



UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk – Holly Goring

Meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** to be held on
Monday 7 November 2022 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chambers, 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 28 September 2022
- 4.2. Action list – for information only
- 4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only

5.0. FINANCE

- 5.1. To note bills paid
- 5.2. To note the provisional Income & Expenditure report for end September 2022
- 5.3. To start considering new initiatives for the draft budget 2023/24

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1. To note draft minutes from the Allotment Conference held 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.

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1. To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates
- 7.2. To consider an informal Arboricultural report on a large Beech Tree at West Park Recreation Ground
- 7.3. To consider a request to install a garden gate to the boundary fence of a property backing onto West Park Recreation Ground

8.0. LEISURE

Nothing to report.

9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- 9.1. Climate Change Working Group Update

10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- 10.1. Active Uckfield
- 10.2. Age Concern
- 10.3. All Weather Pitch Operational Group
- 10.4. Conservators of Ashdown Forest
- 10.5. West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group
- 10.6. Luxford Centre Management Committee
- 10.7. Uckfield and District Twinning Association
- 10.8. Uckfield Festival Association
- 10.9. Uckfield Parkrun Board
- 10.10. Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
- 10.11. Uckfield Youth Club Board
- 10.12. Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link

11.0. CHAIRMANS 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

1 November 2022



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held on
Wednesday 28 September 2022 at 7.00pm
in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Cllr. S. Mayhew (Chair)
Cllr. K. Bedwell
Cllr. D French

Cllr. A. Smith (Deputy Chair)
Cllr. J. Beesley

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor C. Macve
Two members of the public

Holly Goring – Town Clerk
Mark Francis – Estates & Facilities 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. No declarations of interest were announced.

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

EL.11.09.22 It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to enable Paul Fletcher, Chairman of Grasshoppers Football Club to speak in relation to item 8.1 on the agenda.

Uckfield Grasshoppers had made a request to Uckfield Town Council to change the football pitches to a new configuration at West Park. The Chairman made an announcement with their reasoning behind this request. Currently, the consequence of only having two pitches marked out left significant areas of the park that were not being utilised for the purpose of football. The club had also seen a huge rise in girls' participation in football over the last three to four years, especially with the introduction of the girls' football leagues throughout the county and countrywide. As such, Uckfield Grasshoppers had created its own girls only tournament.

The club had invested significantly in obtaining legal advice whilst seeking to take over the lease of West Park Pavilion and with this process being near complete, he stated that this would provide the Town Council with significant public savings year on year. He announced that the club would be responsible for paying all of the utility bills and any other associated costs would fall to Uckfield Grasshoppers, so with this major investment, there was now the aspiration for the football club to turn West Park into its headquarters for the club.

Furthermore, the pavilion offered the club the opportunity to provide tea, coffee, and food and the trophy cabinet to celebrate the club's history and ongoing successes. Other ideas would involve a widescreen tv to review video footage, as well a

secondhand swapshop. Central to all of this would be to change the pitch configuration so that the club would have the ability to play more matches and cater for the growing number of teams, and increase revenue streams with all that could be placed at the pavilion.

The Chairman added that with the age old problem with space for pitches and ever expanding Uckfield areas, this could be resolved with the space at West Park, but only if the Town Council provided enough pitches to allow more games. When the club encountered the adverse weather in the winter, pitches could be rested or rotated in use. A further pitch would also allow the mini section of the club to split the extra pitch into smaller ones, which in effect would provide the opportunity for five pitches to be configured, utilising the space accordingly.

To minimise any impact on local residents, the club had been incorporating a staggered kick-off process whereby matches kicked off at different times throughout the morning, over Saturdays and Sundays. This was to reduce traffic and cars being parked in the side roads and around the park, and also being mindful of litter being collected at the end of match days. The ideas for reconfiguration of the pitches had been planned to minimise the impact to any house with goals positioned at a very reasonable distance away to prevent any possible footballs being kicked out of the park and into neighbouring gardens. The club would also be happy to consider purchasing a temporary netting structure that could be put up and taken down to alleviate any potential issues, if this was considered necessary.

EL.12.09.22 Members **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received prior to the meeting from Councillor James Edwards, Councillor Duncan Bennett and Councillor Diane Ward who were all unable to attend.

4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 27th June 2022

EL.13.09.22 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 27th June 2022 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Members considered the action list which had been previously circulated – there were no items to be removed.

4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only

Members noted the report and agreed to remove the following item:

FC82.01.22 – Replacement Ground tools and equipment

This project had now been completed – no further action.

5.0. FINANCE

5.1. To note bills paid

Members noted the report.

5.2. To note the Income and Expenditure report up to 31 July 2022

Members noted the report.

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

6.1. To note draft minutes from the Strengthening Local Relations meeting on 13 July 2022

Members noted the report.

6.2 Update on Allotment Competition 2022

The Chairman thanked the judges from Stavertons Nursery for their support and judging capacity. Members subsequently noted the report.

7.0 ENVIRONMENT

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

Members noted the report.

7.2 To consider HMLNR Management Plan

Councillor Karen Bedwell wished to thank the Ranger for his detailed report.

EL.14.09.22 Members **RESOLVED** to agree to the five-year management plan submitted by the Ranger for Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve, which would run until 31 December 2027.

7.3 To note temporary bench removal – Hempstead Meadows (anti-social behaviour)

Following an enquiry from a local resident in June, regarding incidents of anti-social behaviour at Hempstead Meadows LNR, the closest bench to the Waitrose car park was temporarily removed, to prevent any further concerns during the summer months. The resident had also been asked to keep reporting any further incidents to Sussex Police so they could accurately carry out patrols in the area.

Members discussed the issue at some length, balancing the enjoyment of these open spaces for all users versus recorded incidents of ASB. Other areas of the town were referenced where issues had been experienced such as a bench which was located on the entrance to Mallard Drive.

There had been no feedback of further incidents at Hempstead Meadows LNR over the summer months, nor any anti-social behaviour near to the bench further along nearer to houses, although, this area was more sheltered by the trees so not in the open.

Members agreed that this should be a matter for Sussex Police to monitor, rather than to permanently remove a piece of street furniture such as a bench or litter bin, since issues such as those mentioned did tend to diminish once intercepted in the correct manner.

One member reiterated that the police should act if there was a pattern and a build up of incidents, so residents would then be encouraged to report any repeat incidents of anti-social behaviour.

The Town Clerk had a meeting with the local PCSO Officers on Friday and would request that this area be included in their patrols.

EL.15.09.22 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) reinstate the bench within Hempstead Meadows Local Nature Reserve;
- (ii) for the Town Council to engage with the local PCSO in relation to any reported incidents of alcohol and drug abuse in this area, and for;
- (iii) local residents to be asked to report any ongoing concerns of anti-social behaviour to Sussex Police in order for them to monitor and implement any changes on their patrols.

7.4 To consider street lighting repairs

A report was presented to members which set out a number of street lights which required repair and/or replacement. Within this report members were also reminded

that there was still a need for street lighting designs moving forward to remove the risk of liability should an accident occur.

The Estates and Facilities Manager explained that East Sussex Highways were keen to pass the liability to the asset owner (in this case the parish/town council) so it was advisable to return to full Council with a more detailed report or presentation from East Sussex Highways for consideration.

For a full lighting design, East Sussex County Council would need to look at a whole road and check whether the current standards for lighting would be met for that particular stretch of road, which could result in the local council having to purchase more street lights in the future. This could cost around £500-£2,500 per column. In the current climate, the Estates and Facilities Manager recommended that it would be more affordable to repair the lights as they were. The Town Council would be liable too if it did nothing, or, took the street lights away, and it may not be a viable option to ask if East Sussex County Council could take ownership of all the street lights.

The Estates and Facilities Manager recommended one of two options. One being that the main roads should be carried out first, and then consult on the side roads, although one member suggested that the side roads may pose more of a risk, with parked cars and those areas being less lit than main roads. Alternatively, they could all be upgraded at once, although this would be costly. There were currently one hundred and ninety-one street lights, forty of which were still concrete, which all needed replacing.

The Estates and Facilities Manager also highlighted that all the CIL money from future developments was being swallowed up by street light repairs over the past two to three years, so this was not helping other places in the town. There were an additional list of four or five street lights that also needed repairing. Any lighting design could cost between £1-1,500k per road. The Town Council could be looking at around £14-15k for a close of eight houses, bearing in mind the budget was £11k per year, so the costs would be high. For Mount Pleasant alone, being a private road, a lighting design may recommend five to six lights be installed, which could be considered light pollution by some residents and permission crossing private land could pose issues. In that instance, it was recommended to run a consultation between ES Highways and those residents to discuss a suitable way forward.

Members agreed with the proposals in the report for the list of street lights needing repaired to be actioned,. One member was hesitant about taking on this risk before liaising with the Officer at East Sussex Highways and then taking this back to Full Council. However, the Estates and Facilities Manager recommended going ahead with this proposal, since this money was currently available and, although a contingency was in place, prices may rise. He also suggested those street lights would not be taken away under a new lighting design.

The Town Clerk added that it would be a good idea to get the street lights in the report repaired first rather than wait, as this was necessary during the winter months particularly as there was quite a wait on repairs at present.

(Cllr Angie Smith arrived for the meeting at 19:23hrs)

EL.16.09.22 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) agree with proposals to carry out repairs on the street lights within the report, and;
- (ii) for the Town Council to get back in touch with East Sussex Highways to arrange for further details to be presented to Full Council for consideration on street lighting designs.

8.0 LEISURE

8.1 To consider West Park Pitch Reconfiguration

On the whole, members were in support of this idea if the increase in pitches would benefit more children playing football and keeping fit, and were especially supportive of the increase in girls football teams.

The only concern raised was over the impact on residents and mitigating the balls in the direction of houses nearest the football posts, since some residents had complained in the past about the noise during the Sussex Sixes Tournament, so teams just needed to be mindful of this. One member pointed out that there would always be something that someone would not be happy about, but felt that it was important to encourage sports in the town.

The club would purchase netting to put up and take down and monitor the situation and get bigger nets if needed. One member asked for the club to monitor the situation with a view to making sure the nets were fit for purpose.

The Estates and Facilities Manager said that the position of the pitches wererecommended bearing in mind that there was still a problem with drainage from the east side of the park. The pitches nearest this end would be better utilised once reconfigured.

The Chairman added that this would not be a financial strain to the Town Council, since the netting would be provided by the club and pitch fees were being reviewed this year. Also, with more players, this made perfect sense.

EL.17.09.22 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to agree with proposals from Uckfield Grasshoppers Football Club to reconfigure the pitches at West Park (in line with the current FA guidelines), to include three pitches (rather than the current two).

8.2 To consider cricket net repairs

There were mixed viewpoints on whether to allow one club or groups the option of having exclusive use of the cricket nets, especially if the Town Council were to offer funding towards any repairs. On balance, this was regarded by most as a resource available to everyone and some members did say that they had seen other members of the public using the nets, including club members.

Another member proposed maybe providing the costs of these nets over a staggered period so that they could be maintained on a yearly basis, rather than reaching a point where we had to renew them again, which would be for all who use the nets and benefit those who might want to try out a different kind of sport.

The Town Clerk reminded members of the work of the Infrastructure Working Group and desire to improve sport and leisure facilities for the town. It was suggested that if a percentage of money could be contributed toward the nets, then the Town Council could look then work with the Sussex Cricket Foundation to review the current facilities and understand the programme of work and associated costs required to improve our facilities.

Members agreed on the whole that the nets should be for sharing rather than facility owned, as the Town Council was a service provider to local residents. Members also agreed that the money would be well spent to repair the nets, which was well overdue and we had a duty of care to make safe.

A proposal was made to authorise for repairs to be undertaken to the nets; accepting a contribution of up to fifty percent of the costs for these repairs by Anderida Cricket Club.

EL.18.09.22 Members **RESOLVED** to make a proposal to Anderida Cricket Club to accept a contribution of up to fifty percent towards the repair costs for the cricket nets and ensure the repairs were undertaken

9.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

9.1 Update from the Sports Facilities Working Group – Fees and charges
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
Members noted the report.

10.7 Uckfield and District Twinning Association
Nothing to report at this time.

10.8 Uckfield Festival Association
Nothing to report - there will be a poster coming out soon with a line-up of events.

10.9 Uckfield Parkrun Board
Nothing to report at this time.

10.10 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
Members noted the report.

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

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission had asked if the Town Council would like to put up a sign at Snatts Road Cemetery to let passers by know there were war graves situated there. The Signs Project commenced as part of the centenary of the First World War and it was hoped that they could erect signs at as many churchyards, cemeteries and burial grounds as possible that contained war graves, and to increase awareness and remind the public that they need not travel abroad to find Commonwealth commemorations.

There were 23 graves, all in the old section of the cemetery on the south side, but not all in one particular area, for British, Canadian and Commonwealth Servicemen and women who died in the First and Second World wars. The graves could be found

across various sections of the cemetery, so it was suggested to have one sign on the stone wall as visitors entered the cemetery and two signs at the back of the cemetery on either side where most of the war graves were situated.

Councillor Macve said that he had visited lots of different churches during his time as a bell ringer and said that this was something that he felt passionate about and needed to be honoured so that those who sacrificed their lives for us would not be forgotten.

EL.19.09.22 It was **RESOLVED** to authorise for an application to be made to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for the installation of signage at Snatts Road Cemetery.

The Chairman also announced to members who may not have known already, that the Estates and Facilities Manager, Mark Francis, was leaving Uckfield Town Council, for pastures new. Mark had worked for the Town Council for four years and had within that time managed to provide excellent advice and had always offered his full support and assistance to staff and councillors. The Chairman thanked Mark personally and asked members to join him in wishing Mark all the best in his new role.

12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

EL.20.09.22 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 20:26pm

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ACTION LIST - FOR INFORMATION ONLY Environment and Leisure Committee

Please note no resolutions can be made from the action list and 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	The Town Council has sealed and signed the byelaws. A public notice will be published soon to provide the public with an opportunity to view the byelaws, prior to their submission to the Secretary of State.
<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>Harlands Farm Pond</u> The Ranger is to be asked for ideas to captivate children's interest whilst at the pond.	18.04.17	NM	The Ranger asked Harlands Primary School to see if they would like to add some input and maybe do a reptile survey there next year. The site would require some clearing to be usable for children. The Ranger said he's not sure there's a lot in the pond itself but could maybe do some dipping there.
	Harlands Farm Pond, VCT and Sussex Wildlife Trust are to be contacted to establish if they can assist with ideas etc. regarding children involvement in the pond.	30.04.18		
<u>EL35.10.21</u>	<u>To review fees and charges for Snatts Road Cemetery for 2022/23</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) agree to increase the fees and charges for Snatts Road Cemetery in 2022/23 by 1.5%, and; (ii) set up a working group to discuss the pricing structure, the rules and regulations and the future progress of the cemetery provision. Member volunteers included Cllr H. Firth, Cllr B. Cox and Cllr A. Smith.	18.10.21	RN/ HG	<i>Working group to be set up and first meeting tba. This work would ideally need to be completed by November but actually has limited impact on budget setting so needs to be completed by end of March 2023.</i>

<u>EL44.11.21</u>	<p><u>To review fees and charges for our sports facilities in 2022/23</u> (i) agree to increase the fees and charges for the hire of sports facilities in 2022/23 by 4%, and; (ii) agree to set up a working group to discuss the pricing structure and the provision of sports facilities (member volunteers to be re-dressed about this at the Environment and Leisure meeting on 16 May 2022).</p>	15.11.21	RN/ HG	<i>First working group meeting was held on Monday 5 September 2022. This work will feed into the annual review of fees and charges for 2023-24 and a report presented to Full Council on 12 December 2022.</i>
<u>EL54.01.22</u>	<p><u>To consider if Uckfield Town Council wishes to hold an event which can be incorporated within Uckfield Festival week 2022</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) agree to the Chairman's proposal to re-look at ideas and come up with any proposals this September for Uckfield Festival Week 2023.</p>	10.01.22	SM	Ideas/proposals to be looked at September 2022 onwards.
<u>EL72.05.22</u>	<p><u>To consider illegal tree works to Town Council trees</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) agree that a strongly worded letter be sent to the resident requesting that they clear up the mess created at their own expense, and; (ii) donate to plants and new trees elsewhere, but if not carried out; (iii) pursue legal action as recommended by Wealden DC.</p>	16.05.22	RN	A response was received from the resident, and solicitors have been instructed.
<u>EL73.05.22</u>	<p><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 is anything additional that should be explored to be discussed at that next meeting, and; (iii) for the Estates and Facilities Manager to explore those initiatives put forward already with the various responsible agencies, including any leverage through ES Highways for proper signage from developers.</p>	16.05.22	RN/ HG	The Road Safety Team (ESCC) have responded - tourist signs are only provided where there is evidence of a traffic management need (not for advertisement or promotion). 'Welcome to Uckfield' signs were arranged back in 2017. An audit needs to be undertaken of what signs we do have in and around the town and what it is we want to replace them with.

<u>EL08.06.22</u>	<p><u>To consider proposal for a Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Sign at Victoria Pleasure Ground</u> With eight members voting in favour, and one abstaining, members noted the report and RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(i) task the Clerk with obtaining costings for a matching sign on the opposite side of the beacon at Victoria Pleasure Ground to commemorate The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, and; (ii) rejuvenating the current Diamond Jubilee sign, and; (iii) the possibility of having smaller signs attached for other tributes and beacon lighting events.</p>	27.06.22	RN	Town Council will explore possible options available and costings involved.
<u>EL09.06.22</u>	<p><u>To consider removal of a litter bin on Hunters Way</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(i) agree to ask grounds staff to monitor the litter bin on Hunters Way to see if the problem with sanitary waste disposal continued (after the bin strike), and; (ii) to place a sign on the bin with wording to the effect that the litter bin would be removed if misused, and; (iii) to report any change in behaviour to members at the next appropriate council meeting.</p>	27.06.22	RN	<p>The Grounds staff have been carrying out a covert operation to monitor the bin on alternate days to their usual litter collections. It’s apparent on random days and doesn’t tie in with anything obvious, although the nappies are also different brands and sizes, so it is believed this is likely to be a commercial business. Further monitoring between 24/8 – 30/9/22: nappies appeared on Mondays and Fridays and when checked on other days the bin was completely empty.</p> <p>The Head Groundsman has said that the area with the bin doesn’t lead to or from a walkway and has been carrying on for several years. A sticker has been placed on the bin with a message to say not for commercial use.</p>
<u>EL.15.09.22</u>	<p><u>To note temporary bench removal – Hempstead Meadows (anti-social behaviour)</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(i) reinstate the bench within Hempstead Meadows</p>	28.09.22	HG	The Town Clerk held conversations with the PCSOs with regard to this area of the nature reserve. They would

	Local Nature Reserve; (ii) for the Town Council to engage with the local PCSO in relation to any reported incidents of alcohol and druge abuse in this area, and for; (iii) local residents to be asked to report any ongoing concerns of anti-social behaviour to Sussex Police in order for them to monitor and implement any changes on their patrols.			incorporate this area within their patrols but though the repositioning of the bench might help. The Town Clerk would therefore liaise with the Ranger over the winter months to see if an alternative position would be more suitable.
<u>EL.16.09.22</u>	<u>7.4 To consider street lighting repairs</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to: (i) agree with proposals to carry out repairs on the street lights within the report, and; (ii) for the Town Council to get back in touch with East Sussex Highways to arrange for further details to be presented to Full Council for consideration on street lighting designs.	28.09.22	HG	Confirmation was given to the ES Highways Streetlighting team for works to be carried out. Due to other commitments it will be suggested that a presentation provided in January 2023.
<u>EL.17.09.22</u>	<u>7.5 To consider West Park reconfiguration</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to agree with proposals from Uckfield Grasshoppers Football Club to reconfigure the pitches at West Park (in line with the current FA guidelines), to include three pitches (rather than the current two).	28.09.22	HG	This work has now been carried out. The work took approximately 3 to 3.5 days and although considered to be fairly cost neutral, the Head Groundsman calculated the cost of the work which equated to the following: 2x staff 2xDays remove and reset goals + repair damage = £145.60 2xstaff 3xDays to remark all pitches = £218.40 Post fix x 39 bags =£344.37 Surrey loam 15 bags =£112.50 Grass seed half bag =£62.50 Line Marking Paint x 4= £152 TOTAL = £1035.37 NFA.
<u>EL.18.09.22</u>	<u>8.2 To consider cricket net repairs</u> Members RESOLVED to make a proposal to Anderida Cricket Club to accept a contribution of up to fifty percent towards the repair costs for the cricket nets and ensure the repairs were undertaken	28.09.22	HG	In progress.

<u>EL.19.09.22</u>	<u>11.0 Chairman's Announcements</u> It was RESOLVED to authorise for an application to be made to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for the installation of signage at Snatts Road Cemetery.	28.09.22	RN	Application has been submitted and awaiting installation. NFA.
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**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2022/23**

Projects in 2021/22 Budget – New Initiatives

Project Name	Green Projects plus £5,000 in earmarked reserves		Project Number	58
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£18,000 minus £1,800 =£16,200	18.01.21	Carbon footprint audit carried out £1,800.	


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.	

Project Name	Purchase of more animal friendly bins		Project Number	71
<u>FC.82.01.22</u>	£1,500	17.01.22	In progress.	

Project Name	Tree for a tree planting programme		Project Number	72
<u>FC.82.01.22</u>	£2,000	17.01.22	Winter 2022/23	

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2022/23

	Minus £1519.62 = £480.38	18.10.22	<p>Further tree planting is due to take place during the winter season, with a variety of fruit trees being purchased and planted in a strip of land between Rocks and West Park.</p> 
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PROV Environment Leisure Committee as at 30 Sept 22

	Apr 22 Actuals £	May 22 Actuals £	Jun 22 Actuals £	Jul 22 Actuals £	Aug 22 Actuals £	Sep 22 Actuals £	Actuals at 30 Sep 22	Budgeted 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	Budget 2022/23
Parkway Mower running costs	157	161	0	59	1,824	0	2,201	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,201	0
Repairs to Holy Cross Churchyard Path	0	0	0	0	1,389	0	1,389	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HMLNR & WPLNR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	500	500
Total Purchases	17,027	17,483	30,552	22,310	57,152	24,216	168,740	138,786	18,305	18,055	23,705	20,830	16,855	35,855	300,957	285,967

New initiatives 2022/23

Funding also available in revenue signage budget

Victoria and Ridgewood Signage	1,120	0	0	0	0	0	1,120	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,120	1,000
ESCC Grass Verge cutting	4,356	0	0	0	0	0	4,356	4,356	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,356	4,356
Grasscutting/Ride On Mower	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,000
Replacement ground tools and equipment	0	2,852	0	0	0	0	2,852	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,852	2,000
Speed reduction initiatives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000
Platinum Jubilee celebrations	0	446	434	0	0	0	880	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	880	500
Purchase of more animal friendly bins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500
Tree for a tree planting programme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000
Total New Initiatives 2022/23	5,476	3,298	434	0	0	0	9,208	7,856	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,208	22,356

Weald on the Field Sponsorship and 50% pitch fee income	0	0	0	0	2,312	0	2,312	N/A	1,010	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
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Eco EXPO Income	(621)	0	0	75	0	0	(546)	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
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Platinum Jubilee Income	0	0	1,627	0	0	0	1,627	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
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Sundry income from sale of grounds equipment used for purchase of new grass cutting equipment	0	6,500	0	0	0	0	6,500	N/A	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
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Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 7 November 2022

Agenda Item 5.3

TO START CONSIDERING NEW INITIATIVES FOR THE DRAFT BUDGET 2023/24

1.0 Summary

1.1 The draft budgets are presented to Full Council in early December for the following financial year, prior to a final decision being taken on the precept and detailed budget papers in January 2023.

1.2 In order to assist staff with exploring the costs associated with new initiatives and the Town Council's priorities, and to give staff adequate time to obtain quotations and estimates, members are asked to consider now, what new initiatives they may wish to deliver in the next financial year and beyond.

2.0. New initiatives

2.1. Staff have been considering potential initiatives and projects to be considered within the budget either as an initiative for 2023-24 (short-term) or for future consideration with monies being put aside medium to long term (2024-2026).

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 – as fairly affordable	Trestle tables 6ft @ £50 each x 3. £130 gazebo = £280 (£300)
Funding for King's Coronation and potential event – weekend of 6 May 2023	Short	£2k
New Grounds equipment. For example 2 x new chainsaws	Short	TBC
Victoria Rainwater tank clean and annual service	Short	£7k
Ash Dieback and further tree works	Short – Winter Year 2 programme	£25k
Budget for Uckfield Green Partnership and budget appropriately for Eco EXPO	Short to medium	£500 £1,000
Geophysical survey of the cemetery for future space planning	Short to medium	TBC
Football Dug Out – improvements for health and safety purposes	Medium	£2.5k
Save towards upgrade of Victoria Play Area	Medium to long term (raise funds over next two years)	£20k
ATV – off road vehicle useful for woodland and nature reserve work	Medium	TBC
Increase of pitch renovation expenditure for football and cricket in line with audit outcomes.	Medium	TBC

3.0. Recommendation

3.1. Members are asked to:

- (i) consider the above list provided by officers, and provide feedback on whether members support these suggestions, and;
- (ii) advise the Clerk of any additional items they would like to consider for inclusion in the draft 2023/24 budget.

Contact Officer: Holly Goring



MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT CONFERENCE

Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 7.00pm in the Weald Hall, Civic Centre.

In attendance: Councillor. K. Bedwell
Councillor. B. Cox

32 members of the public
Councillor. D. French
Holly Goring, Town Clerk
Rachel Newton, Senior Administrative Officer
(Minutes taken by Rachel Newton)

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Before the conference, Cllr. B. Cox (New Town) took a moment to reflect on the recent loss of the late Mike Skinner, who sadly passed away the previous week. Mike Skinner was a dear friend within our community and would be sorely missed.

Cllr. B. Cox introduced members and staff at the top table, including Cllr. K. Bedwell (Ridgewood), members of the Allotment Working Group, the Town Clerk and the Senior Administrative Officer before moving onto the presentation of the allotment winners.

2.0 ALLOTMENT COMPETITION WINNERS 2022

Stavertons Nursery had judged the allotment plots that were entered this year and also read through the accompanying statements from all our entrees which provided a great insight into their workmanship.

The judging criteria for Best Kept included condition of plot, good workmanship, quality of crops, flowers, fruits and veg and plants, water conservation, encouragement of wildlife, use of recycled materials and condition of paths, garden buildings.

The judging criteria for Ecological Award included reuse, reduce and recycle, efforts to conserve water, encouraging insects and wildlife to the plot and ecological statement.

The winners were read out under each of the following categories:

Best Kept Winners:

Framfield Road West – Andrew & Mary Ford
Framfield Road East – Gareth & Zoe Sherry
Bell Lane – Vic Oliver
Bell Lane– Leon Stephen Davies (runner up)

Ecological Award:

Framfield Road West – Andrew & Mary Ford

Children's Award:

Framfield Road West – Maya Kala (who grows pumpkins because she loves pumpkin soup in winter!)

