

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 24 January 2023 at 7.30 pm

Present	Cllrs	Hannah Avery	Mike George	Samantha Marshall
		Jante Baird	Jerry Hudson	Simon Marshall (Chairman)
		James Baker	Helen Kitajewski	David Powell*
		Jordan Beech	Robert Marr	Fiona Stimpson**

* Absent

**In Attendance Remotely

In Attendance Joan Walsh (Town Clerk)
Helen Maan (Leisure & Facilities Officer)

L 5319 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllr David Powell, be accepted.

L 5320 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non-Pecuniary Interests

No Declarations of Interest were raised.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5321 Approval of Minutes - Leisure and Amenities Committee, held on 18 October 2022

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

L 5322 Leisure Updates

The Leisure & Facilities Officers advised that all actions had been completed from the previous Committee meeting. She added that there had been considerable interruptions to football at Court Lodge fields in recent weeks due to flooding and freezing conditions, however, pitch bookings had since resumed on a weekly basis.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5323 Horley Churchyards

Cllr George advised that he had attended the last Horley Churchyards meeting on 25 January where general updates were received but he had nothing specifically to report back to the Committee. The Town Clerk added that the Church had renewed their grounds maintenance contract for the New Churchyard with Idverde for another year with a 5% increase and were pursuing grant funding for more tree works from the local SCC Member Allocation Fund.

RESOLVED: noted.

HTC Grounds Maintenance & Security

L 5324 Meeting held with the Town Council's Ground Maintenance Contractor, 17 January 2023

The Chairman and Leisure & Facilities Officer advised that no issues were raised at the last update meeting and that service levels from Idverde remained satisfactory.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5325 Members' Inspections of Recreation Grounds

Court Lodge Fields:

Cllr George commented that the Borough Council should undertake a litter pick in the wooded area behind Court Lodge Fields leading along the river and up to Lee Street and this would be followed up by the Leisure & Facilities Officer.

Church Meadows:

Cllr Baker said he had no issues to report and that the site was in a reasonable state.

Horley Recreation Ground and Emlyn Meadows:

The Chairman said there were no issues at Horley Recreation Ground. He advised that Emlyn Meadows had become very muddy from recent heavy rainfall.

L 5325) *RESOLVED: that the actions required from the Members' Inspections of Recreation Grounds be followed up by Town Council Officers accordingly and updates be provided at the next Committee meeting.*

L 5326 Other parks and open spaces (not under the control of HTC):

Cllr Baird raised concerns about the numerous potholes in the car park at Riverside Park (managed by RBBC). It was agreed that the matter should be taken up with the Borough Council directly at the next liaison meeting to be held with the Town Council.

Members thought it would also be useful to have information from RBBC on their rolling schedules and frequency for cleaning and litter clearance in their parks as well as road sweeping on residential roads as this seemed limited in certain area clusters. Additionally, Cllr George raised concerns about Reigate & Banstead Dog Control Orders enforcing enough requirements for commercial dog walkers with multiple dogs in public spaces. It was agreed that these matters should be taken up with the Borough Council directly at the next liaison meeting to be held with the Town Council and updates provided at the next Committee meeting.

L 5326) *RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk requests the following items be added to the next RBBC/HTC Liaison Meeting agenda:*

- i) that the condition of the car park at Riverside Garden Park be investigated in light of concerns about numerous potholes; and*
- ii) that information on rolling schedules for cleaning, litter clearance and road sweeping by the Borough Council in parks and residential roads be requested; and*
- iii) that clarification on 'Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)' and licensing enforcement for dangerous dogs by commercial dog walkers be sought*

L 5327 Drainage Measures in Horley Recreation Ground

The Leisure & Facilities Officer updated the Committee on the position after serious drainage issues were identified from the access pathway by the playground, presenting widespread flooding after heavy rainfall and a high accumulation of surface water. She had approached a few drainage companies for potential solutions, involving the installation of soakaways and tanks.

A discussion amongst the Committee ensued and several Members commented that soakaways were unlikely to be successful due to the large content of clay in the ground soil. It was therefore agreed that expert advice should be sought from drainage engineers to determine the most practical and long-term solution. The Town Clerk added that, in the

meantime, temporary measures were in place to cordon-off the area after flooding as required and the situation was being closely monitored by HTC's parks contractors.

The Town Clerk further pointed out that recent repair estimates indicated costings in the region of 6-7.5k but this would be subject to confirmation after site surveys had been carried out and further quotations acquired. The Committee would also need to consider funding provision to cover the cost of the remedial works when known and to make recommendations for Full Council approval which was duly noted.

L 5327) *RESOLVED: that an appropriate drainage solution for the access pathway by the playground at Horley Recreation Ground be followed up by Officers by acquiring expert advice and a further update be provided at the next Committee meeting.*

L 5328 **Replacement of Height Barrier in the car park at Court Lodge fields:**
The Leisure & Facilities Officer informed the Committee that comparable cost estimates were being acquired to replace the ageing height barrier at the entrance to the site and the Chairman was being kept informed of progress.

RESOLVED: noted.

Leisure & Recreational Projects in the Community

L 5329 **Graffiti at Horley Recreation Ground**

The Committee was updated on the position concerning graffiti at the skate park, noting that the removal of offensive tags was being tackled where possible. The Leisure & Facilities Officer advised that there had been a positive response to a Facebook posting, seeking interested artists to help with a 'street art project' at the skate park. The potential of working with Oakwood School was also being explored. Additionally, Cllr Baird suggested that Reigate College of Art might wish to get involved and Cllr George suggested that the Outreach Worker at the Horley YMCA should also be approached. The suggestions made would be followed up and a further update would be provided at the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: that further enquiries be made by Town Council Officers on the potential for a community 'street art project' at the skate park at Horley Recreation Ground being developed.

Community Events in Horley

L 5330 **The Coronation of HRH King Charles III**

The Town Clerk updated the Committee on arrangements published on the Royal Website, noting that the Coronation of King Charles III would be held on Saturday, 6 May. This would be followed by the nationwide 'Big Lunch' on Sunday 7 May, when local celebratory events could take place. Applications for street parties or small fetes should be made to the Borough Council by no later than 23 March. The matter would also be discussed at the next RBBC/HTC Liaison meeting to share plans for borough-wide events and how these might link up with more local events.

Additionally, on Bank Holiday Monday, 8 May, the general public would be invited to participate in 'The Big Help Out' event and join in volunteering work being undertaken to support local areas.

L 5330) The Town Clerk added that Surrey ALC had shared the fact that some local Councils were being cautious in funding elaborate events due to affordability and the short period of time since the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated last June.

The Committee further shared their ideas for the Town Council to hold a Horley event, including tree planting at the Memorial Gardens and a small ceremony, presided by the Council Chairman & Town Mayor. The Leisure & Facilities Officer suggested that the Town Council could hold a picnic in the park, similar to the one held for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Café Operator would also be approached for their ideas to mark the event and if the Town Council could offer support as it had done previously. Cllr Baker added that the Horley Association of Traders (HATs) was unlikely to hold any celebrations due to the closeness of their St George's Day celebrations in April.

It was agreed that once tentative arrangements had been finalised, the recommendations put forward by the Committee would be presented for approval at the next Full Council meeting (due to be held on 7 March 2023).

RESOLVED: that the recommendations made to mark the Coronation of King Charles III at Horley Recreation Ground, be presented for approval at the Full Council meeting (due to be held on 7 March 2023).

L 5331 Horley Carnival 2023

Cllr George reported that despite the great success of the Horley Carnival in 2022, the Committee had recorded an overall loss was therefore raising the arena and stall holder charges this year. He said that the artwork was nearly complete and the theme this year is '***The Natural World***' with displays to be provided by Gun Dogs, and Birds of Prey.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5332 Horley in Bloom and Photographic Competition 2023

The Committee was in agreement for the competition to be launched at the upcoming Annual Town Public Forum in May. The Leisure Officer suggested that it might be useful for the Horley in Bloom Working Group to meet earlier this year to consider the arrangements and this was also agreed.

RESOLVED: that the Horley in Bloom and Photographic Competition 2023, be launched at the Annual Town Public Forum due to be held on 19 May 2023.

L 5333 Other Community Events in Horley

The Leisure & Facilities Officer summarised upcoming events which were also available to view on the Town Council website, as follows:

Funfair in the Horley Recreation Ground 1-16 April 2023

St Georges Day Fair in the High Street 22 April 2023

Lions Dog Show 14 May 2023

Lions Fireworks & Bonfire 4 November 2023

L 5334 Compliance & Regulatory

The Leisure & Facilities Officer advised that the Annual Inspection of Playgrounds (RoSPA) will be conducted in February and an update would be provided at the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: noted.

Seasonal Planting 2023

- L 5335** It was reported that that SCC Cllr Andy Lynch had provided 2.5k from the local SCC Members' Allocation towards summer planters at Court Lodge, Horley Row and Lee Street. A note of thanks to Cllr Lynch for supporting the project was recorded.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 5336** It was agreed by the Committee that in light of the proposed High Street Public Realm refurbishment upgrade by SCC/RBBC, that provision of floral planters by the Town Council in the Town Centre be reviewed at a later stage and made dependent upon requirement after the scheme had been delivered.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 5337** **RESOLVED: that the quotations from Amethyst Horticulture to provide Town Centre Hanging Baskets and Summer Planters (including those funded by Cllr Lynch), up to an amount not exceeding £9,600 to cover supply costs and watering charges, be approved.**

- L 5338** **RESOLVED: that the provision of Town Centre Hanging Baskets, subject to appropriate licences being acquired from SCC, be approved.**

- L 5339** **Additional Planting Requirements**

The Leisure & Facilities Officer advised that she had attended a site meeting with the Town Clerk and Idverde Contract Manager to identify areas for wildflower planting at Horley Recreation Ground. Some suitable strips of land had been identified adjacent to the front railings (opposite the tennis courts) and in a spare flower bed at the Memorial Gardens. Cost estimates were awaited for a selection of annual wildflowers and it was thought that aftercare would be minimal, only at the end of the flowering season. The Town Clerk added that the project has been taken forward by the HTC Environment Committee and the Members were being kept informed.

RESOLVED: noted.

Outside Bodies

- L 5340** **Gatwick Greenspace Partnership (GGP)**

Cllr George advised that the GGP Annual Meeting had been held and it was reported that recent budgetary constraints would have a financial impact on general reserves in the year ahead. He commented that it would be useful to have more clarity of the set objectives of the partnership since they were financially supported by the Town and Borough Councils and this might be achieved through direct liaison higher up in the chain of command. The matter would be followed up in due course.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 5341** **Horley Conservation Group (HCG)**

It was noted that HTC representatives had not been notified of any recent HCG meetings and this would be followed up.

RESOLVED: that enquiries be made concerning forthcoming meetings of the Horley Conservation Group and communicated to Town Council representatives.

L 5342 Horley Open Spaces Advisory Committee (HOSAC)

It was noted that in agreement with the Chairman, meetings of the HOSAC would reconvene in the Municipal Year 2023/24 and the meetings dates would be confirmed by the Leisure & Facilities Officer when available.

RESOLVED: that the meeting dates of Horley Open Spaces Advisory Committee for 2023/24, be confirmed in due course.

L 5343 Grounds Maintenance Contract Renewal

The Town Clerk provided a brief overview on preparations made for the Town Council's Ground Maintenance Contract tender, effective from 1 January 2024. With reference to a programme and timetable, she said that Officers were working on the draft tender document and detailed works specifications with assistance from HTC consultant, Alan Jones. The Notice of Early Engagement would be advertised on Contracts Finder in February and the formal tender would begin in June, to allow sufficient time for the tender to be conducted and finalised. A further update would be provided at the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: that a further update on the Grounds Maintenance Contract Renewal be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

Communications Received

L 5344 It was noted that a resident request had been made for a bench to be placed at Court Lodge, near the car park. The Members were minded to support the request and the matter would be followed up by the Leisure & Facilities Officer.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5345 It was reported that a representative of the family of a deceased Horley resident and war veteran (who had lived to 102 years old and had fought in WW2 and the Korean conflict), had requested permission for the spreading of his ashes at the Memorial Gardens at Horley Recreation Ground. The Committee permitted the request and the Town Mayor and Armed Forces Champion would aim to attend the service in their capacities if the family so desired.

RESOLVED: that permission be granted to the family of a deceased Horley resident and war veteran for the spreading of his ashes at Horley Recreation Ground with an offer of attendance from Cllrs Samantha Marshall and James Baker and that the family to be notified accordingly.

L 5346 The Leisure & Facilities Officer reported that an email had been received from a member of Horley Pickleball Club, requesting again that another tennis court be line marked for pickleball. It was agreed that the matter be deferred for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: that the repeat request for a second tennis court at Horley Recreation Ground be line marked for pickleball be considered at the next Committee meeting.

Diary Dates

L 5347 **SCC/RBBC/HTC Liaison Meeting Friday 27 January 2023**
Access Group 31 January 2023
Planning Committee 14 February 2023
Full Council Meeting 7 March 2023

RESOLVED: noted.

Meeting closed at 20:45 hrs

Date of next Meeting: 25 April 2023