



Midhurst Town Council

**A Meeting of The Midhurst Town Council, took place
on Monday 17th February 2020 at 7:00pm in The Midhurst Town Council Office, The
Old Library, Knockhundred Row, Midhurst**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr M. Purves (Chair for agenda items 1-3), Cllr C. Lintott (Chairman for items 4-18), Cllr D. Coote, Cllr L. Jeffries, Cllr G. McAra, Cllr S. Morley, Cllr A. Procter, Cllr M. Richardson, Cllr D. Smallman, Cllr J. Travers, Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr M. Whittaker

Melanie Kite, Town Clerk

Eight members of the public, and the Press were present.

Cllr Mark Purves, Chairman, announced that agenda items 1, 2 and 3 would be taken in reverse order.

C/14/20 - Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr J. Sutton

C/15/20 – Chairman’s Announcements

Cllr Purves, on standing down as chair of council, took the opportunity of thanking the councillors who had supported him over the past four years. To the current councillors who had voted for him as chairman again this term, to the office staff and Clerks, Denise Meek, Heather Ongley and Melanie Kite. He acknowledged that being chair of council was always going to be difficult challenge, combining this with working full and part time and with various other commitments. He was therefore particularly appreciative of the support from excellent vice chairs, Cllrs John Quilter, Gordon McAra, Carol Lintott and Steve Morley.

He said that it had been an incredible job and a huge privilege to take on such a responsibility and he thanked everybody again for their support.

C/16/20 – Election of Town Council Chairman

It was resolved to elect Cllr Carol Lintott as the new Chair of Council
Proposed Cllr Upjohn, seconded Cllr Morley, unanimously approved.

Cllr Lintott took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Cllr Lintott –

“On behalf of all of us I would like to thank you for the years you have Chaired the Town Council, being the Chairman and indeed a Councillor is never an easy task, both praise and criticism flow, not always in equal measures, and we all have had to have broad shoulders at times. Voluntarily giving your time and energy to Council is something quite special, it’s not always easy to balance this work with other life pressures, but please know that what you do is very much appreciated.”



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You have steered the council through four years of change; the refurbishment of the Old Library, various staff and councillor changes and you have continued to run a calm ship throughout. I only hope I can follow your lead. I am pleased you are going to remain a councillor so we can continue to benefit from the knowledge and experience you have gained. Thank you for your continued service to Midhurst”.

C/17/20 - Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made at this time.

C/18/20 - Public Participation

Meeting adjourned

A resident and member of the South Pond Group had attended the Business Network Group meeting and wished to speak to the town council regarding the presentation from the landscape architect. She asked that the Town Council think in the broadest and most creative terms on how to improve the ‘green’ environment around Midhurst and take the opportunity to “do something very special”.

Cllr Lintott thanked the resident. She informed her that the town council is currently in phase 1, of a two phased project, for planting trees and plants in North Street. Also, that three councillors had attended that meeting and will be reporting back to council.

Meeting reconvened.

C/19/20 – Midhurst Vision Group update

- A representative updated the members on the results of the latest survey. 80% of respondents had given positive feedback to its four-point vision for Midhurst.
- Going forward the Midhurst Vision Group will be incorporated as a community interest company (CIC).
- Mrs McCullough spoke about Midhurst Vision Group’s ‘greening’ ideas. Based on the presentation from the landscape gardener, who presented at the Business Network Group, she showed the landscape gardener’s slides of her designs for urban planting which, Mrs McCullough said, could work well in Midhurst.

C/20/20 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolution: The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2020 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Smallman, seconded Cllr Travers, twelve members approved, Cllr Procter abstained due to not having attended the meeting.

C/21/20 - Matters Arising from those Minutes

There were no questions or comments.

C/22/20 - Report from County and District Councillors

County Council Cllr Kate O’Kelly, report attached –_this was not available at the meeting but distributed to all councillors after the meeting.



