

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Council Offices, Albert Road, Horley on Tuesday 24 October 2006.

Present: Councillor M Miller, Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council
Councillors Mrs D Andrews, E Andrews, Ms D Ashley-Smith,
Mrs D Brooke-Harte, J Chapman, M George,
Ms M Goldsmith, J Kendall, A Kent, G Larcombe, S Marshall,
J Meech, R Olliver and Mrs A Venn.

Also present: Mr A Jones Clerk to the Council
Mrs C Fenton Deputy Clerk to the Council

C 1816 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllrs Mrs S Branwhite, T Breen and B Weston be accepted (for reasons as specified in the Attendance Register).

C 1817 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Kendall, Kent, Marshall and Meech declared personal interests in the Royal British Legion item, in view of their membership of the organisation.

RESOLVED: noted.

Public Forum

C 1818 A member of the public asked whether a structural survey of the Horley Anderson Centre was available and the Chairman agreed to make this available to him. The Chairman confirmed that the new swimming pool would be built to modern standards.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 1819 The same member of the public asked about plans for the Newman House site. The Chairman replied that representatives of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, the new owner of the site, were currently in discussion with developers and architects about plans for the site. He added that the adjacent car park had been purchased by a London Agent. It was noted that both the Horley Town Centre Task Group and the Town Centre Management Group had requested that plans for the site be accelerated.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 1820 The same member of the public referred to the anticipated Local Government White Paper, suggesting that a number of Horley residents might be keen to join with Crawley. The Chairman replied that he was not prepared to comment until the White Paper had been published. He added that most of the discussion would be taking place at Borough/County level.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 1821 Ordinary Meeting of the Council, 5 September 2006

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council were presented for confirmation by members and signature by the Chairman of the Council.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 5 September 2006, including all confidential items, be confirmed and adopted.

C 1822 Court Lodge Fields – Damaged Perimeter Fencing

The Clerk told members that he hoped the planned meeting with Raven Housing Trust's Director of Operations would take place within the next two weeks.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 1823 Leisure & Amenities Committee, 19 September 2006.

The minutes of the meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee were presented for confirmation by members and signature by the Committee Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 19 September 2006 be confirmed and adopted.

C 1824 Planning & Development Committee, 12 September 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Development Committee were presented for confirmation by members and signature by the Committee Vice-Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Development Committee held on 12 September 2006 be confirmed and adopted.

C 1825 Planning & Development Committee, 10 October 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Development Committee were presented for confirmation by members and signature by the Committee Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Development Committee held on 10 October 2006 be confirmed and adopted.

C 1826 Finance & General Purposes Committee, 17 October 2006

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee were presented for confirmation by members and signature by the Committee Vice-Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 17 October 2006 be confirmed and adopted.

**C 1827 Gatwick Greenspace Partnership (GGP) –
Proposals for Possible Merger with the Sussex Wildlife Trust**

Members considered the outline proposals for the proposed merger. It was explained that these proposals would be put to the Members Steering Group in November. Cllr George explained that the conditions appeared positive. The Sussex Wildlife Trust was not very active in the Crawley area so GGP would be able to continue to work on Horley/Crawley projects. The only drawback seemed to be that a longer term funding plan was being sought, something which would be difficult for local authorities to commit to.

After further discussion the following was resolved:

RESOLVED:

- i) that this Council support the proposed merger of the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership with the Sussex Wildlife Trust.*
- ii) that it be made clear that this Council is unable to commit to funding beyond one year.*

C 1828 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had represented the Town Council at the following events:

7 September – Horley Learning Partnership conference dinner.

22 September – Horley in Bloom Presentation evening (along with other members).

3 October – Meeting with Borough representatives and invited members of the public to discuss leisure proposals for Horley (along with other members).

14 October – Horley Singers Concert

23 October – Concert at Saint Hill Manor

RESOLVED: noted.

C 1829 National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

The Clerk told members that no new information had been received.

RESOLVED: noted.

Surrey County Association of Parish & Town Councils (SCAPTC)

C 1830 RESOLVED: that receipt be noted of papers for the General Meeting of the Association, to be held on 18 November 2006.

C 1831 RESOLVED: that the attendance of Cllr Olliver at a weekend training course for the sum of £250 plus VAT be approved.

C 1832 Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)

RESOLVED: that the attendance of the Clerk at the SLCC Regional Conference, for the total sum of £40, be approved.

C 1833 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

RESOLVED: that this Council, using its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, make a donation of £200 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Annual Audit for the Year Ending 31 March 2006

C 1834 RESOLVED: that the External Auditor's Certificate and Opinion (Section three of the Annual Return) be approved.

C 1835 RESOLVED: that the Annual Return be approved. (A copy is appended to these minutes.)

C 1836 Members noted that no issues had been raised by the External Auditor, therefore no actions were required.

RESOLVED: noted.

A23 Recreation Ground – “Prom in the Park”

C 1837 RESOLVED: that the application by the Fundraiser & Volunteer Co-ordinator of Brambles Respite Care Centre to hold a “Prom in the Park” at the A23 Recreation Ground on 21 July 2007 be approved in principle.

C 1838 RESOLVED: that a sub-committee be set up at a later date to agree details of the event.

C 1839 RESOLVED: that a letter be sent to the Fundraiser, detailing the Town Council's terms and conditions. (A copy is appended to these minutes.)

**Reigate & Banstead Borough Council Leisure Centre Review
Plus Proposals for Public Meeting in Horley**

C 1840 It was noted that the recommendation in the report of the Borough Council's Director of Services to the Community, that a dual use wet and dry facility be built at Oakwood School, had been approved by the Borough Council's Executive on 11 October. This and other recommendations were due to be considered at the Borough Council meeting on 7 December.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 1841 The Chairman told members that the Borough Council had invited the Town Council to put forward its views on the future use of certain sites in Horley. These were the Horley Anderson Centre, the former Court Lodge Infants School and the Adult Education Centre. The Borough Council planned to send a strongly worded letter to Surrey County Council, which would include both Borough and Town Council views on the future of the Surrey County Council owned sites. (Court Lodge Infants School and Adult Education Centre).

RESOLVED: that an Extraordinary Council Meeting be held at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 14 November 2006 to formulate the Town Council's views on the future use of the sites in question.

- C 1842** Members referred to the letter which the Planning & Development Committee had requested the Clerk to write to the Borough Council concerning the leisure proposals. Some members felt that additional points should be made in the letter while others felt that the letter should not be sent at all.

After further discussion, the following was agreed:

RESOLVED: that the letter, as agreed at the meeting of the Planning & Development Committee on 10 October 2006, be sent to the Borough Council's Head of Leisure Services at the earliest opportunity. (A copy is appended to these minutes.)

- C 1843** Members agreed that there was an urgent need to hold an Open Public Meeting before the Borough Council Meeting of 7 December, to enable Horley residents to put forward their views.

RESOLVED

i) that an Open Public Meeting be held at Regent Hall at 7.30 pm on Friday 24 November 2006.

ii) that a press release be prepared and posters be displayed in appropriate locations.

Horley Town Council Grants Scheme

- C 1844** ***RESOLVED: that the list of awards, as appended to these minutes, be approved.***

- C 1845** ***RESOLVED: that the Awards Committee re-consider the criteria for awards, prior to applications being sought next year.***

C 1846 Relocation of Town Council Offices

The Clerk told members that he had nothing new to report.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 1847 Albert Rooms – Purchase of Refrigerator

The Clerk confirmed that there were no health and safety issues surrounding the Town Council providing a refrigerator or cooker, for use by hirers of the Albert Rooms.

RESOLVED: that a refrigerator be purchased, up to a maximum amount of £200 plus VAT.

C 1848 Oakwood School – Mock Interviews

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Oakwood School, asking for assistance with mock interviews. Cllrs Ms Ashley-Smith, George and Miller agreed to assist.

RESOLVED: noted.

C 1849 Work Placement

RESOLVED: that a work placement be offered to a student (Horley Resident) from Oakwood School during the week 23 – 27 April 2007.

C 1850 Smiths Charity

RESOLVED: that the re-appointment of Mr David Hall as a Trustee of Smiths Charity be approved.

C 1851 Press Release

RESOLVED: that the press release, as appended to these minutes, be approved.

C 1852 *RESOLVED: that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.*

**C 1853- Security in Recreation Grounds
C 1855**

CONFIDENTIAL

Members were updated on recent action taken.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Dates of Next Meetings: 14 November 2006 (Extraordinary Meeting)

12 December 2006 (Precept Meeting)