



UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk – Holly Goring

Meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** to be held on
Tuesday 27 May 2025 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 Environment and Leisure Committee held on 14 April 2025
- 4.2. Action list – for information only
- 4.3. Project monitoring list – for information only
- 4.4. Forward plan – for information only

5.0. FINANCE

- 5.1. To note bills paid
- 5.2. To note the income & expenditure report ending 31 March 2025

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1. To consider further drainage works at Ridgewood Village Hall
- 6.2. To request items for the Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) meeting with East Sussex Highways on 1 July 2025
- 6.3. To consider the design of a new bus shelter to be installed on London Road
- 6.4. To appoint a representative for the Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

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

- 7.2 To consider a request from a local resident in relation to coppiced trees to rear of property
- 7.3 To provide feedback for the Ashdown Forest Woodland Management Plan Consultation

8.0. LEISURE

- 8.1 To note a brief update on the Our Parks Fitness Sessions
- 8.2 To consider the feedback from service users for Victoria Play Area, and initial designs

9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- 9.1 To receive an update from the Climate Change Working Group

10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- 10.1 All Weather Pitch Operational Group
- 10.2 Conservators of Ashdown Forest
- 10.3 Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group
- 10.4 Luxford Centre Management Committee
- 10.5 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
- 10.6 Uckfield Youth Club Board
- 10.8 Wealden Food Partnership Advisory Group

11.0. CHAIR'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 a report on the Marketing programme



Town Clerk
20 May 2025



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held on
Monday 14th April 2025 at 7.00pm
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Uckfield

PRESENT:

Cllr. Angie Smith (Chair)
Cllr. Karen Bedwell
Cllr. Donna French
Cllr. Chris Macve

Cllr. Bernadette Reed (Vice Chair)
Cllr. Duncan Bennett
Cllr. Michael McClafferty
Cllr. Spike Mayhew

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Peter Selby

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.

One declaration of interest was raised by Councillor D. Bennett in relation to item 5.3 as he was a committee member of a football club, and wished to declare that he would not be able to vote or take part.

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

None.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 3 March 2025

EL.45.04.25 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 3 March 2025 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4.2. Action list

Members noted the report and asked for the following item to be removed from the action list:

EL37.01.25 – To consider the commemoration of the VE Day 80th Anniversary. An update report had been submitted to the meeting in relation to preparations for the important event.

4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only

Members noted the report and agreed to remove the following actions on:

FC.91.01.24 – Tree for a tree planting programme. The Town Council had been successful with its bid for grant funding through Wealden District Council for Community Orchards and all trees associated with that project had been completed, including areas such as New Barn, Ridgewood Recreation Ground and West Park. An additional gift of black poplars had also been planted in Hempstead Meadows Nature Reserve.

FC.91.01.24 – Harlands Pond Management Plan Works were completed for 2024-5, with further works to continue in the hope of obtaining grant funding, to support biodiversity in this environment.

- 4.4 Forward plan – 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 & Expenditure report ending 28 February 2025

The Chair noted that approximately £27k of the expenditure was already accounted for by the use of earmarked reserves. Members noted the report and made no comments about remaining items.

- 5.3 To confirm the Fees and Charges for our Sports Facilities in 2025-26

Members discussed the overall increases to the fees and charges and in particular previous proposals to uplift fees for seasonal pitch hire over a four-year period. It was these proposals that still needed to be agreed moving into this financial year.

Members were reminded that the current costs of sports hire did not cover the upkeep of pitches or maintenance equipment and this had already been reviewed, at least to balance the figures in the shorter term. The four year plan was devised to help to spread those costs and to manage the outgoings until further information was made available. Local football clubs had fully understood the reasons behind this decision and had been asked if there was anything that the Town Council could help or accommodate them with.

The Sports Working Group were praised for providing those calculations during the initial review period, which had not been easy but was necessary to ensure the future provision of pitches and sports facilities for the local community. The committee also needed to focus on:

- (i) reviewing usage and maintenance costs for adult and junior cricket for next season;
- (ii) sports facility improvements required on all sites including welfare facilities at Harlands;
- (iii) a more substantial licence for the use of West Park, by Uckfield Grasshoppers.

Discussions were also being held with Wealden District Council in relation to possible funding options and local sports clubs were aware that if they could bring funding in, including potential advertising sponsorships, then we could potentially reduce their costs.

A couple of queries were raised in relation to croquet games and if stoolball could be played at the Ridgewood Recreation Ground, since tournaments had not been played since the play area had been installed, although it was unsafe without proper boundaries. The tennis at Victoria Park was currently on a longer term lease by Urban Tennis although it was unsure how long the lease was for at this stage.

- EL.46.04.25** With seven votes in favour, and one vote abstaining due to a conflict of interest (Councillor D. Bennett) members **RESOLVED** to agree to approve both:
- (i) the Sports fees and charges for 2025-26 and to the same percentage increases as set out last year (*25% for football seasonal hire – over four years, and 4% for cricket seasonal hire, stoolball charges and the hire of community space or off pitch hire*), and;
 - (ii) the recommendation by the Internal Auditor to charge sports clubs (particularly football) their seasonal hire, in quarterly instalments, with an additional clause that 'along with paying in advance, clubs do not have a clear booking until payments are cleared'.

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

6.1 To note the tender process for Victoria Play Area and Public Consultation on Saturday 31 May 2025

Members noted the report and the Chair announced that it was lovely to see this moving forward and members were looking forward to seeing the end results.

7.0 ENVIRONMENT

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

Members noted the report. Councillor Reed asked if a bench could be sited near the new orchard at Ridgewood Recreation Ground for a local resident who carried out a survey for breeding birds. This would be referred to the Head Groundsman to see if there was a spare bench available for this purpose.

7.2 To further consider the consecration of a section of land in the new Y-section to accommodate all faiths within our community.

At the previous meeting, members had asked to look further into having both natural and consecrated land for burials and asked to consider how much space would be intended for non-consecrated burials and different faiths.

The report had provided some of the requirements for muslim burials from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), as well as some information at a later date in this regard from the local Imam.

Members were mindful of being inclusive and that there was a growing diversity within our community. However, further questions were raised with regard to how much land may need to be set aside for the specific faiths, bearing in mind that there may already be a designated burial ground available to accommodate their needs in the local area. A broad range of faiths and beliefs needed to be considered and to understand their customs surrounding death.

Before further research was undertaken, members agreed that 50% of the land could be consecrated and to invite representatives from the various faith and beliefs to a meeting, to find out their preferences and customs.

A query was still being raised in relation to the ecological aspects and root protection requirements of trees in ancient woodland. It was not clear if the buffer zones were in relation to planning rather than cemetery regulations.

Councillor B. Reed pointed out that there was a 'BS5837' British Standard Tree Survey required for root protection areas with a fifteen metre buffer zone around ancient woodlands, although she was also unsure whether this applied to cemeteries.

This would need to be further investigated with a view to looking into any legal requirements of burials and how this would affect the cemetery plan going forward.

Councillor Reed also provided some useful contacts, including 'Ancient Woodlands Standing Advice' which would provide guidance on direct or indirect harm. Also, 'Arbor Weald' for mapping for root protection areas and The Forestry Commission for specialist advice as they were dual custodians of ancient Woodlands.

Councillor D. Bennett also provided a useful contact, The Natural Burial Association where advice could be sought about the specific requirements needed for burials.

EL.47.04.25 Members **RESOLVED to note the report and,**

- (i) agree to the proposal from the Chair to consecrate fifty percent of the new Y-section (north side) with the view to adding further consecrated ground if and when required, and;
- (ii) to defer discussions for the provision of separate burial space for other faith groups until further clarity and understanding had been sought, and;
- (iii) to look into the legal requirements for burial space adjacent to ancient woodlands..

- 7.3 To receive an update on the litter campaign to address dog fouling in public spaces
Members noted the report. This campaign was ongoing with the schools and members of the public would be supported with any advice on how to report issues and help to try to eradicate this problem as a community.

8.0 LEISURE

- 8.1 To note plans for the VE Day 80th Anniversary
Members noted the report. Councillors were all expected to attend and volunteer at this event.

