

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 23 April 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 Elect)
Helen Maan (Leisure & Facilities Officer)

L 5455 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED that the apologies of Cllrs Beech, Avery and Baker be accepted.

L 5456 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non-Pecuniary Interests

No Declarations of Interest were made.

RESOLVED: Noted

L5457 Public Forum

A representative from Horley Town Football Academy attended the meeting to request that the Academy be allowed to use the pitches at Court Lodge Fields for mid-week training when their own pitches are unusable. This request was being made as the Academy wish to increase their student numbers to 40 for the 2024 academic year. The Academy representative made assurances that they would not damage the Court Lodge pitches and they would use areas strategically to allow heavily used areas to rest.

A representative from Horley United Football Club was also in attendance at the meeting to express their concern that allowing the Academy (or any other club) to use the pitches for training purposes would unnecessarily cause additional wear on the pitches that could result in lasting damage.

The Leisure Officer reported that the playing fields were now at full capacity and there were concerns that any more usage could result in the pitches becoming unplayable.

The Chairperson thanked both speakers for their comments and the matter was considered by the Committee. Following discussions, Cllr Saunders proposed that the request be turned down and this was seconded by Cllr Hughes.

L5457) *RESOLVED: that Standing Orders be suspended to move agenda item 9 ii. To consider a request from Horley Town Football Academy to use the Court Lodge Pitches for mid-week training, to the Public Forum part of the meeting.*

L5458 *RESOLVED: that the request made by Horley Town Football Academy to use the pitches at Court Lodge Fields for mid-week training purposes when their own pitches are unusable, be declined in the interests of maintaining the pitches in a reasonable condition for league fixtures by contracted teams.*

L 5459 Approval of Minutes - Leisure and Amenities Committee, held on 23 January 2024

L 5459) **RESOLVED: that the minutes of the above meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee, be approved.**

L 5460 **Leisure Updates**

L 5411 Beekeeping Application Update, Langshott Allotments

The Leisure Officer reported that the applicants had indicated they would be taking their beekeeper examinations in July and, subject to receiving their beekeeping qualification, they would then put in their order for the bees. The beehives were already in situ at the site and the screening had also been put in place.

L 5441 Easter Funfair, Horley Recreation Ground

The Leisure Officer reported that Beech's Funfair did not operate during the Easter holidays, having made the decision that the Horley Recreation Ground was too wet to use. They hoped to rebook later in the year.

L 5443 Playground Inspections

The Leisure Officer reported that the playground Inspections were completed in February. Across all the parks there were only two items requiring action with medium level of priority and both had since been completed. Additionally, a number of pieces of equipment were identified as needing painting but this would be priced and actioned when the weather improves, in line with available budgets.

L5444 Allotments Resurfacing Projects: Church Road car park and Langshott access road

It was noted that the Allotments Resurfacing projects at both sites were nearing completion with some minor snagging to be carried out before final sign-off could be confirmed and the funders notified accordingly.

L 5453 Playground Fencing Replacement Project: Court Lodge Fields

Members were advised that the new railings had been installed and had improved the perimeter considerably. A note of thanks had been made to County Cllr Andy Lynch for pledging his support from his councillor fund allocation.

L5444 Playground Fencing Replacement Project: Horley Recreation Ground

The Leisure Officer said that the installation was due to being on 24 April 2024, as advised by the appointed contractor.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5461 **Horley Churchyards**

Cllr George reported that at a recent meeting with their grounds maintenance contractor, the Church had decided to plant wildflower seeds in the New Churchyard on the raised ground at the back. This would not affect the main part of the graveyard. Additional pointing work to the Lychgate was also in hand.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5462 **Drainage Measures, Horley Recreation Ground**

The Leisure Officer gave a further update on investigations carried out to resolve flooding on the access pathway by the playground. She said that specialist drainage consultants had conducted a laser levelling survey to look at the possibility of redirecting the excess water to the drainage ditch that runs along the perimeter with the Horley Lawn Tennis Club. The result of the survey was that,

L 5462) unfortunately the water would not flow in the right direction due to the uneven ground levels, so such a solution may not be viable.

Following further discussions, Members felt that in view of concerns raised about the entire parkland being subjected to flooding after heavy downpours and in the absence of adequate drainage measures to alleviate the problem being known, that the whole park should similarly be evaluated for proper flood mitigation measures in order to reach a long-term solution.

Cllr Saunders suggested that the matter be put forward to the Town Plan Working Group to consider at their next review and this was agreed.

RESOLVED: that a drainage solution for the access pathway to the playground at Horley Recreation Ground, be extended to include a drainage solution for the whole park and put forward to the Town Plan Working Group for inclusion in the Council's Action Plan of priority projects.

L 5463 Members' Inspection of the Recreation Areas

Cllr Saunders reported that there were a number of deep ruts on the grassed area by the side of the Café at the Recreation Ground. The Leisure Officer reported that the Grounds Maintenance contractor was aware of these and would be levelling and reseeded the area as soon as possible

RESOLVED: noted

Community Events in Horley

L 5464 Horley in Bloom & Photographic Competition 2024

Cllr George reported on preparations made for the Horley In Bloom competitions (Garden, Sunflower growing and photographic) which had been launched with lots of information provided on social media. He added that there had been a 'Plant Swap' event at the St George's Day Fair in Horley High Street which had been very successful. The committee had also arranged for postcards to be produced and delivered to householders, inviting residents to enter.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5465 RESOLVED: that permission be granted to the request from the Horley Carnival Committee for exclusive use of the Tennis Courts, Horley Recreation Ground for archery sessions on the day of the Horley Carnival, 15 June 2024, be ratified.

L 5466 The Leisure Officer further reported that the 'All in Tennis' coaching group would be working with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council to provide some children's school holiday tennis coaching in the summer months, free of charge, using the courts at Horley Recreation Ground (dates to be confirmed).

RESOLVED: noted.

Use of HTC Community Buildings, Parks and Outdoor Spaces

L 5467 To ratify the installation of a defibrillator outside Innes Pavilion, funding will be covered by a grant approved by Cllr Andy Lynch from the Your Fund Surrey County Council Fund.

The Leisure Officer reported that a new defibrillator to be placed outside The Innes Sports Pavilion was due to be installed on 7 May 2024 and this would coincide with a training session on the appliance which had been organised by the Town Council with the support of Horley United Football Club and Surrey Fire & Rescue Service.

RESOLVED: that the installation of a new defibrillator to be installed outside The Innes Sports Pavilion with financial support pledged by Cllr Andy Lynch through the 'SCC Your Councillor Community Fund Reigate & Banstead', be ratified.

- L5468 HTC Playgrounds & Grounds Inspections and Repairs**
- The Leisure Officer reported that new see-saw seats and nets had been ordered for Horley Recreation Ground playground at a cost of £1,561.00 plus VAT, to be covered by the maintenance budget.
- RESOLVED: noted.**
- L 5469 Michael Crescent Playground Upgrade (R&B CIL SIP 2 Scheme)**
- The Leisure Officer reported that the contract for the playground upgrade had been agreed and signed by both parties, taking into account a minor change to the equipment specification which had been agreed previously. An installation date would be confirmed shortly.
- RESOLVED: noted.**
- L 5470 Drainage works, Horley Recreation Ground car park**
- The Leisure Officer explained that urgent drainage works were required to the Horley Recreation Ground car Park to re-channel surface water flowing from the car park. The RFO highlighted as this was unbudgeted expenditure it would have to come from the Parks & Playground earmarked fund. The total expenditure for the works, amounting to the total sum of £2,428.78 plus VAT was agreed by the Committee. (Proposer: Cllr Marr; Seconder: Cllr Wootton).
- RESOLVED: that expenditure of £2,426.78 plus VAT for drainage works to re-channel surface water flowing from the car park into an underground outlet, be approved.**
- L 5471 Extra Tree Works, Church Road Allotments**
- RESOLVED: that expenditure towards extra tree works to the rear of Church Road Allotments (to be added to future tree surveys), in the sum of £900 plus VAT, be approved.**
- L 5472 Use of Horley Recreation Ground Tennis Courts by Boom Tennis**
- RESOLVED: that permission granted for use of Horley Recreation Ground Tennis Courts by Boom Tennis, on the terms of low cost coaching and pre-approved dates agreed by the Town Council, be ratified.**
- L 5473 Biodiversity Surveys**
- RESOLVED: that responses given by the Town Council to the SALC survey on Biodiversity Net Gain, be ratified.**
- Outside Bodies**
- L 5474 Gatwick Greenspace Partnership**
- Cllr George reported that Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council had joined GGP with an annual subscription made to the partnership, to which the Town Council was already a member. He further advised that the next meeting would be held on 21 May.
- Horley Conservation Group**
- Cllr George reported that the next meeting would be held on 13 May 2024 and there were no other updates.
- RESOLVED: noted.**
- L 5475 Communications Received**
- | From | Subject | Action/Comments |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Horley United Football Club | Request to use have exclusive use of two pitches at Court Lodge Fields | Noted – reply sent from HTC. |

Allotment Users Query over the process and Noted - new process on plot
allocation of plots to new tenants allocations being considered.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5476

Diary Dates

Annual Council Meeting: 7 May 2024

Planning Meeting: 14 May 2024

Annual Town Public Forum: 17 May 2024

D-Day Landing RBL Commemorative Event: 9 June 2024

Horley Carnival, Horley Recreation Ground: 15 June 2024

RESOLVED: noted.

L 5477

Items for Future Consideration

Request from Cllr George to consider the introduction of parking controls at Horley Recreation Ground car park – noted.

Requested from Cllr Saunders that the Skate Park Artwork Project be reconsidered by the Committee.

RESOLVED: noted.

Meeting closed at 20.16 hrs

Date of next Meeting: 2 July 2024