

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL
Leisure & Amenities Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the above-named Committee held at the Albert Rooms, Albert Road, Horley on Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Present Councillors Simon Marshall - Chairman
 Jante Baird
 James Baker
 Mike George (part meeting)
 Jerry Hudson
 Ganesh Kumar (part meeting)
 Samantha Marshall
 Fiona Stimpson

In Attendance C Fenton (Head of Leisure & Deputy Clerk)
 J Walsh (Town Clerk)

It should be noted that any decisions taken at this meeting are likely to be affected by the subsequent Coronavirus Outbreak in March 2020. (Known updates have been provided at the time of publication.)

L 4859 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllrs Chandler, H Kitajewski, Marr and Powell be accepted, for reasons as specified in the Attendance Register. (Cllr Robinson was absent.)

RESOLVED: noted.

L 4860 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non-Pecuniary Interests

There were no Declarations of Interest, in relation to any items included on this agenda.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 4861 Public Forum

No members of the public were public

RESOLVED: noted.

**L 4862 Approval of Minutes
Leisure and Amenities Committee, 7 January 2020**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the above meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee, including all confidential items, be approved.

L 4863 Damaged Gate Pillar, Horley Recreation Ground

It was noted that the repair works had been carried out by Bennetts and that the gates would be re-hung in due course.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 4864 Outside Bodies - Horley RBL Committee Meetings

Cllr Samantha Marshall reported that she had attended the recent RBL Committee Meeting, where planning for VE Celebrations on 8 May had been discussed (all VE Day celebrations subsequently postponed in the light of the Coronavirus Outbreak). It was noted that Cllr Powell was attending the RBL Meeting being held at the same time as this HTC meeting. (Future RBL Committee Meetings were subsequently cancelled at the present time as a result of the Coronavirus Outbreak.)

RESOLVED: noted.

L 4865 Horley Churchyards

The Head of Leisure updated members on the recent meeting of the Churchyards Committee, minutes of which are appended. Thanks were recorded for additional works being undertaken at the New Churchyard by the County Care Organisation, under the direction of Town Councillor James Baker. These included such tasks as painting the entrance gates and filling in sunken graves with spoil from newer plots. (Future Churchyard Committee Meetings were subsequently cancelled at the present time as a result of the Coronavirus Outbreak.)

RESOLVED: noted.

Grounds Maintenance Update

L 4866 Members were reminded that the id verde Grounds Maintenance Company had now taken over the TCL Group of companies, which included Burleys, the company responsible for HTC Grounds Maintenance. The Head of Leisure told members that a very useful meeting had been held at the end of January with Martin Packman, the id verde South East Regional Operations Director, who had explained that the Burleys Contract Manager

- L 4866)** for HTC had left the employment of id verde and had been replaced by Jim Bradley, who was already part of the id verde Group and was currently overseeing their contract with Mole Valley District Council. An extension to the HTC Contract with id verde, negotiated as a result of the January meeting with Martin, had subsequently been approved at the recent Full Council Meeting.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 4867 Members' Inspections of Recreation Grounds

It was noted that Yattendon Road Recreation Ground was still very wet.

RESOLVED: noted.

Playgrounds and Grounds Inspections and Repairs

- L 4868** The Head of Leisure told members that the Play Inspection Company had recently carried out the annual inspections of HTC playgrounds and other play equipment (skate park etc). These were, as always, unannounced inspections and only Low Risk items had been identified, none of which required urgent attention. Copies of the reports had been made available to Bennetts, the company responsible for regular HTC inspections and the company was currently working through any faults identified.

RESOLVED: that payment of £255 plus VAT to the Play Inspection Company for inspections carried out be approved.

- L 4869** It was noted that regular inspections were being carried out and members were updated regarding recent routine repairs.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 4870 Youth Services in Horley

The Clerk said it was hoped that a visit to the YMCA Horley Family Centre could be arranged for members later in the year, in particular to receive updates on what was planned to be provided for young people in the 11 – 18 year old age group.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 4871 Refurbishment of Tennis Courts, Horley Recreation Ground

The Head of Leisure advised that the refurbishment of the Horley Rec tennis courts by Trevor May Contractors was due to start the following day.

- L 4871) *RESOLVED: noted.***
(Afternote: site works were subsequently suspended on 25 March as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak.)
- L 4872 LTA “Tennis for Free” Initiative**
- Whilst plans had been in place to launch the “Tennis for Free” Programme at the Horley Rec courts, these plans were subsequently suspended until later in the year, as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak.
- RESOLVED: noted.***
- L 4873 Funfair Visit to Horley Recreation Ground**
- The planned visit by Beach’s Funfair to Horley Rec for the duration of the school Easter holidays was subsequently cancelled as a result of the Coronavirus Outbreak.
- RESOLVED: noted.***
- L 4874 Café in the Park, Horley Recreation Ground**
- Whilst partial handover of the cafe had been expected to take place on 20 March, all works were suspended in March as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak.
- RESOLVED: noted.***
- L 4875 Horley Lions Dog Show & Family Fun Day, Sunday 6 September 2020**
- RESOLVED: that permission be given to the Horley Lions to hold their annual Dog Show and Family Fun Day at Horley Rec on 6 September 2020, subject to Government Restrictions regarding Social Gatherings, imposed as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak being lifted by this time.***
- L 4876 Fitness Training, Horley Recreation Ground**
- It was noted that a local Fitness Trainer had signed an Agreement with the Town Council to run fitness classes at Horley Rec, no charge to be levied by this Council at the present time. All such permissions were subsequently suspended as a result of the Coronavirus Outbreak.
- RESOLVED: noted.***

L 4877 Anti-Social Behaviour in HTC Recreation Grounds

The Head of Leisure advised that there had been a number of instances of dog owners using both the Court Lodge Playground and the Horley Rec tennis courts for dog training purposes, despite both these areas being designated RBBC Dog Exclusion Zones. It was hoped that a meeting with local Police could be arranged to discuss these issues further.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 4878 Damage to Titan Carousel Ride, Court Lodge Playground

Following damage to the Titan Ride, as a result of unauthorised dog training taking place in the Court Lodge Playground, the seats of the ride had been temporarily removed. The HTC Playground Inspectors were still seeing instances of the dog training occurring in the playground. The Head of Leisure suggested alternatives to the seats, which could be purchased and would not be “dog friendly” for these training purposes, these were T Bar assemblies, which required the users to hold onto, rather than an actual seat being in place. After discussion the following was resolved:

RESOLVED: that three T Bar Hanger Assemblies be purchased from HAGS for the total sum of £403.20 plus VAT.

(Afternote: the installation of the T Bar Hangers was subsequently postponed as a result of the Coronavirus Outbreak and the closure of all playgrounds.)

L 4879 Visit to Court Lodge Fields by Extreme Fun, Summer 2020

RESOLVED: that the Operator be given permission to operate a Licensed Bar during agreed opening hours, which were no later than 6.00 pm), for the duration of their visit to Court Lodge Fields. The visit was of course subject to Government Restrictions regarding Social Gatherings, imposed as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak being lifted by this time.

Emlyn Meadows Updates

L 4880 Members looked at styles of recycled plastic benches, which were available from the Earth Anchors Company and recognised to be more durable than timber benches and agreed that two such benches be purchased in the following financial year.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 4881 It was noted that the Town Council had purchased suitable timber to replace the aged bird boxes in the Bolters Wood area of the Meadows. These would be made by Horley Conservation Group volunteers and

- L 4881) installed in readiness for Spring 2021, subject to the necessary permissions being obtained from RBBC once transfer of ownership of the Wood had taken place.

RESOLVED: noted.

Horley Allotments

- L 4882 **RESOLVED: that the use of tyres as planters etc be forbidden at all Allotment sites in Horley.**

- L 4883 There were no further updates regarding the Westvale Park Allotments.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 4884 **Horley Open Spaces Advisory Committee (HOSAC)**

Members were updated on the recent meeting of the Committee. It was noted that RBBC planned to plant a wildflower meadow on the Cheyne Walk roundabout. Further work was also due to be carried out at the Riverside Garden Park car park. (All future meetings of the HOSAC Committee are cancelled during the Coronavirus Outbreak.)

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 4885 **Horley Conservation Group (HCG)**

Members were updated on recent activities. In mid-March all future public engagement work involving the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership was cancelled until further notice as a result of the Coronavirus Outbreak.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 4886 **Environment Working Group**

Members were updated on recent meetings of the Group. It was noted that it was hoped to carry out the Residents' Environmental Survey during the Autumn.

RESOLVED: noted.

Summer Planting 2020

- L 4887 **RESOLVED: that the quotation from id verde to supply Summer planting in the Memorial Gardens (red, white & blue planting scheme) for the total sum of £826.06 plus VAT be approved.**

- L 4888** Members approved a suggestion that Amethyst Horticulture provide Heritage Barrels around each lamp post in the Pedestrian Precinct, in addition to other planters around the town. (As a result of the Coronavirus outbreak the provision of hanging baskets was cancelled for 2020).

RESOLVED: that Amethyst Horticulture provide Summer Planters for the Memorial Gardens and Horley Town Centre for the total sum of £5,388 plus VAT, which included planters funded by County Cllr Kay Hammond, in the sum of £2,073.

- L 4889** ***RESOLVED, that as a result of the Coronavirus Outbreak and to lessen the burden on id verde staff, the planting of wildflower meadows at Church Meadows & Memorial Gardens (£1,040 plus VAT) be suspended for 2020.***

- L 4890** **Horley Saturday Market**

It was noted that the members' collection rota for fees was now up and running and to date had been working very well. (Pitch fees were subsequently suspended during the Coronavirus Outbreak.)

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 4891** **Horley Carnival 2020 ("Sport Through the Ages")**

The Horley Carnival was subsequently cancelled for 2020, as a result of the Coronavirus Outbreak

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 4892** **Tree Planting in Horley**

The Town Council's response to the Surrey County Council Draft New Tree Strategy, as previously considered by the Planning Committee, was noted. Members' attention was also drawn to a report from the Surrey Nature Partnership regarding future tree planting, highlighting that tree planting should provide the "Right tree in the right place for the right reasons"

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 4893** **Diary Dates**

All future diary dates, including the Town Meeting on 24 April were sadly postponed or cancelled as a result of the Coronavirus Outbreak.

RESOLVED: noted.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm. Date of next meeting to be advised.

Minutes of the Churchyard Committee Meeting 15/01/20

Present: Rev Les Wells (Chair) Sue Middleton (sec), Thiru Jesudason, Roy Page,

Michael Gardner, Richard Moore.

Michael George (Cllr) Carol Fenton (Deputy Town Clerk) Simon Marshall (Cllr)

Apologies: Roger Kidd, David Powell,

1) **Prayer** – The meeting opened with a word of prayer by Rev Les Wells

2) **Burleys** has now been taken over by **Ideverde**.

Carol Fenton reported, that the Council has been advised, that there would be no changes in the foreseeable future, & the staff of Burleys have been retained. Despite Davinder having been notified of the date of the meeting, there was no representative from the firm

Action – Carol to contact the firm & on our behalf to request

a) They maintain the same grass & hedge maintenance schedule as current year

b) They confirm in writing the price of the contract for year beginning April 2020 would be current price + RPI

3) **Michael Hill of RBBC** – was absent. No apologies received.

Thiru reported that at the last DCC the points raised by the architect in the Quinquennial report re the tombs & vaults were raised & the question of who was responsible for their maintenance. Michael Hill was sent a copy with the pertinent paragraphs outlined & asked for clarification. But as no response was received

Action- Thiru to email Richard Hastings at the diocese & ask for clarification

4) Minutes of the previous meeting – Passed as correct

5) **Matters arising**

a) Thiru reported the Lychgate roof repair was completed in early October & the gates repaired in July.

b) In the absence of David Powell the question of further info on the three who perished in the Boer War was deferred.

6) **Work done in the New churchyard** – Michael Gardner reported that

Pea Shingle has been spread over the Ash plot which now looks much better. Also Hawthorn & Oak trees growing around the graves cut back & finally the Ash saplings trimmed & the stems injected with a strong weed killer.

Michael George reported that James Baker worked with County care the charity looking after people with learning disability, that they may be able to help.

Roy pointed out the main gates leading to the New churchyard was covered in Moss & would benefit by a good clean – a job the county care clients could undertake under supervision.

Action – Carol Fenton to contact James Baker.

- 7) **Yew in the Old Churchyard- Nigel Ellis tree officer of RBBC** reported that Honey fungus does not attack Yews, as their leaves are acidic. That he would arrange for the dying branches to be trimmed in the Spring & will keep the health of the tree under review as he was loath to cut down a 200yr old Yew.
He also said he would carry out a full tree survey in March 2020, as the council does it every 3 years & the last one was done in March 2017
The question of who was responsible for the insurance for trees was raised at the DCC. Nigel Ellis reported, after making inquiries, that the Council was only responsible for the workers whilst on site, but any damage to property from falling trees or subsidence etc remains our responsibility.
- 8) **WWI & WWII War Grave Photographs** – Rev Les reported are in two folders & is held in the parish office
- 9) **Publicity re the refurbishment of the Lychgate.**
Thiru read out a draft report, this was agreed as satisfactory, copies of photographs taken before, during & after the repair to be attached. The Council to be forwarded a copy, also to the War Memorials Trust & to the Horley Historic Buildings Preservation Trust as they had said they would give a quote to go into any publicity report
- Action – Roy to forward the photographs to be attached to the Publicity report & Thiru to circulate to the relevant bodies.**
- 10) Any other business - none

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 22 April 2020.