (ii) agree that Uckfield Town Council wished to participate in the TRBL Centenary anniversary on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021 by lighting the beacon in Uckfield, and;
- (iii) two members were nominated (Councillors K. Bedwell and B. Cox) from within the Town Council to assist with organising the beacon lighting.

## **7.0. ENVIRONMENT**

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

Councillor D. Bennett also wished to say thank you to the Estates and Facilities Manager on behalf of all members for his hard work dealing with various issues highlighted in this report. Councillor J. Beesley asked about the slide at Hempstead Play Area being damaged and the Estates and Facilities Manager said that with the nature of this kind of metal it had been difficult to find a welder for this kind of work but that this was on the list to do. Councillor D. French said that she might be able to assist here as she knew a specialist Welder who may be able to carry out a proper assessment. Members subsequently noted the report.

7.2 To consider an update on Community Speedwatch and review into speed reduction monitoring devices (Black Cat)

Members raised concerns about speeding in other local areas. Councillor J. Edwards proposed some kind of initiative on residential housing estates such as Manor Park for speed limits such as 'Twenty is Plenty' signs. He acknowledged that it would always be difficult to get speeding formally reduced on these estates but said it would be good to raise public awareness on sign posts or stickers on bins maybe. Councillor B. Cox said that Crowborough did have a few streets where they had used stickers on lamp posts and agreed that this would be a good idea going forward. Councillor D. French said that she had helped those at Churchcoombe to get 30mph stickers to place on their bins and other visible places but added that it would be hard to benchmark if this had made any difference or not. Councillor D. Bennett remarked that this idea had been requested previously but got little support from ES Highways and that they would need to look at other options such as a school crossing or one-way system, since during lockdown he had been working from home and only just opened his eyes to the sheer volume of traffic around town. Chairman J. Beesley added that Manor Park School had once suggested being part of a pilot scheme to close Downsview Crescent so that cars could not drive up to the school gates. It was proposed for these ideas on local traffic management to be expanded and explored further at the next E&L meeting. Members agreed the need for ES Highways to look at safety issues at Manor Park (crossings and one-way system) along with other suggestions to be explored at the next meeting.

Getting back to the recommendation in this report, members agreed that they were happy to accept the recommendation to purchase the Bushnell Kitbox device and to explore speed monitoring devices but did not wish to make a decision at this time. Councillor J. Beesley added that Sussex Police had recommended two companies to explore and proposed that once more information was provided on those and the Black Cat device then members could make a more informed decision on the way forward at the next E&L meeting. Councillor D. Bennett seconded this proposal and also suggested that it would also be helpful for some updated information on the ability to use the devices from ES Highways..

**EL37.03.21** Members **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) note the report and the work undertaken to date;
- (ii) confirm that they were happy with the Bushnell Kitbox being purchased at a cost in the region of £500 from the 'speed reduction' earmarked reserves;
- (iii) advise that they wished to proceed on exploring speed monitoring and speed Indicator display devices with the various companies suggested.

7.3 To review the contract for sanitisation of play areas

The Estates and Facilities Manager announced that he had already budgeted for the sanitization of play area for the next three months in anticipation of an agreement to extend the contract for a further three months and hoped that this would not carry on for longer.

Members considered the report and agreed for the cost to be spread over the next three months.

**EL38.03.21** Members **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) note the report, and;
- (ii) advise that they wished to extend the contract for a further three months (until end of June 2021) at the current reduced rate of £525 per month plus VAT, using the funding set aside in the 2021/22 budget to the sum of £2,500.

## **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 – review of fees and charges**

Members noted and accepted this report and provided no further comments.

## **EL.39.03.21 Members **RESOLVED** to:**

(i) note the report, and;

(ii) agree to progress with the recommendations set out in the report as follows:

The report stated that tenants would be given 12 months notice on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 of fees and charges changing to new format with a minimum fee of £45 based on plots under and up to 50m<sup>2</sup>. Any plots over this size to be charged £45 plus 30p/m<sup>2</sup>. All costs would be inclusive of water subject to availability. This also includes the removal of all discounts. The price increase would start from April 2022 as per notice period.

There would be an annual review each October.

## **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 made no announcements.

#### 12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

**EL.40.03.21** 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 update members on the management of Snatts Road Cemetery and future capacity  
Members noted the report and received an update from the Estates and Facilities Manager.

**EL41.03.21** Members **RESOLVED** to:  
(i) note the report, and;  
(ii) agree for the Estates and Facilities Manager to continue with further enquiries on the management of Snatts Road Cemetery and future capacity.

The meeting finished at 19:34pm