

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, Civic Centre Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 1AE

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Town Clerk - Holly Goring

A meeting of the **General Purposes Committee** to be held on **Monday 21 November 2022 at 7.00pm** in the **Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Uckfield 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 General Purposes Committee held on the 3 October 2022
- 4.2 Action list for information only
- 4.3 Project list for information only

5.0 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 5.1 To note bills paid
- 5.2 To consider the income and expenditure reports to the end of September 2022
- 5.3 To note current bad debts
- 5.4 To consider the draft fees and charges for room hire at the Civic Centre and Foresters Hall for 2023/24
- 5.5 To consider plans for remaining Community Grant funding from 2022/23

6.0 BUILDINGS

6.1 To note the current position with the Council's buildings

7.0 POLICY

- 7.1 To consider a response to the Boundary Commission Review (Parliamentary Boundaries)
- 7.2 To consider a response to the consultation on the ESCC Local Transport Plan

8.0 ADMINISTRATION

- 8.1 To receive a report on Health and Safety within the Council
- 8.2 To receive Members' audit reports

9.0 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- 9.1 To consider reports from:-
 - (i) Wealden Citizen's Advice
 - (ii) East Sussex Association of Local Councils AGM
 - (iii) Ridgewood Village Hall Management Committee
 - (v) Uckfield and District Preservation Society (Bridge Cottage)
 - (vi) Uckfield Volunteer Centre
 - (vii) Wealden Works
 - (viii) Wealden District Association of Local Councils Mgt Committee
 - (ix) Wealden District Association of Local Councils Planning Panel

10.0 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

11.0 TOWN CLERK'S 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 an update from Luxfords Restaurant (Attached)

Town Clerk

15 November 2022

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ACTION LIST – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

General Purposes Committee

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Completed
GP37.04.22	5.6 To consider the recommendations of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 20 April 2022 It was RESOLVED to accept the recommendations of Finance Sub-Committee who: (i) agreed for the Responsible Financial Officer to continue preparing the Year End accounts in line with the current figures and to also investigate further the calculations involved in the repayment of the Public Works Loans; (iii) (a) recommended that the remaining Community Grant funding under the General Power of Competence be carried forward, to 2023/24 for the 2023/24 Community Grant Programme, and: (b) for the Responsible Financial Officer and members to explore how other councils managed their community grants programme, including caps on the grant funding awarded. Findings would be presented to the next Finance Sub-Committee in June/July 2022.	25.04.22	SD	 (i) Calculations on current borrowing rates have been included in the agenda papers of GP Committee on 03.10.22. (ii) We haven't been able to undertake a thorough investigation into community grants programmes elsewhere but have carried out some initial research which is being reported to GP Committee on 03.10.22. NFA.
GP07.06.22	To consider registering key buildings within Uckfield Town as assets of community value Members RESOLVED for the Town Clerk to proceed with exploring the registration of further assets of community value with Wealden District Council and to explore options for Eugene Seghers Memorial.	06.06.222	HG	In progress.

Outstanding initiatives from 2019/20

Project Name	Replacement (of Civic Centre b	pooking system Project Number 59
Resolution Number	Funds	Date	Commentary
		09.12.19	Awaiting new administrative staff to start in 2020 and ensure they are fully engaged in the project, as they will be the main users.
FC93.01.19	£8,000	29.09.20	New staff are now in place but with the pressures of Covid-19, this project will be picked up in future months.
		29.05.22	Work has commenced to understand current options available for replacement.

Project Name	Online event ti	cket system	Project Number 60
Resolution Number	Funds	Date	Commentary
	(minus £1,365.00) = £135.00 remaining	15.04.20	Local web developers were commissioned to set up the online event ticket software and embed into the Civic Centre Website. The works have now been completed and tested. The only element still to complete is the method of payment, to attach to this software before going live this summer.
FC93.01.19		03.11.20	The financial element of the software still needs arranging. As we would prefer to use Worldpay or SAGE pay for this, rather than the ones offered with the Tickera package, this will cost an additional amount for the time of web developers. Office staff are currently working through a detailed quotation for this additional work.
		01.11.21	The additional work has been delayed due to issues with access to Worldpay. The Town Clerk will try and rectify in the to enable web developers to proceed.

Outstanding initiatives from 2020/21

Project Name	Replacement b	ack drops – W	eald Hall	Project Number 63						
Resolution Number	Funds	Date								
FC.92.01.20	£2,500	20.01.20	Weald Hall. No back	placing the black back drops around k drops have been purchased at pres hin the Civic Centre due to Covid-19	ent. Other priorities					
	Minus £759.50 = £1740.50	18.11.22	Curtaining for arour 21 November 2022.	nd the stage has been ordered and du	ue to arrive wk beg					

Projects for 2021/22

Project Name	Climate Change Ini	tiatives (carry for	ward from 2020/21) Project Number 66
Resolution Number	Funds	Date	Commentary
	£7,500	20.01.20	-
FC.92.01.20	Minus £1800.00 plus VAT	17.08.21	£1,800 has been spent to date on the carbon footprint audit tool and associated work.

Projects for 2022/23

Project Name	Building	Maintenan	nce Fund (Year 8	3 – 2022/23)		Project Number	68
Resolution Number	Funds	Date			Со	mmentary	
FC82.01.22	£62,000	17.01.22	Proposed expenditur	e on Building Maintena	nce Fund 2022/23	_	
	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		Year 8	Estimate	Actual		
			Signal Box refurb windows ext decoration	5000			
			Civic Centre storage solution caretaker station	10000			
			Foresters Hall render repairs	3000			
			Osborn & Ridgewood car park drainage	30000			
			Civic Centre parking resurface, repair drainage and parking markings	7500			
			Foresters Kitchen fittings	4000			
			Contingency	2500			
			Total	62000			
			drainage. EICR h	as been unde	rtaken in the S	ntre storage solution and Ridgewood Signal box, and a full structural surve h the hope of re-letting in Spring 202	ey. We now

Project Name	Civic Cer	ntre Signa	ge Project Number 71
Resolution Number	Funds	Date	Commentary
FC82.01.22	£2,000.00	17.01.22	This funding will be used towards the replacement of the main Civic Centre sign at the front of the Civic Centre and will require the feedback and engagement of Town Councillors.

