



Midhurst Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Environment Committee of Midhurst Town Council held at Rosemary's Parlour, North Street, Midhurst on 25th March 2019 at 7pm

MEMBERS

Ms J Fowler (Chairman)	✓ Mrs M Guest (Vice-Chairman)
Mr M Purves Chairman of the Council	✓ Mr G McAra Vice Chairman of the Council
✓ Rev. D Coote	✓ Mr Whittaker
✓ Mrs T Truscott	✓ Mrs J Sutton

✓=Present

In attendance: Miss S Hurr (Locum Town Clerk)
One member of the Press was present

97. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr Purves, Ms Fowler

98. Chichester District Council Dog Warden – Mr J Rosser:

Mrs Guest welcomed Mr Rosser to meeting. Mr Rosser explained that he spends 15 minutes each week (one hour per month) in Midhurst as his first morning call, at Carron Lane Recreation Ground. MTC pay an annual fee of £300 for this service. Mr Rosser explained that he deals with dog welfare, fouling, barking, biting and stray dogs, and can be called out by individual members of the public for these matters. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals deals with cruelty issues. Dog fouling is not a significant issue in Midhurst, but if any 'hot spots' are identified, Mr Rosser confirmed he will attend with the aim of rectifying this issue. There are currently no dangerous dog issues in Midhurst, although 'dog-on-dog' attacks are more common.

Mr Rosser confirmed that currently MTC have a by-law which states 'dogs must be on leads' and suggested that this is changed to 'dogs on leads by direction' which is contained in more recent regulations. This directive would enable Mr Rosser (or any member of the public) to enforce having dogs on leads more easily. Changing this by-law can be initiated by contacting CDC's Legal Team.

Mr Rosser is able to issue a fixed penalty notice, when appropriate of £100. If a fixed penalty is paid within 28 days, the amount is reduced to £75. If a dog owner fails to pay a fixed penalty there is the potential for them to be taken to a court of law by CDC.

Mrs Guest thanked Mr Rosser for attending and providing very relevant and useful information for the committee.

Dated this 15th April 2019 Chairman



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99. Declarations of Interest

None

100. Representations from the Public

None

101. Matters Arising

Mrs Truscott confirmed that the town floral displays had been discussed at full council on 18th March 2019.

Mrs Truscott also confirmed that following the 'results of the survey and future plans for the Recreation Ground Equipment', the business plan was being updated.

102. Greenery at the former Frazer Nash site

Both Mr McAra and Rev. Coote had inspected the site and although there is some 'weed' growth, it is not significant and therefore will be brought back to the committee in three months' time. Rev. Coote was requested and agreed to establish what the plans are for the site via South Downs National Park Association, which he agreed to undertake.

Action: Rev. Coote to establish the plans for the site.

103. Question Time for the Public

Rev. Coote referred to a meeting recently held by the Midhurst Society to which District Councillors Tony and Pam Dignum were invited to answer pre-submitted questions from members of the public. Rev. Coote considered that MTC should review how members of the public are encouraged to attend MTC meetings and ask questions regarding the town and the work of the Council. Mrs Guest commented that a slot for 'Representations from the public' was always included on agendas, and Mr McAra added that the 'Annual Town Meeting' hosted by MTC was well publicised for this purpose also, and there are also regular MTC surgeries at the Grange. The clerk confirmed that members of the public should and are always given an opportunity to speak at public meetings, and that they could also submit questions in writing (letter/email) if they wished. Rev. Coote considered that the phrasing of this section of the meeting could be improved and the clerk responded that other wording e.g. "questions from the public" are used by other councils. It was concluded that Rev. Coote would investigate this matter further, for discussion at the next meeting.



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Action: Rev. Coote to investigate phrases used for the public slot by other parishes.

104. Matters of Report

Mr McAra confirmed lamp posts in the North Street car park had been painted black, the car park will be closed over Easter in order for Chichester District Council to undertake resurfacing works and the planting areas in the car park had been re-planted, weeded, and mulched.

105. Signing of Cheques

One cheque was signed.

106. Mrs Truscott's last council meeting

Mrs Guest thanked Mrs Truscott for her work and commitment to the town and the Council.

With no further business, the meeting closed at 7.40pm.