

# HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL

## Leisure & Amenities Committee



**Minutes of a meeting of the above-named Committee held at the Ramsey Room, Ground Floor, Horley Baptist Church, 289 Court Lodge Road, Horley RH6 8RG on Tuesday, 14 October 2025 at 7.30 pm**

**Present** Cllrs Hannah Avery Lynne Burnham\* Samantha Marshall  
Jante Baird Emma Fagan Robert Marr  
James Baker\* Cec Hughes Tom Turner\*\*  
Jordan Beech\*

**\*Absent** **\*\*In Attendance Remotely**

**Also in Attendance** Sam Adeniji (Assistant CEO & RFO)  
Helen Maan (Leisure & Facilities Officer)  
Cllr Martin Saunder (Non-Committee Member)  
Cllr Mike George (Non-Committee Member)

### **L 5580 Apologies and Reasons for Absence**

**RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllrs Baker and Beech be accepted. Cllr Turner joined remotely. Cllr Burnham was absent.**

### **L 5581 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

No declarations of interest were made in relation to any items on the agenda

#### **Public Forum**

### **L 5582 Horley Bowling Club – Stage 1 Internal Works Request**

The Chair of Horley Bowling Club was in attendance, to share a PowerPoint presentation with the committee to outline proposals for some internal alterations to the green surrounds. They are keen to increase the number of club members and improve the safety and accessibility of the grounds. The club aims to repair the crumbling paths and improve entrance mobility to support a growing youth team and visiting players. The estimated cost for initial works is £31,500, reduced from a previous bid of £76,000 for full refurbishment, to be completed in stages due to funding constraints.

The conditions of the lease require the Council to give approval to such works. The Committee Chair thanked the speaker for their comments and some questions were raised. The committee was supportive in principle of the proposed Stage 1 improvement works, in accordance with the lease agreement, subject to receipt of more detailed information.

**RESOLVED: that Standing Orders be suspended to move agenda item 18 Horley Bowling Club Infrastructure Improvement Proposal, to the Public Forum part of the meeting.**

**L 5583 RESOLVED: To recommend support in principle to the proposed Stage 1 internal refurbishment works by Horley Bowling Club, focused on safety and accessibility improvements to the green surrounds, subject to receipt of further information, to be presented for consideration at the Full Council meeting on 9 December 2025.**

### **L 5584 Gatwick Warriors FC – Shipping Container Location Request**

A representative from Gatwick Warriors FC appeared before the Committee to explain the difficulties the club is having with the siting of their new shipping container to store football equipment. The Leisure Officer explained that she had already been in contact with the club on

**L 5584**) this matter. The club had previously been given permission to place the shipping container at the Six Bells public house car park. However, due to it being positioned within the curtilage of a listing building, this had breached planning regulations and had to be removed. The team representative explained that they were looking for a new location to site their shipping container, preferably at Court Lodge Fields. The Committee Chair thanked the speaker for their comments and advised that the matter would be given consideration in due course.

**RESOLVED:** *noted.*

**L 5585 Approval of Minutes - Leisure and Amenities Committee, held on 1 July 2025**

**RESOLVED:** *that the minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting of 1 July 2025 be approved.*

**L 5586 Leisure Updates**

The Leisure Officer gave the following updates:

**L 5537 – A funding application to Surrey County Council (YFS)**, supported by Cllr Andy Lynch, for West Horley Planters, for the sum of £2,380, had been successful.

**L 5562 – The issue of squeaky play equipment noises**, reported by councillors at the last meeting, had been investigated and was believed to be caused by the hot weather. This was later rectified with lubricant applied to the equipment.

**L 5563 – The uneven ground by the Court Lodge junior goalposts**, reported by councillors at the previous meeting, will be fixed in the coming weeks. Contractors were unable to undertake works any earlier due to the hardness of the ground.

**L 5569 – An acknowledgement of the Environment Working Group’s blue heart verge** letter to the Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for the Environment, had been received but a detailed reply is still awaited.

**L 5575 – A new policy for allotment evictions** has now been adopted by Council.

**L 5576 – A request from a resident of Hevers Avenue for the Council to undertake tree works at Horley Recreation Ground** was refused due to a corresponding arboricultural report stating that the works were not required. Such matters would be covered in a new Tree Policy to be considered by Full Council in due course.

**RESOLVED:** *noted.*

**L 5587 Horley Churchyards**

An interim update was provided by Cllr George and it was noted that the annual Churchyard Tour for Members had taken place.

**RESOLVED:** *noted.*

**L 5588 HTC Grounds Maintenance and Security – Emlyn Meadows**

The Leisure Officer reported that she met with Esso Pipeline representatives at Emlyn Meadows who advised that they will need to dig down to a pipe for inspection which is permitted through an easement around the land. This will be done in due course and the Council will ensure that adequate communications are in place to inform residents why they are necessary.

**RESOLVED:** *noted.*

**L 5589 HTC Grounds Maintenance and Security**

The Leisure Officer advised that the old fencing and gate at the front of Michael Crescent Centenary Park needed to be replaced, and the cost could be covered from the Leisure

**L 5589)** Earmarked Fund, subject to approval. The matter will be followed up with quotations, for future consideration.

**RESOLVED: noted.**

### **Community Events in Horley**

**L 5590 Horley in Bloom (HIB) and Photographic Competitions 2025:** Cllr Baird reported that the Awards Evening saw record attendance this year with over 96 participants. A cake sale for St Catherine's Hospice was held as part of the evening for the first time and £295 was raised. Cllr Baird also expressed frustration at the lack of support from councillors to host, noting the limited councillor attendance on the Awards Night.

**RESOLVED: noted.**

**L 5591 Horley Carnival 2026:** Cllr Baird reported that next year's Carnival is scheduled for 20 June. The proposed theme is "Land, Sea and Air". Consideration will be given to removing the funfair to increase space for traditional games and live music, with efforts to recruit local teenage bands.

**RESOLVED: noted.**

**L5592 Other matters:** A fireworks display from Horley Lions Club is confirmed for 1 November 2025.

**RESOLVED: noted.**

### **L 5593 Community Projects Update**

The Leisure Officer gave the following updates:

- i) **Emlyn Meadows:** The Environment Working Group members had met with Surrey Wildlife Trust and Gatwick Greenspace Partnership representatives, to evaluate how Emlyn Meadows could be further enhanced. The Trust complimented the measures already undertaken such as mowing restrictions in the summer. Other environmental enhancements will include free planting of hedges and wildlife habitat improvements. The Partnership will oversee the new hedging by the Horley Conservation Group, It is hoped that new educational signage will be ordered for the meadow to show the variety of species living there.
- ii) **Horley Recreation Ground Drainage Project:** The drainage works in the playground had completed but only inclement weather will tell if this has worked, along with flood mitigation planting.
- iii) **Burstow Stream:** Surrey Wildlife Trust had further advised an assessment of the Burstow Stream be undertaken at an approximate cost of £3,000. A grant may be available from Surrey's Nature Recovery Fund and will be pursued.
- iv) **Your Fund Surrey Projects:** The **installation of the Outdoor Gym at Horley Recreation Ground** had been completed and finalised all projects in this phase of applications.

Additionally, a new application had been submitted, with the support of Cllr Andy Lynch for **additional outdoor fitness equipment at Horley Recreation Ground** in the form of a 'rig' which is due to be installed at Michael Crescent and Court Lodge Fields. A further application had been made **to install neurodivergent equipment and a community shelter pavilion at Court Lodge Fields.**

- v) **RBBC Strategic CIL SIP 2 500k Ad Hoc Allocation:** The Town Council had been successful with more bids for **Outdoor Gym equipment at Michael Crescent Centenary Park and Court Lodge Fields.** Both projects were fully funded through the

scheme and will be presented for approval at the Full Council meeting on 28 October 2025.

**L 5593)** Additionally, the Town Council had been successful in **its bid for funding for rotten timber framed windows along with soft landscaping around the Innes Sports Pavilion.**

**RESOLVED:** *noted.*

**L 5594 Reigate & Banstead Borough Council (RBBC) – Horley Open Spaces Survey**

**RESOLVED:** *That the Town Council's response to the Draft RBBC Horley Open Spaces Survey Report be ratified.*

**L 5595 Christmas 2025**

It was noted that the Horley Association of Town Supporters (HATS) had confirmed that the Christmas Fair will take place on 13 December 2025 and will coincide with the HTC Councillor hospitality on the same day at Horley Community Centre take place. The Christmas tree is due to be placed on 24 November.

**RESOLVED:** *noted.*

**L 5596 Use of HTC Community Buildings, Parks and Outdoor Spaces**

The Leisure Officer advised that plans to engage a parks consultant to evaluate Horley Recreation Ground and suggest improvements is moving forward. The expenditure may be covered from the Leisure Earmarked reserves, subject to approval and she will follow up and ascertain estimates.

**RESOLVED:** *noted.*

**L 5597 Compliance & Regulatory**

**HTC Playgrounds & Grounds Inspections and Repairs:** The Leisure Officer reported that since the last meeting, only minor repairs had been required at Council sites.

**RESOLVED:** *noted.*

**Outside Bodies**

**L 5598 Town Council Charges 2026/27**

The committee reviewed the draft Scale of Charges for consideration by Full Council.

**RESOLVED:** *To recommend the following increases be considered for Full Council approval at its meeting due to be held on 9 December 2025:*

- i) Pitch Hire, Court Lodge playing fields - 3.8% CPI benchmark increase proposed for senior and casual hire. Junior pitch fees to be frozen to encourage youth participation proposed.*
- ii) Advertisement Banner Displays: 3.8% CPI benchmark increase proposed.*
- iii) Allotment Tenancies: To apply a phased fixed fee (above inflation) increase over three years proposed to cover maintenance costs (currently subsidised), with discounted rates to be considered at the Council's discretion, proposed.*
- iv) Community Hall Hire (Edmonds Hall): 3.8% CPI benchmark increase proposed.*
- v) Land Hire by Event Operators: No changes proposed.*

## **L 5599 Precept 2026/27**

The Assistant CEO/RFO provided a financial overview, advising that the Leisure Committee's existing budgets and financial requirements were due for review to inform the Council's Annual Budget for setting the Precept 2026/27. These had been set out in detail and included in the draft budget papers (previously reviewed by officers) which were circulated to Members before the meeting.

The Assistant CEO/RFO added that the Council remained on target at the halfway mark in the current financial year and he did not envisage many changes required to separate Leisure budgets apart from some minor adjustments to reflect annual inflationary increases (currently benchmarked to CPI at 3.8%).

Following further deliberations by the Committee, it was noted that the leisure budgets presented an overall decrease of 1% and this was primarily due to significant savings being achieved by removing CCTV installation costs following completion of that project.

**RESOLVED: To recommend that the following financial considerations by the Leisure Committee be put forward for consideration by Full Council at the Precept meeting due to be held on 9 December 2025:**

- i) That the draft Leisure budgets as reviewed by the Leisure & Amenities Committee be considered for approval at the Precept meeting of Council on 9 December 2025.**
- ii) To allocate 10k to the Parks & Playground Earmarked Fund (Total: 50k) to cover a park feasibility study at Horley Recreation Ground and consider improvements.**
- iii) To increase the Flower Beds and Planters Cost Budget by 10k (Total: 20k)**
- iv) To review the Tree Surgery budget for 2026/27, to include the three-year survey at the end of the financial year 2025/26.**

## **L 5600 Allotments in Horley**

It was noted that additional fencing provided by the Council at the Langshott Allotment site had been erected in problem areas by the Langshott Tenants' Association (LATA).

**RESOLVED: noted.**

## **L 5601 Communications Received**

The Leisure Officer reported that an email was received from a member of the public, querying the lack of litter picking at Horley Recreation Ground. She subsequently responded, advising that the Council's ground maintenance provider, Idverde, had recently deployed a team for a thorough sweep of the whole park to clear litter from all corners and also to remove as much microplastic as possible. The situation would be kept monitored by the Council.

Additionally, the resident queried the lack of seeding that had been done to a couple of bald grassed areas. The Leisure Officer responded, advising that this had been very difficult this summer due to the lack of rain which presented difficulties with frequent watering. However, talks with the contractor were in hand for more planting to be done before the onset of winter.

**RESOLVED: noted.**

## **L 5602 Diary Dates**

- |   |          |                                  |
|---|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | November | Horley Lions Bonfire Night       |
| 5 | November | Rededication of Memorial Gardens |
| 8 | November | Full Council Meeting             |
| 9 | November | Remembrance Sunday               |

11 November 2 minutes Silence in Town Precinct

***RESOLVED: noted.***

**L 5603 Items for Future Consideration**

- i) Fence replacement project at Michael Crescent to be presented with quotations at the next Committee, for consideration.
  
- ii) Professional park design estimates at Horley Recreation Ground to be considered at the next Committee meeting.

***RESOLVED: noted.***

Meeting closed at: **21:28**

Date of Next Meeting: **20 January 2026**