Project Name	262 Bus S	Service – 2	2022/23 Project Number 72
Resolution Number	Funds	Date	Commentary
FC82.01.22	£3,900.00 - £960.09 =£2939.91	11.07.22	The first quarter's invoice has been received (Apr – Jun 2022) for the amount of £960.09 and will be processed shortly.
	- £852.30 =£2087.61	18.11.22	Second quarterly invoice (Jul – Sept 2022) for the amount of £852.30.

Luxfords at 30 September 2022

	Apr 22 Actuals £	May 22 Actuals £	Jun 22 Actuals £	Jul 22 Actuals £	Aug 22 Actuals £	Sep 22 Actuals £	Actuals at 30 Sep 22		Oct 22 Budget £	Nov 22 Budget £	Dec 22 Budget £	Jan 23 Budget £	Feb 23 Budget £	Mar 23 Budget £	Total 2022/23	2022/23 Budgets
Sales																1
Restaurant Food Sales	8,090	8,810	8,712	8,264	8,300	10,110	52,285	58,667	10,000	9,778	10,000	9,778	9,778	10,000	111,619	118,000
Restaurant Bar Sales	410	406	466	720	537	1,212	3,752	3,500	583	583	583	583	583	583	7,252	7,000
Hire of Luxfords Restaurant	0	0	0	139	0	0	139	1,000	0	0	500	0	0	500	1,139	2,000
Function Food Sales	1,445	1,349	2,668	2,807	2,135	4,737	15,141	9,778	1,556	1,556	2,000	1,000	2,000	2,111	25,363	20,000
Function Bar Sales	2,951	943	1,155	2,623	2,623	560	10,856	7,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	18,856	15,000
Takeaway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250	0	0	250	0	0	250	500	1,000
Hire of Urn	174	62	27	105	204	114	686	500	83	83	83	83	83	83	1,186	1,000
Sundry Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250	0	0	0	0	250	500	500
Total Sales	13,070	11,569	13,028	14,658	13,799	16,733	82,857	80,694	13,472	13,000	15,417	12,444	13,444	15,778	166,413	164,500
Purchases		l											I			
Food Purchases	2,765	3,305	3,199	3,159	2,764	5,185	20,376	14,000	4,000	2,800	4,000	2,800	2,800	2,800	39,576	36,000
Bar Purchases - non-alcoholic	316	304	287	380	0	235	1,521	800	133		133		133	133	2,321	1,600
Bar purchases - alcoholic	1,182	805	777	1,567	0	386	4,716	3,167	500	333	1,000	333	333	333	7,550	6,000
Paper goods/consumables	118	135	234	105	139			850	142	142	142		142	142	1,843	1,700
Maintenance & Repairs	135	385	43	0	1,182	590	2,335	1,000	0	0	500		0	500	3,335	2,000
Equipment - New/Replacements	0	0	0	895	93	0	988	1,000	0	0	500	0	0	500	1,988	2,000
Equipment Hire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	V	0		0	200	200	200
Rates	667	1,512	667	667	667	667		5,389	778		778		0	0	7,960	8,500
Electricity	804	727	624	560	589			4,950	825		825		825	825		9,900
Gas	473	389	296	195		171		571	96		96		96	96		1,150
Water	200	484	0	0	451	0	1,136	600	100		100		100	100	1,736	1,200
Telephone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	14		14		14	14		170
Refuse Collection	117	146	117	122			761	600	100		100		100	100	1,361	1,200
Stocktaking	195	0	0	0	195	0	390	390	0	195	0		0	195	780	780
Stationery	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	35		0	V	0	35	75	70
Salaries	9,869	8,819	8,671	11,225			58,704	56,235	9,372		9,372		9,372	9,372	114,938	112,469
Casual wages	773	574	29	911	290	958		2,667	1,000	333	1,000	333	333	333	6,869	6,000
Luxfords General Advertising	0	0	80	0	0	0	80	375	0	0	188		0	188	455	750
Uniforms/Protective clothing	0	<u> </u>	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	50		0	50		200
Credit charges	233	216	254	287	186			750	125		125		125	125	1,740	1,500
Total Purchases	17,847	17,800	15,277	20,073	15,681	20,710	106,954	93,528	17,220	15,347	18,923	15,152	14,374	16,042	204,011	193,389

GP Committee as at 30 Sept 2022

Service Heart - Company 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 1		Apr 22 Actuals £	May 22 Actuals £	Jun 22 Actuals £	Jul 22 Actuals £	Aug 22 Actuals £	Sep 22 Actuals £	Actuals at 30 Sep 22 £	Budget at 30 Sep 22 £	Oct 22 Budget £	Nov 22 Budget £	Dec 22 Budget £	Jan 23 Budget £	Feb 23 Budget £	Mar 23 Budget £	Total £	2022/23 Budgets
Execution: Authors According 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1	Sales																
Part Talear Ruseres Ruseres S 101 9 750 750 92 150 151 10 10 10 10 11 11	Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	9	0
Literack Nove, Orsec Rando Power 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 150 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		57	0				0		0	0	0					2,257	2,200
Control Cont			103				196	-	30	10	10						90
Part La Traff Programers	` '		0 025	0		U	0 450	1		0	0		•	·		, -	200
Quarkern state from 799 788 799 798 799			8,925			7,914				7,175	/,1/5		,				86,100 5,000
New First Revision			708			708				708	708	~	•	•			8,500
Vertical Sentition Sept.			0						0	700	0					,	6,600
BPT - Common Robert 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		875	875	875	875	875	875	5,250	6,730	1,197	1,272		1,572				13,460
Contentry Chasel workshops	RHI - C.Centre Boiler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	. 0	, 0						10,000
Providence Page 1,272 1,494 426 1,202 902 376 5,505 7,506 1,228 1,238		0	0	0	100	0	0	100		0	0	0	0	·	0		240
Foreign Clayed 288 0		0		0	0		0			0		•	Ū		0		5,500
23 Vernon Roof, neet			,		,		370		,								15,150
Signal Soc			v			0	1 200										1,150
Disconsisted Company							1,300									,	7,200 4,600
Regenerate Village Hall 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	ž	334 0	334	334		334	0			334						,	4,600
Bridge Cottage		0	0	0	004	0	0	004 N	323 N	<u> </u>	100		- v				900
The Hub and Source		0	0	0	2.177	0	0	2.177	5.198	0	n		1				5,200
Community Tolist Scheme		0	0	0		0	250			350	600					,	3,800
Purchases	Community Toilet Scheme	0	0	0	565	0	0	565	550	0	275	0	0	275	0	1,115	1,100
Purchases Administration General Advertising 0 0 10 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Training admin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						100
Administration	Total Sales	17,409	14,435	11,481	22,485	12,941	15,372	94,122	85,873	11,990	13,777	11,402	12,025	14,202	27,990	185,510	177,515
General Advertising		1 627	812	688	1 037	607	1 293	6.063	6 650	1 108	1 108	1 108	1 108	1 108	1 108	12 714	13,300
Recrutment Advertishing		1,627	012		1,037		1,293	0,063	0,630	1,108	1,100		,				250
Office Equipment/Computers		0	0	345	0	0	0	345	200	0	0		- v				200
Dementia Forum		939	369		808	796	696	6,308		792	792	792	792	792	792	11,058	9,500
Health & Safety	Hospitality	0	0	0	13	17	5	36	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	44	0
Insurances		0		ŭ	0				0	0					-		0
Public Works Llan Costs	,	0	ŭ	0	0		0		,								2,000
Mayor's Allowance		0	0		26 442		0		-,	30,500	0						36,500 60,910
Grants Section 142 0 0 0 9,500 0 0 0 0 9,500 9,500 0 0 0 0 0 0 13,000 19 0 0 0 0 19,000 19 0 0 0 0 18,791 13,750 0 0 13,750 0 0 0 0 22,541 27, Volunteer Bureau SLA 0 0 0 8,000 0 0 0 0 8,000 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0	0		20,442	0	v			0	0		,				1,773
Grants - Power of Competence 0 8,791 0 0 0 0 8,791 13,750 0 0 0 13,750 0 0 0 0 22,541 27,7		0	0		0	0	143			9,500	0		Ŭ	- v			19,000
Volunteer Bureau SIA		0	8,791	-	0	0	0		,	0	0	13,750	0				27,500
Internal Audit Fees	Volunteer Bureau SLA	0	0	8,000	0	0	0	8,000	8,000	0	0	0	0	0	0		8,000
CEXTERNAL) AUGIL FEES 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		19			21	53	21		200								400
Accountant fees 0 0 0 4,700 0 0 0,4,700 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0	0	230	0					0	860						1,950
Professional Fees	` ′	0	0	0	0	v	2,000			0	0		ű				2,500
Festive Lights		0	660		0	0	125			022	022	-	•	_			4,700 10,000
Festive Light Electricity		-							- /	633 N							15,000
Office Staff - Salaries 23,604 23,613 23,588 24,155 23,113 23,938 142,010 136,467 22,383		0	_	,		ű		- /	0	0	0		,	_			480
Newsletter		23,604	23,613	23,588	24,155	23,113	23,938	142,010	136,467	22,383	22,383	22,383	22,383	22,383			273,993
Bank Interest 0 <	Members Allowances/Expenses	14	0		0	0	3,532	7,078		0	0	4,815	0	0	4,815		19,360
Bank Charges 92 78 83 82 85 81 500 300 50 50 50 50 800 Civic Centre Running Costs 6,839 13,014 7,410 9,023 10,578 6,354 53,217 55,560 10,510 10,510 10,010 8,510 4,560 4,560 101,877 104, Caretakers - Salaries 8,543 7,004 6,915 7,490 5,623 6,626 42,201 47,950 7,534								t	2,550	425							5,100
Civic Centre Running Costs 6,839 13,014 7,410 9,023 10,578 6,354 53,217 55,560 10,510 10,510 10,010 8,510 4,560 4,560 101,877 104, Caretakers - Salaries 8,543 7,004 6,915 7,490 5,623 6,626 42,201 47,950 7,534 7,534 7,534 7,534 7,534 7,534 7,84 87,655 95, West Park 0 61 271 0 0 0 760 1,092 774 129 129 129 129 129 129 129 129 129 129		ŭ			- v				0	0	·		-	_	-	v	0
Caretakers - Salaries 8,543 7,004 6,915 7,490 5,623 6,626 42,201 47,950 7,534 7,53	J																104 220
West Park 0 61 271 0 0 760 1,092 774 129 <td></td> <td></td> <td>_</td> <td></td> <td>104,220 95,649</td>			_														104,220 95,649
Victoria Pavilion 1,074 4,697 3,202 802 1,180 4,037 14,992 11,883 1,980 1,980 1,980 1,560 1,560 26,034 22,034 <td></td> <td>0,343 N</td> <td>,</td> <td></td> <td>7,490 n</td> <td>5,023 N</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>, , , , , ,</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1,548</td>		0,343 N	,		7,490 n	5,023 N			, , , , , ,								1,548
Cemetery Buildings 174 172 172 172 172 172 172 172 172 172 172 172 172 172 172 1,034 1,110 185 185 185 185 0 750 2,524 2,724 2,830 2,399 750 125		1.074			802	1.180											22,925
Signal Box 0 0 0 0 0 239 239 750 125 125 125 125 125 125 125 989 1, The Hub 556 277 1,825 623 275 2,274 5,830 2,500 417 4																	2,600
Foresters Hall 387 369 1,905 2,618 428 2,709 8,415 6,331 1,055 1,055 1,055 1,055 755 755 755 14,146 12,250 2a Vernon Road 0 49 75 228 0 0 352 100 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 452 Subscriptions 2,545 142 12 426 414 12 3,551 2,250 375 375 375 375 375 5,801 4, Training 11 1,799 0 500 124 0 2,435 2,750 458 458 458 458 458 458 458 5,185 5, All Building Cleaning Materials 224 149 100 335 93 438 1,339 1,000 167 167 167 167 167 167 167 2,339 2,339 2,339		U	ŭ	·	v										125		1,500
2a Vernon Road 0 49 75 228 0 0 352 100 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 452 Subscriptions 2,545 142 12 426 414 12 3,551 2,250 375 375 375 375 375 375 5,801 4, Training 11 1,799 0 500 124 0 2,435 2,750 458 458 458 458 458 458 5,185 5, All Building Cleaning Materials 224 149 100 335 93 438 1,339 1,000 167 167 167 167 167 167 167 2,339 2,339 2,339							,										5,000
Subscriptions 2,545 142 12 426 414 12 3,551 2,250 375		387															12,062
Training 11 1,799 0 500 124 0 2,435 2,750 458 4		0				•											200
All Building Cleaning Materials 224 149 100 335 93 438 1,339 1,000 167 167 167 167 167 167 2,339 2,									,								4,500 5,500
																	2,000
Total Purchases 48,043 62,464 87,992 75,175 44,967 56,165 374,807 380,725 88,743 49,627 67,251 87,198 42,748 48,876 759,250 770.7	Total Purchases	48,043					56,165		380,725	88,743		67,251	87,198				