9.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- 9.1 To receive an update from the Climate Change Steering Group
Councillor Reed provided a verbal update and a visual link to a draft document supporting the town's natural assets (using a platform called Storymaps), which was an impressive portfolio, including an introduction and further information on the natural assets and green spaces within the town, setting the scene as to why nature was important to us all. Members of the Climate Change Steering Group were asked if they could assist with proof reading a portion at a time each, as there were fifty two sections in all.

The Chair commended Councillor Reed for all her hard work on this project so far, and Councillor Donna French for her help and support. This would certainly be something to look forward to seeing uploaded onto the Town Council website in the near future, once the final draft was approved.

- 9.2 To receive an update from the Allotment Working Group
Members noted the report.

10.0 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- 10.1 All Weather Pitch Operational Group
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.2 Conservators of Ashdown Forest and 'Weald to Waves'
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.3 Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.4 Luxford Centre Management Committee
Members noted the report and thanked Councillor C. Macve.

10.5 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
Members noted the report and thanked Councillor C. Macve.

10.6 Uckfield Youth Club Board
Nothing to report at this time.

10.7 Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link
Nothing to report at this time.

10.8 Wealden Food Partnership Advisory Group
Nothing to report at this time.

11.0 **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
None.

12.0 **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**
EL.48.04.25 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 20:14pm.

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ACTION LIST - FOR INFORMATION ONLY Environment and Leisure Committee

Please note no resolutions can be made from the action list. It is for information only.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL.28.09.16</u>	<u>To consider revised byelaws for the Town Council's Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)</u> Members reviewed the amendments to the byelaws which still require Natural England and DEFRA's approval. It was RESOLVED to accept the revised byelaws.	05.09.16	HG	In progress.
<u>EL.26.01.19</u>	It was RESOLVED that the Supporter Groups for both reserves be consulted with a view to shorten the byelaws in accordance with DEFRA's comments and report back to the Environment & Leisure committee.	28.01.19		
<u>EL73.05.22</u>	<u>To consider a number of improvements to direct tourism to Uckfield</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) introduce the following ideas for improvements to direct tourism to Uckfield at the next infrastructure working group meeting: better parking facilities for motorhomes in town and improved signage, and to; (ii) consider if there was anything additional that should be explored to be discussed at that next meeting, and; (iii) for the E&F Manager to explore those initiatives put forward already with the various responsible agencies, including any leverage through ES Highways for proper signage from developers.	16.05.22	RN/ HG	In progress.
<u>EL28.10.23</u>	<u>7.3 To consider the installation of a gate to restrict access to the Grounds work area next to Victoria Pavilion</u> (i) install a gate on the main drive (with a pedestrian gate and closer) estimated at £300 to £400, and; (ii) defer the decision to bring the path around the edge of the fencing up to the car park to the next E&L Committee in November 2023, after seeking further details on accessibility and funding options.	09.10.23	HG/JH	Members agreed at the E&L meeting on 13.11.23 to bring the path around the edge of the fencing up to the car park and for this work to be carried out in-house. The gate has been installed at Victoria with relevant signage. The path will be looked at when we have staff capacity. This is quite a big job that will be progressed in due course.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL55.04.24</u>	<u>To consider actions to reduce litter in the vicinity of new food outlets and retail businesses in Uckfield</u> Members resolved to agree for Uckfield Town Council staff to: (i) contact the new Co-op store off Highlands roundabout, to ask them if they would consider contributing to a litter bin in the town, and; (ii) look into other ideas mentioned above, and; (iii) continue to work with Brighter Uckfield on this matter.	15.04.24	RN	The litter campaign to address dog fouling in public spaces is in progress. Posters have been placed up and bicycle locks have been purchased to trial on Bird in Eye allotment site (entrance gate and one from Keld Drive to be locked and code to be sorted out first and given to allotment holders only).
<u>EL42.03.25</u>	Members resolved to note the report and to investigate all those ideas raised for further investigation to address dog fouling in public spaces.	03.03.25		In regards to litter picking, Brighter Uckfield are always keen to help out along with support being sought from volunteers at Brighter Uckfield and Uckfield College as part of the next Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. NFA
<u>EL.11.07.24</u>	<u>Climate Change working Group Update</u> Members resolved to agree to request staff to instruct the Town Council's solicitors in relation to the potential purchase of land adjacent to the River Uck and abutting the lane leading to the Sussex Horse Rescue site.	08.07.24	HG	In progress
<u>EL.18.09.24</u>	<u>To initially consider the proposed re-routing of the Public Right of Way from Ridgewood Farm into Boothland Wood as part of the development of this site</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to initially agree to the proposal from Redrow, to re-route the Public Right of Way from Ridgewood Farm away from Boothland Wood as part of the development of this site but if further consideration of routes needed to be explored.	02.09.24	HG	In progress
<u>EL.35.01.25</u>	<u>To revisit the Cemetery working group and review options available for cemetery provision</u> Members resolved to agree to revisit the Cemetery working group, and to ask all Councillors (not just on this committee), to compare costs and facilities in comparison	20.01.25	RN	The Estates Team has received some positive feedback in relation to grass cutting at the cemetery which is positive news.

	with other local service providers, and to share ideas for future cemetery provision.			<p>The Groundstaff carried out memorial training in March and subsequent memorial checks in April. This resulted in staff having to liaise with a few memorial masons since it was found that some of the older memorials were in need of attention. This is being monitored.</p> <p>The Cemetery working group were due to meet at some point in 2025, to compare ideas for improvement to the cemetery with other areas, including costs and facilities.</p>
	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL.37.01.25</u>	<p><u>To consider the commemoration of the VE Day 80th Anniversary</u> Members resolved to agree to take part in the commemoration and celebration of the VE Day 80th Anniversary on 8th May 2025, and felt that it was only fair to open this up to all Councillors, for everybody to get the opportunity to take part in these working groups. The decision to have the beacon lighting would also need to be decided by the working group.</p>	20.01.25	RN	<p>This event was enjoyed by everyone who attended and thanks was given to staff and volunteers who helped out on the day to make this day a special event.</p> <p>NFA.</p>
<u>EL38.01.25</u>	<p><u>To establish a working group to organise a showcase event to promote the various Community groups and activities in Uckfield</u> Members resolved to agree to: (i) ask other Councillors if they wished to assist with this showcase event to promote the various Community groups and activities in Uckfield (<i>this could be a self-promotional idea, whereby we could assist with this but our input would need to focus on facilitating their needs</i>), and; (ii) ask Wealden Volunteering and support them with this idea raised, so that they could run this event themselves, offering use of the Weald Hall and Luxford Field.</p>	20.01.25	RN	<p>In progress. The last Events Working Group meeting was on 6 March 2025. Another meeting will be arranged in early to mid-June.</p> <p>The Town Clerk feels the remit of this event will be picked up by the Health & Wellbeing event organised by the Ageing Well Forum on 18 September 2025.</p> <p>NFA.</p>

	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL41.03.25</u>	<p><u>To consider the consecration of a section of land at Snatts Road Cemetery to be named the new Y section</u></p> <p>Members resolved to note the report before requesting, that officers:</p> <p>(i) look into those points raised at the meeting before deciding on the consecration of the new Y-section, and bring these points to the next meeting;</p> <p>(ii) seek advice from the Town Clerk in relation to writing a letter to the Head of Planning with a request for additional cemetery land in line with the amount of housing opportunities coming our way.</p>	03.03.25	RN	In progress.

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2025-26**

Projects in 2022/23 Budget – New Initiatives

Project Name	Speed reduction initiative (already have £3,199.64 in earmarked reserves)		Project Number	69
<u>FC.82.01.22</u>	Plus £2,000 placed into budget in 2022/23	17.01.22	Will be utilised when further research has been undertaken into the various roadside initiatives available.	

Projects in 2024/25 Budget – New Initiatives

Project Name	Roofed compound area for Grounds storage		Project Number	83
<u>FC.91.01.24</u>	£500	10.04.24	This work is not urgent, and will be progressed in due course.	

Projects in 2025/26 Budget – New Initiatives

Project Name	Artificial Cricket Wicket Resurfacing/Replacement		Project Number	86
<u>FC.90.01.25</u>	£7,000	08.04.25	This work is completed. NFA.	

