



Midhurst Town Council

A Meeting of the Midhurst Town Council's Annual Town Council Meeting, took place on Monday 18th May 2020 at 7:00pm as a virtual conference meeting on MS Teams due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MINUTES

Present: Cllr C. Lintott (Chairman 2020-2021), Cllr D. Coote, Cllr L. Jeffries, Cllr G. McAra, Cllr S. Morley, Cllr A. Procter, Cllr M. Purves, Cllr M. Richardson, Cllr D. Smallman, Cllr J. Sutton (Vice-chairman 2020-2021), Cllr J. Travers, Cllr M. Whittaker

Officer: Melanie Kite, Town Clerk

Also present: Assistant Clerk, County Councillor K. O'Kelly, District Cllr J. Fowler and Mr. R. Watts and Mrs P. McCullough

C/62/20 – Election of Chairman -

Resolution: Cllr Carol Lintott was elected as Chairman for the Civic Year 2020 -2021.

Proposed Cllr Purves, seconded Cllr Smallman, unanimously approved.

Cllr Lintott accepted office and took the chair.

C/63/20 - Declaration of Acceptance of Office - Due to COVID-19 the Declaration of Acceptance will be signed before the Proper Officer retrospectively as per emergency legal powers.

C/64/20 - Election of Vice- Chairman for the Civic Year 2020 -2021

Resolution: Cllr Jeanette Sutton was appointed as Vice-chairman to the Council for the Civic year 2020-2021.

Proposed Cllr Morley, seconded Cllr Purves, unanimously agreed.

Cllr Sutton accepted the position.

C/65/20 - Chairman's Announcements – Cllr Lintott thanked her colleagues for their support in her to lead the council in the next year and welcomed Cllr Sutton as her vice-chairman.

The meeting is being recorded for the purposes of the Clerk's Minutes.

All Members will be muted; to speak Members need to unmute themselves and return to mute afterwards.

C/66/20 - Apologies for Absence – Cllr G. Upjohn

C/67/20 - Declarations of Interest – None declared at this time.

C/68/20 - Co-option of councillor – Mr. Richard Watts' personal statement had been previously circulated and discussed.

Mr. Watts was invited to join the meeting and informed of his election.

He thanked the Members and said that he was looking forward to being a councillor and serving the community.



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Resolution: It was resolved to co-opt Mr. Richard Watts to Midhurst Town Council.

Proposed Cllr Purves, seconded Cllr Sutton, all agreed.

Due to COVID-19 the Declaration of Acceptance will be signed before the Proper Officer retrospectively as per emergency legal powers.

C/69/20 - Appointments to Committees for the Civic Year 2020-2021

Members of the committees is as follows: Council Chairman Lintott and Vice-chairman Cllr Sutton will sit across each committee.

Finance, Asset and Policy – Cllrs Richardson, McAra, Travers, Procter, Jeffries

Planning and Infrastructure – Cllrs Rev. Coote, McAra, Whittaker, Upjohn, Purves, Watts

Community and Environment – Cllrs Purves, Upjohn, Procter, Morley, Smallman

C/70/20 - Public Participation Session -Adjournment of the meeting for public questions.

There were no questions from the public

70.1 - Update from Midhurst Vision Group – Mrs Philippa McCullough - Report had been previously circulated.

It was noted that the Vision Group's report centred on post COVID. Council considered that this was misleading as the foreseeable future is living with the coronavirus. The group should, therefore, be reviewing its aspirations focusing on how the town copes and lives in a coronavirus environment.

Reconvene Meeting

C/71/20 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting – The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 20th April.

Proposed Cllr Smallman, seconded Cllr Travers all agreed.

C/72/20 - Matters Arising from those Minutes - There were no matters raised.

C/73/20 - Report from County and District Councillors –

West Sussex County Councillor Kate O'Kelly's report had been previously circulated.

Responding to a question on when the recycling sites would open fully, Cllr O'Kelly said that no date had yet been set but the WSCC was aware of the increased problem of fly tipping throughout the county.

Chichester District Councillor Gordon McAra.

St Ann's Hill – Cllr McAra had asked for the tree survey of the whole area to be brought forward to this year due to the number of trees that are in need of attention and looking dangerous. He also asked for the path on the circulate walk to be cleared.

The District is responding to the Government's initiative of more cycling and walking routes.

Encompassing this idea Cllr McAra is lobbying for Red Lion Street and Church Hill, Midhurst, to be made into a pedestrian walkway.

Chichester District Council has been noted as working extremely efficiently during this COVID lockdown. With free car parking, the moratorium on paying council tax and other council monies, income is down around £3 million for the District Council to date.



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Cllr McAra confirmed that the Rural Towns Co-ordinator had been re-deployed to another area within the CDC office but was still overseeing his job as rural town's co-ordinator. Funds that had been earmarked for Midhurst town would still be available.

District Councillor Judy Fowler thanked all the volunteers helping in the community. 'Visit Chichester' was being renamed in order to communicate to visitors the wealth of visiting the surrounding villages and towns.

C/74/20 - Finance Asset and Policy Committee - The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 11th May.
Proposed Cllr Travers, seconded Cllr Procter all agreed.

C/76/20 - Updates from Working Parties – No reports this month.

C/77/20 - Planning Committee - The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 11th May.
Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr McAra all agreed.

Cllr McAra encouraged all councillors to respond to the virtual exhibition of the development of the old Brickworks site.

Cllrs McAra and Coote had drafted a letter on behalf of MTC in response to this development and asked for comments from the Planning Committee members.

C/78/20 - Cllr Lintott's response to CDC Questionnaire on what the focus should be and what should be prioritised following the Covid 19 pandemic to best meet the needs of the towns in the district.

The responses had been previously circulated to all council members.

The questions posed referred to post COVID. the Councillors agreed that there should therefore, be an addendum to illustrate the Council's feelings that we are now living with COVID and that the major focus for businesses and traders should be how to cope with this new environment.

With the addition of an addendum, it was agreed to send the responses to CDC.

Proposed Cllr Purves, seconded Cllr Morley unanimously approved.

C/79/20 - Report from Rural Towns Co-ordinator - Report previously circulated.

Any questions should be directed to the Clerk who will forward them to Steve Hill to respond.

C/80/20 - Reports from Outside Meetings – Cllr Morley, heading up Midhurst Speed Watch, mentioned that new locations around Midhurst were being sought to add to the sites that had been already agreed.

Cllr Jeffries had attended a Crime Prevention meeting on how Sussex Police had been policing businesses and parks in the county.

It was agreed by Council that there had been little evidence of police activity in Midhurst during the lockdown and that the dedicated PCSO had not been observed either.

A discussion regarding his training and his knowledge of the Midhurst area pursued. Also, that communication between the PCSO and the Council was very poor.



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A letter should be sent to the PCSO, Jack Keen's superior asking for his brief for Midhurst, the budget for Midhurst and what training he has been given.

Action: Assistant clerk to liaise with Cllr Jeffries to discuss the letter to be sent.

C/81/20 – Matters of Report – Cllr Morley asked that social distancing and the increased amount of people using the recreation ground be put on the next C&E agenda.

Cllr Sutton asked for suggestions for Midhurst Matters. This will be in the form of a two-page article in the Midhurst Local and there is currently no delivery of the magazine.

The excessive speed and noise of Motor bikes through Midhurst was mentioned, along with the speed of heavy agricultural machinery and the safety of residents in North Street as everybody tries to social distance.

C/82/20 - Date of Next Meeting – Monday 15th June 2020 at 7pm was noted.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8:27pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated _____