

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Sub-Committee
held at the Town Council Offices, Albert Road, Horley on 20 June 2023, at 6:00 pm**

Present	Cllrs	Hannah Avery (C)	Michael Blacker	Mike George
		Jante Baird	Victoria Chester (VC)	Martin Saunders
		Jordan Beech	Lynne Easterbrook	Steve Wotton
Non-Councillors		To be confirmed		
* Absent				
Also Present		Joan Walsh (Town Clerk)		
		Judy Morgan (RFO)		

Constitution

ESC 39 Cllr Beech proposed, and Cllr Baird seconded that Cllr Avery be elected Chairman until April 2024. No other nominations were received.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Avery be elected Chairman until April 2024

ESC 40 Cllr George proposed, and Cllr Saunders seconded that Cllr Chester be elected Vice-Chairman until April 2024. No other nominations were received.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Chester be elected Vice-Chairman until April 2024

ESC 41 ***RESOLVED: to continue to co-opt invited non-Councillors (invitations yet to be confirmed) until April 2024***

Declarations of Interest

ESC 42 There were no Declarations of Interest in relation to any items included on the agenda.

RESOLVED: noted.

ESC 43 **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 January 2023**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 be approved.

ESC 44 **Environment Updates**

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The Town Clerk said that Council had received a useful and informative overview about Electric Vehicle Charging Points from the RBBC Environmental Health Officer prior to the Council meeting held in March. The current plan was to include charging points as part of the Office Expansion project at the Council Offices and to consider installing some points in the car park at Horley Recreation Ground, but HTC were continuing to seek guidance, to assist in the consideration of the balance of risks and rewards and would be guided by the principal authority.

Uptake of Food Caddy Use in Horley

In response to a Member's question, the Chairman said that RBBC are in the process of doing some work around the low uptake of food caddy use in some areas and she would be able to provide a further update on the situation once this work is complete.

ESC 44) Members suggested that more should be done to encourage the use of compost bins.

RESOLVED: noted.

ESC 45 South East Rivers Trust (SERT)

The SERT representative, Lewis Campbell, gave an informal presentation on the 'Caring for Crawley's Rivers' project, which was subsequently circulated to all Members for information. He introduced the Trust and the project 'Caring for Crawley Rivers' which extends to water courses in Horley. [SERT](#) is part of the National Rivers Trust, working to protect and restore rivers and communicate effectively with the public. A focus for the project is to make rivers more passable to help eels which are critically endangered in the UK. In the River Mole catchment, they are planning to undertake some habitat works and work to mitigate sewage pollution events.

In response to Members questions, he gave the following information.

A two-phase project was planned; in Phase 1 of the project SERT will be looking at improvements to the Gatwick Stream, and in Phase 2 they will be looking to make improvements all over the catchment.

The key projects for this year are a week-long engagement with the community in September encouraging volunteers to get involved and see the impact, SERT are currently looking for locations.

An explanation of the methods and management strategies to prevent flooding was given and Members felt that it was very important to communicate this work to the public.

In reply to a Member's query about a specific growing level of debris at a section of the River Mole near Horley (and also reported to the Environment Agency), he responded that it was not possible to comment without more context and carrying out a survey to understand what is happening. However, he suggested the details be forwarded on to this office (subsequently actioned). SERT work in partnership with the Surrey Wildlife Trust, Friends of the River Mole, Horley Piscatorial Society and GGP. Communication and engagement is very important and if they make a report to SERT, then SERT will follow that up.

An important target is to improve the resilience of rivers. They accept that they can't stop pollution but can do things to mitigate the consequences. The problem is multi-faceted; storm water causes the main problem, but sustainable drainage and river management can help to alleviate the problem.

Phase 2 is currently open-ended dependent on funding streams and SERT will be happy to consider ideas put forward to evaluate where they can have the most impact including community engagement.

The Chairman thanked Dr Campbell for the enlightening presentation and informative responses to Members questions.

ESC 45) RESOLVED: noted.

ESC 46 Works Perfect: Horley Commercial Hub Proposals

Cllr Saunders gave a brief background about the proposals for the benefit of new Members, he added that the location identified in Minute ESC 33 had proved to be too small for the proposed use, there were no further updates.

RESOLVED: noted.

ESC 47 Tree Planting initiatives

Cheyne Walk Roundabout

Four standard trees and self-watering whips to provide hedging were planted on the roundabout at the beginning of February 2023. The Council is grateful to a residents' group who had organised themselves to water the trees.

Kingsley Road, junction with Greenfields Road

SCC propose to plant, at the request of HTC, two cherry trees of different varieties and one pear tree. The planting is programmed for November. HTC commitment is for Councillors to mobilise some nearby residents to water the trees during warm dry weather for the first three years. A further update on the planting will be provided.

Orchard Drive

The plan to plant approx. 2400 self-watering whips between the junction with Cross Oak Lane and the Orchard Playground was carried out and the whips are in place.

ESC 47) ***RESOLVED: that Members of the ESC would contact residents of Kingsley Road and Greenfields Road to seek their assistance in watering trees during dry weather at the time of the planting which is tbc.***

Future projects and priorities

ESC 48 Wildflower Planting Proposals

An update was received from Cllr Saunders. HTC planted wildflowers at Horley Recreation Ground, the Memorial Gardens, and the Emlyn Meadows Bund. Members also planted on private land near Tanyard Barn. Consideration was given to proposing that funding should be made available in future years to support wildflower planting.

RESOLVED: that HTC share information about wildflower planting in the Newsletter

ESC 49 Communications Received

Solar Together Scheme

Information had been received from RBBC who were promoting the SCC [Solar Together Scheme](#).

RESOLVED: that HTC publicise the scheme.

Meeting closed at 19:10 pm

Date of Next Meeting – 5 September 2023