Project Name	Football Pitch Manoeuvrable posts		Project Number	87
<u>FC.90.01.25</u>	£10,500	08.04.25	These will be purchased in time for the new season July/Aug 2025.	

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2025-26

Project Name	Full football pitch renovations		Project Number	88
<u>FC.90.01.25</u>	£29,000	08.04.25	These works commenced on Monday 19 May 2025.	

Project Name	Permanent welfare facilities for Harlands Playing Fields		Project Number	89
<u>FC.90.01.25</u>	£12,000	08.04.25	To be progressed in due course.	

Project Name	D-Day Anniversary activities		Project Number	90
<u>FC.90.01.25</u>	£1,420 to be added to £830 ER	08.04.25	This event was held on the Bank Holiday Monday 5 May 2025 and was a big success. Final figures still being calculated. NFA.	

Project Name	Conservation and wildlife monitoring (longer-term project)		Project Number	91
<u>FC.90.01.25</u>	£8,000	08.04.25	Wildlife appraisals have been commissioned, alongside arrangement for a dormouse survey of Boothland Wood. Enquiries are also being made for a bat survey in Boothland Wood. In progress.	

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN – 2025

STANDING ITEMS FOR GENERAL PURPOSES AGENDA	REPORT LEAD
Minutes from the last meeting	Senior Admin
Action list	Mgt Team
Project list	Mgt Team
Bills paid	Senior Admin
Income and expenditure reports	TClerk / Asst TC
Estates Update	E&F Manager
Reports from working groups	Councillor representatives
Reports from outside bodies	Councillor representatives
Marketing report (confidential business)	Marketing & Comms Assistant

DATE OF MEETING	DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM/REPORT	
27 MAY 2025	To appoint member to Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group	
	To consider proposed design of bus shelter for London Road	
	To review survey feedback relating to Victoria Play Area and initial designs.	
	To consider further drainage works at Ridgewood Village Hall	
	To request items for the Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) meeting with East Sussex Highways on 1st July 2025	
	To request Feedback for the Ashdown Forest Woodland Management Plan Consultation	
	To consider an enquiry from a local resident in relation to coppiced trees to rear of property	
	To note a brief update on the Our Parks Fitness Sessions	
CONFIDENTIAL	Marketing report	

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN – 2025

DATE OF MEETING	DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM/REPORT	
7 JULY 2025	To confirm membership of the Committee's working groups	
	SLR Mins from meeting 1/7/25	
	Joint Allotment Working Group update (meeting 30/5)	
	Update on sports facility improvements (items o/s action list)	
	Update on the provision of burial space and cemetery projects (costs, consecration, new or different memorials)	
	Final decision on Victoria Play Area design	

Environment and Leisure Committee at 31 March 2025

	Apr 24 Actuals £	May 24 Actuals £	Jun 24 Actuals £	Jul 24 Actuals £	Aug 24 Actuals £	Sept 24 Actuals £	Oct 24 Actuals £	Nov 24 Actuals £	Dec 24 Actuals £	Jan 25 Actuals £	Feb 25 Actuals £	Mar 25 Actuals £	Totals 2024/25	Budget 2024/25
Sales														
Contribution to Town Centre Security (4040)	0	0	0	645	0	0	613	0	0	0	0	0	1,258	450
Weald Hall Events (4050)	1,655	583	1,888	1,168	949	671	1,462	5,623	4,725	2,578	1,244	3,177	25,721	25,000
Allotments (4100)	3,542	2,743	46	88	63	51	63	11	30	129	0	0	6,765	8,000
Allotment Admin Charge (4102)	2,160	1,440	135	75	45	30	45	15	15	15	0	0	3,975	3,000
Allotment Deposits (4101)	104	312	262	208	156	104	156	52	52	260	0	(52)	1,614	1,000
Playing Fields & Pitches, Sport Income (4110)	(807)	159	372	99	0	120	377	0	0	3,553	0	11,102	14,975	16,000
Playing Fields & Pitches, Event Income (4120)	0	1,455	16	483	4,397	754	(250)	0	0	0	0	600	7,455	6,500
WDC- WPark Culverts Agreement (4123)	0	0	0	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	400
Cemetery - Interments (4180)	1,001	2,848	0	1,690	3,892	8,654	1,198	5,125	1,198	1,658	2,809	4,432	34,505	36,000
Cemetery - Memorials (4181)	236	582	635	516	1,151	1,336	321	0	172	642	722	60	6,374	6,800
Cemetery - Sundry income (4182)	0	94	47	47	94	140	94	0	47	0	200	47	808	200
Cemetery Maintenance Charge (4183)	318	636	0	318	318	742	212	318	212	212	424	318	4,030	4,200
Memorial bench income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,133	0	814	0	1,947	0
Farmers Market Income (4270)	0	0	180	60	0	105	75	90	60	0	75	75	720	0
Env Sundry Income (4275)	46	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	57	200
Sundry Income (4276)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Litter/bus station (4295)	0	0	398	0	398	0	0	265	0	0	398	0	1,458	1,590
Road Safety Week/Eco EXPO (4370)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Weald on the Field (4387)	0	0	0	1,500	250	1,655	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,405	5,000
Roundabout income (4350)	0	0	0	864	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	864	864
Grounds vehicle disposal (4124)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	140	0	440	0
Total Sales	8,255	10,851	3,979	7,760	12,122	14,362	4,365	11,500	7,646	9,347	6,825	19,758	116,771	115,304
Grant funding income														
Wealden DC (step improvements followed by Community Orchards)	0	0	960	0	2,318	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,278	0
Police & Crime Commissioner (Pillar lighting)	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,500	0
Safer Wealden Partnership (Pillar lighting)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	0	0	2,500	0
Income for Cycle to Work Scheme	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	0	1,271	0
Boxes highlighted are to be funded or part funded by earmarked reserves/new initiative spending														
Purchases														
Playing fields and pitches (5120)	250	475	9	3,143	1,655	1,208	19	722	2,105	1,787	187	1,625	13,185	19,000
Playing fields electricity (5122)	0	23	162	168	35	221	297	99	28	86	0	182	1,301	2,350
Play Areas (5176)	0	2,328	42	35	0	0	762	0	1,407	0	0	9	4,582	4,000
Ground Maintenance General (5204)	727	1,122	568	799	314	194	280	341	58	171	237	142	4,953	5,000
General equipment repairs (5201)	0	0	179	325	1,285	536	158	658	103	489	155	30	3,916	7,000
New Equipment and hire (5202)	90	0	2,644	2,749	200	1,925	480	0	229	80	204	100	8,701	5,000
Transit (5269)	84	0	983	141	0	431	0	86	89	0	0	0	1,815	2,000
Movana Vehicle (5279)	930	85	89	192	86	177	576	87	262	78	669	507	3,738	2,000
Tractor maintenance & running costs (5275)	104	301	635	226	271	145	134	157	68	69	(316)	231	2,025	2,000
Ford Ranger (5271)	74	73	407	142	579	126	99	133	0	138	65	0	1,835	2,000
Rainwater Harvester Maintenance (5283)	107	1,150	0	0	0	0	0	0	995	0	0	0	2,252	1,200
Grass cutting mower (5276)	105	0	0	357	97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	559	1,500
Allotments (5100)	140	(1,199)	246	80	338	(520)	366	173	352	242	449	28	695	3,500
LNRS & Sites of Interest (Working budget) (5231)	545	236	813	156	251	158	0	24	9	38	48	42	2,320	3,000
Litter bins (5295)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000
Litter collection, open spaces (5296)	1,232	1,007	1,147	1,093	1,064	892	1,018	1,059	1,232	881	588	881	12,092	12,000
Repair and replace street furniture (5375)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500
Corp dev- signage outside areas (5330)	217	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	217	1,000
Protective - Outdoor staff (5058)	43	46	242	729	0	132	55	0	168	0	0	13	1,427	1,000
Fencing (5280)	646	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250	0	0	914	1,000
Horticulture (5299)	0	0	0	0	0	0	258	0	0	0	31	0	290	300
Trees (5285)	1,050	1,950	600	1,200	3,150	1,055	1,800	900	968	900	900	5,074	19,548	12,000
HMLNR & WPLNR (5033)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
Weald Hall Events (5300)	0	2,113	33	437	0	868	0	2,350	2,923	5,500	350	0	14,574	15,000
Performing rights (5301)	0	0	0	0	0	569	0	0	0	492	0	0	1,061	2,000
Event Advertising Marketing (5302)	349	125	130	80	157	890	280	120	80	472	324	80	3,086	3,000
Weald on the Field (5078)	675	0	39	5,277	4,645	684	0	100	0	0	0	0	11,420	10,000
Town Security/CCTV (5370)	1,161	(1,100)	0	0	1,702	0	0	0	1,899	0	0	1,480	5,142	2,650
Floral displays (5373)	0	0	1,960	537	537	537	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,572	3,600
Cemetery, grave digging (5181)	320	0	640	320	320	640	640	960	0	320	640	640	5,440	5,000

Environment and Leisure Committee at 31 March 2025

	Apr 24 Actuals £	May 24 Actuals £	Jun 24 Actuals £	Jul 24 Actuals £	Aug 24 Actuals £	Sept 24 Actuals £	Oct 24 Actuals £	Nov 24 Actuals £	Dec 24 Actuals £	Jan 25 Actuals £	Feb 25 Actuals £	Mar 25 Actuals £	Totals 2024/25	Budget 2024/25
Cemetery, rates & water (5180)	156	115	115	112	115	115	140	115	115	153	0	0	1,251	1,500
Cemetery, litter (5182)	343	245	245	245	196	163	276	163	228	204	204	222	2,733	3,000
Cemetery, maintenance (5186)	186	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	7	198	200
Memorial benches	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	866	0	632	1,498	0
Street lights, supply & maintenance (5080)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,700	9,700	11,000
Street light repairs (5081)	0	5,528	4,130	4,133	0	0	11,076	9,835	0	5,172	0	0	39,872	15,000
Bus shelters (5086)	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	500
Repairs to Holy Cross Churchyard (5051)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	400	0	0	0	400	0
Groundsmen - salaries (5360)	8,869	11,023	10,827	10,827	10,916	10,827	10,827	15,034	11,365	11,365	11,365	11,364	134,608	137,626
Groundsmen - National insurance (5361)	805	998	971	971	983	971	971	1,552	1,045	1,045	1,045	1,045	12,404	12,716
Groundsmen - Pension (5362)	2,256	2,689	2,650	2,650	2,703	2,650	2,650	3,668	2,780	2,800	2,780	2,780	33,055	33,734
LNRS & Sites of Interest (Ranger) (5230)	2,577	2,577	2,577	2,577	2,880	2,577	2,577	3,556	2,700	3,007	2,728	2,700	33,036	33,120
Total Purchases	24,041	31,980	33,082	39,699	34,478	28,173	35,739	41,893	31,613	36,603	22,652	39,513	399,466	379,496

Please note that £4,701.00 can be allocated from earmarked reserves (Tree Works) to contribute towards the £7.5k overspend on tree works/surveying. The £24,872 overspend on streetlighting repairs will be covered by earmarked reserves (CIL and Streetlighting repairs). £1,049 of new equipment is allocated within earmarked reserves (hedgcutters). Meaning that the above total revenue expenditure is £368,844 (£10,652 underspend).

New initiatives 2024/25

ESCC Grass Verge cutting (5207)	5,686	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,686	5,686
Tree for a tree planting programme (5050)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,039	0	0	462	417	0	2,917	1,000
Beacon Lighting events (5209)	421	1,141	790	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,352	2,000
Roofed compound for grounds storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
Chainsaw for Ranger	0	0	0	0	0	900	0	0	0	0	0	0	900	650
Harlands Pond Mgt Plan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	178	55	0	0	0	233	950
Total new initiatives 2024/25	6,107	1,141	790	0	0	900	2,039	178	55	462	417	0	12,089	10,786
Earmarked reserves expenditure covering above expenditure (in progress)														
Pitch improvement works (cricket or football) CIL	2,095	0	2,435	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,530	0
New Holland Tractor	0	11,497	1,163	1,163	1,163	1,718	1,163	1,163	1,163	1,163	1,163	1,163	23,681	0
New Tractor Attachments	0	0	0	769	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	769	0
Wildflower planting	0	142	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	174	0	316	0
Gazebo and equipment for events	0	433	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	433	0
Ash dieback works	72	0	775	0	2,660	600	3,657	2,236	0	1,550	80	0	11,630	0
Hedgcutters	0	0	1,049	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,049	0
Grillo Brush Cutter (5272)	0	0	1,186	469	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	4,852	0
Renew interpretation boards (5073)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,265	0	2,265	0
Ridgewood Car Park Surface (5085)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,270	0	0	0	0	1,270	0
Vehicle replacement (5099)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	0	7,678	0	940	8,723	0
Streetlighting repairs (plus CIL)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24,872	0
Tree works	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,701	0
Pillar lighting project (CIL)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,197	1,632	558	0	0	8,387	0
Grillo Mower (DR Hand Mower)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,400	2,400	0

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Agenda Item 6.1

TO CONSIDER FURTHER DRAINAGE WORKS AT RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE HALL

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of further drainage works required at Ridgewood Village Hall since the building is still experiencing water ingress from water run-off from Ridgewood Recreation Ground.
- 1.2 Uckfield Town Council have been asked to arrange to have this issue sorted out as soon as possible to stop the water seeping into the basement and end storage room.
- 1.3 Following discussions held with the Town Council and C.J. Thorne & Co Ltd in early April, the Ridgewood Village Hall Committee had voted against paying for the drainage works and wished for the Town Council to pay for the full works, stating that this is a direct result of the drainage issues from the recreation ground, which like the car park, had not been well managed for decades.
- 1.4 Uckfield Town Council have suggested splitting those costs equally to assist with those costs under the lease agreement.

2.0 Situation and Costs involved

- 2.1 The Ridgewood Village Management Committee have obtained a quotation for further drainage and construction of a shingle system on the side of the building totalling the sum of £4,877.00 + VAT (see Appendix A).
- 2.2 They have a full repairing lease for the building (see Appendix B – Land Registry title plan: highlighted in red). Uckfield Town Council have outright ownership of the recreation ground and are the owner of Ridgewood Village Hall.
- 2.3 The Town Council have been made previously aware that the storage rooms were being impacted by water ingress. Works have been undertaken on the southern side of the hall. Now it is being proposed that works be undertaken on the eastern side which is where C.J. Thorne & Co Ltd have suggested the creation of a soak away.

3.0 Improvements to the Ridgewood Village Hall

- 3.1 The trustees feel very strongly that they have more than met their lease agreement and have asked for members to consider how much they have spent on improvements to the building and interior spaces so far.
- 3.2 Last year, they raised and spent £15k to refurbish and repair the store rooms and doors which had been damaged due to the flooding in the car park. They also paid for Thornes to create French drains in the car park to ease the flooding into the storage rooms. They have spent approximately £100k in refurbishment works and updating the building but continue to improve it, with new guttering on the car park side last year and more replacement guttering and downpipes on the field side booked for installation at the end of May, costing approximately £4k.

3.3 They are also arranging for solar panels to be placed on the building in May which will cost in the region of £3.5k, with support from Payne's Heating and Plumbing Services.

4.0 In Summary

4.1 The Chair of the Ridgewood Village Hall Management Committee has pointed out that they are a very small charity and raise all their money from room rent and their own fundraising.

4.2 They have received the following grant funding from Uckfield Town Council in the past few years:

2025/26 - £500

2024/25 - £4,134

2023/24 - £1,250.96

2022/23 - £1,505.72

2021/22 - £1,000

2020/21 - £1,800

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Members are asked to consider their responsibilities as owner of Ridgewood Recreation Ground and Ridgewood Village Hall and subsequent impact on the hall.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Our Ref: CMT/JSH/20241121

Thursday 21st November 2024

James Hollingdale
Council Office,
Civic Centre,
Uckfield,
East Sussex,
TN22 1AE

By Email Only: james@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

Ridgewood Village Hall: Construction of Shingle Drainage System on Southern Side of Building

Further to your request for a quotation for the above works and our subsequent site visit last week, we are pleased to quote for the supply of all necessary labour, plant and materials to carry out the following operation:

- Mobilise machinery and materials.
- Set up small compound area in corner of carpark with Heras fencing.
- Excavate circa 15m (L) x 0.6m (W) x 0.5m (D) adjacent to perimeter of building from access ramp.
- Dispose of surplus muck to a local licenced tip.
- Install geotextile and bed of shingle.
- Lay 100mm dia. perforated pipe wrapped in geotextile.
- Connect to downpipe on the corner of the building.
- Connect pipework into existing drainage around retaining wall.
- Install waterproofing to the external side of the brick wall.
- Backfill trench with 20mm shingle and wrap with geotextile.
- Clear and demobilise site.

