



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7:30pm
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE DUE TO COVID-19.**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr M. Purves, Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr R. Watts, Cllr D. Smallman
Officer: Julian Quail, Assistant Town Clerk
Also Present: Melanie Kite, Town Clerk

CE/63/20 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr A. Procter and Cllr S. Morley.

CE/64/20 - Declarations of Interest

None declared.

CE/65/20 – Matters Arising from the Minutes of 27th July 2020

CE/53/20 – COVID 19: The committee were pleased to note that Sainsburys had agreed to implement a click and collect service which will help residents with shopping during the twelve-week period between the Budgens store closing and the Sainsbury's store opening.

CE/66/20 – Public Participation

Nothing to report.

Meeting re-convened.

CE/67/20 – Policing in Midhurst

Cllr Purves welcomed PCSO Nathan Ford to the meeting. PCSO Ford briefed the committee on his background and how important it was to maintain communication with the Council. He asked for regular information regarding the hotspots in Midhurst. This would help him to focus on the key issues. He plans on spending 75% of his time in Midhurst and hopes to meet as many local people as possible.

The committee noted the partnership crime data.

It is understood that Sussex Police will continue to access the data from Midhurst CCTV on a reactive basis, following the withdrawal by CDC from the current contract.

The committee noted that Chief Inspector John Carter has yet to respond to the letter of 7th July 2020 regarding interaction with the local police but decided they would not pursue an answer.

CE/68/20 – COVID 19

The committee discussed the hanging of the large banner from CDC at the entrance to the town. However, given the location of the flower display on the railing next to the bus station, it will have to wait for them to be removed later this month.



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CE/69/20 – Civic Activities and Rural Amenities

Northern Gateway - Cllr Sutton reported that she had held a meeting with representatives from the Vision Group and SDNPA. This had been successful with all sides agreeing on the suggested approach. One of the SDNPA will provide Cllr Sutton with details of the company they used for their Cor-Ten Steel sign.

Hanging Baskets – The Assistant Town Clerk explained the result of his walk round with the Director of Windowflowers. This had been very successful following instructions from Cllr Purves to expand the flowers in the town to their previous status. While this will involve addition monies, the committee was in favour of this recommendation and agreed to forward this to Full Council.

Cor-Ten Steel Planters – The Assistant Clerk explained that a number of the lavender plants had not taken and eventually died. It had been agreed with Aylings that they would replace these. It was recommended that the new lavender plants should be planted now.

Action: The Assistant Clerk to speak to Aylings.

The committee noted that it had not been possible to progress the idea of planting bay trees on North Street due to restriction of Covid 19.

Skatepark – Cllr Sutton explained that it had yet to be decided when the new skate park would be built in 2021. She was due to meet with company representatives to discuss access to the recreation ground. The company had made slightly revised plans to the new skate park due to health and safety issues.

Update form the Cemetery Working Party – Cllr Purves reminded the committee that the working party consisted of himself, Cllr Watts, Cllr Travers and Mr Nigel Yeo. Steady progress is being made. It was being recommended that due to the amount of work required, the project is approached in a staged manner with initial thought being given to the pruning of the hedges. Further work will be progressed later in the New Year, including repairs to the track that runs adjacent to the cemetery.

Action: The Assistant Clerk to provide Cllr Watts with a list of all the local funeral directors.

Update of the Riverwalk Project – Cllr Watts informed the committee that he had met with representative's from Easebourne Parish Council and Cowdray, who are enthusiastic to progress the idea of both the river walk and picnic areas. However, before providing formal agreement Lord Cowdray wishes to see graphics. Cllr Watts will speak with Bohr Architects to see if he would be prepared to provide the graphics. With regards to the river walk, it will be a staged approach including clearing vegetation from St Anne's Hill to recreate the vista over the ruins. The idea is to produce a pamphlet to indicate key areas of interest. Cllr Watts requires funding for this. It is hoped that the SDNPA will help. Cllr Watts will liaise with them to progress this.

Rural Town Co-ordinator – Cllr Lintott informed the committee that she had spoken with CDC, who were still deciding if they will replace Steve Hill. Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

Winter Plan 2020 – The committee noted the plan.

CE/70/20 – Budget Monitoring

The current financial position was noted. It was agreed that the committee already had a number of large projects over the next 2 years and though it best not to progress any more for the time being.



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CE/71/20 – Events

2020 Christmas Street Party – It was agreed that this event will be scaled back this year due to the pandemic. As such, it would be restricted, in theory, to late opening of shops on Friday 4th December, the lighting of the Christmas Tree, the window competition and Christmas lighting competition for local residents. Cllr Lintott and Cllr Purves would liaise with Town Team CIC to discuss the idea of late-night opening and provide clarity regarding MTC leading on the window competition.

Action: The Assistant Clerk to arrange for the usual road closures to be put in place.

Scarecrow - It was agreed that the Scarecrow competition had been successful and would be repeated next year. It will be necessary to provide improved promotion for next year.

CE/72/20 – Facebook

MTC had received a huge response to their message on the announcement by CDC that the contract had been let for the controversial residential care home on the old Grange site.

CE/73/20 - Matters of Report

Cllr Smallman informed the committee that she intended to join in on the Great British Clean Up on Sunday 20th September. She would arrange for litter picking equipment to be collected from CDC.

Cllr Sutton asked for help with next month's Midhurst Matters. Cllr Smallman agreed to help.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 9.15pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date.....