Each winner above received a Winners' Certificate and spending voucher worth £25, with the runner up prize £10.

The Overall Winner:

Framfield Road West – Andrew & Mary Ford

The 'Allotment Shield' was presented to this years' winners (with engraving of names included) along with their Winners' Certificate.

3.0 SHORT TALK FROM GEOFF KNIGHT (ALLOTMENT TENANT) ON THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF HAVING AN ALLOTMENT

Allotment holder, Geoff Knight, talked about the rewards and health benefits of time spent on an allotment. This was a very positive and insightful message to all allotment tenants and others who may wish to join and become healthier and happier.

Geoff explained that his journey had been so rewarding over the year and had improved his physical, mental and spiritual health. Although it was hard graft and involved time and planning, the true value of learning new life skills and producing tasty food (especially in the current economic climate) was important to so many of us.

Also, with mental health issues on the rise and often mentioned in the media, especially during the pandemic, an allotment had provided a safe space for so many to enjoy and socially interact and be part of a community.

The allotments were also shared by many members of the Uckfield Men's Shed who were retirees and needed a different form of activity and connection with others. The allotments provided an opportunity for many of these men to get fit again and have a sense of purpose and provide the opportunity to share the produce with family and friends.

Geoff concluded in his talk that the local Community Fridge was a place where allotment holders could play their part in helping others, by taking along any surplus food, and seeds could also be swapped and shared there too.

4.0 PRESENTATION FROM THE UCKFIELD GREEN PARTNERSHIP

The Uckfield Green Partnership (UGP), a local group of volunteers offering advice and support to families and companies to save money and reduce pollution and waste, were looking at ways to promote UGP and collaborate with like-minded groups in the area.

Roger Isaacson, of The Uckfield Green Partnership provided a short presentation on the ways in which we could all improve our lifestyles and make Uckfield a greener place to live.

There were three focus groups: 'Energy and Transport', 'Green Environment' and 'Sustainable Living'. Allotment holders were asked to look out for articles and ideas under these headings in the local Uckfield Matters newsletter which was issued every month.

The topics which had already been covered in the newsletter included promoting the idea of cycling and public transport options, how much energy home appliances used and cost of living tips.

There were also several closely associated Uckfield Groups with many incredible volunteers, who had already helped to provide a whole range of environmentally friendly solutions. The following list of groups was provided for anyone who may wish to join:

Brighter Uckfield, Fairtrade Uckfield, Uckfield Local Nature Reserve Supporters Group, Uckfield Community Fridge, Manor Park and Hempstead Fields, Uckfield Men's Shed, Uckfield Millennium Green Trust and The Uckfield Repair Café.

In conclusion, Roger announced that this was the first of many steps being, and to be, taken by volunteers over the next decade or so, and it was hoped that this talk had brought attention to these important issues.

Cllr B. Cox thanked both speakers for their inspirational talks and hoped that they had encouraged people to join those groups and work alongside one another.

5.0 UPDATE FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL'S ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP

Councillor K. Bedwell provided a PowerPoint presentation [see item 6.1 (App A) – Allotment Conference Powerpoint slides]

The Town Clerk added that as part of a new contract agreement with tenants from 1 April 2023, there would be a schedule of grounds maintenance and what was expected from tenants. The grass cutting had not been as effective last year, partly due to staffing issues and weather related issues. The Town Clerk asked for tenants to bear with the organisation whilst we worked through this change.

6.0 QUESTIONS ALREADY SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE

None received.

7.0 Q&A FROM THE FLOOR

Attendees were welcomed to ask questions from the floor. Councillor. B. Cox facilitated the Q&A session with the Town Clerk providing a roving microphone to assist with sound levels.

Q. Where are the two new allotments created? Just to bear in mind that some people would struggle to go the distance to get to the water taps.

A. The resident was informed that one allotment was created on the Ridgewood allotment site and another was planned to be created at the Bird in Eye allotment site. Also, during the hosepipe ban, people who were Blue Badge holders had been able to register on the Priority Service Register with a mobility issue, so could still use a hose for watering an allotment. Tenants were asked to let the council know if this was the case.

Q. I only recall two grass cuts, although six were mentioned. The last one, carried out by a contractor, resulted in piles of cut dead grass where the machine had jumped over it and left long grass. They did not come down the pathways in between. The old Ground staff used to use a hand mower, which went up and down and kept it really nice.

A. The Town Clerk said that contractors did cut the grass in our open spaces for a period of time during the summer to assist the Grounds team whilst they held staff vacancies and apologised if service standards had been impacted as a result of these issues. New staff had to be guided with this new way of working. The Town Clerk would discuss further with the Head Groundsman prior to the 2023 cutting season.

Q. A resident and member of Brighter Uckfield wished to thank Rachel and the Grounds staff because the brambles and stinging nettles had been cut against the fence to the left-hand side of Framfield Road.

Q It was a great help and they had done what they said they would do. Also, on the point about the hand mower, the former Head Groundsman did find on several occasions that on Framfield Road East allotments site it wrecked their mowers if they used them on long grass. He hadn't seen the strimmer impacted in this way however.

A. This was noted by staff and councillors.

Q. A tap on the Framfield Road West allotment site was not working and had been placed upside down on the pipework, so it looked a bit odd.

A. Rachel explained that the Head Groundsman had specified that this tap had been left like this until next spring because there would be no point fixing the tap whilst the water was turned off and once the weather changed, taps tended to freeze and break. It would therefore be rectified at that point.

Q. The grass was long on the Bell Lane allotment site as it wasn't cut at the right time of the year.

A. The Town Clerk explained that the Grounds team had experienced a difficult year with substantial changes in staffing, and taking on the grass cutting for the Town Council's open spaces, cemetery and allotments, which had previously been outsourced. This had in itself posed challenges, with new equipment, older equipment needing repair and finding the right balance for the new schedule of cutting.

The Town Clerk would be working with the Head Groundsman to review the year ahead for 2023, and prioritisation of work schedules.

There were other works that fell under the responsibility of the team including preparation of burials and ashes interments at Cemetery, preparation and maintenance of the sports pitches, tree works and addressing ash dieback, culvert clearance etc. Rachel and the new site reps had already identified areas for improvement and communications across the allotments, so tenants were asked to speak to their reps if they have any concerns and this would be fed back to the Town Council.

Q. I don't know who my site rep is.

A. Cllr B. Cox said that the names of all site reps would be placed on the noticeboards so that it would be easier for tenants to know who they were. Also, tenants were told that that they could also contact their local councillors if they preferred, or Rachel at Uckfield Town Council.

Q. It's stopped now but people were dumping rubbish in the river at West Park. Also, mareetail was growing along the river bank and up on to the allotments. What could be done about this?

A. Mareetail was a real problem and difficult to get rid of. Rachel would find out if there was any further advice that could be circulated about this and would let

allotment holders know.

8.0 LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023 – ALLOTMENT COMPETITION & CONFERENCE

Cllr. B. Cox thanked everyone for all their feedback; last year everyone learnt a lot from this Q&A session and took on board issues that were raised. Any decisions made were guided by that feedback.

Cllr. K. Bedwell thanked everyone for attending and advised that the Town Council would run the Allotment Competition again in 2023. She commended the support of Staverton's Nursery who had been a great help over the years and provided excellent prizes. She asked tenants to get to know their site reps and to join the Allotment Association and if anyone had any feedback on the competition, they were asked to get in touch with the Town Council office before they started planning for next year.

The Allotment Competition could include different categories to enter such as 'Best Newcomer', 'Most Colourful' and 'Most Spectacular', so watch this space!

The meeting closed at 8:05pm

Appendices: Appendix A (copy of the PowerPoint presentation)

DRAFT

ALLOTMENT CONFERENCE
Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 7:00pm
Weald Hall, Civic Centre, Uckfield
Tea and coffee from 6.45pm

AGENDA

- 1.0 Welcome and Introductions
- 2.0 Announcement of the Allotment Competition Winners
- 3.0 Short talk from Geoff Knight (Allotment tenant) on the health benefits of having an allotment
- 4.0 Presentation from The Uckfield Green Partnership
- 5.0 Update from the Town Council's Allotment Working Group
- 6.0 Questions already submitted prior to the conference
- 7.0 Q&A from the floor
- 8.0 Looking ahead to 2023 – Allotment Competition & Conference

A top-down photograph of a person with long brown hair, wearing a light blue denim shirt, leaning over a garden bed. The person's hands are visible, touching the leaves of a plant. To the left, a wooden basket is filled with bright green, curly lettuce. In the bottom left corner, a portion of a light-colored straw hat is visible. The background is filled with various green leafy plants in a garden setting. The overall image has a soft, slightly desaturated aesthetic.

WELCOME

ALLOTMENT CONFERENCE

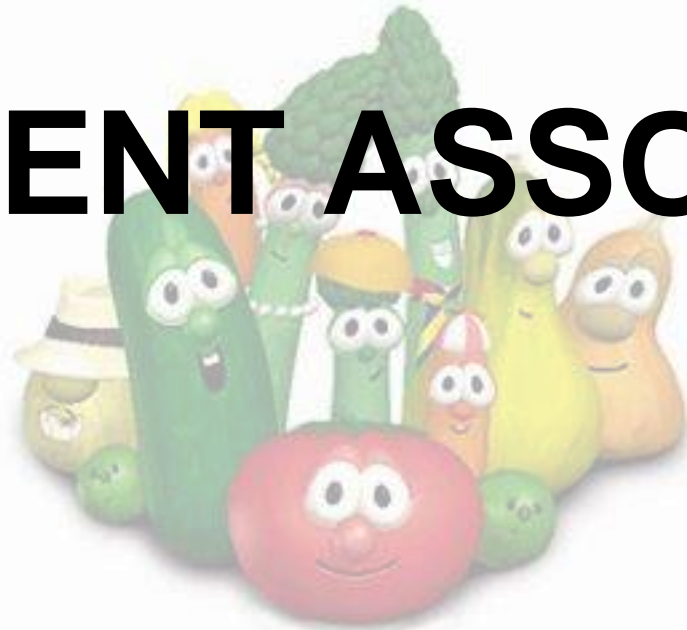
Wednesday 12 October 2022

**UTC ALLOTMENT
WORKING GROUP
CLLRS AND
OFFICERS**



WORKING WITH

ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION



ALLOTMENT SITE REPS

[This slide by \[unreadable\] is licensed under a CC BY-NC-SA](#)

ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

£6 PER YEAR

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

% OFF

**seeds, bamboo canes, fertilizer
+ advice, newsletter with tips and
updates**



TO JOIN

- **DOWNLOAD MEMBERSHIP FORM VIA**
- **<https://bit.ly/allotment-membership-form>**
- **Email: UAHACGA Newsletter**
- **Contact UTC for membership form**
- **Speak to David Newbery – Secretary**

UCKFIELD ALLOTMENTS

- **THERE ARE 238 ALLOTMENTS IN UCKFIELD**
- Framfield Road West
- Framfield Road East
- Bird in Eye
- Bell Lane
- West Park
- Ridgewood



ALLOTMENT SITE REPS

- **New volunteer representative on each site;**
- **Improving communication between allotment tenants and UTC;**
- **They will be invited to the Allotment Working Group;**
- **Provide a forum for new ideas;**
- **Provide a voice for each site;**

ALLOTMENT SITE REPS

- **BELL LANE – Mr Vic Oliver**
- **WEST PARK – Mr Bailey**
- **RIDGEWOOD – Ms Carol Washer**
- **FRAMFIELD EAST – Mr Stuart Woodham**
- **FRAMFIELD WEST – Mr David Newbery**
- **BIRD IN EYE – Mr Adrian Marshall**

ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP



FROM 1ST APRIL 2023 CHANGES TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE ALLOTMENT FEES AND CHARGES

There will be an interim invoice sent to all tenants at the end of October 2022 for period Oct to end of March 2023
(details were outlined in our letter dated 1st April 2022)

IN SUMMARY

There will be a charge for the six-month period between October to end March 2023 and will be for the plot only
(no water charge during winter period). The next yearly invoice will then commence from
1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

REVIEW OF ALLOTMENT RULES, REGULATIONS AND RENEWING THE ALLOTMENT CONTRACT

- The Allotment Working Group are currently reviewing the rules and regulations ready to send out with the invoice on 1 April 2023, for the period 2023-24 undergoing a review, which will be sent out to all tenants on 1 April 2023.
- Comparisons are being made with other local councils and parishes, to look for inspiration with new ideas.

ALLOTMENT CHECKS

- Waiting list down from 120 in 2021 to 66 in August 2022;
- Joint allotment checks now undertaken by councillors ,officers & site reps are working well;
- Some tenants have rescinded their allotments and newcomers have been welcomed who are keen to start cultivating.

NEW ALLOTMENTS

- Allotment demand – within large scale planning applications developers are being asked to consider allotments within new developments;
- Two new allotment plots - one created on the Ridgewood site and another in the process of being created on the Bird in Eye site

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE & RECORD OF WORKS

- Head Groundsman estimates six cuts since Spring;
- Hedges cut inside and out of Ridgewood allotments and Bell Lane and they are due for a larger cut in the coming weeks;
- Overgrown allotments have been strimmed;
- Taps and a gate fixed on Framfield sites;
- Water tank repaired on Ridgewood site;



ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO US

WE WILL CONTINUE TO LISTEN TO YOU



Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

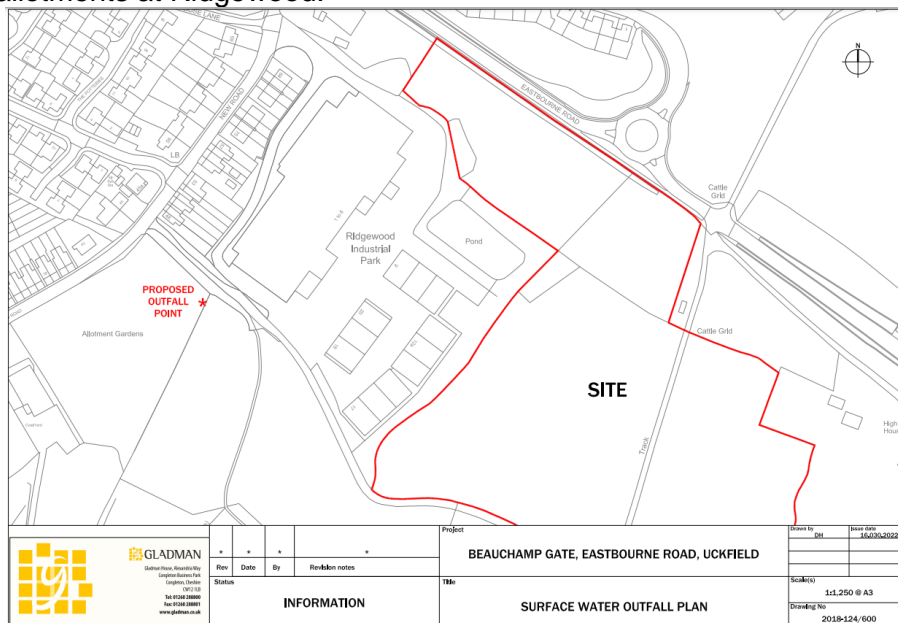
Monday 7 November 2022

Agenda Item 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

1.0 Background

1.1 Further to discussions at Full Council in May 2022 Gladman Developments were advised of the decision to proceed, and for work to commence between both parties' solicitors to develop a grant of easement for the land at the rear of the allotments at Ridgewood.



- 1.2 The Town Council's Solicitors were instructed and an agreement drawn up which has been back and forth whilst finer details of the agreement have been confirmed.
- 1.3 Queries during the drafting of the agreement included the following (*Red is Gladmans Development, Blue is the Town Clerk/UTC Solicitor*).
- (i) Can you please confirm the route that your client intends to use to gain access to the Easement Strip. Do they intend to do so from the Millennium Green Side, and will access be required over any working part of the allotments? *I believe that access will be gained from the Millennium Green side. Access won't be required through the allotment.*
- I require more certainty than 'believe' – the second email from Gladman's confirms that access will be made via Millennium Green, so as not to impact the adjacent allotment tenant. So I require confirmation of this.*
- I am sure you will be able to reassure your client there is no access rights through their land. The work will take place from the Millennium Green side.*

(ii) Are you able please to come back to me on the point raised in paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 – details of planning applications and appeals – as drafted it is rather wide. *We have outline permission (attached) and the application will be reserved matters/ substitute full application*

This is correct. We await further details in the reserved matters application.

The Property is being sold to a developer so they will submit a reserved matters application. The town council will of course receive notification of that application. I have removed paragraph 1 of the Schedule which should deal with the issue your client raises.

(iii) In relation to paragraph 4 of Schedule 3 to the draft deed, my client has requested further clarification (preferably by reference to a scale drawing) of the precise area to be covered by the proposed exclusion zone. They are naturally concerned to satisfy themselves that it will not impinge on the use of the rest of the site as allotments. It may be that this will need to be limited to a smaller area, if feasible?

We will get an overlay of the “yellow area” on the plan (which I think is what you are referring to as the exclusion zone) onto google earth but we don’t think it impinges on any allotments. It may in practice end up a lesser area but we are in the hands of the water authority on that point.

The exclusion zone covers approximately half of an existing allotment plot. I therefore urge that any further discussions with the water authority pick up on this point, and that any work undertaken has consideration for the tenant and the years of maintenance and growing they have undertaken on this plot to cultivate it successfully. I understand that it may be a much lesser zone area, but detailed communication is required prior to commencement onsite of the planned schedule of works, the scope of the works and the timescales so we can monitor the impact onsite for this and the neighbouring tenant, and manage any difficulties in partnership with Gladmans and the water authority.

Clause 1 of Schedule 4 requires the Council to be notified no less than 10 working days before the works and to approve the specification. Having looked again at it technically I am told we can reduce the easement to 5 metres which minimises the impact on the closest allotment and there is, of course, the making good provision. I attach a new plan and the overlay is below for illustration.

