



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7:30pm
IN THE MIDHURST TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE, THE OLD LIBRARY,
KNOCKHUNDRED ROW, MIDHURST**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr G. Upjohn (Chairman), Cllr D. Coote, Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr S. Morley, Cllr D. Knight
Officer: Julian Quail, Assistant Town Clerk

Also attended: Mrs K. Collyer (Events and Promotion Manager)

CE/37/19 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr M. Purves, Cllr M. Whittaker, Cllr D. Smallman, Cllr J. Sutton

CE/38/19 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

CE/39/19 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 22ND JULY 2019

Para CE/33/19 – Cllr Upjohn has spoken with Cllr Sutton who is concerned that the new notice board in the red telephone box is not large enough. The Assistant Town Clerk will liaise with Cllr Sutton soonest to resolve this issue. In addition, the Assistant Town Clerk agreed to arrange for the telephone box sign to be changed to “Information” and for the back board to be painted.

Para CE/36/19 – The Assistant Town Clerk agreed to hasten Peppi Cella regarding the overgrown vegetation on Cowdray land.

CE/40/19 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

Meeting re-convened

CE/41/19 – REPORT FROM EVENTS MANAGER

Kayleigh Collyer updated the Members on the delivery of the carnival procession. Overall, everyone was very pleased with the outcome. The committee thanked Kayleigh for all her hard work. They also thanked Cllr Purves and Cllr Morley for putting out the advanced road warning signs. It was noted that a couple of motor bikes and mopeds broke the cordon. To avoid a repeat of this occurrence Kayleigh will arrange for experienced Marshalls to be placed at key junctions with radios and phones with cameras to ensure we capture the culprits.

CE/42/19 – NORTHERN GATEWAY

Cllr Lintott presented options from Cllr Sutton. The first option consists of local brick and stone design. This would attempt to match the local brick and stone work as seen on the Old Library and many other buildings in the town. Conservative, permanent, easy to plant but would need replanting each season. The word 'MIDHURST' would be cut into stone on part of the design. This would ideally have small trees (hawthorn, mountain ash) planted behind it.



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The second option consists of a design in CorTen steel of trees with the town name cut out through the middle depicting the meaning of Midhurst (Middle of the Wood). This would match the proposed CorTen steel planters in North Street (CE/44/19) which would create a theme throughout the town centre. This would also match the new signage rolled out by the SDNPA. This is a more modern design and approach with cut out sections including the word 'MIDHURST' cut out of the steel. This would also have small trees planted behind it. An estimate has yet to be established.

Both options would be subject to permission from the landowner, no services being found underneath and any other planning permission required.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the preferred option of the committee was for the CorTen steel design. It was also agreed that Cllr Smallman would urgently explore options for and information with professional designers as to how to best achieve this. The committee were most thankful to Cllr Sutton for all her hard work.

Cllr Lintott raised the issue of the Stag motif behind the Stag garden. The Assistant Town Clerk explained that the Stag motif would not be lit this year because the wiring and the fuse box were not fit for purpose and would require considerable money, not currently in the budget, to bring it up to the required standard. As the Stag is not the official emblem of Midhurst (and the lights have recently been restrung) it was recommended that the Stag motif be removed and offered to a local community group such as Midhurst Rugby Club or Midhurst and Easebourne Football Club both of whom use the stag on their emblem.

CE/43/19 – RED TELEPHONE BOX

It was reported that Cllr Sutton was concerned that the notice board procured by the Assistant Clerk was not large enough. In addition, the back board required painting. It was agreed that the Assistant Town Clerk would liaise with Cllr Sutton and the Amenity Worker to rectify any issues and arrange for the back board to be painted.

CE/44/19 – TREES/PLANTERS ON NORTH STREET

An MTC working group had been established to consider how to use the grant from CDC of £4,000 for high street enhancement. It was proposed that the grant together with money already in budget was used to provide some new planters for the town and to make inroads into the refurbishment of the street furniture.

Street Furniture Refurbishment: Prior to the CDC grant, Cllr McAra had requested funds be put in this year's budget to make a start on cleaning up and refurbishing the street furniture. This work is to include Finger Posts that need altering as well as possibly cleaning up, bollards that may need repainting and public seating that is in need of repainting and varnishing. Cllr Smallman had agreed to conduct a survey of the bollards, finger posts and seats in the town centre (North Street, Rumbolds Hill, Bepton Road as far as Grange Road, West Street, Red Lion Street and Knockhundred Row. From this survey MTC can determine what street furniture needs refurbishment and obtain quotes. This work is still on-going and will now need to take into account the work being done by the Community Pay Back team (CE/45/19).

New Planters: Cllr Lintott explained that the working group proposed four new planters for the town, initially two outside Tesco and two outside Boots (the opposite side to the bicycle racks). It is hoped this will discourage parking in that area while providing year-round planting in the form of lavender. The use of hardy planting, in the form of lavender would soften the street scene, be low maintenance (annual pruning), they would provide flowers between May-November and add interest year-round.



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It was noted that the lavender would require regular watering and local shops would be asked to help with this requirement.

Cllr Morley raised a concern about the planting of trees and lavender before the Highway's Review was complete. Following a lengthy discussion, it was proposed and agreed (Cllr Morley abstained) that planters in CorTen steel with lavender should be recommended to FAP in the form of a formal business case and progressed within this financial year. The indicative costs are a total of £1,800 for four planters and four lavender plants per planter.

The working group has also considered the viability of tree planting in North Street as muted by The Midhurst Society and the Midhurst Vision. Unfortunately, it is not possible to directly plant trees into North Street due to Low Voltage power cables directly under the pavement. As such, the working group would like to explore a continuation of the CorTen steel theme with metre square containers planted with Bay Trees, Lavender and Prostrate Rosemary. Further research will be conducted by the working group for potential planting later in 2020.

CE/45/19 – COMMUNITY HIGH STREET INITIATIVE

Cllr Lintott informed the meeting that a Community Payback Team had already started work on painting bollards in the Town. It is understood that this will be followed by the restoration of street furniture. There is no cost to MTC as CDC have provided the paint and materials. Cllr Smallman to obtain an update from Cllr McAra for inclusion in her survey.

CE/46/19 – FLOWER DISPLAYS

Following guidance from the committee at the last meeting, the Assistant Town Clerk had obtained a revised quotation from the current supplier. This included a change from flower collars to traditional hanging baskets stretching from Boots and Tescos to the bus station and South Downs Centre. In addition, two metre square planters would be placed outside the Clock House. The Assistant Town Clerk would liaise with the current supplier and clarify the requirement. It was hoped this would create a more impressive and stunning display within the centre of the Town, attracting local people and visitors alike. The proposal to increase the budget was agreed and a slightly revised business case would be presented to FAP in early October.

CE/47/19 ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The committee agreed with the proposition from CDC regarding the proposal to travel by car and small van using electric and adopt a carbon neutral footprint. The Assistant Town Clerk and Cllr Morley would provide a response from the committee to CDC through completion of a questionnaire form.

CE/48/19 LOCAL POLICING MATTERS

A. SALC BI-ANNUAL MEETING WITH CHIEF CONSTABLE SUSSEX POLICE: The committee were concerned about the use of drugs within Midhurst and across county lines. There have been reports of drug use at Carron Lane recreation ground, South Pond and the bus station. In addition, Cllr Morley wishes to raise the following question: Can the force supply an up to date statement/review of how our highways are policed and by whom? It is understood that some offences are now devolved and handled by CEOs working for District Council on behalf of County Council (e.g.; on street parking) but this has led to misunderstandings by the public. Consequently, there is much frustration when they approach councillors and officers to enquire about who they should address their complaints and observations to. Can they supply a current breakdown of what exactly does fall within the police's remit and what therefore doesn't? It was agreed that the



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Assistant Town Clerk would raise this with SALC for onward transmission to the Chief Constable at their meeting on Friday 15th November 2019.

- B. B. VISIT BY CHIEF INSPECTOR JON CARTER: The Assistant Town Clerk is due to meet with Chief Inspector Jon Carter (District Commander for Chichester and Arun) on the 24th October. In addition, the following participants have been invited: Cllr Morley, Cllr Upjohn, Cllr Jefferies, Piers Taylor, Colin Hughes, Mandy Jameson and Sandie Moore.

CE/49/19 ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING

It was agreed that the MTC Annual Awards Evening would be held following the 2020 Annual Town meeting. Cllr Lintott raised concern about the logistics of catering for an unknown number and further consideration needs to be given to this issue.

CE/50/19 CARRON LANE RECREATION GROUND – ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT

The Assistant Town Clerk briefed the committee on the results from the annual inspection of Carron Lane recreation ground. Fundamentally, there is nothing to cause the committee any concern. The Assistant Town Clerk has spoken with the Amenity Worker and agreed a solution to the medium risks. This involved repairing the ‘wet pore’ matting and some re-seeding of grassy areas to avoid abrasions, should someone fall. There is also a need to repair the bay swing: External chain support must be filled at top bar to prevent chain collapse, should the pivot point snap during operation. A quotation has been requested to complete this work.

CE/51/19 - MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Morley noted that there are still vans parking at the Carron Lane recreation ground car park. The Assistant Town Clerk explained that this issue was being progressed.

Cllr Lintott noted that the office had not carried out a ‘topple test’ at the Carron Lane Cemetery this year. The Assistant Town Clerk said he would arrange for one soonest.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 9:10pm.

Date:

Signed:.....

Chairman