



Midhurst Town Council

**A Meeting of The Midhurst Town Council, took place
on Monday 20th July 2020 at 7:00pm by video conference due to COVID- 19.**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr C. Lintott (Chairman), Cllr D. Coote, Cllr G. McAra, Cllr S. Morley, Cllr A. Procter, Cllr M. Richardson, Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr J. Travers, Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr R. Watts

Officer: Melanie Kite, Town Clerk

Also present: County Councillor K. O’Kelly and Mrs L Quail (Vision representative)

C/98/20 – Chairman’s Announcements – The Chairman reminded Members that the meeting was being recorded for the sole purpose of the Clerk’s Minutes, and that normal code of conduct applies.

C/99/20 - Apologies for Absence – Cllr Smallman, Cllr Jeffries, Cllr Whitaker, Cllr M Purves.

C/100/20 - Declarations of Interest – None declared at this time.

C/101/20 - Public Participation Session -Adjournment of the meeting for public questions.

101.1 - Update from Midhurst Vision Group; Mrs L. Quail, report attached.

Follow up from CDC’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Vision groups were reviewed and agreed that Vision groups should work closely with the local councils. Midhurst Vision’s report was favourably received. MV submitted and request for funding a part-time support person.

Draft strategy being done bringing together all information collected from the survey. When completed they will meet with stakeholders to discuss. Aim to get the first project started in September.

CIC structure of Board has been redefined. The Board members prime objective will be governance and probably only be three members. An executive committee, sitting under the Board, will discuss and deliver the projects.

101.2 - Report from Rural Towns Co-ordinator -report had been previously circulated. Attached.

Cllr Procter requested that Steve Hill attend to some of the council meetings.

Action: Clerk to speak to the RT Co-ordinator.

Reconvene Meeting

C/102/20 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting – The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 15th June 2020. These will be signed at a later date.

Proposed Cllr Procter, seconded Cllr Coote all agreed.

C/103/20 - Matters Arising from those Minutes – No matters were raised.

C/104/20 - Report from County and District Councillors –



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West Sussex County Councillor Kate O'Kelly; report previously circulated, attached. There was an update on:

- Antisocial behaviour in North Street car park - liaising with CDC community teams and Midhurst residents on this issue.
- WSCC Covid Update: West Sussex County Council has published its COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan. Starting from today they are launching a campaign to raise awareness across the county of the local outbreak plan
- Cycling: Rother Valley Way progress meeting was last week. RVW and SDNPA have allocated more funds and more officer time. Midhurst Green Way – WSCC have asked stakeholders for their feedback on the outline plans.
- Climate Change: The Climate Change Strategy, which will be formally agreed by Cabinet on 21st July, sets out a vision that by 2030 West Sussex County Council will be carbon neutral.
- Full Council: WSCC Full Council met on 17th July. The new leadership is hoping to bring in a new regime with improvements in transparency, being more outward looking, more responsive to residents and to learn from all the best that has come from the new ways of working post - Covid. The Council discussed their plans for Reset – what they want to do, and Reboot – How they intend to do it. The financial challenges are considerable – predicted deficit in year budget £34m but that was prior to the latest announcements from more Gov funding.

Chichester District Councillor Gordon McAra.

CDC survey of dogs in public spaces. This is an any land, not just CDC owned land. He would like the Town Council to make a comment.

This is on the C&E agenda and posters are on notice boards

The Grange to open on Saturday 25th July.

CDC grants of £500,00 available for High Street recovery. This is in the final stages of being approved and details will be available from 3rd August. The £500,000 will be split between businesses and communities. There are two grant levels of up to £1,000 and up to £5,000. Parish Councils are excluded from applying.

CLr Coote enquired who will make the decisions on awarding grants. It is likely that for applications up to £1,000 will be taken by the Officers and by Cabinet members for applications up to £5,000 though this has still to be agreed. Full details will be circulated by the media office.

The District Council is set to receive three tranches of monies; £1.4million has already been received, last week they received £181,000 and the Government will provide 75% of loss income through an income support scheme.

Government's new planning rules to simplify the conversion of commercial buildings to residential is likely to make a sizable impact on the high street. The closed House of Fraser building is a point in question. Any two-storey purpose built building will be allowed to add another two storeys.

C/105/20 - Finance, Asset and Policy Committee – An amendment on item F/77/20 – Car Park Barrier Gate – a black swing barrier was amended to read a black gate. Members agreed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 13th July 2020. To be signed at a later date.



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Proposed Cllr Procter, seconded Cllr Lintott, unanimously approved. Adopted by Council. There were no questions.

C/106/20 - Planning and Infrastructure Committee – Members agreed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 13th July 2020. To be signed at a later date.

Proposed Cllr McAra, seconded Cllr Upjohn, unanimously approved. Adopted by Council.

Cllr Coote confirmed that the committee had not yet received a reply from Budgens store regarding having public toilet facilities installed.

Cllr Coote confirmed that the Chinese takeaway taking the shop in North Street is a new business and not the existing one moving from its current place.

C/107/20 - Community and Environment Committee – Members agreed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 22nd June 2020. To be signed at a later date.

Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Procter, all agreed and approved by Council.

At the request of Cllr Procter, the Clerk will put posters of the scarecrow competition up on all the notice boards in the town.

C/108/20 - Trustees on Local Charities – Cllr Steve Morley agreed to stand as a trustee to the George Ognell Poor Charity for another term.

Cllr Carol Lintott was re-appointed as a trustee to the Pest House.

Prior to a councillor's term of trusteeship ending there will be a handover period to allow for another councillor to become a trustee.

C/109/20 - Reports from Outside Meetings -

Cllr Morley had discussed the CDC grant that MTC wished to apply for with Vicky McKay of CDC and concluded that it was not suitable for its particular purpose. Cllr Morley was happy to discuss matters further should any member have a question.

Cllr Procter had attended a SSALC webinar on Communication in a post COVID world. Notes from the meeting will be circulated by the Clerk.

C/110/20 - Matters of Report –

'Made in Midhurst' is progressing very well. Cllr Sutton has five volunteers working with her making the bags and hopes to be able to launch very soon.

The Northern Gateway working party of Cllrs Sutton, Smallman and Procter had met and notes from this meeting will accompany the C&E agenda.

Cllr McAra informed the Members that the Green Volunteers will paint the remaining few items of street furniture which will finish this project. He asked that C&E members discuss what to do with the empty containers by the fire station.

Two metal bollards are required at the road entrance to the residential properties by the Bakery to stop vehicles blocking the entrance and asked County Councillor O'Kelly to assist in this request to WSCC highways.



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Cllr Morley reported that Midhurst Community Speed Watch (MCSW) had attempted to have a session. Unfortunately, a catalogue of disasters had befallen the group, so this had not taken place. Midhurst police station is only open for a limited period and the PSCO was therefore providing the equipment. The police computer had not been updated to show that members of MCSW had been trained and were authorised to manage a speed watch in town.

Cllr Coote mentioned how various churches were in financial difficulties, particularly noting the Methodist Church. A good proportion of its income is generated from the hire of its hall which had been impacted by the corona virus closure.

The Midhurst Angels is taking a summer break. Calls for assistance have fallen off but should help be required other organisations and services are available. Should the need arise the volunteer group will be open again.

C/111/20 - Date of Next Meeting – There is no meeting August. The next meeting will be Monday 21st September 2020 at 7pm

The chairman wished everybody a good summer break.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8:28pm.

Signed:.....

Dated.....

Chairman