(iv) My client has asked for clarification on the following (which if agreed I would suggest can be added as further Grantee’s covenants at Schedule 4 to the Deed):

- a. One of the Town Councillors that met the representative onsite, thought they said that they would repair, check the current outlet that comes from the underground springs under the industrial estate/from The Potteries (nearby residential road) as well whilst adding their works for the new water inlet. Can you please confirm?

The existing headwall is part of the public sewerage system and is therefore owned and maintained by Southern Water, so we are not able to do this. Any future maintenance of this structure will be the responsibility of Southern Water.

Three-way communication is required before commencement onsite to understand the full scope of works being undertaken by Southern Water and Gladman’s contractors.

As above the specification is required to be given to your client. Nothing can commence until your client approves it.

- b. Your client is to arrange for the installation of some simple baffles on the steeper parts of the watercourse so as to slow down the flows and minimise any risk of scour
- c. Your client to arrange for the current ditch to be cleared and shored up beside the fence line as it has worn away due to erosion over the years.

It is probably easier if you are agreeable that Gladman give the Council an additional £1000 and they get the works done just because of distance. I understand the baffles are treated pieces of wood and the ditch just needs clearing. I don't think this is appropriate to put in the easement document itself but we can document it as a side letter if you need it documented (or just pay over the additional funds at the time of completion).

Gladmans offered to do this work onsite, therefore Gladmans' contractors are expected to undertake the work, not Uckfield Town Council. A simple transfer of £1k to the Town Council is not acceptable.

We will arrange to this be done as part of the work and I have added some wording into the schedule.



- 1.4 Following the discussion of the above points and confirmation that these points have now been addressed, the draft deed of easement has been prepared and ready for signing and sealing. Please find a draft copy attached for reference.
- 1.5 Gladmans are keen to undertake the ditch maintenance/clearance works (including baffels etc) before the weather gets worse and whilst the contractor has availability. This work is proposed to take place in the next couple of weeks subject to weather. The pipe and headwall will not be installed until after the reserved matters application has been concluded.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to confirm they are satisfied with the deed of easement and for two councillors to sign and seal the agreement.

Appendices: Appendix A: Grant of Deed of Easement

Deed of Easement

Relating to

Land on the south west side of Eastbourne Road, Uckfield

between

Uckfield Town Council

and

Penelope Susan Radcliffe

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PARTIES

1. **UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL** of Council Offices Uckfield Civic Centre Uckfield East Sussex TN22 1AE (**Grantor**);
2. **PENELOPE SUSAN RADCLIFFE** of 57 Upperton Gardens, Eastbourne, BN21 2AF (**Grantee**);

1. Definitions

In this Deed the following definitions apply:

Adoption Agreement	means an agreement for the adoption of the Surface Water Pipe and any associated deeds required to facilitate the adoption of the Surface Water Pipe
Dominant Land	the freehold land at land on the south west side of Eastbourne Road, Uckfield as registered at HM Land Registry under title number ESX155205;
Easement Strip	the strip of land coloured yellow on the Plan nine (9) metres wide and 5 m long (including any part of the Surface Water Pipe that is within it)
Plan	the plan annexed to this Deed as Appendix 1;
Reserved Rights	the rights set out in Schedule 2;
Rights	the rights set out in Schedule 1;
Service Media	pipes, drains, mains, channels, gutters, watercourses, sewers, wires, cables, laser optical fibres, electronic data or impulse transmission communication or reception systems and all other conducting media;
Servient Land	the freehold land being Ridgewood Recreation Ground and Allotments New Road, Ridgewood,

Uckfield as registered at HM Land Registry under title number ESX298628;

Surface Water Pipe

a new underground surface water pipe (the approximate location of which is shown by a blue line on the Plan) of up to 300 mm in diameter.

VAT

value added tax or any other tax of a similar nature.

2. Interpretation

In this Deed:

- 2.1. 'Grantor' and 'Grantee' include their respective successors in title;
- 2.2. the table of contents and clause headings are for reference only and do not affect its construction;
- 2.3. the word 'liability' includes all costs, claims, expenses and loss incurred or suffered by the relevant party;
- 2.4. general words introduced by the word 'other' do not have a restrictive meaning even where preceded by words indicating a particular class of acts, things or matters;
- 2.5. where a party to this Deed includes two or more persons, the covenants made by that party are made by those persons jointly and severally;
- 2.6. an obligation in this Deed not to do any act or thing includes an obligation not to permit or suffer that act or thing to be done by another person.

3. Grant

- 3.1. In consideration of £5,000 (five thousand pounds) (inclusive of VAT) (receipt of which is acknowledged by the Grantor) and the covenants set out in Schedule 4, the Grantor with full title guarantee in respect of the Servient Land grants to the Grantee the Rights to hold to the Grantee in fee simple commencing on the date of this Deed.
- 3.2. All rights not expressly included in the Rights are reserved to the Grantor.
- 3.3. The Rights are granted subject to the observance and performance of the covenants contained in Schedule 4.

4. Reservation of rights

The Grantor reserves for itself the rights set out in Schedule 2.

5. Grantor's covenants

5.1. The Grantor covenants with the Grantee so as to bind the Servient Land into whosoever's hands it may come for the benefit and protection of the Dominant Land that the Grantor and its successors in title shall at all times after the date of this Deed observe and perform the covenants and restrictions set out in Schedule 3.

5.2. The Grantor covenants to promptly enter into any Adoption Agreement required to procure the adoption of the Surface Water Pipe provided that the Grantee shall be responsible for the reasonable and proper costs of the Grantor arising from the Grantor entering into any Adoption Agreement.

6. Grantee's covenants

The Grantee covenants with the Grantor so as to bind the Dominant Land into whosoever's hands it may come for the benefit and protection of the Servient Land that the Grantee and its successors in title shall at all times after the date of this Deed observe and perform the covenants and restrictions set out in Schedule 4.

7. HM Land Registry

7.1. The Grantee shall not to enter any notice in the Charges Register of the title to the Servient Land in respect of this Deed without the Grantor's consent, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed provided that any such notice should relate only to the Easement Strip and not to the whole of the Servient Land.

7.2. On completion of this Deed, the Grantee covenants to register this Deed at HM Land Registry and, within 10 days of completion of registration, to provide the Grantor with official copies of the register(s) showing that, so far as is possible, the Rights and any restrictive covenants given by the Grantor and Grantee have been properly noted against the benefiting and burdened titles. Save that registration should relate only to the Easement Strip and not to the whole of the Servient Land.

8. VAT

8.1. All sums payable by the Grantee pursuant to this Deed are deemed exclusive of VAT.

8.2. Where the Grantee is required to reimburse the Grantor for any payment made by the Grantor, the Grantee must also pay to the Grantor an amount equal to the amount of VAT on that payment except to the extent that the Grantor can recover that VAT as input tax.

9. Jurisdiction

The parties irrevocably agree that the courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute or claim arising out of, or in connection with, this Deed, its subject matter or formation.

10. Governing law

This Deed and any dispute or claim arising out of, or in connection with, it, its subject matter or formation shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of England and Wales.

11. Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999

Unless expressly stated nothing in this Deed will create any rights in favour of any person under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

EXECUTED AS A DEED BY THE PARTIES ON THE DATE FIRST SET OUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS DEED

SCHEDULE 1 THE RIGHTS

The following rights are granted to the Grantee and their respective successors in title as owners or occupiers for the time being of the Dominant Land in common with the Grantor and all other persons having the like rights:

1. the right to survey, construct, lay and afterwards at all times to relay, use, maintain, inspect, alter, enlarge, renew, replace, remove or render unusable a surface water drain together with inspection chambers, markers and other works and ancillary apparatus ("the Equipment") and being the property of the Grantee in through upon and under the Servient Land in the position of the Easement Strip and to drain surface water from the Dominant Land to the outfall; such right to be subject to making good to the reasonable satisfaction of the Grantor any damage caused to the Servient Land including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) replanting any vegetation that is removed during the course of any such works during the appropriate season for planting. Any works associated with such right will be carried out in an orderly manner and to a high standard of workmanship and shall cause as little inconvenience as is practicably possible to the owners and users of the Servient Land and their adjoining owners and occupiers.
2. full and free access where practicable with all necessary workmen and vehicles machinery and apparatus at all reasonable times and in emergency at any time over such part of the Servient Land as is agreed with the Grantor to be required in connection with the exercise of the rights contained in this Schedule and subject to any damage so caused being made good to the reasonable satisfaction of the Grantor;
3. the right to dig up and excavate any part of the Easement Strip that may be necessary to lay the Equipment, provided that the Grantee must cause no unnecessary damage to the Servient Land in the exercise of this right and must make good any damage caused to the reasonable satisfaction of the Grantor including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) replanting any vegetation that is removed during the course of any such works and replacing soil or turf or other surfacing and the removal of all rubbish;
4. the right to free and uninterrupted passage and running of water to and from the Dominant Land and any buildings for the time being on the Dominant Land through, over and along the Equipment that are now laid or at any time may be laid in, over or under the Easement Strip for the use and enjoyment of the Dominant Land;
5. full and free right in fee simple to make connections into and to use the Equipment now or to be made or laid in, under or over the Easement Strip or any part of it and serving the Dominant Land and also to the free and uninterrupted passage and running

of water and soil and other services to and from the Dominant Land through such Equipment;

6. the right with the Grantor's consent (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed) to fell, trim or lop any bushes and other vegetation on the Grantor's Property which obstruct or interfere with the exercise of the rights granted to the Grantee by this deed provided that the Grantee:

- (a) removes from the Grantor's Property all timber, wood and vegetation cut; and

- (b) leaves the Grantor's property neat and tidy; and

- (c) reinstates the land by reseeding wild grasses in the event that any bushes or vegetation are removed.

SCHEDULE 2 RESERVED RIGHTS

The following rights are reserved to the Grantor and its successors in title as owners or occupiers for the time being of the Servient Land:

1. the right to build upon or develop or redevelop any part of the Servient Land, provided that such building or development does not adversely affect the exercise of the Rights by the Grantee;

2. the Grantor shall not except in case of emergency (when no notice shall be required) be entitled to carry out any maintenance or other works to the Easement Strip unless the Grantor shall first have given to the Grantee notice of the want of maintenance or other works and the Grantee shall not within 48 hours afterwards have commenced diligently to carry out the maintenance or other works;

3. (without prejudice to the obligations of the Grantee contained in this Deed) to carry out all or any of the Grantee's covenants on behalf of the Grantee, but without any obligation on the part of the Grantor to do so;

SCHEDULE 3 GRANTOR'S COVENANTS

The Grantor covenants:

1. not to obstruct, prevent or interrupt the exercise of the Rights by the Grantee;
2. not to erect any building, structure or erection within 6 metres measured horizontally on either side of the Easement Strip;
3. not to plant any trees within 6 metres measured horizontally on either side of the Easement Strip, for the avoidance of doubt this clause does not apply to free-sown trees or plants;
4. not to make any material alteration to or any deposit of anything on or within 6 metres on either side of the Easement Strip measured horizontally so as to interfere with or obstruct access to the Equipment or so as to reduce or increase the depth of soil (if any) above the Equipment;
5. not to do anything on the Servient Land which may cause damage to the Equipment or affect their proper and efficient operation.

SCHEDULE 4 GRANTEE'S COVENANTS

The Grantee covenants:

1. No fewer than 10 working days prior to exercising any of the Rights the Grantee or those authorised by them will prepare at their own expense a specification for the works to be undertaken (to include the installation of simple baffles on the steeper parts of the watercourse to slow down the flows to minimise risk of scour and to clear the ditch of any debris) and deliver the same to the Grantor for approval (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed) No works shall commence until such approval has been received.
2. to comply with all Acts of Parliament and subordinate legislation governing the exercise of the Rights;
3. forthwith to make good all damage caused to the Servient Land and to any Service Media laid in the Servient Land by the exercise of the Rights to the reasonable satisfaction of the Grantor and to indemnify the Grantor against all claims and liability in respect of such matters;
4. Not to deposit any waste, rubbish, soil or other material on any part of the Grantor's Property, or on any neighbouring land or adjacent public or private highway.
5. to keep the Grantor indemnified from and against any liability arising from the exercise of the Rights or any other matter arising under this deed;
6. to pay to the Grantor on demand the costs incurred by him in carrying out any obligation of the Grantee under this Deed where the Grantee is in default, but the Grantor shall not be entitled to such payment unless he has given notice to the Grantee of the obligation and of the work required to comply with it and the Grantee has failed within 14 days of such notice to comply with his obligations;

APPENDIX 1 PLAN

EXECUTED as a DEED

by **UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

acting by

.....

Councillor

.....

Councillor

.....

Town Clerk

EXECUTED as a DEED

by **PENELOPE SUSAN RADCLIFFE**

in the presence of:

Name:

Address:

Occupation:

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 7 November 2022

Agenda Item 7.1

TO NOTE THE CURRENT POSITION WITH THE 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

Investigation required in dealing with drainage issues near to the skate park. Ash dieback works have been carried out adjacent to the skatepark. Work to create the perimeter fence around the grounds depot has commenced but we are waiting on the contractor to build a new path before closing off this area to the public. The closure of this area is for health and safety reasons, with vehicles moving within this area of the site throughout the day. The play area needs upgrading and ideally needs to be completed in the next two to three years.

Hempstead Lane Play Area and Hempstead Meadows LNR

East Sussex Rights of Way have now completed the long-awaited works to the footpath. We will review how the path holds up during the winter season.

Rocks Park Play Area

Nothing new to report.

Snatts Road Cemetery

We await the War Grave signage to direct visitors to the cemetery to the war graves.

West Park Recreation ground and WPLNR

The new pitch reconfiguration has been completed for Uckfield Grasshoppers Club. Fruit trees will be planted during the winter season to the far north strip between West Park and Rocks. A draft lease agreement has now been prepared for the Pavilion and will be presented to General Purposes Committee for consideration in November 2022, prior to Full Council execution in December 2022.

Boothland Wood

Works to address ash dieback will commence 14 November 2022. A press release will be issued shortly if not already at the time of the report, and notices placed up on the entrances into the woodland to advise walkers.

Equipment & Vehicles

All grass cutting equipment requires repair and servicing ready for the 2023 cutting season. It is proposed within the budget setting process that we consider the upgrade of older equipment for both grass cutting works and chainsaw tree works, to ensure the safety of our staff.

Street Furniture & Lighting

Ongoing repairs being addressed through a programme of work. The cycle stand has been reported as requiring replacement by Peacocks. The Town Clerk is awaiting the details of the model required and then will place an order.

Ridgewood Recreation Ground

Ridgewood needs resurfacing to include a drainage solution. Surveys have been ongoing to assess where to drain water to.

Elizabeth Gardens

Nothing new to report.

Luxfords field and play area.

Grounds staff will be scheduling in works to plant sections of hedgerow as agreed at Environment & Leisure Committee in 2021/22. Hedgerow will not be planted around the full boundary line, as it was thought that some areas will pose difficulties for growth.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: Holly Goring/Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 7 November 2022

Agenda Item 7.2

TO CONSIDER AN INFORMAL ABORICULTURAL REPORT ON A LARGE BEECH TREE AT WEST PARK RECREATION GROUND

1.0 Summary

1.1 The Town Council's Ranger has unfortunately identified evidence of fungus at the base and root plate of a very large veteran beech tree on West Park Recreation Ground. This tree has been a key feature of the ground's history, and often used by residents to shelter under during the summer months. However it is important to note that current observations have highlighted that there are concerns for the health of the tree, and thus the safety of the tree to those using the recreation ground.

1.2 A decision therefore needs to be taken on how best to proceed at this stage. The Ranger has proposed three options for consideration.

2.0. Recommendation

2.1. Members are asked to consider the three options proposed by the Ranger for early consideration, and advise the Clerk of how they wish to proceed.

Appendices: Appendix A: Informal Aboricultural report

Contact Officer: Holly Goring

Informal arboricultural report on a beech tree at West Park recreation ground Uckfield

Introduction

The fruiting bodies of the fungus *Meripilus giganteus* were discovered at the base and root plate of the large veteran beech on West Park recreation ground in September 2022. This report will outline the implications of the discovery and outline options for future management of the tree.

The tree.

The tree is a large beech *Fagus sylvatica* situated to the North of the car park by West Park Pavilion. It stands 24.6m tall and has a spread of 25.5m with a stem measuring 127cm in diameter at 1.3m. The tree is approximately 230 years old as determined by its diameter. The Helliwell system for determining visual amenity gives a maximum age for beech trees in amenity settings at 250 years. The tree has no apparent structural defects and has only minor deadwood in the crown. A cavity is forming in an old pruning wound at approximately 3.5m high on the south side of the main stem. An evaluation of the tree's amenity value using the Helliwell system gave a value of £7,872¹.

The tree is within falling distance or nearby residential properties, the pavilion and the carpark.



Figure 1 location

¹ Helliwell, R (2008). *Guidance Note 4 Visual Amenity Valuation of Trees and Woodlands. The Helliwell system 2008* Romsey: Arboricultural Association

Neal Matheson
Countryside ranger
DipArb L4 (ABC) TechArborA
ranger@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

The beech is the largest tree in the immediate area though mature trees can be found at the nearby playpark and semi-mature beech and other species are found in the immediate vicinity, these trees are mostly in private ownership. The specimen conifers and mature trees of the nearby nature reserve, Lake wood and Streatfeild estate comprise the visual landscape with the beech in question not being particularly prominent unless viewed from close by. To my knowledge the tree has not been contentious and no requests to prune the tree have been made to the grounds team.

Meripilus giganteus

The fungus is often associated with beech trees, the fruiting bodies come as fronds of chestnut/white flesh with the entire mass of fronds sometimes reaching 1m across. The fruiting body does not always form every year. The flesh bruises black when squeezed and the annual fronds quickly degrade after forming. The rot is a white rot and a soft rot in early stages, the fungus may also degrade pectin in the wood cells. Affected wood becomes brittle and liable to fracture. *M. giganteus* degrades the roots of living trees often being confined to the deeper roots of the tree resulting in the crown remaining relatively healthy even with large amounts of stabilising roots being consumed. Therefore, the vitality of the tree's crown cannot be used as an indicator of tree stability. Moreover, due to the subterranean nature of the fungus assessing the extent of colonisation and dysfunction caused can be difficult.

*“By the time that large fruit bodies of M. giganteus appear, especially on F. sylvatica [beech], it is likely that a high chance of windthrow exists. Crown symptoms may be present by this stage, but by no means always. Indeed, the upper roots may be largely sound, even though the deeper ones are extensively decayed. Due to this pattern of symptom development, and to the severe weakening of the partially decayed wood, M. giganteus is one of the most dangerous decay fungi to be found on F. sylvatica.”*²

Four individual fronds were found on the tree, three measuring 20-40cm across were found within the buttresses on the tree with a smaller mass of fronds about 15cm across found some metres from the stem on the root plate.

² Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment, Lonsdale, D Arboricultural association 2013



Figure 2 Still growing fronds on the west park beech

Evaluation.

A large and likely well-loved tree is infected with a pathogenic fungus known to cause trees to fail. The tree is large (huge) and is well within distance of multiple targets. The fronds are relatively small but are found on the root plate suggesting that the root system itself is affected. Decay detection equipment is less useful against decay found in tree roots. The tree which fell in storm Eunice in Nutley was a similarly affected beech though the size of this year's fronds suggests to me that decay on that tree was far more extensive than on the West Park beech³.

³ Judging decay extent from the size of fruiting bodies is not necessarily accurate. Frond size may be affected by available water moreover, soil conditions at west park are dry and 2022 was a drought year.



Figure 3 Nutley beech frond measures c. 70cm

Options:

1: Remove the tree and eliminate the risk.

The operation could be performed in house though would be a considerable undertaking. The climb and dismantling would be relatively straightforward but would be a multi-day job. Through a contractor removal would likely be expensive though less expensive than the cemetery oak which was far more technical. It would require consultation with the community and press management. The retention of a “monolith” i.e., a safe residual stem would ensure some continued ecological benefit from the tree.

2: Reduce the crown lessen the risk.

A crown reduction would greatly reduce the wind forces acting on the root plate lessening the chance of failure. Beech trees do not resist decay or pathogens well and so wounds would need to be small but the tree would still need to heal any cuts made and would have less resource available for dealing with the root dysfunction. Works would be expensive and require repeating on a multi-year cycle. This is a common procedure prescribed for structurally weakened trees but with an evidence base that is hard to find.

3: Understand the risk.

There are a number of specialised techniques which may be employed to check the extent of decay or the strength of the root system.

This would likely satisfy residents that have concerns about the “need” to remove or retain a tree but the surveys would be highly specialist and likely very expensive. Works would need to be

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performed on a cycle dependent on the spread of decay but would allow for retention of the tree for some time if decay was shown to not be extensive.

I will be meeting with a more experienced Arboricultural consultant in the next weeks to discuss the feasibility of alternatives to tree removal to better inform any decision the council makes.

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 7 November 2022

Agenda Item 7.3

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO INSTALL A GARDEN GATE TO THE BOUNDARY FENCE OF A PROPERTY BACKING ONTO WEST PARK RECREATION GROUND

1.0 Summary

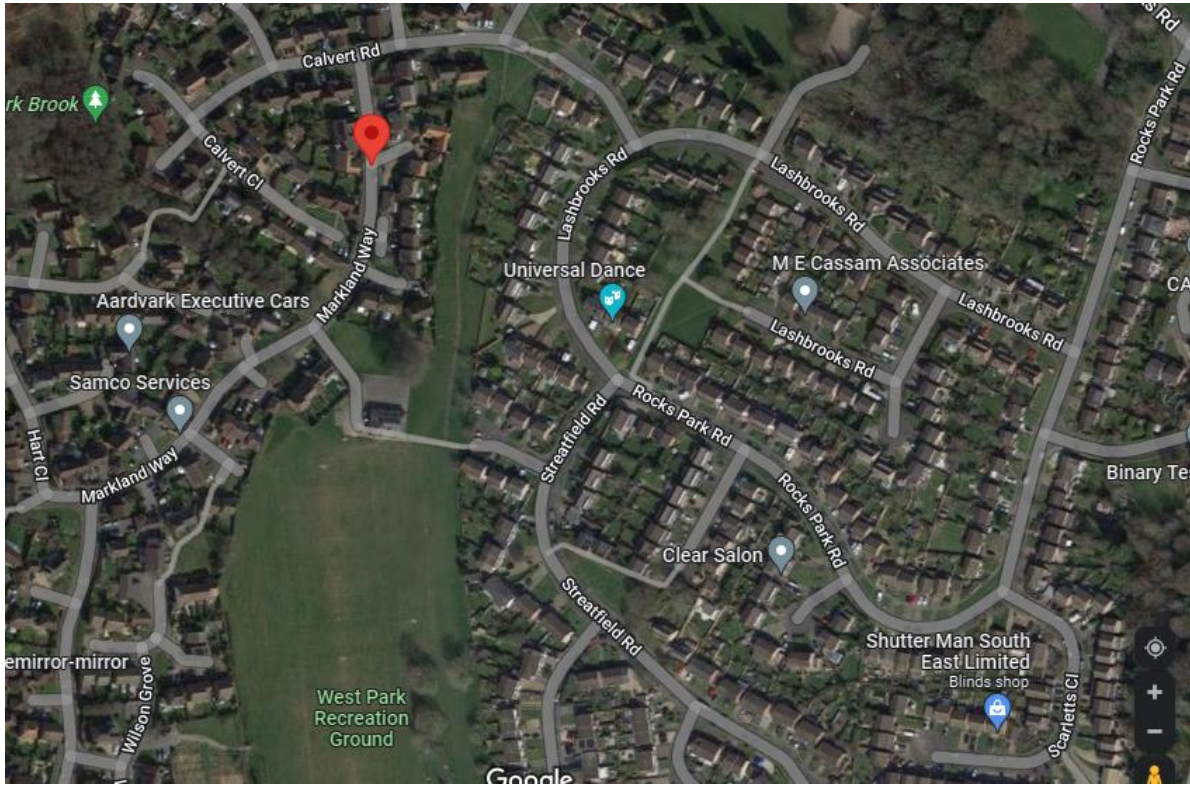
1.1 The Town Clerk received an enquiry from a resident whose property backs onto West Park Recreation Ground, at the end of September 2022.

1.2 In this enquiry, the resident enquired as to whether a garden gate could be incorporated into the existing boundary fence at the rear of their property. The boundary fence backs onto a footpath north of West Park Recreation Ground. East Sussex County Council informed the resident that the footpath is not technically a right of way, and the land was likely to be owned by the Town Council.

1.3 The resident advised that there were many examples of garden gates which had been incorporated into the boundary line by other properties in this area. They enquired how they should proceed with such an enquiry.

1.4 The address of the property is 72, Markland Way, Uckfield (to the top western side of West Park):





2.0. Recommendation

2.1. Members are asked to consider the request and advise the Clerk accordingly.

Contact Officer: Holly Goring

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 7 November 2022

Agenda Item 9.1

REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS: CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING GROUP

1.0 Overview

1.1 The Climate Emergency Steering group last met on 21st September 2022.

At the meeting we agreed that we would like to look at making a start on developing a Climate Action Plan for the town. There is a particular academic who may be willing to help us, which we will follow up on.

We also discussed the potential for a school's activity day - similar to the road safety days. We felt that late April would be a good time to do this. We could potentially look to display eco projects from the participants at the Civic Centre

Councillors Angie Smith/Karen Bedwell

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 7 November 2022

Agenda Item 10.4

REPORT OF OUTSIDE BODIES: CONSERVATORS OF ASHDOWN FOREST

1.0 Summary report

- 1.1 At the meeting held on 12 October, James Adler welcomed the group from seven local parish and town councils and thanked them for attending to receive an update on the current situation.
- 1.2 Planning permission had now been obtained from Wealden DC to erect the parking charge notices in the forest car parks and for the two machines at the centre. The charging regime would commence on 21 November 2022. The Conservators had, over recent weeks, been engaged in a public awareness programme to educate visitors on the forthcoming system in an effort to reduce the possible anticipated problems of parking on the verges and any anti-social behaviour.
- 1.3 As the new arrangements would commence in the winter it would give the system time to bed in before the increase in visitor numbers in the summer.
- 1.4 There was considerable concern on the perceived attack on nature from elements such as the return of fracking, change of EU regulations, the retention of 7km buffer zone and the environmental land management scheme funding. Discussions had been held with the MPs and Governmental organisations and these would continue to bring pressure on the powers to be in order to protect this valuable natural asset.
- 1.5 The Forest Supporters Group continued with their fundraising efforts. They had a new book signing at Ashdown Forest Hotel on 13 November to be hosted by BBC Radio 3 Presenter Katie Derham.
- 1.6 2026 sees the centenary of Winnie the Pooh and there are big plans to celebrate this event. Disney now have no copyrights and discussions are in hand with all Pooh related groups to promote the event. It was hoped this would provide a huge economic boost to tourism in the area.
- 1.7 Finally in view of the visitor numbers that had grown and since Covid, investigations were now underway to explore the provision of composting WCs in the forest car parks.
- 1.8 The next meeting was on 7 December 2022 at 7.00pm.

Councillor Chris Macve

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.