

# 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 17 October 2023 at 7.30pm

<b>Present</b>	Cllrs	Hannah Avery	Lynne Burnham*	Samantha Marshall
		Jante Baird	Emma Fagan	Martin Saunders
		James Baker*	Cec Hughes	Tom Turner
		Jordan Beech	Robert Marr	Steve Wotton

\* Absent

\*\*In Attendance Remotely

**In Attendance** Cllr Mike George  
Cllr Michael Blacker  
Sam Adeniji (Assistant Town Clerk & RFO Elect)  
Helen Maan (Leisure & Facilities Officer)

### **L 5409 Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

***RESOLVED that the apologies of the Town Clerk, Joan Walsh, be accepted.***

### **L 5410 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr Avery declared an interest in item 13: RBBC Consultation - Public Space Protection Orders (Dog Controls), as she is the Reigate & Banstead Borough Council portfolio holder for Neighbourhood Services.

***RESOLVED: noted***

### **L 5411 Public Forum**

#### **Allotments in Horley – Beekeeping Application (Langshott Allotments)**

The Leisure Officer reported that the Horley Town Council Beekeeping Policy had been adopted and that a survey had been conducted to consult Langshott allotment holders and neighbouring householders on the proposal. The majority of respondents had supported the application to allow two bee hives to be kept on the site with installation planned for no sooner than spring 2024.

The Leisure Officer further advised that if permission were to be granted, then it would be subject to full compliance requirements as stated; a 12 month probationary period would apply; and the applicant must provide their British Beekeeping Association certification in advance. Horley Town Council would accept no responsibility for loss or damage once the bee hives had been placed and the applicants must agree to indemnify the council against any losses arising. After further discussion, it was unanimously agreed by the committee to approve the application.

**L 5411) *RESOLVED: that Standing Orders be suspended to move agenda item 12 i): Allotments in Horley, to the Public Forum part of the meeting.***

**L 5412 *RESOLVED: that the application to place two bee hives at Langshott Allotments in spring 2024 be approved, subject to all conditions being met as stated in the Town Council's adopted Beekeeping Policy.***

**L 5413 Approval of Minutes - Leisure and Amenities Committee, held on 4 July 2023**

**L 5413) *RESOLVED: that the minutes of the above meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee, be approved.***

**L 5414 Precept 2024/25**

The RFO outlined the process for the annual budget and precept setting which was starting with the information gathering stage, reviewing leisure budgets and requirements at this meeting and all other budgets and requirements at the next Council meeting. Following this, a working group consisting of the leaders group would be convened to consider the way forward and give guidance on what scenarios to present for consideration and precept setting at Council in December.

An inflationary increase benchmarked to CPI in September 2023 (6.7%) had been applied to all budgets unless there was a reason not to. Members queried why an inflationary increase had not been applied to all fees and charges. It was explained that fees and charges were due for review at the next meeting of Council when this decision would be made. Members welcomed the news regarding the cost of the new Grounds Maintenance contract which would have a beneficial effect both in the current financial year as well as for the consideration of the level of precept for the financial year 2024/25. Members queried the water bill for the 'Café In The Park' and the RFO undertook to provide further information at the next Council meeting in October. Members were satisfied that the budgets had been thoroughly reviewed and set appropriately, having regard to always achieving best value for the Council and residents.

In response to a request for future requirements to be considered by the Town Plan Working Group the following items were discussed:

- Boiler replacement at the Innes Sports Pavilion, Court Lodge
- Drainage solution (at access pathway to play area), Horley Recreation Ground
- Towards professional fees to fully redesign the play area at Horley Recreation Ground and improved lighting at the skate park to allow use during the winter
- A Re-lay of the skate park side area and installation of additional railings/furniture

***RESOLVED: that requirements for potential future projects be noted for consideration by the Town Plan Working Group and that budgets as reviewed be recommended for consideration by Full Council.***

**L 5415 Horley Churchyards**

Cllr George reported that St Bart's Church would be renewing their Grounds Maintenance Contract and intended to pursue an SCC Members Allocation grant for the pruning of trees. The next meeting would be held on 24 January 2024.

***RESOLVED: noted.***

**HTC Grounds Maintenance and Security**

**L 5416** The Leisure Officer gave a report of recent meetings held with the Town Council's grounds maintenance contractor and recent changes to the manger and supervisor postholders. The next meeting with the Leisure Chairman was due to be held on 20 October 2023. The Leisure Officer further advised that there had been some issues recently with the frequency of grass cutting at Court Lodge and would be kept monitored.

***RESOLVED: noted.***

**L 5417** The Leisure Officer reported that arrangements were in hand for drainage works at the access pathway to the Horley Recreation Ground play area, as previously agreed by Members. She advised that quotes would be acquired for the remedial works to be undertaken and a further update would be provided at the next committee meeting.

**L 5417)** ***RESOLVED: that a further update on drainage works at the access pathway to the play area at Horley Recreation Ground and comparable quotes received, be provided at the next committee meeting.***

**L 5418** Cllr Saunders gave a report on the proposed community artwork project at Horley Recreation Ground skatepark and the investigations he had made so far to eliminate the

problem of offensive graffiti. It was agreed that a community action day could perhaps be planned to potentially paint the sides of the skatepark and to involve any interested local groups or organisations as a collective community project. Cllr Saunders agreed to take the matter forward. He further suggested that improved lighting at the skatepark would allow for it to be better utilised in the winter months and this could perhaps be pursued through Council's five-year Town Plan objectives.

