



Midhurst Town Council

A Meeting of The Midhurst Town Council, took place
on Monday 16th March 2020 at 7:00pm in The Midhurst Town Council Office, The Old
Library, Knockhundred Row, Midhurst

MINUTES

Present: Cllr C. Lintott (Chairman), Cllr D. Coote, Cllr L. Jeffries, Cllr M. Purves, Cllr M. Richardson,
Cllr D. Smallman, Cllr J. Travers, Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr M. Whittaker

Melanie Kite, Town Clerk

County Councillor K. O’Kelly and four members of the public were present.

C/32/20 – Chairman’s Announcements

Councillors were advised that the meeting would be recorded for the purposes of the Clerk only.

C/33/20 - Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr G. McAra, Cllr S. Morley, Cllr A. Procter,

C/34/20 - Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made at this time.

C/35/20 - Public Participation

Meeting adjourned

Midhurst Vision – Mrs Philippa McCullough had sent her apologies for not being able to attend. Her update was read out by the Chair of Council:

“As we said at the last meeting it has been agreed that the Vision group will be a CIC. This will be a new CIC as the Town Team wish to keep operating as a CIC. It will be called Midhurst Vision Partnership. The proposal for members of the CIC and its way of working will be presented to the Steering Group - this was due to be at a meeting, but in light of recent events may be by email later this month. We expect then the Steering group to be disbanded and the new CIC to take over. As with the Vision steering group and workshops it will include representatives from all key stakeholder groups - so will include a member of MTC.

While the CIC is being set up work will progress on a strategy for the town including projects for the first 1-2 years. This is planned to include some facilitated work with Malcolm Allan - either in person or indirectly”.

Mrs Margaret Guest, a representative from Rother Valley Together spoke about the plans the group have for helping its members and how they wish to help residents in the wider community in Midhurst during this difficult period of Covid-19. RVT plans to speak to other voluntary groups seeking all possibilities of support for the local community. Mrs Guest requested support from the Town Council for a central co-ordinator with a telephone number rather than via social media.



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Cllr Lintott thanked Mrs Guest for the support that RVT were giving and responded that there would be a detailed discussion on the Coronavirus at the end of the agenda.

Meeting reconvened.

C/36/20 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

Proposed Cllr Rev. Coote, seconded Cllr Smallman, all members approved.

C/37/20 - Matters Arising from those Minutes

There were no questions or comments.

C/38/20 - Report from County and District Councillors

County Council Cllr Kate O’Kelly, report attached.

Summary:

- Covid-19 - Best place for advice remains Public Health England – fast changing picture.
www.gov.uk/coronavirus
Neighbourhood Watch have good advice for communities
- WSCC – Full Council – New Budget debate Friday, 14th Feb. Significant challenges with increasing children’s and adult’s services overspends. New budget agreed which includes a 3.99% rise in Council tax related to WSCC activities – approx. £50 for band D house.
- WSCC – Household waste recycling sites - Significant issue locally with residents just living in West Sussex now needing to pay to use Petersfield site. The Cabinet member has agreed to enter negotiations with Hampshire.
- Next County Local Committee – I expect this to be cancelled after the new advice.
- Rother Valley Way – Petersfield to Nyewood cycle path - Recent meeting with RVW steering group. Hoping for more progress on this route over next few months. SDNPA cycling officer has more time to prioritise the development of the scheme.
- Local and Midhurst specific issues - June Lane foot path - ASB – reported by residents. Have involved Piers Taylor, Communities officer for CDC who is liaising with the residents and with the PCSO and will continue to keep a close eye.
- Kate O’Kelly Drop ins - 30th April – Midhurst The Grange – 10.30-12.30

There was no District Councillor report.

C/39/20 - Finance Asset and Policy

Resolution: The Minutes were adopted and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 9th March 2020.

Proposed Cllr Travers, seconded Cllr Purves, all agreed.

No questions raised.

It was resolved to adopt the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting.

Proposed Cllr Sutton, seconded Cllr Travers, unanimously agreed.



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Update on Carron Lane Working group – Cllr Sutton informed the council that a presentation meeting had been arranged with one of the Skatepark companies who had tendered for the contract. The next step is to look at funding and grants for the project.

There was no update on the lido. The group will analyse the results of the survey when it closes at the end of the March.

Task group to manage the work required at the Carron Lane Cemetery.

Cllr Lintott asked for members to join this task group.

Cllrs Purves, Upjohn and Travers will be members.

C/40/20 - Planning Committee

Resolution: The Minutes were adopted and signed by Cllr Rev. Coote as a true and accurate record of the meetings held on 24th February 2020 and 9th March 2020.

Proposed Cllr Whittaker seconded Cllr Upjohn, all agreed.

There were no questions.

C/41/20 – Community and Environment

Resolution: The Minutes were adopted and signed by the chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 24th February 2020.

Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Purves, all agreed.

There were no questions.

C/42/20 - Reports from Outside Meetings

Cllr Rev. Coote had attended a meeting of the Midhurst Community Transport Group. Good progress is being made on the formation of a community hub and there had been a useful exchange of ideas.

C/43/20 – Rota for the Monthly Market Drop-In

Councillors were asked to sign up to two sessions over the forthcoming year. The rota sheet was circulated.

C/44/20 – Grants Panel

Cllr Purves asked if there needed to be a grants panel as these could be discussed by the C&E committee. It was agreed that a grants panel was useful as it could thoroughly discuss the details of each application before bringing its recommendations to the C&E committee.

The members on this panel will be: Cllrs Rev. Coote, Smallman and Travers.

C/45/20 – Policy on Posters and Advertising in the Old Library

Cllr Purves thought that there should be somewhere where information could be posted. Cllr Lintott recommended that the Council's website, Face Book page and the various noticeboards in town were the appropriate places.

Proposed Cllr Whittaker, seconded Cllr Rev. Coote, eight in favour, Cllr Purves abstained. Vote carried.

C/46/20 - Matters of Report

Cllr Smallman briefed the Council on the Midhurst litter pick day. This had been a great success with a very good turnout of residents.



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C/47/20 – Date of next meeting

Monday 20th April.

Due to the Coronavirus, confirmation of where the meeting will be held, or whether it will be by video conferencing, will be announced at a later date.

Due to the speed of the spread of the Coronavirus and rapidly changing information being received from Central Government an extraordinary item on COVID-19 was discussed.

COVID-19, Risk strategy and community assistance action plan

The following measures were agreed to be taken following Central Government's latest announcement on COVID-19.

- The Old Library building will be closed to the public, for both hiring and general callers, with immediate effect. All meetings and events booked in will be cancelled. The public can contact us by telephone or email.
- The Clerk, Assistant clerk and Events Officer will continue to work out of the office until further notice.
- Should the office have to close and we are required to work from home the main telephone line will be diverted to a mobile which the Clerk will have.
- Committee and Council meetings: C&E and Planning next Monday 23rd March is cancelled.
- The Clerk will investigate video conference systems. It is probable that this is the way committee and council meetings will be held, still open to the public to dial in to, for future meeting dates. The guidance from NALC remains that voting cannot take place if councillors are not present at a meeting This could change over the coming weeks.

Midhurst Community Assistance Action Plan

The Town Council, along with other local organisations and societies, is working with a volunteer group called 'Covid-19 Midhurst Angels'. This volunteer group will co-ordinate residents and local businesses who are able to give their time and assistance with those residents who require help and support. A leaflet will be distributed to all households this week with contact details and information.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8:20pm.

Date:

Signed:.....

Chairman