GP Committee as at 30 Sept 2022

New initiatives 2022/23	Apr 22 Actuals £	May 22 Actuals £	Jun 22 Actuals £	Jul 22 Actuals £	Aug 22 Actuals £	Sep 22 Actuals £	Actuals at 30 Sep 22 £	30 Sep 22	Oct 22 Budget £	Nov 22 Budget £	Dec 22 Budget £	Jan 23 Budget £	Feb 23 Budget £	Mar 23 Budget £	Total £	2022/23 Budgets
Building Maintenance Fund - Year 8	1,402	4,384	6,470	0	0	938	13,193	0	0	0	0	C	0	0	N/A	62,000
Victoria Pavilion additional CCTV	0	3,084	0	0	0	0	3,084	0	0	0	0	C	0	0	N/A	2,000
Civic Centre Gutter Clearance and bird nettir	0	3,700	1,985	0	0	0	5,685	0	0	0	0	(0	0	N/A	7,000
Civic Centre signage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(0	0	N/A	2,000
262 Bus Service	0	0	960	0	0	852	1,812	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	3,900
WPA NHS Top Up	104	353	187	189	369	92	1,294	0	0	0	0	(0	0	N/A	1,854
Total New Initiatives 2021/22	0	11,520	9,602	189	369	1,882	25,069	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78,754

Monday 21 November 2022

Agenda Item No. 5.3

BAD DEBTS UPDATE

1.0 Summary

1.1 The report details the current position regarding bad debts.

2.0 Details

- 2.1 The following old debts are showing on our finance system. Those of a reasonable amount include:
 - NHSBT (approx. £1k)
 - Marie Campbell Reveal Media Productions (approx. £700)
 - Carlton Entertainments (approx. £400);
- 2.2 There are also a handful of smaller amounts (on or around £100) that are outstanding, from regular hirers. These are being chased as we speak.
- 2.3 R&R Taxis have a payment plan in place for the outstanding rental payments, up until October 2023.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Sarah D'Alessio

Monday 21 November 2022

Agenda Item No. 5.4

TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT FEES AND CHARGES FOR ROOM HIRE IN 2022/23

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Each year as part of the budget setting process, the Town Council is required to review its fees and charges. This includes the fees and charges for room hire at the Civic Centre, Foresters Hall and Victoria Pavilion.
- 1.2 Looking ahead to the financial year April 2023 to March 2024, we can no longer offer to rent out West Park Pavilion as a result of the building being leased out to a sports club. The lease agreement has been drafted and likely to have been signed and sealed by the New Year.
- 1.3 In the past couple of years, changes have been made to the way in which room hire charges are presented to customers, with a standard rate for the smaller rooms within the Civic Centre, and peak and off-peak rates being added for the hire of the larger rooms after 6pm on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and all day on Sunday. This was intended to cover the costs of staffing at peak times, and the annual increase in utilities and rates. Hirers are now familiar with these arrangements.
- 1.4 Members took the decision in the autumn of 2021, to retain the same fees and charges for the buildings in 2022-23 as the previous financial year. Although the purpose of this was positive and sought to support community groups and businesses to return to face to face meetings, and take account of the financial hard times the pandemic had left many in, the Town Council has since been impacted by increasing utility and staffing costs of its own. We also need to take account of changes to some of the services we offer, such as flipchart paper, has increased to a price of over £6, whereas we are still charging £5.10. This should therefore be increased to £6.50.
- To give a very basic overview of costs. The running of the Civic Centre costs the Town Council in the region of £200k to run per annum, this includes in the region of £100-£105k for running the Civic Centre (maintenance, utility bills, repairs etc) plus up to £80k in staffing costs (although caretakers and cleaners are responsible for other buildings also but they are mainly based out of the Civic Centre). We anticipated income in the region of £86k for the Civic Centre this financial year, and have seen an increase on the budgeted figures, plus we receive a return from Feed in Tariff and RHI payments per annum of up to £15,000, plus income from other sources such as the Community Toilet scheme, and Quickborn Suite. We also seen a return on our expenditure for our events programme which falls under Environment & Leisure Committee. We are therefore around £50k amiss in terms of expenditure versus income. The Town Council can therefore state that it financially supports two thirds of the Civic Centre running costs through its own

means and not the resident's council tax, which is excellent for a parish/town council. The facility is an important community asset, but with increasing utility costs and staffing costs, it is important that we factor these matters into our review.

