



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 5 July 2022 at 7.30 pm**

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

* Absent

**In Attendance Remotely

In Attendance Joan Walsh (Town Clerk)
Helen Maan (Communications & Compliance Officer) **attended remotely*
Alice Cole (Administrative Assistant)
Members of the Public (2)

L 5273 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllrs James Baker, Andy Dye, Helen Kitajewski, Samantha Marshall, David Powell and Fiona Stimpson, be accepted.

L 5274 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

RESOLVED: noted.

Public Forum

L 5275

A member of the Horley Pickleball Club addressed the Committee to request the installation of 'pickleball lines' on a second court at Horley Recreation Ground. The speaker explained that the sport was fast growing and felt that current facilities locally could not meet the increasing demand for participation in the sport. The speaker made reference to a survey carried out by the club at the park, which served to compare the apparent usage of the courts throughout the day for tennis and help evaluate current demand. This had reportedly indicated there was spare capacity to support pickleball and for this reason, the line-marking of a second court should be considered.

The Chairman thanked the speaker and invited comments from the Committee. At his request, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to enable the Committee to discuss Item 10(iii) from the agenda at this part of the meeting.

Several Members agreed that the courts should be able to accommodate the general public in playing a variety sports, for which they were suitable, including pickleball. They queried how the pickleball club operated with regard to court usage, to which the speaker replied that the club utilised a 'turn up and play' system with no booking required.

L 5275)

Cllr Baird raised a query regarding the survey which was carried out and enquired if a similar survey could be undertaken in the aftermath of the upcoming Wimbledon Tennis Tournaments, as this usually had a positive impact on the usage of the courts at Horley Recreation Ground, for tennis.

It was agreed by the Committee that a further assessment on court usage at a later stage would be beneficial and this would be followed up by the Town Council for further consideration at the next Committee meeting along with quotations for line-marking a second court as additional information.

RESOLVED: that the request by Horley Pickleball Club to line-mark a second court for pickleball be deferred until the next Committee meeting and that quotations be acquired to facilitate discussions.

L 5276

A local tennis coach addressed the Committee to request a continuation of the current arrangement of using the tennis courts on Tuesday mornings for coaching sessions. The speaker also requested use of the courts on Monday mornings for their 'recovery racquets' initiative to support older residents who are recovering from operations; and to assist with mobility and playing sport accessibly. Additional 20-30 minute sessions were also being requested as these had reportedly become more popular with current members along with 'on-the-spot' coaching.

Some Members raised the issue of paying for court usage by operators imposing a charge on their clients. Cllr Simon Marshall clarified that the tennis coach was not currently being charged for providing coaching sessions but this was on a trial basis (outside of peak time usage) to determine if there would be a direct benefit to the community by making it available to everyone regardless of ability and that reasonable concessions were being offered to facilitate this initiative, including low income families. Cllr George suggested that charging residents for sessions could create a sense of priority on the public courts, cause disruption and would undermine the fundamental objective for the courts to be free to use at all times. The speaker explained that coaching never takes place if the tennis courts are already occupied and, similarly, lessons would cease if the courts become too busy. It was further explained that such activities were only on Tuesday mornings as this provided the best downtime for coaching sessions and it was only available in term time.

Cllr Baird suggested that the term time arrangement might limit the catchment for coaching and enquired if the *Tennis for Free* initiative could be re-investigated to encourage tennis for all residents. Cllr Beech agreed and added that this approach was likely to benefit more from community grants (subject to approval), since Surrey County Council had supported such an initiative previously with an offer of funding.

It was agreed by the Committee that the *Tennis for Free* initiative seemed a better approach and this would be followed up for further consideration at the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: That the request to extend Town Council permission to grant tennis coaching by at Horley Recreation be deferred until the next Committee meeting; and that the 'Tennis for Free' initiative be re-investigated as a channel to support tennis coaching for all residents, including low income families.

L 5277

Approval of Minutes - Leisure and Amenities Committee, held on 26 April 2022

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

L 5278

Leisure Updates

L 5250 Langshott Allotment Site -Communal Compost Area

The Town Clerk reported that the Langshott Tenants Association (LATA) had advised that the communal compost area had been constructed at the northern end of the site and was available to all plot holders for a small contribution. A further update would be provided after the pens for chipping and compost were complete.

L 5255 Update to report on Michael Crescent Centenary Park

The Town Clerk updated Members on major maintenance works at Michael Crescent Centenary Park, including the installation of new mesh fencing and works to the neighbouring boundary fence which had completed all necessary works on the site in the current financial year. She added that concerns about asbestos particles coming from the nearby row of garages had further been resolved by the social housing trust who arranged an inspection and removal of the particles found.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5279

Horley Churchyards

The Town Clerk informed Members that the next Horley Churchyards meeting would be held on 6 July 2022. The agenda included updates to be received on maintenance of the New Churchyard; grass cutting at the Old Churchyard; updates on works undertaken by County Care volunteers; and a debrief on local Platinum Jubilee events. She also reminded Members about the Churchyards Walk planned for 5 September 2022, starting at 5.30 pm.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5280

HTC Grounds Maintenance & Security

The Members were advised that meetings with Idverde were expected to be scheduled shortly in order to discuss a range of issues, including service level agreements and six-weekly progress meetings with HTC, as stated under the terms of the Grounds Maintenance contract. She added that HTC had further received an inflationary increase request from Idverde in writing, due to financial constraints. The matter would be brought to the Full Council meeting on 26 July 2022, for consideration.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5281

Court Lodge Sports Pitches

RESOLVED: that costs incurred for pitch maintenance at Court Lodge playing fields, including top dressing, in the sum of £1,742.84 + VAT, be ratified.

