



# Midhurst Matters

Issue 46 April 2015

**The Chairman and Councillors invite you to the  
Midhurst Town Council  
Annual Town Meeting  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>. April 2015  
7.00 p.m. at The Old Library  
Knockhundred Row**

## Agenda

1. Minutes of the meeting held 14<sup>th</sup>. May 2014
2. Matters Arising
3. Guest Speakers from Rother Valley Together
4. Report of the Chairman of Midhurst Town Council – John Etherington
5. Public Forum

The latest accounts for the Town Council, Town Trust, George Ognell Poor Charity and the Pest House Charity will be available for inspection

H J Etherington  
Chairman of the Council

***Refreshments will be served during a short interval***



The current Town Council is coming to the end of its four year term of office and elections for the next four year term will be held on 7<sup>th</sup>. May 2015.

Being a Town Councillor requires commitment but can be very interesting and rewarding. The Council always benefits from the wide and diverse experience of its Members so if you think you have something to offer and a vision for your town this is your chance.

If you would like to discuss becoming a Councillor please contact the Clerk or look at this web site:

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a-candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales>

Last date for delivery of nomination papers is 4 p.m. on 9<sup>th</sup>. April 2015

## WHAT DOES MIDHURST TOWN COUNCIL Do?



The Council meets on the third Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the Old Library. Much of the work of the Council is

discussed and carried out by its three Committees which also meet each month. Committee meeting dates are on our web site [[www.midhurst-tc.gov.uk](http://www.midhurst-tc.gov.uk)] and on the Council notice board.

All our meetings are open to the public and there is always an agenda item at the start of the meeting when visitors can speak to Councillors. Matters raised can then, if necessary, be included on future agendas for discussion by the Council.

**Each year** the Town Council organises:

- ❖ The Christmas Street Party
- ❖ The Midhurst in Bloom competition
- ❖ The Christmas Lights display in the town
- ❖ The Carnival Procession at the conclusion of the MADhurst festivities
- ❖ The Spring Clean Day

In addition the Council carries out one off **projects** such as:



Installing the Zip Wire and outdoor gym equipment at Carron Lane which have proved very popular



For those who prefer a more leisurely time or who need to recover after their work out at the various exercise stations we have also installed extra picnic tables and benches



To improve access for the many visitors to the recreation ground and adjacent cemetery we also resurfaced Carron Lane car park



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Some six hundred of you came along to the Jubilee Street Party we organised in 2012. The table lay out, entertainment and cake competition all went according to plan - sadly we had no control over the weather.



Each year we carry out some improvement or maintenance of the Christmas lights including putting in new timers



As part of the County wide refurbishment of street lighting project the Town Council is paying for improved lighting in Duck Lane.

The Town Council also made a financial contribution towards the improved Market Square



Each year the Council awards **grants** to local groups or organisations benefitting our local community.

Over the last four years almost £18,000 has been awarded in small grants which have benefitted, amongst others:

- ▲ The CAB outreach service
- ▲ MADhurst festival
- ▲ Midhurst Community 'Bus
- ▲ Home Start
- ▲ MIND
- ▲ The South Pond Group
- ▲ Midhurst Methodist Church for improvements to its hall and associated facilities
- ▲ Midhurst Tourism Partnership
- ▲ Midhurst & Easebourne Football Club
- ▲ Battle of Britain Historical Society fly past
- ▲ Midhurst Museum
- ▲ 4Sight

If you represent a group which you think may be able to benefit from one of our grants the application form can be downloaded from the Midhurst Town Council website ([www.midhurst-tc.gov.uk](http://www.midhurst-tc.gov.uk)) or contact the Town Council office.

Applications must be submitted by:

- 30 June for Tranche One
- 30 November for Tranche Two

Should any funds remain unallocated after these two awards, a final invitation to bid for funds will be issued with a closing date of 28 February 2016. Applications will not be considered at any other time.



In addition to the grant programme the Council has provided **ongoing financial support** for:

- ◆ **Rother Valley Together (RVT)** – the local group established to step into the breach when the Day centre at the old Grange was closed. RVT began providing community clubs for older people from November 2011. It runs a lunch club and some age appropriate exercise classes plus traditional activities such as bingo, quizzes and craft. The Chairman and Manager of RVT will be coming along to our Town Meeting to talk about the service, its successes and its challenges.
- ◆ The new **Youth Club** now based in its purpose built premises in Lamberts Lane.
- ◆ The **Snack Wagon** which operates from the North Street car park and gives youngsters informal access to youth workers
- ◆ The Town Council also contributes to the salary of the **Rural Town Manager** who helps our local businesses through the Town Team partnership and through events such as the French and Italian markets which come to the town and the recent visit from Santa's reindeer which encouraged visitors to our town centre.



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## OUR NEW OFFICES

The Town Council has recently moved to its new office in the Old Library.

Our aim is to keep this lovely old building in the heart of our town as a base for the local community.

We have only been here a few months but it is now home to our monthly MTC meetings and our Christmas Awards Evening. We have also hosted meetings of Town Team and Rural Crime Forum and are offering space to MADhurst for its box office and some workshops

The move has thrown up various challenges and the Town Council is indebted to local residents Adrian Moore and Charlie Boher who have helped us get to this stage. Thank you both.



**Our Awards Evening** is now an annual fixture and gives us an opportunity to say THANK YOU to those unsung heroes in the town who do so much to improve

the lives of all of us who live here. Some of the people we have acknowledged over the last four years are:

**Madeline Clark** [2011] Now retired but long term Trustee of George Ognell Charity and for many years was on the nursing staff of the Community Hospital

**Holly Woodward** [2012] Holly showed great determination and courage to overcome personal difficulties and take part in an volunteering expedition to Kenya. She helped build two school kitchens and a house for a vulnerable family as well as helping with a water conservation project.

**Peter & Gill Nightingale** [2013] Founders of the Midhurst Museum. Peter and Gill continue to be the driving force behind the museum which is run entirely by volunteers.

**Gillian Ward** [2014] When Gill saw that litter was accumulating and the bins were full at Carron Lane last Easter – our hard working groundsman was taking a well deserved break – she set to and tidied the area. Midhurst is fortunate to have local residents like Gill who are prepared to do their bit when they see a problem.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### TWINNING CELEBRATIONS



30 years ago Midhurst twinned with Baiersbronn, a town in the Black Forest. During this time many

Midhurst residents have spent happy days in this most attractive area of Germany and have been made welcome by host families. Many strong friendships have been formed.

On Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of June a group from Baiersbronn led by their Burgomeister will be visiting for the weekend to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup>. anniversary and strengthen the ties between the two towns.

We are keen to reinvigorate our friendship and would ask anyone who would like to be involved in these celebrations to make contact with either the Town Council or Colin Hughes on 0776 376 6434 who will provide you with further details. We really do hope that you take advantage of this opportunity to become involved.

## Midhurst in Bloom



Judging this year will be a little earlier than previous years to give those of you with roses and flowering shrubs a chance to enter whilst your gardens are at their best. We still want to hear from those of you with later flowering plants – our experienced judges will be able to take all this in to consideration! Please contact the office or visit our web site for an application form



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*The Town Council will once more be holding the Christmas Street Party which this year will be held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup>. December. Keep the date free! If you would like to be involved running a charity stall or helping with the road closures please do contact us.*

## REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

### Planning Committee

Planning matters still make a major impact on Midhurst.

The need for lower cost homes to buy and rent is a crucial element in the town's ability to keep its age profile lower, important if we want a well balanced and equitable community.

There continues to be a decent level of house building, primarily in Petersfield Road, where there are two development sites, in total providing about 100 houses.

The last major site in the town is the old brickworks and highways depot at Bepton Road, where we are actively trying to get both owners to work together to produce a master plan for the area.

Gordon McAra – Chairman Planning & Rights of Way

### Community Care Committee

One of the main tasks for this Committee is the management of the town's cemetery in Carron Lane. This includes booking and registering burials, maintaining the site and ensuring the safety of the many visitors.

The Committee also arranges for the floral collar displays on the town centre lamp posts and the Christmas motifs which replace them during the Festive Season.

Over the last four years a great deal of effort and funding has been put in to improving the equipment at the Carron Lane recreation ground and widening the choice available. We aim to provide something for all ages

and the latest installation – the zip wire – has met with universal acclaim.

Our aim is to continue to improve facilities in the town for the benefit of our residents.

Glyn Upjohn - Chairman Community Care Committee

### The Finance and General Purposes Committee

Over the past year the F & GP Committee has addressed many topics including its review of how we manage the Council's communications. As a result, we are in the process of improving the efficiency and layout of our website in order that it will become a reference centre for residents.

We were consulted on the new lighting scheme in the town and as a consequence of our involvement the town will have street lighting in Knockhundred Row

We continue to support MADhurst, with grants and this year we were able to supply a banner across North Street (erected with the kind support of The Cowdray Estate) to publicise this annual event.

There is still much to accomplish. For over a year now we have been endeavouring to persuade principal authorities to create spaces for coach parking. I would personally also like to see the F & GP committee initiate the long needed review of a town-wide car parking policy.

Stephen Morley - Chairman F&GP Committee

### Midhurst Town Councillors

Mr. H.J.Etherington Chairman	Mr. J Quilter Vice Chairman
Revv. D Coote	Mr. E S Dummer
Mr. B Flynn	Ms J R Fowler
Mrs. M Guest	Mr. C E Hughes
Miss C Liintott	Mr. McAra
Mr. S Morley	Mr. M Purves
Mrs. T Truscott	Mr. G Upjohn

Mrs. F W Passmore recently retired from the Council having been a Member since 2002