

# UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on  
Monday 27 June 2022 at 7.00pm  
in the Weald Hall, Civic Centre

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. S. Mayhew (Chair)  
Cllr. K. Bedwell  
Cllr. D. Bennett  
Cllr. J. Edwards  
Cllr. D. Ward

Cllr. A. Smith (Deputy Chair)  
Cllr. J. Beesley  
Cllr. B. Cox  
Cllr. D French

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor C. Macve  
Two members of the public

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**

**EL03.06.22** It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to enable Cllr. C. Macve to speak in relation to item 7.2 on the agenda.

Cllr C. Macve fully supported the proposal for a new Queen's Platinum Jubilee Sign on the beacon at Victoria Pleasure Ground since there was already a commemorative sign on the other side of the beacon to commemorate the royal occasion of the Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

**EL04.06.22** Members **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

**3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received.

**4.0. MINUTES**

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022

The Senior Administrative Officer advised that there was a small typo in the previous minutes under item 8.1 regarding the idea of the provision of suitable parking for motorhomes to attract tourism into town. One of the car park ideas was Bell Walk car park (not Fairwarp car park). The minutes had been amended accordingly.

**EL.05.06.22** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Members considered the action list which had been previously circulated and agreed to remove the following items which had been completed:

EL.43.01.20 – To receive an update on the ecological report on the Town Council's Land at Bellbrook

The Town Council's Solicitors had been asked to arrange an update with Land Registry. The Estates and Facilities Manager had chased the solicitor for an update on 28 April 2022. HM Land Registry had rejected the original approach on the basis they were overwhelmed with applications and were only dealing with certain types. Since the Land Registry system was taking up to twelve months to deal with some applications, the Estates team would check their policy on this. At the Land Registry (Title Number ESX22093) the land was merely described as land south of Bell Lane, Uckfield. So far as the Town Council records are concerned, council members could name this area as they wished (decision had already been resolved on this matter).

EL.18.07.21 – To consider options to review the gate access to Ridgewood Recreation Ground off New Road

Work had not yet been carried out as a result although no issues had been reported since July 2021.

EL.31.09.21 – To consider opportunities to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee event took place on Thurs 2 June 2022 (from 6pm).

4.3. Project Monitoring List – For information only

Members noted the report and agreed to remove the following item:

FC82.01.22 – Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

This project had now been completed and a review of expenditure would be incorporated into the income and expenditure report at the next committee meeting.

**5.0. FINANCE**

5.1. To note bills paid

Members noted the report.

5.2. To note the Income and Expenditure report

(No income and expenditure reports were available due to year end processes)

**6.0. ADMINISTRATION**

6.1 To request any items for Strengthening Local Relations meeting on 13 July 2022

A compiled list of items was read out that had already been provided from councillors and local residents, and members were asked if there were any additional items before the agenda items would be circulated to committee members the following day.

All items included:

Church Street - a local resident had made a request for a crossing system (bleeper system) for disabled pavement users;

Also, along Church Street a local resident had advised that there were some pailing fence panels damaged on the fence line raised up on the footpath;

#### Weeds and vegetation - Hospital Approach

The Clerk was advised that there were weeds and vegetation in drains, on roads and pavements (and some areas along Framfield Road) which needed to be cleared;

#### Burst pipe - Framfield Road

A councillor reported a burst pipe (not been fixed by South East Water yet) which had been causing a steady stream of water to flow down the hill from outside the front of terraced houses numbered 167 Framfield Road to the gulley outside 183 Framfield Road. If this continued not to be repaired, this could potentially cause a serious ice risk in winter;

Another item was raised concerning overgrown vegetation along the twitten between Selby Close and Selby Rise. This would be reported separately to the Rights of Way department at East Sussex County Council to request that their team schedules a time to carry out clearance of any surface vegetation (typically brambles and nettles) obstructing the footpath.

#### **EL06.06.22** Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:

(i) agree all agenda items for the Clerk to raise at the next Strengthening Local Relations meeting with East Sussex Highways on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

#### 6.2 To appoint members to the Outside body – Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group

Interest was put forward by Councillor D. French prior to the meeting and Councillor H. Firth (noted as a reserve) at the meeting

#### **EL07.06.22** Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:

(i) agree to appoint Councillor D. French and Councillor H. Firth (reserve) as Uckfield Town Council representatives to the Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group.