- 1.6 In terms of expenditure on electric, we have seen £1k more on the previous year between April and September for the Civic Centre and as Luxfords is the main user of gas in the summer months, they have seen an increase of £1.5k on the same period the previous year.
- 1.7 It would therefore be difficult to continue to retain the current rates for room hirers, but we do understand that we need to be careful not to outprice ourselves and continue to be an important facility for the local community and business community.

2.0 Current room hire rates

- 2.1 A copy of the current rates for the Civic Centre and Foresters Hall are attached at appendix A.
- 2.2 The current room hire rate for Victoria Pavilion is as follows:

SPORTS FACILITIES FOR HIRE

SPORTS PAVILIONS - hire per hour + VAT

Pavilion	Non-Commercial	Commercial
Victoria Pavilion	£6.92	£9.72

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to consider the current rates and provide their considerations for setting the rates for 2023/24.

Contact Officer: Holly Goring

Appendices: Appendix A: 2022/23 Current Fees and Charges (Room Hire)

Meeting rooms and venue hire

Making a booking

To check availability of rooms and dates in the Civic Centre, please call 01825 762774.

To assist our staff, please have the following information available:

- Date(s) required
- Number attending
- Start and end times for your booking including additional set up and clear up times.

We will then be able to advise you of available rooms and will make every effort to accommodate your booking.

If a room is available for your preferred date and time, we will need additional details to make your provisional booking:

- Your name
- Company or organisation
- The billing address
- Contact telephone numbers and email
- Brief details of the booking.

We will then email or post a booking form for you to confirm.

You will be required to complete: a booking form, a catering form, an additional equipment and layout forms.

You should check and complete the forms and return them to the Council Offices, where your booking will be confirmed. You will then be sent a confirmation of your booking preferably by email.

An invoice for the hire charge will be sent to you within 28 days prior to your booking and should be paid within 14 days.

Prior to your booking

Please ensure that you confirm numbers attending and the layout at least *two days* before your booking.

If you require catering, you must advise us and order at least one week before your event as supplies will need to be ordered in.

If you have any queries, or would like to discuss specific requirements for your booking, please call 01825 762774 and make an appointment to see a member of staff.

Cancellations

Please Note: if you cancel your booking within 14 days of the date of the event, the *full* hire charge will be payable.

Access for Disabled People

The Civic Centre is fully accessible for disabled people, with designated parking spaces at the rear of the building.

If you have any specific access requirements, or require any information in an alternative format, please call 01825 762774.

Lavout

The room will have been set out to the specification you will have indicated on the booking forms.

If this is incorrect or you require alterations, please contact a caretaker or the Council Offices immediately. The chairs and tables are heavy and you should *not* attempt to move them.

Additional Equipment

If you require additional equipment on the day, or have difficulties with operating any equipment, please contact a caretaker or the Council Offices for assistance.

Catering

If you require additional catering, or have any queries regarding your catering order, please contact us.

Housekeeping

Maps of the building and housekeeping notices are provided in each room. If you require further information, please contact the Council Offices or, out of normal office hours, a caretaker.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Fire evacuation and emergency procedure notices are provided in all rooms. Please ensure that all your delegates/guests are aware of the emergency evacuation procedures.

In the event of a fire, please evacuate to Luxford Field and take a roll call of your delegates/guests. You must report immediately to the Fire Officer in charge should anyone from your party be missing or require assistance.

If you require additional information about the evacuation procedures, please contact the Council Offices in person or call 01825 762774.



Civic Centre and Foresters Hall

Venue hire charges 2022/23

(prices applicable from 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)



Weald Hall



Foresters Hall



Council Chamber



Green Room



Martlets Room



Oakleaf Room



Ashdown Room



Mayor's Parlour

 Civic Centre Uckfield
www.uckfieldciviccentre.com
Tel: 01825 762774 Email: admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

Meeting rooms and venue hire

Civic Centre (TN22 1AE) basic room hire per hour + VAT

Room	Non-Commercial	Commercial	
Weald Hall (seats up to 250) 15m x 21m	Off peak rate £24.25 Peak rate £29.45	Off peak rate £42.25 Peak rate £47.40	
Ashdown room (seats up to 100) 11m x 7m	Off peak rate £12.70 Peak rate £15.75	Off peak rate £22.15 Peak rate £26.30	
Council Chamber (seats up to 50) 6.8m x 12.9m	Off peak rate £14.75 Peak rate £17.75	Off pk rate £15.75 Peak rate £19.00	
Green Room (seats up to 50)	£12.20	0	
Oakleaf Room (seats up to 25) 4.1m x 6.1m	£11.10		
Martlets Room (seats up to 30) 4m x 6.8m	£11.10		
Mayor's Parlour (seats up to 10) 3.7m x 4.4m	£9.50		
Luxfords Restaurant (available when restaurant closed)	£11.10	£17.50	

^{*}Off peak rate – applies daytime Monday to Saturday and evenings Monday to Wednesday from 6.00pm

Maximum capacity dependent on room layout – please see separate sheet for details and specify the layout when you make your booking.