L 5282

Members were informed that the Town Council had been alerted to a case of Processionary Moth infestation on an oak tree at one of the trees at Court Lodge. The Forestry Commission has been notified and the tree had been cordoned off due to public health and safety concerns. Information had been shared via HTC social media channels to advise residents of the issue. The Town Clerk advised that a specialised contractor had been sought and the treatment would be carried out shortly. The Chairman made a note of thanks to HTC staff for assisting with the matter promptly for public safety.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5283 **HTC Leisure & Recreational Projects in the Community**

The Town Clerk updated members on a consideration for future projects concerning the height barrier at Court Lodge playing fields, advising that it was ageing equipment and would need to be replaced at some future stage. It was agreed that the matter would be considered at a future meeting, on receipt of approximate costings for a suitable replacement.

RESOLVED: that the matter of replacing the height barrier at Court Lodge playing fields, be considered at a future meeting of the Leisure Committee, once suitable quotations had been acquired.

L 5284

The matter of future upgrades and new Leisure projects was discussed. The Town Clerk gave an overview of pitch maintenance at Court Lodge playing fields and explained the intention was to increase pitch capacity for youth teams. Members were also provided with information on the requirements for repaving at The Innes Sports Pavilion along with new LED lighting and new playground equipment at Michael Crescent, as part of future upgrades at some later stage and these projects were already listed in the recently adopted Town Plan 2022-2027. Cllr Beech also suggested the installation of a wheelchair accessible swing at Horley Recreation Ground and this would be investigated further.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5285

Use of HTC Community Buildings, Parks and Outdoor Spaces – Café Pavilion, Horley Recreation Ground

The Town Clerk advised that clarification had been sought from the Café operator regarding opening hours in the summer months. She had been told that these were primarily 08:00-16:00 daily but that this was subject to trade and staff availability. The Town Clerk further explained that signage to display opening hours had been requested in the circumstances along with social media alerts, to inform visitors with some advanced notice and this had been noted. Members were also updated on the café toilets in regard to the lease agreement, whereby they were expected to be available daily to all park users, not just patrons. Both of these issues would be kept monitored over the summer months.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5286

Community events in Horley

Horley Carnival

Cllr George advised that the Horley Carnival had been a successful event but it was challenging to organise due to several disruptions and late cancellations. A debrief meeting was due to take place shortly. Cllr George expressed this gratitude to the Surrey Fire & Rescue Service for their participation and to everyone involved for their ongoing support.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5287

Horley in Bloom

Cllr George provided members with an update on the arrangements for the Horley in Bloom & Photographic Competition 2022. A provisional judging date of Monday 25 July had been set and the awards evening ceremony has been booked at Horley Baptist Church for Friday 30 September 2022.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5288 Playgrounds and Grounds Inspections

The Town Clerk gave an update following recent inspections carried out, noting the main concerns were glass clearance and graffiti around the skatepark which had been raised with the Council's contractors to resolve. Members were further informed about a recent incident where some outdoor gym equipment at Horley Recreation Ground had been vandalised and a crime report made. The manufacturers had been contacted for replacement parts.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5289 Appointment of Bennetts Builders Ltd

Appointment of Bennetts Builders Ltd to carry out inspections and routine maintenance for 2022/23.

RESOLVED: that the appointment of Bennetts Builders Ltd to carry out inspections and routine maintenance for 2022/23, be ratified.

L 5290 Innes Sports Pavilion, Court Lodge Fields

The Town Clerk advised that HTC had received the contractor's report following the annual inspection of the roof at The Innes Sports Pavilion, which was required for insurance purposes. Apart from the requirement to remove a small accumulation of debris (subsequently actioned), no further actions were required and the roof had been rated as in very satisfactory condition.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5291 Allotments in Horley

Members considered some minor proposed changes to the current Allotment Tenancy Agreement, for accuracy and these were agreed. Further reports were also received on the new system in place to manage the allotment sites and carrying out routine inspections, for efficiency along with some minor outlay required to purchase new number stakes along with the removal of a concrete base from a plot which had been vacated. Members were also pleased to hear about the introduction of an interim Newsletter, offering useful tips and guidance for plot holders along with general information.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5292 Westvale Park Allotments

The Town Clerk told Members that the design and specification of the storage buildings at the northern and southern sites at Westvale Park had not yet been agreed by RBBC. The Town Council had already passed on its comments that the buildings should be fit for purpose, vandal proof and that aluminium should be considered for the gate design for fire safety and security of the site.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5293 Outside Bodies

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership (GGP)

Cllr George updated members on the removal of the Himalayan Balsam at certain sites, including Church Meadows. The next meeting was due to take place in October.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5294

Letters Received

From	Subject	Date	Action
Nigerian Community in Surrey	Request for use of Council sites to hold a summer fair.	July 2022	Noted – HTC in correspondence with enquirer to provide assistance.

L 5295

Diary Dates

Skittles tournament (HTC): Wednesday, 6 July 2022

Horley in Bloom Judging: Monday, 25 July 2022

Full Council Meeting (HTC): Tuesday, 26 July 2022, 7.30 pm, Edmonds Hall

Churchyards Walk (HTC): Monday, 5 September 2022, 5:30pm, St Barts Church

Horley Local History Society Walk (HTC): Tuesday, 20 September 2022, 5:30pm

Horley in Bloom Awards Eve: Friday, 30 September 2022, 6:30pm, Horley Baptist Church

Meeting closed at 21:00 hrs

Date of next Meeting: 18 October 2022