



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 15 October 2024 at 7.30pm

Present	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 **

Sam Adeniji (Assistant Town Clerk & RFO)

Helen Maan (Leisure & Facilities Officer)

L 5494 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllrs Wotton & Fagan be accepted.

L 5495 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non-Pecuniary Interests

No Declarations of Interest were made.

RESOLVED: noted

L 5496 Public Forum

A representative from the Horley Lions Club was in attendance to update the committee on their plans to replace their two storage containers behind the lock-up building off Sangers Drive. They use the additional space at the Church Road allotment site for extra storage for community events. The speaker highlighted that the containers, approximately 30 years old, are leaking and in need of replacement. The club is considering the following options:

Option A: To use a crane to remove and replace the containers, which would necessitate felling a large sycamore tree and blocking off the road.

Option B: To investigate if the containers can be pulled out with a lorry, avoiding the need for tree removal or a road closure.

The Chair thanked the speaker for his comments. The committee suggested that if the club seeks further assistance from the Town Council, to submit a written letter from the club's President to the Town Clerk with an outline proposal for further consideration.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5497 Approval of Minutes – Leisure & Amenities Committee held on 2 July 2024

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

L 5498 Leisure Updates

L 5484 Drainage Measures, Horley Recreation Ground

- L 5498)** The Committee Members were informed that soakaway investigations with drainage contractors originally put forward were no longer required as other solutions were being considered which would eliminate the need for expenditure on this option.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5499 Reigate & Banstead Greenspaces Survey

RESOLVED: that the Town Council's response to the Greenspaces Strategy Survey by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, be ratified.

L 5500 Horley Churchyards

Cllr George reported there were ongoing discussions with Church representatives, focusing on managing unsafe monuments. The church will apply for a faculty to carry out necessary safety work. He added that the Church is seeking ideas on use of a land parcel behind the adjacent property with limited access and that the committee had discussed the wildflower seeding program, noting that the display was minimal this time but expected to improve in subsequent years.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5501 HTC Grounds Maintenance and Security

The Leisure Officer reported that hedge cutting by contractors was in now progress, however recent heavy rainfall had delayed maintenance, particularly on the football pitches. Additionally, the planting at the Memorial Gardens had been delayed due to the ground being waterlogged and would therefore be scheduled closer to Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5502 Community Events in Horley

Cllr George conveyed his gratitude from the Horley In Bloom Committee (HIB) for another successful awards ceremony this year. Despite considerable efforts made, the sunflower competition uptake was disappointingly low, leading to a decision to remove it next year and engage with nurseries and playgroups as an alternative category option. He added that due to school entrants having to focus on education priorities, this section will be suspended next year and HIB will redirect their efforts to community and environmental activities. Additionally, a plant swap is scheduled for St. George's Day with plans to expand the initiative in May 2025 and two allotment stewards will join HIB to help promote engagement and participation.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5503 Community Projects Update

The Leisure Officer reported that a number of community projects by the Town Council recently, had completed recently, including:

- 1. Installation of a 24-hour access defibrillator at Innes Sports Pavilion, Court Lodge;** and replacement height barrier at the car park (both funded by SCC YFS Community Fund and supported by SCC Cllr Andy Lynch).

2. **Replacement perimeter railings at Horley Recreation Ground** (funded by RBBC Community Infrastructure Levy (SIP 2); and additional double-gate installation for pedestrian access (funded by HTC Neighbourhood CIL).
3. **Refurbished playground with new equipment at Michael Crescent Centenary Park** (funded by RBBC Community Infrastructure Levy (SIP 2)).

The Leisure Officer added that a number of potential new projects (identified in the Council's five-year Town Plan) were being pursued through the SCC YFS Community Fund, including:

- A second bike rack at Horley Recreation Ground together with pathway improvements; a defibrillator at the café; new outdoor gym equipment; and new light bollard on the park pathway towards Horley Bowling Club (ongoing electricity costs to be covered by the club).
- Resurfacing around the Innes Sports Pavilion, Court Lodge

A further update on these provisional projects would be provided at the next Committee meeting which were subject to the outcomes of the bids made and ongoing resident surveys, as required.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5504 Use of HTC Community Buildings, Parks, and Outdoor Spaces

The Leisure Officer reported on the preparations made for the Horley Remembrance Programme and Christmas events. She added that the funfair operator was unable to attend in September due to the ground being water-logged at Horley Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5505 Compliance & Regulatory

The Leisure Officer reported that discussions had been held with Town Council contractors about repainting equipment at multiple sites and mini-templates will be used for touch-ups rather than replacing large parts. She further reported that plumbing work had been completed at The Innes Sports Pavilion to satisfy requirements for legionella compliance.

RESOLVED: noted

L 5506 Outside Bodies

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership

Cllr George reported that Charlwood Parish Council is expected to become a funding member of Gatwick Greenspace Partnership. However, the withdrawal from Mole Valley District Council still poses budget challenges for the partnership. Other measures were ongoing to secure alternative funding through neighbouring parishes and potential grants from Surrey County Council, subject to confirmation.

Cllr Marshall noted that Horley Conservation Group is currently covered under Gatwick Greenspace Partnership's insurance policy. Investigations were underway to establish separate insurance cover through other organisations.

RESOLVED: noted

L 5507

Christmas Arrangements 2024

The Leisure Officer reported that the Town Council's ground maintenance provider, Idverde is pleased to sponsor the Christmas tree in the town centre this year, covering half of the costs and the Horley Association of Traders will decorate the tree. The Christmas Fair is scheduled for 7 December, including the Town Centre Carol Service in the morning, followed by the Councillor Hospitality at Horley Community Centre. Members of the Committee were encouraged to confirm their availability for setup and participation with the arrangements led by Cllr Marshall.

RESOLVED: noted

L 5508

Precept 2025/26

The Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) outlined the process for the Annual Budget and Precept setting for 2025/26 which had begun at the information gathering stage, by reviewing the budgets and requirements of the Leisure & Amenities Committee at this meeting and all other budgets and requirements would be reviewed at the next Council meeting. Additionally, the Town Clerk and RFO had carried out an initial review of the Council's other budgets and financial requirements, in order to make detailed recommendations to Full Council.

The next step would be to convene a meeting with the Finance Working Group (consisting of the Finance Lead Member and Leaders Group) to consider the way forward and set out possible scenarios for the Precept setting, to be considered for final approval at the Precept Meeting of Council on 10 December 2024.

The RFO advised that there were no real changes to the Leisure budgets apart from some minor uplifts and an inflationary increase benchmarked to the September CPI percentage rate (subsequently confirmed as 1.7%) would be applied to all budgets unless there was a reason not to. This information had been circulated in the draft financial spreadsheets provided prior to the meeting, along with additional commentary and explanations which the Committee supported during discussions and no changes were made.

The RFO further asked members to support the recommendation to build back the Parks & Playground Earmarked Fund to the value of 20k [Total: 40k] towards potential new projects in the next Financial Year 2025/26 and this was agreed.

RECOMMEND: that the draft Leisure budgets as reviewed by the Leisure & Amenities Committee be considered for approval at the Precept meeting of Council on 10 December 2024.

RECOMMEND: that the sum of 20k be allocated to the Parks & Playground Earmarked Fund to build back the fund to a total of 40k towards new projects in the Financial Year 2025/26.

L5509

Communications Received

From	Subject	Action/Comments
Horley Lawn Tennis Club	Horley Recreation Ground Land Utilisation Proposal	Noted – Town Clerk to reply.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5510

Diary Dates

- 22 Oct 2024: Planning Committee Meeting
- 29 Oct 2024: Full Council Meeting
- 02 Nov 2024: Lions Bonfire Night
- 06 Nov 2024: Garden of Remembrance Rededication
- 10 Nov 2024: Remembrance Parade
- 11 Nov 2024: Two Minutes Silence
- 07 Dec 2024: Christmas Fair, Carols and Cllr Hospitality

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5511 Items for Future Consideration

No matters were raised.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5512 Press Release

Publicity arrangements for completed Town Council projects.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5513 Horley Recreation Ground Play Area Flood Alleviation Project CONFIDENTIAL

The flood alleviation project report was reviewed by the Committee and recommendations made for Full Council approval at the next meeting due to be held on 29 October 2024.

RESOLVED: noted

Meeting closed at 20:59

Date of Next Meeting: 21 January 2025