The use of wall-mounted digital smart screens and projector, if required, is included in all room hire charges but should be pre-ordered at the time of booking.

Civic Centre Uckfield
www.uckfieldciviccentre.com
Tel: 01825 762774 Email: admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

Meeting rooms and venue hire

Foresters Hall (TN22 5DT) - Basic room hire per hour

Room	Non-Commercial	Commercial
Main Hall – adult group	£10.35	£22.75
Mail Hall – voluntary youth group	£5.10	n/a

Please note that VAT is not chargeable on Foresters Hall bookings

Foresters Hall

You will need to collect a key prior to your event. For bookings on a Saturday or Sunday, please call into the offices on Friday before 4.00pm to collect the key. You will need to return the key on the Monday.

A £15 returnable cash deposit will be required for the key.

Bookings cannot be taken for some Fridays or Sunday evenings due to services in the Chapel. Foresters Hall is *not* suitable for adult parties or discos and hire of the hall finishes at 9.00pm.

Useful information for Civic Centre Bookings

The use of a wall-mounted digital smart screen and projector, if required, is included in all room hire charges – please advise at time of booking.

General hire of equip	oment	Weald Hall equipment h	ire only
 Charged per item when ordered with 		Full stage (7.3m x 5.49m)	£19.30
rooms booked on an hour	ly rate.	Half stage (7.3m x 3.65m)	£9.65
Flip Chart (with pens)	£5.10	Stage lights (first night)	£18.30
Laptop	£5.10	Stage lights (subsequent nights)	£12.20
NoBo display boards (Velcro	£3.05	Piano	£12.20
Fastenings)		PA system + one microphone	£14.20
Lectern	£10.15	Standard microphone	£3.05
TV and DVD player	£6.60	Radio microphone	£9.15
		Lapel Microphone	£9.15
		Wheelchair lift to the stage	FREE
		Induction loop (requires PA)	FREE

Parties

All parties will be considered on merit and may be subject to additional terms and conditions including:

- A responsible person should be named who undertakes to remain sober throughout the event, to act as a liaison with Council staff in the event of an incident or emergency;
- An ID system to be specified to prevent under-18s from buying alcohol at the bar Please note that we do not host 18th birthday parties.

Hirers are not permitted to bring their own food and drink.

^{**}Peak rate – applies evenings from 6.00pm on Thursday/Friday/Saturday and all day on Sunday Bookings are subject to availability

Monday 21 November 2022

Agenda Item No. 5.5

TO CONSIDER PLANS FOR REMAINING COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING FROM 2022/23

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 In order to prepare appropriately for the budget setting process for the next financial year of 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, officers wish to understand fully the intentions of the Town Council with its community grant funding budget for 2023/24, especially prior to the Finance Sub-Committee in February 2023.
- 1.2 Two payments were made this financial year to the Wealden Citizen's Advice and Uckfield Volunteer Centre of £19,000 and £8,000 respectively as per the service level agreements we have in place with these organisations. The Service Level Agreement review will therefore be taken to Full Council on 12 December 2022.
- 1.3 In terms of the main community grant funding pot, a total of £14,333.47 was awarded to local community groups and organisations. This meant that £13,166.53 still remains available from the £27,500 budget allocated.
- 1.4 We also received £6,000 from UK Power Networks for the town's benefit, as a gesture of goodwill for the congestion caused by upgrade works during 2021.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to consider how they wish to proceed with this funding, and if they wish to carry forward to 2023/24 for the use of the community grant funding programme or if they wish to allocate it for specific projects or priorities.

Contact Officer: Sarah D'Alessio

Monday 21 November 2022

Agenda Item 6.1

TO NOTE THE CURRENT POSITION WITH THE COUNCIL'S BUILDINGS

1.0 Summary

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

2.0 The Buildings

2.1 <u>The Civic Centre, Victoria Pavilion, The Cemetery Chapels, The Signal Box, West</u> Park and Foresters Hall.

The Civic Centre

- Heating via the biomass boiler is now up and running for the winter months;
- Emergency light testing has been undertaken along with monthly water testing/legionella checks;
- The new blind for the Ashdown Room was fitted 17 November;
- New stage curtaining due to arrive wk beg 21 November;
- Investigating water penetration under eaves of the front area of the Civic Centre;

The Hub

 Demolition works are going out to tender via a Surveyor, for the Hub building only;

The Source

Nothing to add at this time.

Victoria Pavilion

 Difficulties have been experienced with the hot water. Contractors have addressed the matter for now, but further works to the plumbing/heating system at Victoria Pavilion may need to be undertaken to reduce the frequent call outs and repairs.

The Signal Box

An EICR, the remedial works and a structural survey have been undertaken
to understand the current condition of the building. Nothing untoward, but
substantial decoration required and a tidy up to the flooring and walls before
reletting.

Foresters Hall

Nothing new to report.

Snatts Road, Chapel

Nothing new to report.

West Park

 Draft lease agreement in the process of being reviewed with a local sports club for the lease of the building;

2A Vernon Road

- The vehicular gate was ripped off the post in the recent high winds. After liaising with the tenant, it will not be reinstated;
- Issues with mould and damp have been reported within one of the rooms of the flat, likely to be due to no or limited ventilation in the room which incorporates the shower. Site visit has been undertaken and a range of works are being considered to try and rectify as soon as possible.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Holly Goring

Monday 21 November 2022

Agenda Item 7.1

TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW

THIS REPORT IS NOT INTENDED TO INVITE POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS BUT MERELY ENABLE MEMBERS TO CONSIDER WITH OTHERS THE CHANGES BEING PROPOSED TO GEOGRAPHICAL PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARIES.

