



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON TUESDAY 26th MAY 2020 AT 7:30pm
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE DUE TO COVID-19.**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr M. Purves Chairman (2020-2021), 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: Kayleigh Collyer, Events Officer

CE/25/20 – Election of Chair for the Civic Year 2020-2021

It was proposed by Cllr Procter and seconded by Cllr Smallman that Cllr Purves be elected Chairman of Community and Environment. There were no other nominations and Cllr Purves was duly elected Chairman - 5 in favour, Cllr Upjohn abstained.

CE/26/20 – Election of Vice Chair for the Civic Year 2020-2021

It was proposed by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr Morley that Cllr Upjohn be elected Vice Chairman of Community and Environment. There were no other nominations and Cllr Upjohn was duly elected as Vice-Chairman - all in favour.

CE/27/20 – Apologies for Absence

None.

CE/28/20 - Declarations of Interest

None declared.

CE/29/20 – Matters Arising from the Minutes of 24th February 2020

None to consider.

CE/30/20 – Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

Meeting re-convened.

CE/31/20 – Covid 19

At the request of Full Council, the use of masks and social distancing was discussed. Cllr Sutton has been working with the Midhurst Angels who have produced masks for use within the town. These masks will be given to local shops and pharmacies. MTC support the use of masks. This aligns with the first Business Owner's Newsletter that seeks to promote Midhurst as a safe place to live, work and shop. MTC are keen to encourage and help shop owners get back to business. To help deliver this objective, MTC has purchased bottles of hand sanitisers which will be given to local businesses.

MTC has discussed what can be done to promote the governments messages about social distancing and staying safe in public places and how it can help apply measures in Midhurst when the town opens fully. As shops re-open on North Street, it is becoming challenging to maintain social distancing, as people queue outside shops and Barclays Bank. There are various issues that require guidance such as suspending parking in parts of North Street to enable people to queue in a sensible manner. This had been



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raised with our County Councillor. There is also the issue of managing shop deliveries if we use the cobble area for people to queue. It noted that the key deliveries to Tesco and other shops on North Street are in the early morning. As such, it would be helpful if the shops on North Street between Barclays Bank and Knockhundred Row, and the corresponding other side of the road, opened slightly later in the morning. This will need to be discussed with the business community.

CE/32/20 – Policing in Midhurst

It was agreed that the current Crime Reduction Forum requires restructuring to ensure that MTC develop a regular interface with the local police and hold them to account regarding the policing of the town. There are concerns about anti-social activity within the town, with clear evidence from various locations. Photographs of discarded drug related items are provided to both CDC and the local PCSO. This is beginning to provide a picture of anti-social activity within Midhurst. Councillors are asked to provide photographic evidence of drug taking to both Cllr Jeffries and the Assistant Town Clerk.

Concern was raised about the number of motor bikes and the associated noise within the town. MTC urge people to raise their concerns with the Police using the link on the WSCC website for Operation Crackdown: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-safety/speeding-and-speed-limits/>

CE/33/20 – Future projects for C&E

It was agreed that the committee should largely focus on their existing projects over the next year. However, it was also agreed that there would be an opportunity to hold some events within the town later in the year. This was further discussed under agenda item 14 with the Events Officer.

CE/34/20 – Finger Posts

The replacement for fingerposts will now not be carried out in this financial year. A business plan will be submitted to the RFO for inclusion in the 2021-2022 budget. Letters to tender will be sent to companies in the new year. The Assistant Town Clerk agreed to circulate the Excel spreadsheet and photographs that will form the key element of the tender.

CE/35/20 – Christmas Lights

The committee had provided their preference for the replacement Christmas lights on North Street and Lambert's Lane prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the motif in photograph no 9 was the most popular.

CE/36/20 – Report from the Events Officer

When appropriate the Town Council will hold a small ceremony to celebrate the planting of the VE Day tree and plaque.

Although, the formal Bank Holiday Carnival has been cancelled, the committee are considering an alternative carnival to go down North Street and end at the Market Square when appropriate to do so.

The Events Officer attended a business network meeting, before lockdown, to ask the local businesses if they would like an input in the Christmas Street Party. They said yes, and a meeting will be arranged following lockdown. An event management plan is being prepared.

It was agreed that other events could be held which consider social distancing. These include a Scarecrow competition and a Halloween walk. These could be in conjunction with MADhurst and aligned with future Midhurst Business Owner Newsletters.



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The committee took the opportunity to seek a progress report on development of the new website. A note will be posted on the website informing the public that a new website is due to be launched.

CE/37/20 - Matters of Report

Cllr Sutton sought stories for the next edition of Midhurst Matters which will be produced in July.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 9.00pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date.....