



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held on  
Monday 13 April 2026 at 7.00pm  
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Uckfield

**PRESENT:**

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

Cllr. Bernadette Reed (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr. Donna French  
Cllr. Spike Mayhew

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Peter Selby

Thomas Woollard – Estates Manager  
Rachel Newton – Senior Administrative Officer  
Minutes taken by Rachel Newton

**1.0. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members and officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda. None were forthcoming.

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

None received.

**3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor D. Bennett (due to a family commitment) and Councillor M. McClafferty.

**4.0. MINUTES**

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 2 March 2026

**EL.52.04.26** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on 2 March 2026, be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4.2. Action list

Members noted the report with no items requiring removal.

4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only

Members noted the report with no items to be removed.

4.4. Forward plan – for information only

Members noted the report.

**5.0. FINANCE**

5.1. To note bills paid

Members noted the report without comments.

- 5.2 To note the income & expenditure report ending 31 January 2026  
Members noted the report without comments.

## 7.0 ENVIRONMENT

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

Members noted the report. Following a recent visit to Boothland Wood, the newly installed fencing to protect the ancient woodland had been subject to vandalism. A section of the boundary fence (north bank) had been displaced, likely due to interference from dog walkers. This would continue to be monitored.

The Estates Manager mentioned the need for CCTV to monitor this area and would investigate the installation of suitable signage to discourage trespassers.

It was noted that some local authorities in the UK were increasingly restricting professional dog walkers in public spaces, with several areas introducing licensing or permit schemes to manage this activity. This may be subject to further review.

- 7.2 To consider a review of the X-section at Snatts Road Cemetery and what would be permitted within the Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Members considered the report relating to the X-section, which had originally been designated as a lawned area with headstones only.

Concerns were raised regarding the challenges of maintaining consistency in memorials, and it was agreed that this matter could be reviewed sensitively and appropriately.

Members noted that this issue could not be addressed solely in response to an individual request, as it involved wider considerations and could be complex in nature, particularly in balancing consistency, existing arrangements, and the needs of multiple stakeholders.

Further discussion included the potential introduction of curved grave areas and other memorial features, alongside the need to carefully consider the impact on existing graves.

Members also emphasised the importance of clear and timely communication with families and funeral directors regarding any decisions being taken.

### **EL.53.04.26** Members **RESOLVED** to agree to:

- (i) reconvene the working group to review the X-section and develop any proposals, and;
- (ii) engage with the relevant stakeholders, including Deed holders and funeral directors, and;
- (iii) explore options for maintaining consistency whilst allowing for flexibility around edging and memorial styles.

## 8.0 LEISURE

Nothing to report.

## 9.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- 9.1 To receive a brief update from the Joint Allotment Working Group

Members received and noted a verbal update. Clarification would be sought on the appropriate use of the allotment shed and whether any planning or licensing requirements would apply in relation to its current operation.

## 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

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

Nothing to report at this time – with thanks to Councillor C. Macve.

10.5 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

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**

There were no Chair's announcements.

**12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

**EL.54.04.26**

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 and noted the updates. Opportunities for advertising in local publications would continue to be explored.

12.2 To note an update from the Society of Local Council Clerks on the Law Commission's final consultation report on burial and cremation

The report noted a confidential update from the Society of Local Council Clerks regarding the Law Commission's consultation on burial and cremation matters. It was further noted that the final report was expected to be published in mid-2028.

The meeting finished at 8:25 pm.