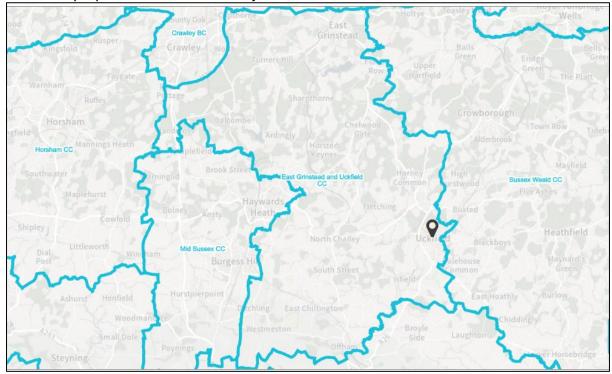
1.0 Summary

1.1 The Boundary Commission for England are consulting on their revised proposals for new parliamentary constituencies. This is the third and final stage of consultation and members will recall that Uckfield has seen a number of varying suggestions along the way.

2.0 Revised proposals

- 2.1 The revised proposals will see the South East region increase from 84 constituencies to 91. The rules require there to still be 650 constituencies across the UK but to provide equal distribution across the four areas of the UK. The second criteria requires that (apart from five constituencies) all must contain a number no larger than 77,062 electors and no smaller than 69,724 electors.
- 2.2 Sussex has been allocated 17 constituencies. In Sussex, they have proposed minor alterations to the county-crossing constituency between East and West Sussex, to allow Hartfield ward to be included in a renamed Sussex Weald constituency; major revisions to five West Sussex constituencies comprising rural South Downs villages and the built-up coastal strip; and minor revisions relating to Brighton and Hove

2.3 The proposed new constituency for Uckfield is 'East Grinstead & Uckfield'



- 2.4 Members are encouraged to consider the characteristics of the new boundary changes being proposed. The Boundary Commission state that:

 "As far as possible, we try to have regard to local ties, geographic factors, local government boundaries (as they were known at 1 December 2020), existing constituencies, and minimising disruption caused by proposed change'
- 2.5 However the first observation is that the new constituency of 'East Grinstead and Uckfield' would cross two county council areas (East Sussex and West Sussex CCs) and three district/borough authorities (Lewes, Mid-Sussex and Wealden). In fact the proposed constituency would only incorporate a small aspect of Wealden's 42 parishes (Forest Row, Danehill & Fletching, Isfield, Little Horsted, Maresfield and Uckfield). This could therefore place pressure on the MP for that constituency, in terms of understanding the geographical area and priorities/direction of the higher level authorities.
- 2.6 The existing constituency of 'Wealden' takes in a much larger proportion of Wealden District and tends to follow the boundary lines for the top half of the district.
- 2.7 The deadline for comments is 5 December, and members are asked to consider if they wish to respond, whether that be to encourage individual responses from councillors or one joint response on behalf of Uckfield Town Council: https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to consider the report and advise the Clerk accordingly.

Contact Officer: Holly Goring

Monday 21 November 2022

Agenda Item 7.2

TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE ESCC LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 East Sussex County Council are currently consulting on a plan for local transport in East Sussex. This looks ahead to the period 2023 to 2050.
- 1.2 The plan looks at connectivity across the county and the county council are keen to hear from key stakeholders on:
 - our priorities for travel and transport;
 - issues currently encountered;
 - important opportunities for improving travel.

You can also drop a pin on a map for where issues occur, or where there might be opportunities.

- 1.3 The Local Transport Plan is a key statutory document which must align with the guidance of the Department for Transport. It pulls together the transport improvements for the area, and explains linkages to key transport policies. The review of the document seeks to take account of changes to policies around net zero carbon dioxide emission targets, supporting wellbeing and inclusion, and supporting recovery as we come out of the pandemic.
- 1.4 ESCC will be undertaking the review of the plan in two stages:

Stage 1 - Scoping Phase;

Stage 2 - Strategy Development;

As part of Stage 1 ESCC are seeking early views on countywide transport issues, opportunities and priorities which will be considered as part of the development of the strategy. As a key stakeholder they would appreciate our input. The deadline for comments falls on 9 December 2022 so due to the timing, this item has had to be brought to General Purposes Committee.

- 1.5 The questions being asked as part of the consultation are:
 - (1) What themes are most important:

Accessibility, equality and inclusion:

Safety, health and air quality;

Community and sense of place:

Climate change and its impacts;

Our local environment biodiversity:

Sustainable economic development;

Innovation through technology

- (2) What themes do you think have been missed?
- (3) Add up to three barriers/issues
- (4) Add up to three opportunities/ways to improve

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to consider the above questions and feed back to the Clerk either at the meeting or by a specified date to enable a response to be provided.

Contact Officer: Holly Goring

Monday 21 November 2022

Agenda Item 8.1

TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY WITHIN THE COUNCIL

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report provides an update for members on the various elements of health and safety that need to be considered within the organisation.

2.0 Health and wellbeing of staff

- 2.1 The table overleaf provides an update on sickness levels in the last reporting period (1 October to 11 November 2022).
- 2.2 The Town Council was most impacted by sickness over the winter period of 2021/22, with unforeseen long-term sickness affecting two members of staff, as well as covid and other viruses impacting on staffing levels during the winter period.
- 2.3 We have since seen improvement but we are aware we are just heading into the winter season, and may be impacted by viruses/covid.
- 2.4 The NHS Top-Up WPA Programme commenced from 1 April 2022 which supports Town Council staff with medical appointments and provides 24/7 access to the Employment Support Programme. We have been encouraging staff to make use of this benefit and to utilise facilities through this service if they have experienced difficulties accessing their GP.

	As at 11 Nov 2022 (sickness recorded since 1 Oct 2022) (25 staff)	As at 8 July 2022 (sickness recorded since 1 April 2022) (27 staff)	Cumulative total for the year 2022/23
Actual days taken as short-term Doctors' certificate	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days
Actual days taken as self-certificated sick leave	5.0 days	2.0 days	2.0 days
Actual days taken as long-term sick leave	0.0 days	51.0 days	51.0 days
Actual days taken for full Covid isolation (staff member unwell for full isolation period or in a position whereby they were unable to work from home)	0.0 days	7.0 days	7.0 days
Actual days taken for staff member supporting family member/dependent for Covid isolation but not unwell themselves	0.0 days	0.0 days	0.0 days
Actual days taken for Covid isolation but able to work from home some of the time	0.0 days	2.0 days	2.0 days

3.0 Personal learning and development

3.1 An online training portal was set up three years ago to enable all staff to easily carry out their refresher training in all aspects of our work. Staff are now undertaking their refresher courses and with new staff employed within Luxfords Restaurant, the Hospitality Manager is also looking to arrange further Food Hygiene and Safety training.

4.0 Health and Safety Risk Assessments

- 4.1 Ongoing facility audits are being carried out frequently, with issues being addressed by staff or contractors.
- 4.2 First aid kits in all buildings are being monitored and updated regularly.
- 4.3 Regular water monitoring is carried out in each building to ensure Uckfield Town Council remains compliant. This includes reviews of the Legionella's risk assessment, tank cleans and water samples for all managed buildings. An external contractor has also been appointed to audit these checks and review in more depth. Some remedial works are to be carried out to ensure ongoing compliance.
- 4.4 The lift(s) have been inspected by British Engineering Services, for the purposes of our insurance.

5.0 Fire Safety

5.1 The Estates & Facilities Manager has requested reviewed fire risk assessments from all tenants.

5.2 Town Council Fire Risk Assessments have been undertaken along with emergency lighting checks and fire extinguisher checks.

6.0 Miscellaneous

6.1 Sanitiser stations are still present within the Civic Centre but face coverings are no longer a necessity for staff or customers.

7.0 Accident reporting – Quarter 3 (Oct - Dec 2022/23)

7.1 No further incidents recorded by staff since the end of September 2022, but we were made aware of an issue by a hirer using the Weald Hall, which occurred on 17 October 2022.

Contact Officers: Holly Goring

Appendix A

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



MEMBERS AUDIT FORM

MONTH: OUL	2022				
Checklist:					
Documents will be chosen at random by Members carrying out the Audit.					
SAGE AUDIT TRAIL (DET Check source documents in	AILED) ncluding nominal code and authoris	ation.			
	Supplier Invoices Customer Invoices Timesheets				
BANK RECONCILIATION	AND VERIFICATION TO NOMINA	L CODE:			
Check bank reconciliation todes.	o SAGE print outs, bank statement	and nominal			
	Clerks Account General Account Special Interest Bearing Lloyds Bank Account				
PETTY CASH Check cash balance and vo	puchers				
Town Council Both Coch Luxfords					
Signed 5					
Print Name BARRY MAYHEW					
Dated 14-10-2	27.7				

Supplier Invoice Checked

Supplier Name	Invoice No. and Date	P. Order No	Confirmed Stamped, signed, correct nominal code	Confirmed payment method. entered and signed by two Clirs
Wholsome Goos	733967	15071		/
Whiff Away	07/07/22 837265			

Customer Invoices Checked

Customer Name	Invoice No.	Are charges correct?	Payment date on invoice	Bank Statement Page No.
LABOR PARTY	ccyoqs	~		601
Mrs BURNETT	F44066	~	~	CHLINE

Timesheets checked

ect?	correct?		BACS Payment record
		29/07/22	834244012
	/	29/07/22	834244017
			29/07/22

Bank Reconciliation Checked

Bank Account	Statement No.	RFO has signed both records	Amount Reconciled and if not reasons noted	Nominal Code
RESERVE	147			1227
CLERK	515	<u></u>		1210

Petty Cash Checked

Account Name	Is reconciliation correct? Month	Selected Voucher Name and findings	At time of visit, are petty cash floats aligned to SAGE balance
Town Council	July	TESCO	
Luxfords	July	TESCO	

Monday 21 November 2022

Agenda Item 9.1(iii)

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES: RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE AGM (10 NOVEMBER 2022)

The Uckfield Town Council representatives were unable to attend the AGM meeting but some points have been extracted by the Town Clerk from their Chairman's report, for sharing wider with councillors.

- With the hard work of committee members the hall has had a successful year;
- The December 2021 Christmas fair and Easter Bunny Hunt went well, with 188 children taking part in the Easter Bunny Hunt;
- They set up a new baby/toddler group for under 5s. They initially saw over 50 parents get in touch, it has now settled down to a number of 20-30 families utilising the facilities:
- They set up an outreach lunch club, which takes place once a month and has been very well attended, with food prepared by The Highlands Inn every month at no charge and sponsorship from a local business to cover the costs of entertainment;
- They are currently looking at how they could set up a 'warm hub' to further support households through the winter;
- In terms of building maintenance, they have replaced two front windows, all of the guttering, rooms have been redecorated, and they are looking to replace the blinds in the near future. They also now have a maintenance plan in place;
- CIO has been completed which protects the Trustees;'
- They are now looking to complete Level 2 of Hallmark for village halls;
- The RVH Committee said farewell and thank you to Mr Gothard, who previously ran the hall, as Chairman. Mr Gothard and his wife had been involved in the hall for 28 years and have been incredibly supportive to the new Chair over the past few years and seeing the delivery of projects through;
- Future events for the diary include the quiz night on Saturday 26 November and Christmas Fair on Saturday 10 December 11am until 2pm.