### 7.0 **ENVIRONMENT**

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

Members noted the report.

#### 7.2 To consider proposal for a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Sign at Victoria Pleasure Ground

Having been involved in the location and erection of the beacon in the first instance, Cllr. D. Bennett believed this would be a wonderful idea.

Cllr. D. Ward remarked upon the success of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and questioned whether it would be prudent to get costings first. In principal, Cllr Ward agreed to having an additional sign as the Queen was indeed, a remarkable lady.

Cllr. S. Mayhew proposed that other events could be celebrated, such as any tributes and local events by having smaller signs attached to the beacon.

Cllr. B. Cox stated that most people would probably never see something like this again (Platinum Jubilee) and that this recognition of the Queen would probably never be replicated.

All members (except one member who abstained from voting) were in favour of the following proposals:

- EL08.06.22** With eight members voting in favour, and one abstaining, members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:
- (i) task the Clerk with obtaining costings for a matching sign on the opposite side of the beacon at Victoria Pleasure Ground to commemorate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and;
  - (ii) rejuvenating the current Diamond Jubilee sign, and;
  - (iii) the possibility of having smaller signs attached for other tributes and beacon lighting events.

7.3 To consider removal of a litter bin on Hunters Way

Members agreed that the litter bin located on Hunters Way, which was frequently overflowing with surplus used nappies, was unsightly and could lead to health issues.

Members did not think that the recent bin strike was the cause, nor acceptable, and one member suggested that this may have been happening over a longer period of time.

Since this was household waste and not meant to be placed in litter bins, the groundstaff also needed to be protected from emptying the litter bins of unpleasant hygiene waste items. Otherwise, members agreed that there would be no other option but to remove the litter bin if this continued.

Cllr. S. Mayhew proposed for the grounds staff to monitor the situation for a short time, rather than removing the bin, since this might then happen elsewhere instead, effectively just moving it around.

Members agreed since there had been litter bins installed around the town for residents to dispose of general litter (including dog poo bags), so it would have been counterproductive to remove litter bin straight away rather than try to resolve the issue.

Cllr. D. French also added to see if this was a residential or industrial issue and if this continued after the bin strike and also, for a sign to be placed on the bin with wording to the effect that the bin was currently being monitored by Uckfield Town Council on account of inappropriate waste disposal, and if this continued the bin would have to be removed.

The next Environment and Leisure meeting was not being held until September, so the grounds staff would also be asked to report any changes in behaviour between now and then. If there continued to be an issue, this would be reported to Full Council on 25 July 2022. .

One member also indicated that it might be worth changing the day on which the grounds staff emptied the litter bin and to monitor the following day, just to see if this had any effect (to see if this was a local business or residential problem).

- EL09.06.22** Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:
- (i) agree to ask grounds staff to monitor the litter bin on Hunters Way to see if the problem with sanitary waste disposal continued (after the bin strike), and;
  - (ii) to place a sign on the bin with wording to the effect that the litter bin would be removed if misused, and;

(iii) to report any change in behaviour to members at the next appropriate council meeting.

## **8.0 LEISURE**

(nothing to report)

## **9.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**

### 9.1 Update from Climate Change working group

Members noted the report.

### 9.2 Update from the Allotment 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

Nothing to report at this time.

### 10.3 All Weather Pitch Operational Group

Nothing to report at this time.

### 10.4 Conservators of Ashdown Forest

Nothing to report at this time.

### 10.5 West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group

Nothing to report at this time.

### 10.6 Luxford Centre Management Committee

Members noted the report.

### 10.7 Uckfield and District Twinning Association

Nothing to report at this time.

### 10.8 Uckfield Festival Association

Nothing to report - there will be a poster coming out soon with a line-up of events.

### 10.9 Uckfield Parkrun Board

Nothing to report at this time.

### 10.10 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee

Members noted the report.

### 10.11 Uckfield Youth Club Board

Nothing to report at this time.

### 10.12 Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link

Nothing to report at this time.

## **11.0 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

## 12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

**EL.10.06.22** 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.

The meeting finished at 19:27pm