



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 27th JULY 2020 AT 7:30pm
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE DUE TO COVID-19.**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr M. Purves, Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr S. Morley, and Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr R. Watts

Officer: Julian Quail, Assistant Town Clerk

Also attended: Town Clerk, Cllr L Jeffries and District Cllr J. Fowler

CE/49/20 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr A. Procter and Cllr D. Smallman.

CE/50/20 - Declarations of Interest

None declared.

CE/51/20 – Matters Arising from the Minutes of 22nd June 2020

None to consider.

CE/52/20 – Public Participation

Nothing to report.

Meeting re-convened.

CE/53/20 – COVID 19

As reported at the Council meeting last week, the Angels are taking a break over August. Other organisations will be on standby to assist any resident with a problem.

Consideration will be given to how to help residents with shopping during the twelve week period between Budgens store closing and Sainsbury's opening.

Updated social distancing and shopping in Midhurst signage will be posted around town. Cllr Purves to meet with the Rural Town Co-ordinator to discuss where the signage will be placed.

CE/54/20 – Policing in Midhurst

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.

CE/55/20 – Civic Activities and Rural Amenities

Northern Gateway - Cllr Procter's report from the meeting of the working party previously circulated.

A member from the Vision and SDNP will be invited to join the working party. When a representative from each has been appointed the group will meet again to take plans forward.

Bay tree planters – Cllr Lintott and Assistant clerk had done a site visit with Steve Hodd of WSCC Highways, who informed the council that the planters would narrow the pavement to too greater an extent during social distancing measures. The Bay Trees were acceptable. The project will be looked at again at a later date.

Information kiosk – A full refurbishment of the kiosk will be discussed and a business case will be brought to the Finance Committee for inclusion in the 2020/21 budget.



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CE/56/20 – Budget Monitoring

This was noted.

CE/57/20 – Gate at Recreation Ground Car Park

Two options were provided to the committee for consideration: a single leaf access gate and a tubular high estate gate.

It was agreed to install the tubular high estate gate. This would provide continuity with the potential fencing for refurbishing the cemetery. Not only would this provide controlled access to the carpark but provide the right look for the surrounding area. It was noted that the guides and scouts will need a key to the gate.

CE/58/20 – River Park Concept

MTC had been contacted by Easebourne Parish Council (EPC) to seek an opportunity to work together regarding the formation of a picnic area on Cowdray land in the future. It has been noted that many people are picnicking in unsuitable spaces on Cowdray land. In addition, there is also the issue of rubbish due to a lack of bins. It is apparent that people are not taking their rubbish away. The plan is to seek formal permission from Cowdray to allocate an area to the left of the causeway along the river. It is not clear at this point if this will include furniture. There will be a need to liaise closely with EPC and Cowdray to take this forward. Cllr Watts agreed to lead on this project.

CE/59/20 – New Consultation About Dog Control Rule

A link to CDC's website to consider the proposal to extend the Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Control was provided to the committee prior to the meeting. It was decided that the comments provided by Cllr Procter were apt. These noted that the further legalisation will not tackle the problem. Dog fouling is hazardous, but the reasons why it occurs are not addressed and a negative message is sent out. Rather than punitive legislation, a positive and clear message that either dogs are well behaved dogs are welcome or this area is not suitable for dogs either on or off the lead should be adopted. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would provide a formal response on behalf of the committee.

CE/60/20 – Town Flower Display 2021

Cllr Purves and the Assistant Town Clerk had walked round the town to assess the flowers and option for next year. All agreed that the flowers this year were wonderful. The Chairman thank the Assistant Clerk for all his hard work. A number of changes were proposed and while this would require additional money it was agreed that this was the right way forward. There was a brief debate on the number of planters that should be placed on the corner of Petersfield Road and Rumbolds Hill. It will be important to ensure that no utilities are blocked. A final decision has yet to be reached. It was suggested that in 2022 consideration should be given to the use of native plants and a more environmental approach to watering, which is a perennial problem.

CE/61/20 – Report from the Events Officer

The written report was noted by the committee. To date 16 large crosses had been requested. Judging will take place towards the end of August and two judges are sought. Cllr Procter will be asked if she wishes to judge the competition.

CE/62/20 - Matters of Report

Cllr Sutton reminded the committee that the next edition of Midhurst Matters is due in September and she requires volunteers to help.



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Cllr Morley explained that the Rotary Club were concerned about trees in Jubilee Park that look as though they need water. The level of watering in Midhurst has been a challenge. If the trees continue to suffer, the Clerk's office will speak with MTC's groundsman to see if there is scope to help.

Cllr Morley expressed his concern about an overhanging rock above the pavement at the top of Petersfield Road. It was suggested that 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 the Petersfield Road and Midhurst to 50mph. This needed further consideration and Cllr Purves and Cllr Morley would meet again to discuss this.

District Cllr Fowler was concerned that a number of rats had been seen in Bepton Close.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 8.55pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date.....