***RESOLVED: that Cllr Saunders pursue the possibility of a community action day for skatepark artwork at Horley Recreation Ground with support from the local community.***

**L 5419 Members' inspections of Recreation Grounds**

An update on the latest inspections of parks and open spaces was received. Cllr Saunders added that the table tennis table at Horley Recreation Ground required surface removal of lichen and this was noted by the Leisure Officer.

***RESOLVED: noted.***

**L 5420** The Leisure Officer advised that the Grounds Maintenance contactor had been instructed to reduce the height of the hedge between the tennis courts and the Jubilee Gardens to improve sight lines at Horley Recreation Ground.

***RESOLVED: noted.***

**L 5421 Community Events in Horley**

**Horley in Bloom (HIB) and Photographic Competitions 2023**

Cllr George reported that the awards evening for the Horley in Bloom and Photographic Competitions had been very well attended and the committee hoped to start planning for the 2024 competitions early in the new year. A note of thanks was recorded to everyone involved in making the community event so successful and well received by Horley residents.

***RESOLVED: noted.***

**L 5422** The Leisure Officer reported that the Horley Association of Traders had confirmed that the Christmas Fair would be held on Saturday, 9 December 2023 and the Horley Carnival would be held on Saturday 15 June 2024.

**L 5423 Use of HTC Community Buildings, Parks and Outdoor Spaces**

Cllr George gave an update on the potential for installing a defibrillator inside the Innes Sports Pavilion, having been advised that one of the junior football clubs had hoped to secure funding. A further update would be provided in due course, noting that the Town Council would be required to undertake ongoing maintenance costs should the equipment be purchased.

***RESOLVED: noted.***

**L 5424 HTC Playgrounds & Grounds Inspections and Repairs**

The Leisure Officer provided a report on playgrounds inspections along with grounds inspectors and repairs by HTC's parks contractors. She advised that some swing seats and chains had been replaced in the playground at Michael Crescent Centenary Park.

***RESOLVED: noted.***

**L 5425 Allotments in Horley**

The Leisure Officer reported that Langshott allotments would require some netting to fill gaps along the railway fencing to prevent deer from entering the site and damaging the

produce of allotment holders. She added that the Langshott Allotment Tenants Association would helpfully clear along the boundary line and install the netting.

**RESOLVED: noted.**

**L 5426 RBBC Consultation: Public Space Protection Orders (Dog Controls)**

The committee received a report prepared by the Town Clerk, based on the online survey she completed previously with helpful feedback she received from Cllrs Baird, George, Hughes and Marshall. This was to ascertain if Dog Control Orders in Horley should be continued, changed or stopped, together with some proposed new orders. The Town Clerk had also emailed the RBBC Dog Warden separately to provide additional commentary which was not possible to include in survey answers, the details of which had circulated before the meeting.

In summary, it was noted that:

- HTC supports the recommendations for dog-on-lead requirements; limiting the maximum number of dogs a per can walk at one time from 6 to 4; & dog fouling removal responsibilities on owners to avoid fines.
- All play areas listed should be categorised as Dog Exclusion Zones through a blanket PSPO borough-wide.
- The whole of Michael Crescent Centenary Park is classified as a Dog Exclusion Zone, and not just the play area, again the PSPO Renewal Recommendations should apply, to collectively achieve common standards in open spaces across the Reigate & Banstead borough.
- Court Lodge Fields, Yattendon Recreation Ground, Church Meadows and Emlyn Meadows are covered by borough wide PSPO's.

It was further noted that the next review would be in three years and if further restrictions are then required for parks and open spaces in Horley, it would be advisable to keep these documented and present them six months prior to the start of the consultations so they can be added for the public to view and provide judgment. The matter would therefore be followed up by the Town Council at that time.

**RESOLVED: that the Town Council's response to the RBBC consultation on Dog Control Orders in Horley, be ratified.**

**Outside Bodies**

**L 5427** A report from Cllr George concerning Gatwick Greenspace Partnership (GGP) was received, noting that a recent meeting had taken place with the trusts to consider more engagement with interested stakeholders and the local community.

**RESOLVED: noted.**

**L 5428 Town Centre Carol Service and Christmas Tree**

The Leisure Officer reported on arrangements for the Horley Town Centre Carol Service and Councillor Hospitality events to take place on 9 December 2023 in the High Street pedestrian precinct. She added that the Christmas tree has been ordered with installation planned for the end of November. Cllr Marshall agreed to be the organiser for the hospitality event by HTC and it was hoped that two Town Award presentations could be made on the same day, subject to confirmation.

**RESOLVED: noted.**

**L 5429 Communications Received**

The Leisure Officer updated the committee on a request received from some residents of Hevers Avenue to prune a number of mature trees, running along rear boundary lines at

Horley Recreation Ground and this would be investigated further with Town Council's tree contractor.

**RESOLVED: noted.**

**L 5430**

**Diary Dates**

Remote SCC/RBBC/HTC Joint Council Meeting: 20 October

Interim Planning Meeting: 24 October

Full Council Meeting: 31 October

Horley Fireworks & Bonfire night (Horley Recreation Ground) 4 November

**Horley Remembrance Events** 8 November – Rededication of Garden of Remembrance

11 November – 2 minutes silence in TC

14 November – Remembrance Parade

**RESOLVED: noted.**

**L 5431**

**Grounds Maintenance Contract Renewal**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

The appointment of Grounds Maintenance Contractor, effective from 1 January 2024 for a three-year supply and possible two-year extension, was considered by the Committee from the tender submissions received and recommendations were made for Full Council approval at the next meeting on 31 October 2023.

**RESOLVED: noted.**

**Meeting closed at 21:22 hrs**

**Date of next Meeting: 23 January 2024**