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Report from District Councillor G. McAra

- Cllr McAra had requested WSCC highways to monitor the traffic using June Lane during the period of road works on the A272 and the closure of Elmleigh. He asked that if necessary, counter measures should be put in place.
- Chichester District Council are encouraging residents and businesses to sponsor a tree in one of its many parks and gardens, as part of a council scheme that aims to help tackle climate change and protect the local environment.
- Information can be found on www.chichester.gov.uk/biodiversity, or by emailing the council's Green Spaces team at parcs@chichester.gov.uk.
- The District Council's initiative for pop-up shops in Chichester town is still open. Any small businesses interested in this opportunity can find more information, guidance and application form on the CDC website.
- There is a scheme underway for converting some business premises into a refuge for the homeless. The first place will take up to seventeen people on a temporary basis.
- The new 'Visit Chichester' leaflet is ready for distribution.
- The retail vacancy rate in Midhurst is 6.36%, slightly lower than in Chichester but still higher than the district council would like to see.
- A fallen tree in New Road, near the fire station, which is blocking the well used footpath and damaging the grass area and flower beds has still not been cleared despite continual request to WSCC get it cleared.

C/23/20 - Finance Asset and Policy

Resolution: The Minutes were adopted and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 10th February 2020.

Proposed Cllr Travers, seconded Cllr McAra, all agreed.

No questions raised.

C/24/20 - Planning Committee

Chairman Cllr Rev. Coote thanked Cllr McAra, who had resigned as chairman of planning committee, for his excellent chairmanship over the last five years and acknowledged his breadth and depth of knowledge on planning issues.

Resolution: The Minutes were adopted and signed by Cllr Rev. Coote as a true and accurate record of the meetings held on 10th February 2020.

Proposed Cllr Whittaker seconded Cllr Morley, all agreed.

C/25/20 – Community and Environment

Resolution: The Minutes were adopted and signed by the chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 27th January 2020.

Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Smallman, all agreed.



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No decision had been made as to where to plant the VE Day tree. Cllr Rev. Coote will take the lead on this.

C/26/20 - Reports from Outside Meetings

Cllr Morley reported from having attended:

- Midhurst Area Cycling meeting (MAC): MAC have requested assistance from the Town Council and will shortly submit a full proposal for consideration.
- Business Network Meeting: Cllr Morley will report on this meeting at the next Council meeting.

Cllr McAra reported from having attended:

- MAC: The cycle path from Chichester to north of the Downs is slowly coming together, as is the route around the Midhurst area. Funding is an issue.

Cllr Jeffries reported from having attended:

- Crime Reduction Meeting: Anti-social behaviour and burglaries were the main topics for discussion.
Midhurst Town Council representative requested that there should be more of a physical presence and interaction from the PCSO in Midhurst. It was unclear how much time he spends in Midhurst.

Members of Council agreed with Cllr Jeffries that the format of the meetings should be changed from being a general talking, discussion group to being more focused, proactive and accountable with actions and outcomes. Midhurst Town Council should take the lead and drive the meetings, holding the police / PCSO to account.

Action: Clerk to invite the PCSO to present to Full Council

- The Drop-In on Saturday: A resident had brought the damaged bollards at The Grange to the councillor's attention.

Action: Cllr McAra to speak to Manager at the centre.

C/27/20 – Councillor membership of outside bodies and trusteeship

Cllr Upjohn will continue for a further four-year term in office as a trustee of the George Ognell Poor Charity.

Cllr Purves will continue for a further four-year term in office as a trustee of the Town Trust.

C/28/20 – Meetings calendar, civil year 2020/21

Noted with one amendment.

Due to 25th May being a Bank Holiday, the Planning Committee and Community and Environment committee meeting date will be held on Tuesday 26th May 2020 instead.

The Annual Town meeting and awards ceremony will be held on Thursday 14th May.

C/29/20 – Request for information from Dorchester Town Council

A response will be drafted and discussed at the next planning meeting.

C/30/20 - Matters of Report

The leaflet dispenser in North Street car park has again been broken. This will not be replaced; leaflets will be available from the information kiosk in North Street.

C/31/20 – Date of next meeting

Monday 16th March at 7pm, Noted



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Cllr McAra thanked the new chairman, Cllr Carol Lintott.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8:13pm.

Date:

Signed:.....
Chairman