All for the sum of **£4,877.00 + VAT**

Please note that we have assumed that existing utilities are sufficiently deep to allow the proposed excavation depth without any need for lowering or diversion and confirm that our price is based on the following additional caveats and assumptions:

- Tender allowance for working Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm.
- No allowance for any environmental or ecological mitigation.
- No allowance to deal or discharge any excessive ground water.
- No allowance to deal or dispose of any contaminated ground.
- No allowance for any trackway or ground guard systems to be used.
- No allowance for any additional topsoil, reinstatement to be as dug materials.

Yours faithfully,
For C. J. Thorne & Co. Ltd



J. Holmes



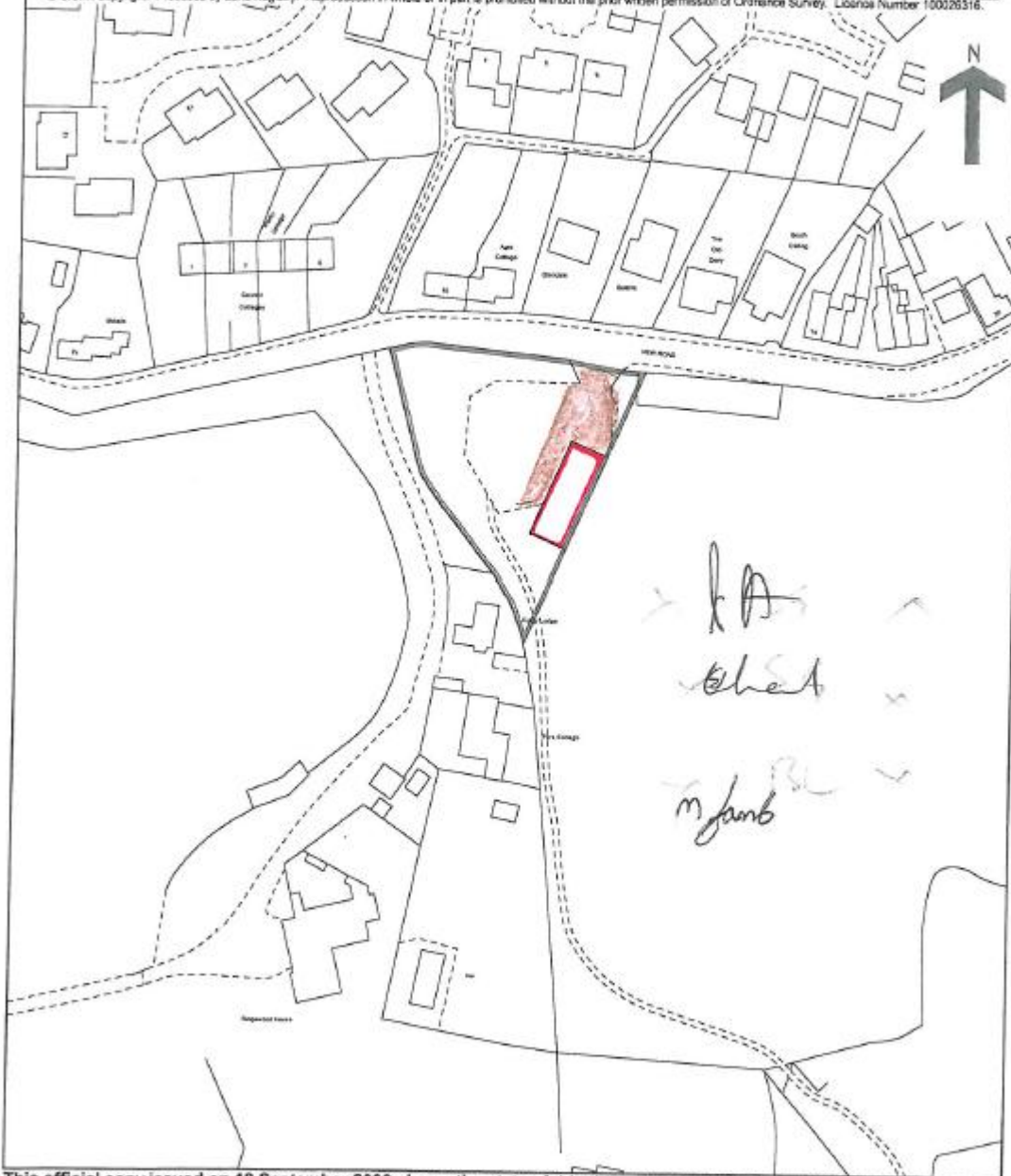
Registered in England No: 00358221
Registered Office: The Courtyard, Shoreham Road,
Upper Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3TN
Directors: J M Fraser, C M Thorne, S A Taylor,
K J Thorne, M J Hailes, A B Loveridge

Land Registry
Official copy of
title plan

Title number **ESX324836**
Ordnance Survey map reference **TQ4719SE**
Scale **1:1250** enlarged from 1:2500
Administrative area **East Sussex: Wealden**



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This official copy issued on 18 September 2009 shows the state of this title plan on 18 September 2009 at 13:09:08. It is admissible in evidence to the same extent as the original (s.67 Land Registration Act 2002).

This title plan shows the general position, not the exact line, of the boundaries. It may be subject to distortions in scale. Measurements scaled from this plan may not match measurements between the same points on the ground. See Land Registry Public Guide 19 - Title Plans and Boundaries.

This title is dealt with by Land Registry, Portsmouth Office.

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Agenda Item 6.2

TO REQUEST ANY ITEMS FOR THE STRENGTHENING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS MEETING WITH EAST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS ON 1 JULY 2025

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Members are asked to provide any items they may wish to raise for the next Strengthening Local Relations meeting to be held on 1 July 2025. This meeting is a partnership meeting between Uckfield Town Council and East Sussex Highways and takes place every six months. This enables us to raise ongoing issues that need to be brought to attention. This is not for minor issues that have just arisen can that be easily reported to East Sussex Highways, as and when the issues occur.
- 1.2 The agenda will be circulated two weeks prior to that meeting by ES Highways Customer Service Management (items therefore required by 17 June 2025) so that all attendees, including the Highway Steward, are aware and can provide any feedback or updates at the meeting.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to provide any items for consideration.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Agenda Item 6.4

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BODY – LOCAL NATURE RESERVE SUPPORTERS GROUP

1.0. Outside Bodies

1.1. At the Annual Statutory meeting of the Council on 19 May 2025 it was agreed that a representative (and substitute) for the L.N.R. Supporters Group would be appointed at the first meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee.

1.2. The Clerk advises for two Council members who express an interest to be appointed representatives for the supporters' group. It would be beneficial if they are users of the local nature reserves and/or have a keen interest in the ecology of West Park Local Nature Reserve and the Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve, both of which are owned by Uckfield Town Council.

2.0. Recommendation

2.1 Members are required to appoint a maximum of two representatives (one and one substitute) to the Local Nature Reserve Supporter Group.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Agenda Item 7.1

TO NOTE THE CURRENT POSITION WITH THE TOWN COUNCIL'S ESTATES

1.0 Summary

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

Victoria Pleasure Ground and skatepark

The formal invitation to tender process to seek contractors to upgrade the play area is complete and all tenders are now in for consideration.

Hempstead Lane Play Area and Hempstead Meadows LNR

The zip line will be replaced with new equipment at the same time as the upgrade of Victoria play area.

The newly replaced safety fencing at the top of the slide has been vandalised and will need to be repaired.

West Park/Rocks Park Play Area

The play area equipment is coming to the end of its life. This will therefore be the next play area to upgrade following Victoria. The multi-play toddler has been vandalised and will need to be repaired.

West Park Recreation Ground and West Park LNR

The Town Clerk met with a representative of the Uckfield Grasshoppers to understand the drainage issues at West Park recreation ground as part of an application for Sport and Infrastructure grant funding.

Snatts Road Cemetery

Staff are currently working on mapping the new burial section to be known as the Y-section and the process of consecration in the north west of the cemetery (report submitted to this meeting).

A new contractor has been appointed and commenced works on a part-time basis to tend to the cemetery's grounds and provide it with the sensitive and greater attention it needs. This has seen positive feedback already.

Ridgewood Recreation Ground

Nothing to report.

Elizabeth Gardens

Nothing to report.

Hughes Way play area

A sink hole has appeared in the play area and this is somewhat larger than previous occasions, so will need appropriate investigation.

Luxford field and play area

Following on from the three-monthly play inspections, some repairs have been carried out. There are a couple outstanding.

Woodlands

Ash dieback works in Boothland Wood were completed during the winter season, and restocking work undertaken. This was the third year of the scheduled work identified within the Woodland Management Plan developed with the support of the Forestry Commission in 2021. Contractors will remove some of the timber during the summer months once the wood has further dried out. This will be completed carefully so as to respect this natural area.

Preliminary ecological appraisals have now commenced for the following areas- Boothlands Wood, WPLNR and HMLNR. Along with this, a dormouse survey is due to be carried out in Boothland Wood due to the amount of development occurring on the surrounding land.

The Countryside Ranger is currently in the process of commissioning specialist preliminary ecological appraisals in the nature reserves. The same company will also complete a dormouse survey in Boothland Wood. A further quote is also being obtained for the inclusion of a bat survey.

The Countryside Ranger is investigating the costs of fencing areas of the wood to protect it from footfall and damage during development construction.

Equipment & Vehicles

The new Toyota Hilux is due to arrive in June with the old Ford Ranger been retired from service.

Street Furniture & Lighting

The Estates and Facilities Manager has devised a useful system to keep up to date with any pending and authorised works. We are seeing works completed in good time. Extra works are being scheduled to ensure the infrastructure for the Christmas light display is in place well before installation.

Harlands Pond

The Newt Conservation Partnership carried out some studies by Harlands Balancing Pond (near the Nightingales) and West Park Local Nature Reserve on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 April. This involved them digging test pit holes of approximately 1 metre square.

Any other business

The Grounds team are currently working through ROSPA inspections reports, carrying out repairs and replacements.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Agenda Item 7.2

TO CONSIDER AN ENQUIRY FROM A LOCAL RESIDENT IN RELATION TO COPPICED TREES TO REAR OF PROPERTY

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Local residents who live at 15 Calvert Close, Uckfield has submitted the following request to be brought to members of the Environment and Leisure Committee:

"We are blessed to live close on West Park, with gardens backing on to the reserve. We are keen birdwatchers and take a great interest in all of the nature around us. The Ranger, Tom and his team have made lots of positive changes recently with ecology and conservation in mind, which is a delight. We have made contact several times with the Town Council about the size and proximity of the trees directly at our garden border and Tom has been out to discuss them.

We know they are a low priority in terms of expenditure but we remain worried about the trees and also a bit upset that because the trees are on council owned property, there is little we can do to remedy how foreboding they are, ourselves. In some cases, trees with an estimate of 50ft high and a trunk circumference of 3 feet are virtually leaning on perimeter garden fencing.

We know it is too late in the nesting bird breeding season to carry out work on the trees once again this year, but are concerned that because of cost, any work to the trees will keep being pushed back year on year. We know that trees were coppiced and topped along the perimeter garden line to Hart Close and would like to know why this happened please?

Thank you for your consideration."

- 1.2 The Head Groundsman has specified that all boundary and significant trees within the Grounds responsibility are subject to independent inspections on a rolling three-year cycle. Following each inspection, any trees identified as requiring attention are recorded and prioritised on a schedule of works. Those deemed to require immediate intervention are addressed first, whilst others are allocated appropriate timeframes for either remedial works or more frequent reinspection. As a matter of policy, the Town Council typically undertakes tree works only where trees are classified as dead, dying or dangerous.

- 1.3 The Ranger will attend this meeting to answer any questions that members may have and has also provided a response to these kind of questions in the interim:

This is more of an issue of light than anything else, so the question being asked of the committee members is would be whether they wished to change the councils tree policy with regards to works due to a decrease in light. Unfortunately, by works being carried out around some properties by previous staff it has set a precedent. That being said, the majority of works along that boundary have been carried out as a result of the surveys.

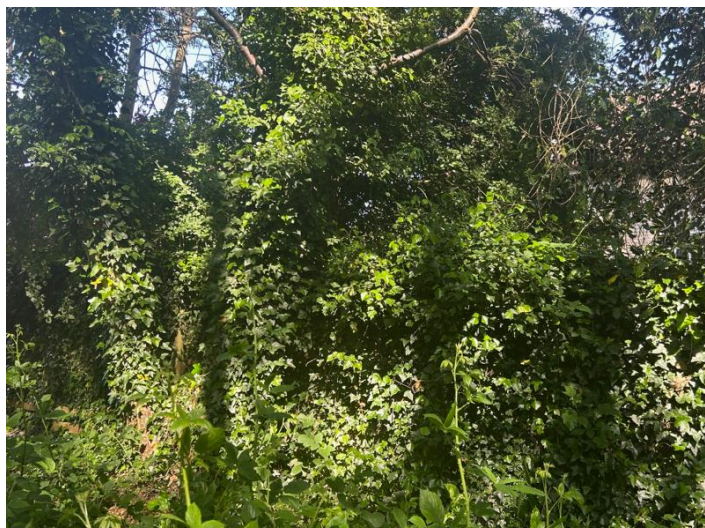
Being boundary trees they would have been surveyed and should any concerns have been raised this would have been addressed.

The Ranger has suggested that they can of course create a schedule of boundary thinning works to address the constant flow of enquiries with regards to light, at a cost of £450-£750 per day depending on the direction members wish to take, and to bear in mind that with such a large holding of trees it is something that with the current staffing the Grounds team are never going to get on top of in all honesty.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note the report and provide any further comments.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton



Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Agenda Item 7.3

TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK FOR THE ASHDOWN FOREST WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 This report provides information in connection with a draft proposal for the Ashdown Forest Woodland Management Plan Consultation, recently written by Maydencroft. who are environmental experts and are responsible for restoring landscapes spanning the commercial, private, public, utility and charity sectors.

They are environmental experts and their portfolio includes tree surgery, landscaping and grounds maintenance across a broad spectrum, including historic houses and garden cities.

Their ten-year woodland management plan for Ashdown Forest focuses on the following objectives:

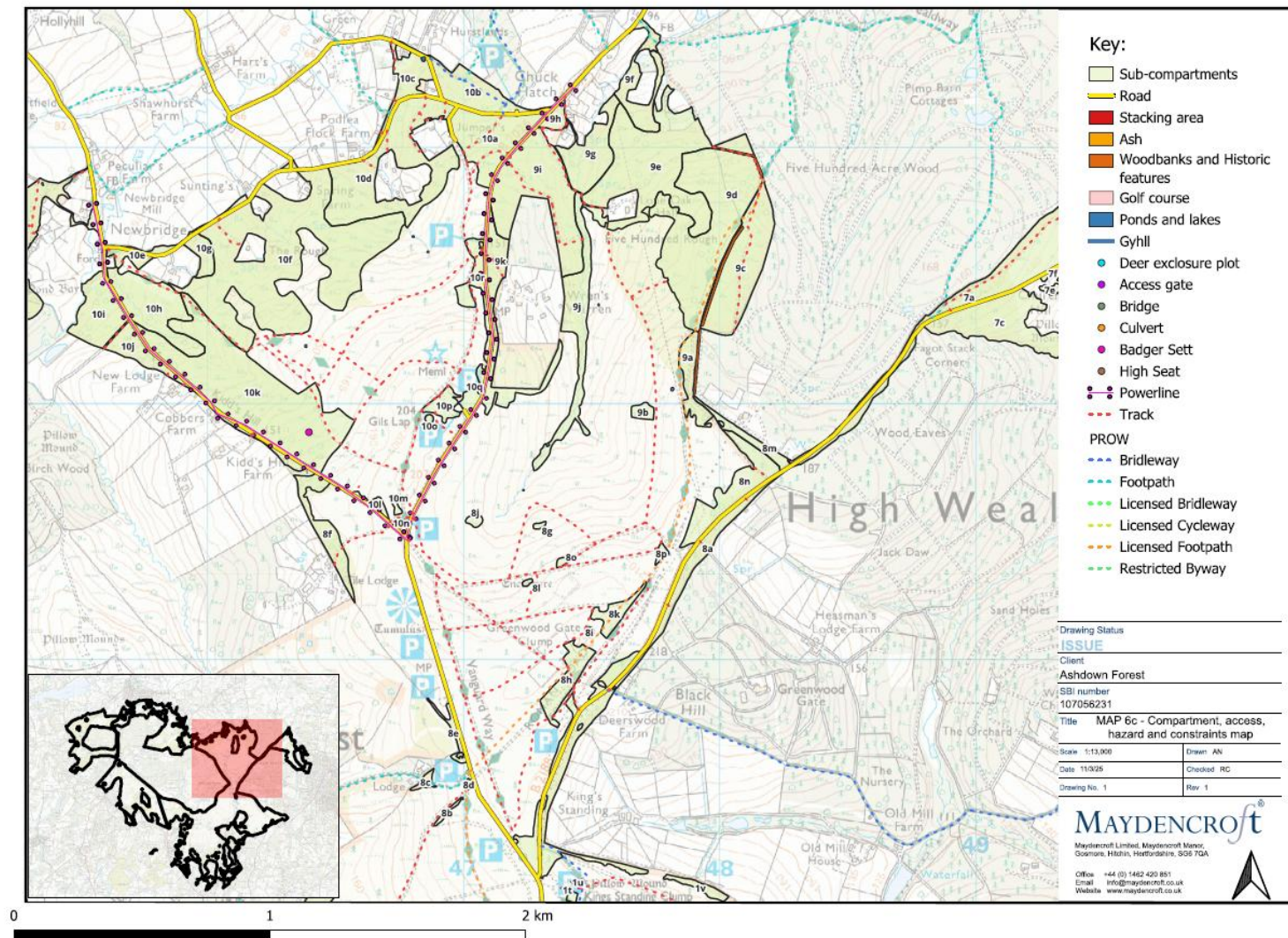
- All woodland types on Ashdown Forest, including broadleaved semi-natural woodland, wet woodland, wood pasture, mixed woodland, and notable ancient and veteran trees/woods, will be protected and enhanced through active restoration, monitoring, and long-term sustainable practices.
- SSSI areas identified as unfavourable declining will be returned to favourable condition
- Deer species in particular fallow deer populations will be managed and habitat impact monitored
- Woodland management will prioritize the enhancement and protection of habitats for key protected species, ensuring their long-term viability.
- Woodland management will include measures to protect and preserve archaeological features, safeguarding Ashdown Forest's cultural and historical heritage.
- Ashdown Forest will be maintained as a valued amenity, offering opportunities for public enjoyment, education, and community engagement, with tree safety measures in place to protect users.
- Economic opportunities will be explored and utilized to support the ongoing management and conservation of Ashdown Forest.

2.0 Website details

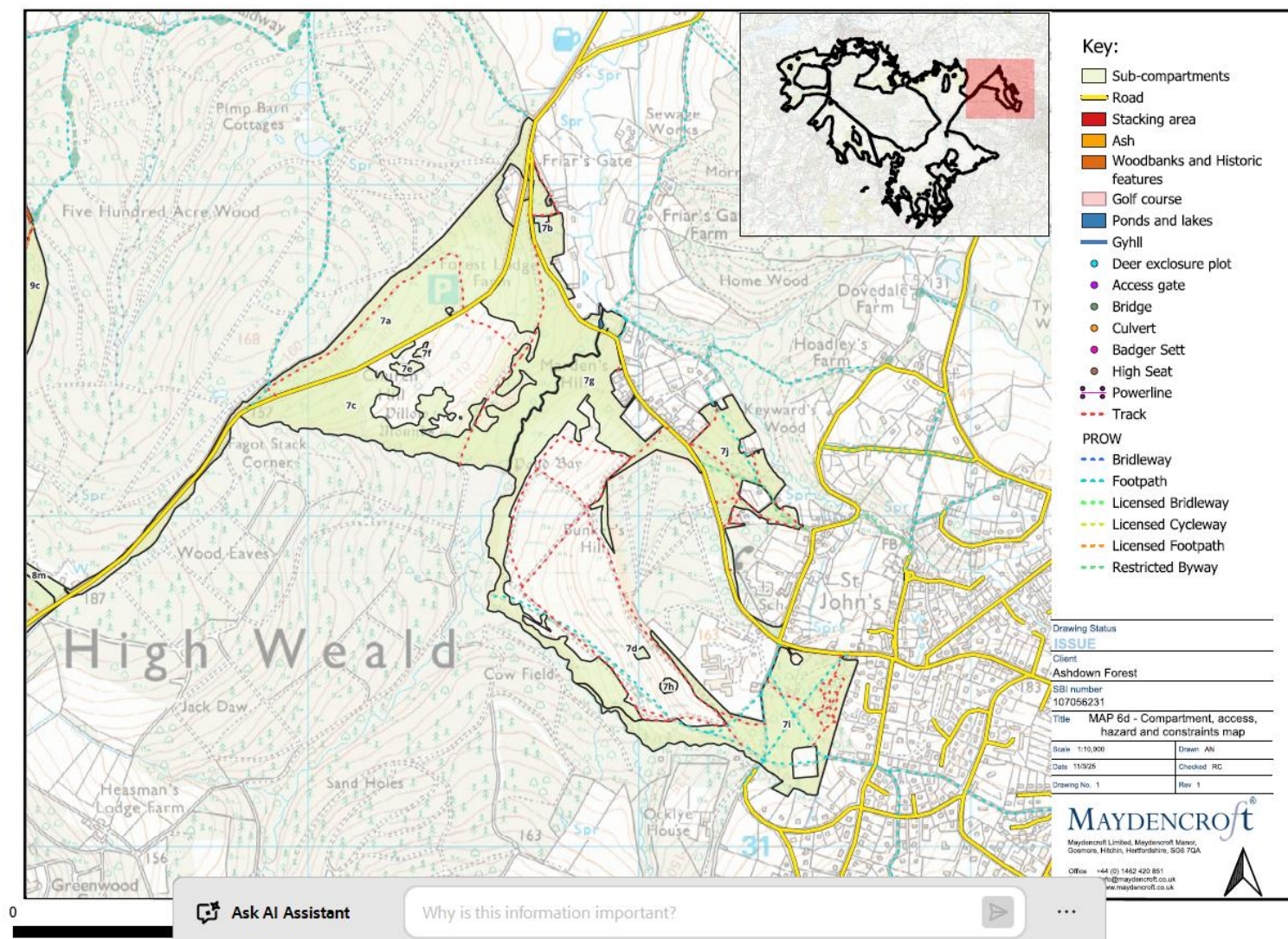
- 2.1 A summary review of their vision and services can be found via the following weblink: [Maydencroft | A world of sustainable environmental solutions](#)
- 2.2 Due to the complexity and size of the maps which form the main part of the plan, only a small collection have been provided as these cannot be found on the website (Appendices A, B and C), although members can get in touch direct if they wished to review all available maps.

3.0 Recommendation

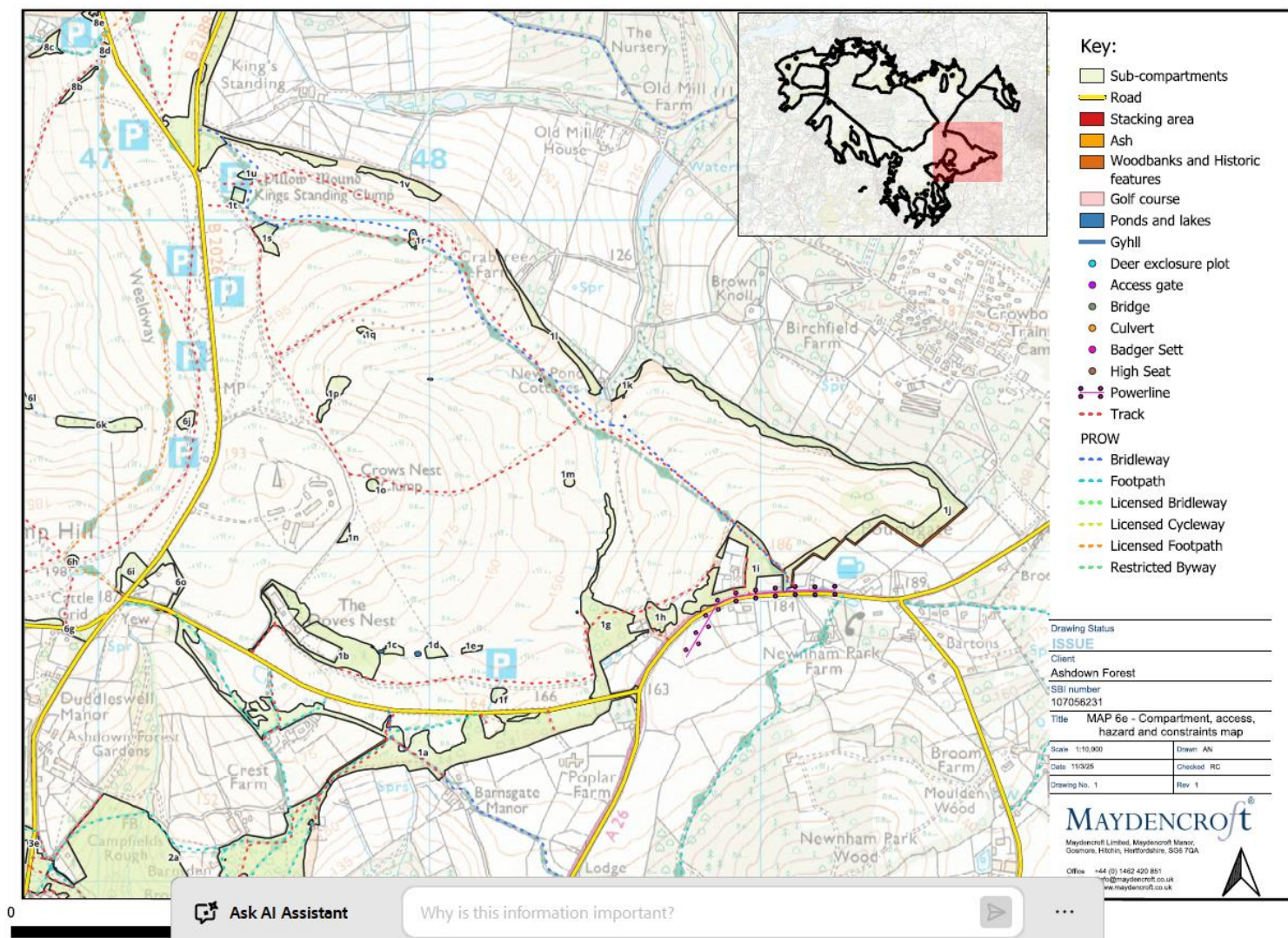
- 3.1 The Town Council has been given an extension to respond by Wednesday 28 May, based on the fact that the deadline falls on the day of this meeting. Members are asked how they wish to respond.
Contact Officer: Rachel Newton



7.3(AppA – Hazard and Constraints Map)



7.3(AppB – Access, Hazard and Constraints Map)



7.3(AppC – Access, Hazard and Constraints Map)

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Agenda Item 8.1

TO NOTE A BRIEF UPDATE IN RELATION TO 'OUR PARKS' FITNESS SESSIONS AT RIDGEWOOD RECREATION GROUND

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 Our Parks sessions changed location from February onwards from Harlands Farm Playing Fields to the multi-use games area at Ridgewood Recreation Ground.

The Wealden Wellbeing team are currently recruiting to replace their Coordinator who had done an amazing job to keep this initiative going for the local community. Local residents are encouraged to take part!

2.0 Attendance levels going up

- 2.1 The data for Uckfield Harlands Farm/Ridgewood Rec is below (average attendance per session is 7.2):

Month	Harlands Farm, Uckfield (From Feb 25 Ridgewood Rec)
Oct-24	19
Nov-24	43
Dec-24	22
Jan-25	49
Feb-25	52
Mar-25	90
Apr-25	
May-25	
Jun-25	
Jul-25	
Aug-25	
Total	275

3.0 What it's about

- 3.1 Sessions are taking place every Saturday and Wednesday mornings at 9:30am by a qualified fitness instructor.

To take part, residents can book their FREE fitness session online at: 🙌
<https://ourparks.org.uk/borough/ridgewood-recreation-ground>

Residents need to register, then book each session beforehand.

Sessions include:

- a 60-minute Bootcamp style workout on Saturdays, which offers a full body workout. These classes are suited to all levels, as the coach always offers modifications so you can take it at your own pace!

- a 60-minute HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) class on Wednesdays, with variations for different fitness levels, so it's perfect for beginners or anyone getting back into fitness.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Agenda Item 9.1

REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS: CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING GROUP UPDATE

1.0 Summary Report

- 1.1 The group met on 6 May 2025. Those present thanked Cllr. Reed for her incredible work on the mapping document for Uckfield Town Council's pledge to Weald to Waves. Cllrs McClafferty, French and Smith were supporting with proof-reading.
- 1.2 The Town Clerk has been asked to look into the arcgis.com story-maps software licence prior to releasing the proposed nature pledge (a draft was shown to members at the last meeting in April).
- 1.3 If anyone has any feedback or suggestions for any further modifications, please get in touch prior to members agreement and subject to finalising the licence.
- 1.4 It was also agreed to hold a second Eco Expo at the Civic Centre on 27 September 2025. Cllr. Bedwell will contact previous participants. Other members will suggest potential additional stall-holders.

Cllr. Angie Smith/Cllr Bernadette Reed

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Agenda Item 10.2

OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS: CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Ashdown Forest Facebook page is tracking the conservation herds and noting the birds on the forest, whilst migratory birds are returning.
- 1.2 The next Parish Liaison meeting of the Ashdown Forest Conservators is on 28 May.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report

Councillor B. Reed

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Agenda Item 10.4

LUXFORD CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

1.0 Summary report

1.1 The AGM for the year 2024 for the Luxford Centre was held on the 10 May 2025.

The minutes for the previous year were agreed by those present and duly signed.

Accounts covering the period were presented by the Treasurer and following explanation and discussion were agreed and accepted. The accounts showed a deficit of £2,229.00 for the year which was due to some outstanding rental invoice payments and exceptional items of expenditure.

Both the House and Executive Chairman gave their reports covering the work by both committees and thanks to all members of the committees for the hard work and support.

Election of members of the House Committee and governing trustees and officers were followed by the election of Chairman and all given unanimous votes.

A general request was made by the Trustee Chairman for members to assist in the various operations within the centre and to support tasks in the running of the club. This was followed by a report on the fundraising to enable the proposed extension works to be enabled.

All members were encouraged to be involved to support the fundraising sub-committee.

The Chairman thanked all members for attending and duly closed the meeting.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Agenda Item 10.5

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: UCKFIELD RAILWAY LINE PARISHES COMMITTEE UPDATE

1.0 Summary report

The May meeting welcomed Mandy Thomas Atkin, Senior Case Worker for Mims Davies MP, who advised that Mims was very interested in the work of the group and its aims and suggested various matters that could be considered. The Chair thanked her for attending and the support we had been given.

In response to contact with GTR requesting that attendance of their representative be reinstated, we had been advised that this was not how they now operate and any comments should be addressed to the GTR Stakeholder Team who would comment accordingly.

The pop-up sign celebrating 200 years of railway will not now be placed in Bridge Cottage but will be positioned in the town centre. The design was discussed and the Facebook page was confirmed as now established.

The current service was generally considered satisfactory with a few exceptions and that, following a members' survey, there appeared to be a rise of approximately six percent in passengers at Edenbridge in peak times.

The next meeting is on 9 July 2025 at the Buxted Inn.

Councillor C. Macve

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton