



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held on
Monday 7 November 2022 at 7.00pm
Council Chamber, Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Cllr. S. Mayhew (Chair)
Cllr. K. Bedwell
Cllr. B. Cox

Cllr. D French
Cllr. D. Ward

IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of the public

Holly Goring – Town Clerk
Minutes taken by Holly Goring

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. None were forthcoming.

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

There were no statements from members of the public.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received prior to the meeting from Councillors J. Beesley, D. Bennett, J. Edwards and A. Smith for reasons relating to work commitments, sickness and annual leave.

4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 28 September 2022

EL.21.11.22 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 28 September 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Members discussed items on the action list:

EL09.06.22 - Bin at Hunters Way

Monitoring had been undertaken by Grounds staff and different branded nappies were appearing on Mondays and Fridays and when checked on other days the bin was completely empty. This suggested the litter bin was being misused. Signage had already been placed on the bin, and it would be very difficult to enforce.

Members discussed at some length the options available, but understood the risk of removing the bin, as it could move the issue to another litter bin further afield.

EL.22.11.22 Members **RESOLVED** for Grounds staff to temporarily remove the Hunters way litter bin for two months and closely monitor the bins in nearby proximity to check the problem was not being moved further along.

EL17.09.22 – West Park reconfiguration

The Town Clerk updated members on the work undertaken and associated costs. It was noted that the increase from two to three pitches and ongoing maintenance would need to be factored into seasonal hire costs. Members noted the update and agreed to remove the action.

EL18.09.22 – Cricket net repairs

Members discussed this work. Once the repairs were carried out they felt that signage or CCTV might need to be placed near to the nets, to ensure they were not being misused or vandalised.

EL19.09.22 – Chairman’s announcements (War Grave signage)

This was in progress.

Members subsequently noted the remainder of the report.

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 provisional Income and Expenditure report for end September 2022
Members noted the report.

5.3. To start considering new initiatives for the draft budget 2023/24
Members were presented with a list of potential initiatives for the short, medium and long term by officers. Members worked through the table presented below in detail.

Members were conscious that there may be other events taking place on the weekend of the King’s Coronation, so it would be prudent to ask others first. However it was considered important for the Town Council to light the beacon. For that reason the allocation of £2k funding for this project was approved.

Other ideas included, increasing the number of CCTV cameras at Victoria Pleasure Ground as a possible deterrent and potentially putting monies aside each year for the upkeep of the Town Council’s car parks adjacent to pavilions and buildings (*the Town Clerk advised that this would come under General Purposes Committee*).

ITEM	SHORT/MED/LONG TERM	ESTIMATED COST
E&L Committee (Grounds, CCTV, Leisure, Events)		
New Gazebo and trestle tables for events. Previous gazebo is very tired. Suggest green in colour in line with branding.	Short	Trestle tables 6ft @ £50 each x 3. £130 gazebo = £280 (£300) Members confirmed.
Funding for King’s Coronation and potential event – weekend of 6 May 2023	Short	£2k Members confirmed.
New Grounds equipment. For example 2 x new strimmers	Short	TBC Members confirmed. Officers would confirm costs for budget setting.

ITEM	SHORT/MED/LONG TERM	ESTIMATED COST
Victoria Rainwater tank clean and annual service	Short	£7k Members felt this quote was steep, but understood the need for the work to be undertaken. Members confirmed.
Ash Dieback and further tree works	Short – Winter Year 2 programme	£25k Members confirmed.
Budget for Uckfield Green Partnership and budget appropriately for Eco EXPO (Rename budget code to Town Council Climate Change Working Group)	Short to medium	£500 – Not confirmed for UGP. £1,000 – This was a UTC project only and members confirmed.
Geophysical survey of the cemetery for future space planning	Short to medium	TBC – Members were interested to know more and confirmed investigation into costs.
Football Dug Out – improvements for health and safety purposes	Medium	£2.5k It was queried whether Uckfield AFC and UTC could share costs?
Save towards upgrade of Victoria Play Area	Medium to long term (raise funds over next two years)	£20k Members altered to £40k, to ensure that the upgrade could be undertaken sooner.
ATV – off road vehicle useful for woodland and nature reserve work	Medium	TBC Members were interested to learn more, and questioned whether it could be hybrid or electric.
Increase of pitch renovation expenditure for football and cricket in line with audit outcomes.	Medium	TBC Members understood that this was being explored in the working group. There were concerns currently about overuse of the pitches.

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

6.1 To note the draft minutes from the Allotment Conference held on 12 October 2022
Members noted the draft minutes of the Allotment Conference which took place on 12 October 2022.

6.2 To sign and seal the Grant of Easement for Ridgewood Recreation Ground for rights to be given for the discharge of water from land off Eastbourne Road
Members had already reviewed this matter at Full Council and as outlined in the report, the Town Clerk had spent a number of weeks and months with the Town Council's solicitors ensuring the content of the documentation aligned with the initial discussions held with the developer.

EL.23.11.22 Members **RESOLVED** for two Town Councillors and the Town Clerk to sign the Grant of Easement for Ridgewood Recreation Ground, for rights to be given for the discharge of water from land off Eastbourne Road.

7.0 ENVIRONMENT

7.1 To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates
Members noted the report.

7.2 To consider an informal Arboricultural report on a large Beech tree at West Park Recreation Ground
Members were informed that evidence of fungus had been found at the base of the large Beech tree at West Park recreation ground. A further survey would be obtained and members would be updated accordingly. It was therefore recommended that

members consider the findings of that survey in more detail at the meeting of Full Council on 12 December 2022.

7.3 To consider a request to install a garden gate to the boundary fence of a property backing onto West Park Recreation Ground

Members felt this was a difficult enquiry, as the Town Council set a precedent that no gates should be placed on the boundary line of Town Council land, and no access rights should be granted. However it was known that some residents/properties had historically had access or had access for a number of years, which had not since been enforced.

EL.24.11.22 Members **RESOLVED** to decline the request of a resident to add a garden gate to the boundary fence of a property backing onto West Park Recreation Ground. Members also felt that work should be undertaken over the next 12-24 months, area by area, to enforce, where gates had been added previously.

8.0 LEISURE

Nothing to report.

9.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

9.1 Climate Change Working Group update

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

Members noted the report.

10.5 West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group

Nothing to report at this time.

10.6 Luxford Centre Management Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

10.7 Uckfield and District Twinning Association

Nothing to report at this time.

10.8 Uckfield Festival Association

Nothing to report at this time.

10.9 Uckfield Parkrun Board

Nothing to report at this time.

10.10 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

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
None.

12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

EL.25.11.22 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 8.19pm.