



Midhurst Town Council

**A Meeting of The Midhurst Town Council, took place
on Monday 21st September 2020 at 7:00pm in The Midhurst Town Council Office, The Old
Library, Knockhundred Row, Midhurst**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr C. Lintott (Chairman), Cllr D. Coote, Cllr G. McAra, Cllr S. Morley, Cllr M Purves, Cllr M. Richardson, Cllr Smallman, Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr J. Travers, Cllr R. Watts

Officer: Melanie Kite, Town Clerk

Also present: County Councillor K. O’Kelly and Mrs H. O’Sullivan (Vision representative) and the Press

C/112/20 – Chairman’s Announcements – The Chairman reminded Members that the meeting was being recorded for the sole purpose of the Clerk’s Minutes, and that normal code of conduct applies.

C/113/20 - Apologies for Absence –, Cllr Jeffries, Cllr A. Procter, Cllr G. Upjohn

C/114/20 - Declarations of Interest – None declared at this time.

C/115/20 - Public Participation Session -Adjournment of the meeting for public questions.

115.1 - Update from Midhurst Vision Group; Mrs H. O’Sullivan, Interim Strategy and Two-Year Action Plan report circulated

Four key areas:

- Creating the best first impression of Midhurst
- Pedestrian friendly link with old town
- Enhance the attractions of the old town
- Support town businesses post COVID-19

Working groups will be set-up for each of these four areas.

Questions were put forward by councillors

Chichester District Council is tripling the amount of money available to Vision groups, up to £150,000.

Cllr McAra asked if Midhurst Vision knew how much it was to receive. This is not yet known; Mrs O’Sullivan went on to say that MV is looking for financial assistance to employ an administrator and is in discussion with South Downs National Park.

Midhurst Vision is now incorporated as a Community Interest Company (CIC). There are currently two directors, Mrs Philippa McCullough and Mr. J. Allnutt. It hopes to have more directors on the board going forward.

Reconvene Meeting

C/116/20 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Following amendments to C/110/20 paragraph 5, to read: *Cllr Morley reported that Midhurst Community Speed Watch (MCSW) had attempted to have a session. Unfortunately, a catalogue of disasters had befallen the group, so this had not taken place. Midhurst police station is only open for a limited period and the PSCO was therefore providing the equipment. The police computer had not been updated to show that members of MCSW had been trained and were authorised to manage a speed watch in town.*



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The Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 20th July 2020. These will be signed at a later date.

Proposed Cllr Morley, seconded Cllr Coote all agreed.

C/117/20 - Matters Arising from those Minutes – No matters were raised.

C/118/20 - Report from County and District Councillors

West Sussex County Councillor Kate O’Kelly; report previously circulated, and attached

- Biggest issue is COVID. New drive-in testing site in Tangmere has opened. Member group meeting convening.
- Household waste recycling sites - a householder can now register their vehicle with Hampshire council if they live close to the border.
- The Government’s Pavement parking consultation
- Adult and Social care – new model for on-call social workers being discussed.
- County Cllr O’Kelly introduced an amendment to the Conservative social housing motion calling for more social housing to be built.

Cycle lanes scheme, people have an opportunity to comment via the website on cycle lanes across the district not just in Chichester

Chichester District Councillor Gordon McAra. Report previously circulated and attached.

- In July The Novium Museum also re-opened and in just the first two weeks, the team welcomed more than 900 visitors
- Visit Chichester, the main tourist organisation for the area has been renamed to The Great Sussex Way, to reduce the dominance of the city.
- Contracts have been exchanged for the sale of the Grange site in Midhurst.
- Covid recovery grants. Following the allocation of £500,000 at full council in July 2020, the Covid Recovery Grants scheme has been launched with applications to be made from 20 August. Full details can be found at www.chichester.gov.uk/cobidrecoverygrants. For businesses there are two schemes available: £100,000 for small grants of up to £1,000. The SDNP has also launched a small grant scheme for businesses and organisations.
- The Government has also launched new proposals on planning and making the planning process easier and cheaper.

There were no questions

C/119/20 - Finance, Asset and Policy Committee – due to a change in the committee meeting dates there were no Minutes to approve.

C/120/20 - Planning and Infrastructure Committee – The Minutes of 10th and 24th August and 14th September were signed as a true and accurate record of these meetings. All to be signed at a later date.

Minutes of 10th August, Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Sutton, unanimously approved.

Minutes of 24th August Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Lintott, unanimously approved.

Minutes of 14th September Proposed Cllr McAra, seconded Cllr Watts, unanimously approved

Minutes adopted by Council.



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Cllr Rev. Coote updated the Council on the outstanding issue of public access to the grounds of St Margaret's saying that the committee is still waiting for a reply from Chichester District Council planning legal team.

Sainsbury's had agreed to do a click and collect whilst the refurbishment of the old Budgens store is in progress. They are unable to install public conveniences in the new store.

C/121/20 - Community and Environment Committee – Amendments were made to Minutes of 27th July, item 59/20 Dog control. Clarification to the Council's response to the consultation was required.

This was amended to read: The committee's response to the consultation was agreed as follows:

- that further legislation will not tackle the problem.
- Who will administer fines?
- That dog fouling is hazardous and a health and safety issue, However, the consultation does not address the underlying causes of the problem.
- Clearer notices are required as to where dogs are welcome, whether they should be on a lead, or that an area is prohibited to dogs.

Amendments to Item 62/20:

Cllr Morley reported that he had been contacted by a resident concerned about an overhanging rock above the pavement at the top of Petersfield Road. It was suggested that this should be considered by the Planning committee.

Cllr Morley raised concern about the Traffic Regulation Order seeking to reduce the speed between the turning for Cocking, *on to Cocking Causeway*, to 50mph. This needed further consideration and Cllr Purves and Cllr Morley would meet again to discuss this.

Following these amendments, the Minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 27th July 2020. To be signed at a later date.

Proposed Cllr Morley, seconded Cllr Watts, all agreed and approved by Council.

Minutes of meeting 14th September. Cllr Purves highlighted item 72/20, Christmas Street Party, this is unlikely to go ahead this year but the road closure will still be applied for in case a scaled down version can be held. There are plans for Christmas related competitions for residents to enter, the council will host its shop window 'competition' and the town team are planning late night opening weekly starting mid-November.

Question relating to item 67/20 – letter to Chief Constable Carter. The committee felt that using the more direct line through the new PCSO was a better way forward. Should this not be the case then the council would go up the chain of command again.

Item 72/20 – Contract given to a developer to build a residential care home on the old Grange site. A number of residents had posted comments that they had still hoped to see a large supermarket or swimming pool on this site.

Cllr McAra asked that next time PCSO Nathan Ford addresses the Full Council at a council meeting.



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Proposed Cllr Sutton, seconded Cllr Watts, all agreed and approved by Council.

C/123/20 – Midhurst Lido – Cllr McAra’s document previously circulated and attached.

Leaflets were delivered to over 2,600 homes and 1,283 people responded. Results of the survey showed that 90% of respondents were in favour of a lido.

Cllr McAra put forward two proposals: (1) Accept that it is not feasible or beyond the capacity of the Town Council to deliver it and therefore not proceed and (2) take the project further by forming a working group to assess the project in greater depth, including location, funding, operation.

Resolution: It was unanimously agreed to go with option (2), to form a working group and take the project forward.

Proposed Cllr McAra, seconded Cllr Purves, unanimously agreed. Motion carried.

C/124/20 - Reports from Outside Meetings –

Cllrs Purves and Lintott had attended a meeting of the Town Team CIC. The TTCIC advised they will be looking to implement Christmas late night shopping from mid November and asked if the Christmas lights could be switched on earlier to help promote this. Councillors advised that MTC will do all it can to help promote late night shopping and shop local. They advised the TTCIC that the Council will be running its annual shop window ‘competition’ and a competition entitled ‘Christmas is to me...’ which is a home decorating theme for residents.

Cllr Rev. Coote had attended the All Parishes Meeting. This had been a very informative and useful meeting with talks from people on the extensive plans that are in place to deal with COVID, how to deal and respond to Travellers in our area and the Government’s changes to planning regulations. Information is regularly circulated to all Clerks on these and other pertinent issues affecting our parishes.

C/125/20 – Matters of Report –

Cllr Lintott had been contacted by Kirstin Bosley who wish to have an event for Stand Up to Cancer by creating a pebble snake which will be made by people making a donation for, and decorating a pebble. The pebbles will be formed into a snake around the perimeter of the church wall. Eventually, it is hoped that a permanent place can be found for it to be displayed.

Following a question from Cllr McAra, Cllr Sutton updated the Members on the Northern Gateway project. There is every intention that this will be completed in the next financial year. Proposals will be brought to council at the next meeting.

Cllr watts asked if there was anything the Council could do to help the carwash group back into town. Unfortunately, as they are a commercial enterprise it is not in a town council’s power to assist in any way.

Midhurst Matters will be going to print mid-October. Any articles to Cllr Sutton please as soon as possible.

Cllr Morley noted that the vegetation around the entrance to Wedglen Trading Estate is very overgrown. This needs to be reported to highways and the individual traders asked to maintain their specific areas.



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The volunteer group litter pick on Sunday, led by Cllr Smallman had been very successful. There had been a huge amount of general debris and a staggering number of bottles of alcohol collected. Cllr Smallman hopes to do a volunteer group litter pick on a monthly basis owing to the amount of rubbish.

C/126/20 - Date of Next Meeting – The next meeting will be Monday 19th October 2020 at 7pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8:12pm.

Signed:.....

Dated.....

Chairman