

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre on Monday 6th January 2020 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr. J Beesley (Chairman)
Cllr. B. Cox
Cllr. J. Edwards

Cllr. D. French (Vice Chairman)
Cllr. G. Johnson
Cllr. S. Mayhew
Cllr. A. Smith

IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of the press
Three members of the public
Councillor C. Macve
Councillor P. Sparks
District Councillor H. Firth

Holly Goring - Town Clerk
Mark Francis - Estates & Facilities Manager
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.

Councillor B. Cox wished to declare a personal interest in agenda item 6.1, due to his involvement with the Newtown Action Group. It was advised by the Town Clerk that he could participate in the discussions but not vote, if a vote was taken.

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

Two members of the audience wished to speak on items on the agenda.

EL.39.01.20 It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to enable statements from members of the public on matters relating to items on the agenda.

District Councillor Helen Firth wished to speak in relation to agenda items 6.1 – the licence for Selby Meadow. Selby Meadow was a fantastic space, peaceful, quiet, and had the loveliest oak tree. Councillor Firth wished to clarify that there had never been planning permission granted on the site, due to parking concerns, but applications had been submitted. If such a proposal were to happen now, it would end up making Selby Meadow an access route to the Harlands Estate. The Newtown Action Group had maintained the area for a number of years, and it was also used for children's parties. It was expressed that the meadow/community garden should remain.

A local resident and member of the Newtown Action Group, also wished to speak

in relation to agenda item 6.1. This resident advised that when local residents first heard of the planning application(s) they successfully stopped two lots of planning permission in 2010. In 2011, residents were given a year to clear the site and they did. The Newtown Action Group was then formed. At first they had a three year licence agreement for the space, this was then renewed for a further five years. Selby Meadow was a much loved and used space. The Newtown Action Group never used chemicals and the ecology was beginning to establish itself on the site.

EL.40.01.20 It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors K. Bedwell and D. Bennett.

4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 18th November 2019

EL.41.01.20 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 18th November 2019 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Members noted the action list.

4.3. Project Monitoring List – For information only

There was no project monitoring list, as a result of the projects being completed.

5.0. FINANCE

5.1. To note bills paid

Members noted the bills paid.

5.2. To note the income and expenditure report

Members noted the report.

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

6.1. To consider the renewal of the licence for Selby Meadow

One member stated that Selby Meadow was indeed a wonderful place and they were more than happy to support the renewal of the licence agreement to enable the Newtown Action Group to continue to maintain the space. It was also suggested that the agreement be extended, to 10 years perhaps. The Town Council was in favour of protecting its open spaces and important spaces within the town, were of great value to local residents.

Although this proposal was seconded by another member, discussion led members to consider whether the agreement should incorporate a review period, due to other developments in close proximity.

It was proposed that the licence agreement be renewed with the Newtown Action Group for Selby Meadow for a term of 10 years, with a review undertaken every three years. This was seconded.

EL.42.01.20 Members **RESOLVED** to:

(i) note the report;

(ii) renew the licence agreement for Selby Meadow with the Newtown Action Group, for a term of 10 years, with a review undertaken every three years.

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

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

Members wished to thank the Estates and Facilities Manager for his hard work.

One question was asked in relation to the Town Council's toilets at Victoria Pavilion and current locking arrangements. Unfortunately they had been badly vandalised over the Christmas break. The Estates & Facilities Manager updated members on the proposals for changing the door locking system in April 2020, as part of the building maintenance programme, and advised that the toilets would be locked overnight once the grounds staff left each day, in the meantime. The Estates & Facilities Manager was also investigating the costs of installing CCTV cameras around the building.

Members subsequently noted the report.

7.2 To receive an update on the ecological report on the Town Council's Land at Bellbrook

Members reviewed the report which provided a summary of the findings of the recent ecological report undertaken on the Town Council's open space at the rear of the Bellbrook Business Park.

EL.43.01.20 Members **RESOLVED to:**

- (i) note the report;
- (ii) investigate the costs involved of installing an otter holt at the base of the riverbank of Bellbrook open space;
- (iii) rename Bellbrook open space to 'Riverside Wood' to give it an identity.

8.0. LEISURE

8.1 To receive an update on Luxfords Play Area

Members reviewed the report circulated, noted their gratitude for the work planned and subsequently noted the report.

9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

9.1. Children Stay Safe Day

Nothing to report at this time.

9.2. Speed Indication Device (SID)

Nothing to report at this time.

9.3. Climate Change Working Group

Members reviewed the update provided by the working group. In the report, members had put forward a proposal to change the Children's Road Safety Day this year, in June, and requested that Uckfield Town Council look to hold an Environmental EXPO day in its place, focusing on how schools, residents, and businesses could reduce their impact on climate change.

One member felt that this was a good idea, and felt that Uckfield Town Council should be leading the way.

One member felt that we should see how this proposal worked this year, and perhaps alternate with the Road Safety Day format every other year.

EL.44.01.20 Members **RESOLVED to:**

- (i) note the report;
- (ii) hold an Environmental EXPO day in place of the annual road safety day in

2020, to focus on how schools, residents and businesses could reduce their impact on climate change.

- 9.4 2020 VE Anniversary Working Group
Nothing to report at this time.

10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- 10.1. Active Uckfield Group
Nothing to report at this time
- 10.2. Age Concern (AGM Only)
Members noted the report.
- 10.3. West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.4. Luxford Centre Management Committee
Members noted the report.
- 10.5. Uckfield and District Twinning Association
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.6. Uckfield Park Run Board
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.7. Uckfield Plastic Free Working Group
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.8. Uckfield Railway Line Parishes
Members noted the report.
- 10.9. Uckfield Youth Club Board
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.10. Wealden Bus Alliance
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.11 All Weather Pitch Operational Group
Members noted the report.

11.0 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, Councillor J. Beesley wished everyone a Happy New Year and looked forward to working with everyone over the course of the year.

He also wished to advise that the six monthly SLR Meeting (Strengthening Local Relationships) was due to take place with ES Highways on 22nd January. Members were asked to notify the Town Clerk of any items by 5.00pm on Monday 20th January, so these could be raised at the meeting.

One member suggested that deer signs should be purchased as there had recently been a number of near misses with deer on the A22 by-pass.

12.0. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

EL.45.01.20 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 reports.

The meeting finished at 7.43pm.