



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 22nd JUNE 2020 AT 7:30pm
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE DUE TO COVID-19.**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr M. Purves, Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr A. Procter, Cllr S. Morley, Cllr D. Smallman and Cllr J. Sutton

Officer: Julian Quail, Assistant Town Clerk

Also attended: Cllr L Jeffries, Melanie Kite, Town Clerk, and Kayleigh Collyer, Events Officer

CE/38/20 – Apologies for Absence

None.

CE/39/20 - Declarations of Interest

None declared.

CE/40/20 – Matters Arising from the Minutes of 26th May 2020

None to consider.

CE/41/20 – Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

Meeting re-convened.

CE/42/20 – Covid 19

Following the provision of temporary signage from Chichester District Council (CDC) for the re-opening of shops on 15th June, the County Council were developing more permanent signage. On the whole the committee thought the Midhurst sign was a great initiative but believed the background silhouette needed changing and [#lovemidhurst](#) be inserted. It was noted that some of the temporary signage had disappeared.

CDC have been allocated £108,000 to support the 'Reopening of High Streets'. There are set criteria for eligible costs and the fund operates on a 'spend and reclaim' basis. CDC has already spent some of this money to prepare for the reopening of some retailers on the 15th June. Going forwards, there are likely to be further areas of work, particularly in readiness for the next phase of re-opening of bars, cafés and restaurants. The broad areas of 'eligible' expenditure include development of high street action plans, communications and public information and business awareness raising activities.

To help support the issues regarding parking on North Street and the associated problems with loading vehicles and cars parking in loading bays, thought will be given to the possibility of seeking money from the above fund in MTC's development of its high street action plan. The Assistant Town Clerk will speak with the Rural Town Co-ordinator regarding the potential for the TTCIC to seek appropriate funding. There is also a possibility that some money for 'Made in Midhurst' could also be reclaimed.



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CE/43/20 – Policing in Midhurst

Following a request from Full Council the Assistant Clerk wrote to Mandy Jameson at the PCC and asked for information regarding the local PCSO's role, responsibilities and time spent patrolling Midhurst. The Assistant Town Clerk subsequently spoke with Mandy Jameson about the lack of communication from the PCSO. Following a report on communication to Jon Carter, Chief Inspector for Arun and Chichester, from the PCC's office, MTC has received an e-mail from CI Jon Carter regarding some potential concerns that the town council may have about the activities of the local PCSO. It was agreed that Cllr Jeffries would draft a response and share this with the committee before a formal response is submitted.

CE/44/20 – Civic Activities and Rural Amenities

Northern Gateway: It was agreed that a working party would convene shortly to discuss the future of the Northern Gateway. The working party would consist of Cllr Proctor, Cllr Smallman and Cllr Sutton.

Cor Ten Steel Planters: The Assistant Town Clerk will liaise with Aylings Garden Centre and establish when the lavender can be planted. The MTC groundsman will water the plants, while it is hoped that the Midhurst Green Volunteers will prune them.

Red Telephone Box: It was broadly agreed that monies should be sort for the next precept to completely refurbish the red telephone box.

CE/45/20 – Budget Monitoring

The Clerk provided a synopsis of the financial position for Site Service, Rural and Town Amenities and Civic Activities. The committee noted it.

Cllr Upjohn left the meeting.

CE/46/20 – Grants (Phase 1)

The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the MTC Grants Panel recommended that £200 be provided to Cruse Bereavement and £100 to the British Legion for Remembrance Sunday. This was agreed by the committee.

It was also agreed that a detailed promotion, to all the clubs and societies within Midhurst, would be conducted soon to enable them to submit any grant applications for the second phase, which ends at the end of October.

CE/47/20 – Report from the Events Officer

Scarecrow Competition: The MTC Events Officer briefed the committee on progress of the scarecrow competition which will take place in August. Promotion of this event is being conducted via social media now. A draft application form has been developed for local residents to obtain in July. A map indicating where each scarecrow will be sited will be developed - although it is not necessary to have the scarecrows on the map. Scarecrows will be on display from 1st August and a panel of MTC judges will choose the top three towards the end of August: 1st prize - £50, 2nd prize £30, 3rd prize £20. This will consist of vouchers for local shops.

Halloween Walk: It was decided to start advertising/promoting this event straight after the scarecrow competition. The intension is to ask all businesses in North and West Street if they would like to participate. If social distancing has lifted by then, a map of a scavenger hunt could be produced, starting



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in North Street Car Par and ending in the Market Square. MTC will invite Gartons, the Rotary Club and The Lions to participate in events in the Market Square.

Christmas Street Party: This year's event will replicate last years. Various people have been contacted and asked to pencil the event in their diary, including the roundabout, the stage and the lighting, Punch and Judy, games, candyfloss and chestnuts. In addition, stall holders are being planned for the Old Library. Currently there is no increase in the associated costs. It has yet to be established if the Upholsters will host Santa's Grotto this year. Use of a band to close the event was discussed. It was thought that a band may not be required this year. Further thought will be given to this.

CE/48/20 - Matters of Report

Cllr Lintott provided MTC Facebook statistics: 384 page likes, 5,331 post reads, 2,449 post engagements and 124 page views.

Cllr Morley explained that he had received a lot of positive responses to the Council's latest interaction with local businesses.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date.....