



Midhurst Town Council

A Meeting of the Midhurst Town Council took place on Monday 15th June 2020 at 7:00pm as a virtual meeting on MS Teams due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MINUTES

Present: Cllr C. Lintott (Chairman), 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, Cllr J. Travers, Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr M. Whittaker

Officer: Melanie Kite, Town Clerk

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

C/82/20 – Chairman’s Announcements – The Chairman reminded Members that the meeting was being recorded for the sole purpose of the Clerk’s Minutes, and that conduct in virtual meetings remained the same as for all meetings when gathered in the council meeting room.

C/83/20 - Apologies for Absence – Cllr R. Watts had been unable to connect.

C/84/20 - Declarations of Interest – None declared at this time.

C/85/20 - Public Participation Session -Adjournment of the meeting for public questions.

85.1 - Update from Midhurst Vision Group; MV report had been previously circulated. Attached.

The aim is to have the Midhurst Vision Partnership CIC established by the end of June.

Next workshop with Malcolm Allen is 29th June. This will be focused on ‘From Vision statement to strategy and action’. The idea is to will work through a potential partnership project and this is likely to be North Street.

Cllrs Morley and Lintott will attend as representatives of the Town Council.

Answering questions Mrs McCullough did not think that taking North street as their first project was too big and important as North Street presented both great challenges and potential.

The structure of the CIC, being limited by guarantee and controlled by member guarantors at meetings, was questioned. Mrs McCullough was not in a position to answer legal questions about the constitution of the CIC.

85.2 - Report from Rural Towns Co-ordinator -report had been previously circulated. Attached.

- Networking and other activities in Midhurst have kept going through his secondment period.
- Midhurst Business Network (MBN) has been gathering momentum during the lockdown with many new people attending meetings.
- The May meeting had approximately 30 attendees. The meeting provided a tutorial on utilising digital marketing, social media and making best use of websites by Hooli and Larsen Media.

Reconvene Meeting

C/86/20 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting – The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 18th May 2020.

Proposed Cllr Purves, seconded Cllr Morley all agreed.



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C/87/20 - Matters Arising from those Minutes – Cllr Morley asked if the District Councillor knew when the free carparking and relaxation of parking rules would be reversed. This would be covered in District Cllr McAra's report later. Minute C/88.2.

C/88/20 - Report from County and District Councillors –

88.1 - West Sussex County Councillor Kate O'Kelly; report attached. There was an update on:

- COVID within West Sussex
- Motorbike cross parish group
- Cycling – reallocation of road space
- Household Waste Recycling Sites
- Schools
- Buses

88.2 - Chichester District Councillor Gordon McAra.

There will be a virus testing station at The Grange carpark from Tuesday 16th June for four days. Testing is by invitation for frontline people only.

Chichester District has had a very low number of reported COVID cases and deaths making it statistically one of the better regions in England.

Carpark charges and street parking enforcement were re-instated on Monday 8th June.

The District Council has agreed to give financial assistance to Westgate Leisure Centre. All bar three members of staff had been furloughed, however, since closing it had lost a considerable amount of money.

Chichester District councillor Judy Fowler, confirmed that car parking charges had been re-instated on 8th June and notices were up in North Street carpark.

Along with Cllr Jeffries she had attended meetings on anti-social motor bikers along the A272 and throughout the county. Report in full in Minute C/95.4 below.

C/89/20 - AGAR – Section 1, Annual Governance Statement – Members considered the Annual Governance Statement and each question posed, agreeing that in each case the answer to the question was yes, except question nine which was not applicable. The completed Annual Governance Statement was agreed.

C/90/20 - AGAR – Section 2, Accounting Statements 2019-2020 – Members considered and agreed the Statement of Accounts 2019/2020.

Proposed Cllr M. Richardson, seconded Cllr D. Smallman

The Chairman thanked the Finance Officer for her work in closing the year-end accounts and re-stating the previous year's accounts.

C/91/20 - Finance, Asset and Policy Committee – Members agreed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 8th June 2020.

Proposed Cllr A. Procter, seconded Cllr J. Sutton unanimously approved.

Adopted by Council. There were no questions.

C/92/20 - Planning and Infrastructure Committee – Members agreed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 26th May 2020.

Proposed Cllr G. McAra, seconded Cllr J. Lintott unanimously approved.



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Adopted by Council. There were no questions.

C/93/20 - Community and Environment Committee – Members agreed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 26th May 2020.

Proposed Cllr D. Smallman, seconded Cllr J. Sutton, all agreed and approved by Council.

Cllr Lintott enquired about progress on organising the social distancing events. The Events Officer will report on this at the next C&E meeting next Monday.

Cllr Sutton confirmed that Midhurst Matters was being printed and would be out in the next few weeks.

C/94/20 – High street Recovery, beyond the reopening phase

94.1 ‘Keeping People Shopping in Midhurst’, Cllr Sutton

It was resolved to allocate £1,000 of the COVID budget for establishing ‘Made in Midhurst’, a way of helping local traders and artisans and keep people shopping for locally sourced and produced items.

A static website ‘Made in Midhurst’ will have a directory of traders and producers. Advertising will also be via social media and stickers for shop windows and goods produced will be available.

Midhurst Town Team are extremely enthusiastic and a group will be formed of members of the town team and councillors to take this initiative forward.

Proposed Cllr Richardson, seconded Cllr Travers, unanimously approved.

94.2 CDC High Street Recovery – CDC invited MTC to put forward a representative to join the CDC working group to look at ‘high street recovery’. Cllr Laura Jeffries will take this role.

Action: Clerk to notify CDC.

19:55pm Cllr Morley ‘drops out’ of the meeting

20:05pm Cllr Morley returns to meeting having experienced technical problems

C/95/20 - Reports from Outside Meetings -

95.1 - Speed Watch, Cllr Morley – Two more street sites have been identified and approved by the Highways PCSO. Cllrs Morley and Travers meet the Police officer.

95.2 - Town Trust, Cllr Purves, Smallman and Lintott attended a meeting last week. There were no pertinent matters to report.

95.3 - Gypsies and Travellers, Cllr McAra has joined a new group set up by CDC to look into permanent sites for gypsies and travellers. This will centre more on the area south of The Downs.

95.4 – Anti-social Motorbikes, Cllr Jeffries – the problem stretches right across the county not just along A272. The group will be a multi-faceted, multi-disciplined group incorporating representatives from all towns and villages as well as the police and department of the environment.

Questions will be drafted for the MP to address to the Chief of Police.

Green boxes placed across the county record the number and speed of vehicles. This will help in deciding where policing should be stepped up.

95.5 - Midhurst Vision, the meeting scheduled for last week has been moved to 29th June. In forming the CIC, MV asked for Town Councillors to become directors. Following a discussion and on the advice of the Clerk it was decided that individual Councillors should not become a Director or Officer of the CIC; as an elected member of a local authority it was felt that this would cause conflict of interest and put a councillor in a difficult position when acting in his or her capacity as a Councillor and vice versa.’ MTC supports and aspires to the ‘Vision Descriptors’ and agrees to continue to participate as a stakeholder of the MV. MTC will ask that the MVCIC consults with MTC on its proposed projects and where



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appropriate invite Councillor representation on MV working groups (especially where MTC might in the future have a financial interest in a joint project). Likewise, MTC could, where appropriate, ask for representation of an MVG member on to one of its working groups. Councillors were certain that we can, and should, remain a 'stakeholder' of MVG and will ask that in future MTC is referred to as 'stakeholders' of MVG. Action: Chairman to notify MVG.

C/96/20 - Matters of Report –

Cllr Purves thanked those councillors who helped put up posters and signage for safe shopping in Midhurst at the weekend ahead of the shops opening.

C/97/20 - Date of Next Meeting – Monday 20th July 2020 at 7pm

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8:28pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated _____