



Midhurst Town Council

A Meeting of The Midhurst Town Council, took place on Monday 20th April 2020 at 7:00pm as a virtual conference meeting on MS Teams due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MINUTES

Present: Cllr C. Lintott (Chairman), Cllr D. Coote, Cllr L. Jeffries, Cllr G. McAra, Cllr S. Morley, Cllr A. Procter, Cllr M. Purves, Cllr M. Richardson, Cllr D. Smallman, Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr J. Travers, Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr M. Whittaker

Melanie Kite, Town Clerk

Assistant Clerk, County Councillor K. O'Kelly, District Cllr J. Fowler and Mr. R. Watts were present.

C/48/20 – Chairman's Announcements

- Councillors were advised that the meeting would be recorded for the purposes of the Clerk only
- Annual Town meeting on 14th May was confirmed cancelled.
- Annual Town Council meeting would be taking place as usual, but by virtual conference. The election of the chair and vice chair will take place.
- Richard Watts was introduced to the Members. He will be standing for co-option at the next Full Council meeting.

C/49/20 - Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

C/50/20 - Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made at this time.

C/51/20 - Public Participation

Meeting adjourned

Midhurst Vision – no representative was present, and the Clerk had not received a written update.

Meeting reconvened.

C/52/20 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolution: The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2020 were approved. The Minutes will be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, retrospectively at the next Council meeting following the end of the COVID-19 isolation period.

Proposed Cllr D. Smallman, seconded Cllr Rev. D. Coote, Cllr A. Procter abstained having not attended the previous meeting, Motion carried twelve votes, one abstention.

C/53/20 - Matters Arising from those Minutes



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Cllr Procter mentioned that MTC had asked the Midhurst Vision what its expectations were from the Town Council.

Cllr Lintott clarified that the Council's expectations was that the Council needed to see a full detailed case study of the group's proposed projects and action plans, and details of how it was going to deliver these before any decisions were taken.

C/54/20 - Report from County and District Councillors

County Council Cllr Kate O'Kelly, report previously circulated

Summary:

- WSCC Covid Update - Recorded Cases in West Sussex – 487 on 16th April. There is still considerable amount of acute hospital capacity in West Sussex, with occupancy levels below 60%,
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) -Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF), is appealing to businesses for vital personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies to help protect frontline workers.
- Testing Facilities - A site has been operating from Gatwick Airport and a second site for West Sussex in the south of the county has been established at Bognor hospital.
- Testing of NHS staff has been a priority and now the tests are being rolled out to key workers, including social care staff and staff who work in residential care settings.
- Carer Recruitment Appeal - A West Sussex County Council initiative called Proud to Care is targeting people from the travel, leisure, retail and hospitality industries as they have the ideal skills and experience to succeed in care work. If you would like to support your local community, please help. The Proud To Care website – www.proudtocarewestsussex.com
- West Sussex Growers Association - Appeal for workers all level of skills needed. email john.hall@wsga.co.uk www.wsga.co.uk
- Urgent appeal for specialist equipment - key items of specialist community equipment not being used should be returned to help the NHS during the coronavirus crisis or to arrange a collection please phone NRS Healthcare on 0345 127 2931 or email enquiries@westsussex.nrs-uk.net
- Waste – recycling - CDC are still completing all their rounds. Fly tipping is on the increase - there is currently no indication that recycling sites will re-open soon.
- Small schools update - Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee (CYPSSC) meeting took place on 14th April. Decision to allow Stedham to continue to progress Federation with Harting School has been recommended – decision to be confirmed at Cabinet on 21st April
- Highways - New Western Area Highways Manager, Chris Stark, for Arun and Chichester Districts to take over from Chris Dye.

Cllr O'Kelly was asked to look into the situation of the fallen tree blocking the footpath on New Road.

District Councillor's report.- Cllr Gordon McAra

- The District is in semi-lockdown. There is a skeleton staff operating in the building, however, members of the public are asked to telephone or use the website should they need to get in touch.



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- Refuse collection to households is running extremely efficiently. Roughly a quarter of the staff are in self-isolation.
- Chichester District Council has allocated £23.8million of its £37 million to local businesses from the Government's Business Rates Grants; the most successful, in distribution terms, district county in West Sussex.

C/55/20 - Finance Asset and Policy

Resolution: The Minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 14th April 2020. They will be signed retrospectively at the next Council meeting following the end of the COVID-19 isolation period.

Proposed Cllr Sutton, seconded Cllr Procter, all agreed.

No questions raised.

C/56/20 - Updates from Working Parties

(a) Carron Lane – Lido and Skateboard park

Lido: Due to the current COVID-19 situation any further progress and the results of the survey on the Lido have been postponed.

Skateboard park: It was **resolved** to proceed with the skate park project and accept Maverick Industry as the company to design and build it. Total cost of £150,000 (Tender document available for inspection)
Proposed Cllr Upjohn, seconded Cllr Morley unanimously agreed. Motion passed.

(b) Carron Lane Cemetery task group - Due to the current COVID-19 situation the group has not met.

C/57/20 - Policies – It was resolved to adopt the amended Financial Regulations

It was resolved to adopt Risk Strategy Procedures

Proposed Cllr Sutton, seconded Cllr Procter, all agreed.

C/58/20 - Planning Committee - Resolution: The Minutes of 14th April 2020 were approved and adopted by council. They will be signed retrospectively at the next Council meeting following the end of the COVID-19 isolation period.

Proposed Cllr Upjohn seconded Cllr Whittaker, all agreed.

The issue of inadequate and poor documents for tree applications was again raised. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr. Tony Whitty at CDC planning.

The garden within the development at St Margarets Way will be discussed at the next planning meeting. Any paperwork relating to the development when planning was originally applied for should be brought to the committee's attention.

C/59/20 - Community and Environment Committee

Summary:

- Window Flowers have confirmed that they will be putting up the baskets and containers late May to early June.



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- Finger posts: this will be discussed at the next C&E meeting. Tenders need to be sought for the renovation work.
- Northern gateway: the planting of flowers for VE Day is not going ahead due to the current situation.
- Corten Steel troughs have arrived. They will be sited and planted when possible.
- Cemetery: Chris Savill has marked out plots as requested by the local funeral care services.
- Christmas Lights motifs will be discussed at the next C&E meeting.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office will be setting up a virtual meeting; date to be agreed.

The Event Officer's report – the VE Day celebration is now being advertised as a 'stay at home and celebrate' party

MADhurst and the Council's carnival procession remains under review.

C/60/20 - Reports from Outside Meetings – No meetings had taken place.

C/61/20 - Date of Next Meeting – Annual Town Council Meeting, Monday 18th May 2020 at 7pm

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8:27pm.

Signed: _____

Dated _____

Chairman