



Midhurst Town Council

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Minutes of a meeting of Midhurst Town Council held at Rosemary's Parlour, North Street, Midhurst on 18th February 2019 at 7pm

MEMBERS

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| ✓ Mr M Purves Chairman of the Council | ✓ Mr G McAra Vice Chairman of the Council |
| Rev. D Coote | ✓ Mr N Cheshire |
| Ms J Fowler | ✓ Mr G Evans |
| ✓ Ms C Lintott Vice Chairman of the Council | ✓ Mrs M Guest |
| Mr J Quilter | ✓ Mr S Morley |
| ✓ Mrs T Truscott | ✓ Mrs J Sutton |
| ✓ Mr M Whittaker | ✓ Mr G Upjohn |

✓=Present

In attendance: Ms Ongley (Town Clerk).

One member of the Press was present. Three members of the public attended.

138. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Rev Coote, Ms Fowler and Mr Quilter.

139. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

140. Representations from the Public

i. Members of the public

Marian McQuaid spoke about the soft sand review by the government in 2 areas near Midhurst. She represented 67 residents of Heathfield Park and the group objecting to a sand quarry at the Severals. She asked MTC for support in opposing sand extraction at this site. She said the extraction can be challenged on many counts.

Philippa McCullough spoke about a group of individuals who are submitting comments to oppose the introduction of sand quarries. The consultation process closes on 18th March 2019. She urged MTC to write to Cowdray Estate to appeal to them to withdraw the 2 sites on their land from the proposals. The group will be meeting with Gillian Keegan MP on Friday 22nd February 2019 at Severals House, Bepton at 2pm, and she urged MTC to send a representative to that meeting. She also urged individual Councillors to submit comments to the consultation.

ii. **WSCC Councillor** – No report received at the time of the meeting.

iii. CDC Councillors

Mr Morley reported that WSCC has asked CDC Councillors to comment on plans to the parking arrangements around the entrance of Midhurst Primary School in Ashfield Road. He asked for Councillors to submit comments to him to coordinate the responses.

Mr Morley reported on the Midhurst Highways Review, as he had attended a meeting last week for Parking and Place. Since learning of CDC's granting of the funding for a district wide parking review, he urged for there to be an holistic approach to parking in Midhurst. The officers agreed that this was a far more practical way of reviewing the town centre's traffic

Dated this 18th March 2019.....Chairman



problems and will therefore include this approach to the brief for the selected consultant. He also reported that Midhurst car park charges are not increasing this year, and that the new signs for Midhurst car parks are planned with different and more helpful information, saying Town Centre Car Park North and Town Car Park South. At the Grange car park there have now been lines laid out to create the designated 4 bays for community-use mini buses in the NE corner. They are not free and are based on the same charging scheme as the rest of the car park, which means that they do get the first 2 hours free. The bay near The Grange front door has been designated as a drop off point and there is now a sign to indicate this. This bay is to help facilitate the arrival and departure of the community buses.

Mr Morley reported that CDC is entering the North Street toilets into "Loo of the Year" award. They asked him if MTC will support this venture and with many councils cutting back on these conveniences he feels it can only be beneficial for the town. To be recognised as somewhere that members of the public feel safe to visit and that offers clean facilities could help boost tourism and is certainly beneficial to locals. They are safe and clean now and he would like to be able to tell them that Midhurst council and residents will help maintain a watch to ensure no vandalism occurs, then they should be encouraged to enter.

Mr Morley reported that he and Mr McAra continue to oppose the development of the old Grange site into a care home. Their opinion is that a care home is an inappropriate addition to the town centre and certainly not at all in the interests of those of us who live here.

Mr Morley reported that District Council are reviewing their use of CCTV in Chichester city centre. They have a project to update certain cameras and will invest £165,000.00 to achieve this. They say that *"the upgrade will significantly improve the quality of surveillance footage captured in order to protect residents, visitors and businesses."* He suggested that perhaps this would be a good time for MTC to request a review of the CCTV service in Midhurst. How much does it cost? How efficient is it? How much safer does it make the town? He suggested this should be an agenda item for the appropriate committee next month.

Mr Morley reported that CDC is inviting the residents of our district to air its views on their new housing strategy. The strategy sets out how Chichester DC plans to meet local housing needs. The key areas they are interested in are Affordability, Homelessness, Private sector and Community led housing, and the council's housing register. Questions include how people should be prioritised for the register, how many affordable homes they should provide and what might have the greatest impact on reducing homelessness. Views can be made at www.chichester.gov.uk/letstalkhousing The deadline is 15th March 2019 and he encouraged all to respond.

141. Minutes of the meeting 21st January 2019

Ms Lintott proposed the adoption of the minutes, Mrs Truscott seconded, all agreed and adopted as a true record.

142. Matters arising from the minutes of 21st January 2019

- 130 – Dates for an Easebourne get together will be circulated by the Clerk soon.
- 129.ii – Mrs Guest urged MTC to ask County Councillor O'Kelly what came up at her meeting about sand extraction.

143. Minutes of Planning & Infrastructure Committee Meeting 11th February 2019

Mr Upjohn proposed the adoption of the minutes, Mr Whittaker seconded, all agreed and adopted as a true record.

Matters arising

- 129.2 – a correction was made to the minutes replacing Easebourne with Woolbeding. The Clerk apologised for the inaccuracy.



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130 – Mr McAra reported that the Council's view of sand extraction in the area has not changed since the first proposals, which is that it opposes all extraction in the area. The SDNPA rejected these proposals too. The government inspector has forced the review due to a perceived need for sand for the building industry. Mr McAra stated that all previous arguments are still valid, including landscape, wildlife, noise, lorry movements, as well as querying the government's figures for sand which may now be out of date. He has sent an email of opposition on behalf of MTC to WSCC as part of the consultation.

Mrs Guest commented that in view of the public representations heard at this meeting she feels a need for MTC to respond formally to the opposition groups stating clearly what MTC's stance is and what action it is taking. One speaker had offered technical expertise from neighbouring parishes, and this could be helpful in coordinating the MTC response.

Mr McAra welcomed Mrs Guest's help in completing the WSCC review form provided, on behalf of the whole council. He wishes to send a letter to Lord Cowdray on behalf of MTC to urge him to withdraw the sites on his land. All agreed.

134.1 – Mrs Truscott asked about the response from the Post Office, querying that the Midhurst branch has 2 entrances.

144. Minutes of Community & Environment Committee Meeting 28th January 2019

Mrs Truscott proposed the adoption of the minutes, Mr McAra seconded, all agreed and adopted as a true record.

Matters arising

89 – Mrs Truscott updated that a meeting with the TTCIC about flowers has been arranged, but still needs a venue. Mr Morley added that CDC are planning to put flowers in the North Street car park as part of its refurbishment.

96.2 – Ms Lintott pointed out that there is already an existing business case for the Stag Garden, so if there is to be a change to the plan, there will need to be an addendum to the business case.

145. Minutes of Finance Asset & Policy Committee Meeting 11th February 2019

Mr Morley proposed the adoption of the minutes, Mrs Guest seconded, all agreed and adopted as a true record.

Matters arising

103 – Mrs Truscott asked if any applications had been received for the Events post, and the Clerk responded that some had been received, and the closing date is today at midnight.

137.7 in the Old Library Management Sub-Committee minutes – Mrs Truscott warned of the need for cyber security insurance once wi-fi CCTV cameras are installed in the Old Library.

146. Financial Reports for January 2019

The Clerk presented the Bank Reconciliation, Payments Report, Receipts Report, and Financial Summary for January 2019, and they had been circulated to all Councillors before the meeting. All agreed, and Ms Lintott signed the bank reconciliation.

147. Signatories for the bank account

The Clerk asked Councillors to come forward to become signatories on the bank account. Councillors do not have to sit on the Finance Asset & Policy Committee to be



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a bank signatory. There are currently 4 signatories but one will be leaving soon, and it would be better to have more than 4. Mrs Sutton volunteered, and the Clerk urged others to come forward after the meeting.

148. Reports on documents received & meetings attended

148.1 Mrs Truscott had attended the first Midhurst Business Networking meeting, which over 20 people attended and had been successful. They had asked her to feedback to MTC that councils in other areas had sued contractors in the past for not making good pavements and roads after roadworks. The group wanted MTC to consider this action for Midhurst where pavements and roads had been left in a bad condition after roadworks. Mr Morley responded that he had already been very vigilant in this regard, and had worked successfully with the contractors during the Rumbolds Hill work last year, and he will continue this vigilance for current and future works. Mrs Truscott had encouraged the Business Networking group to contact Love West Sussex to report any issues of this kind.

Another item from this meeting was the lack of provision for commercial waste to be collected from Ocean's Blue fish and ship shop in Rumbolds Hill, as they have no space behind the shop for storage. This applies to some other businesses along the road in North Street. MTC was asked to think about this issue and a site where a potential commercial waste collection could work for these businesses.

The group also reported that Goodwood has asked the coach operators coming to Goodwood events not to stop in Midhurst or other towns on their way to the site. Mr Morley would like MTC to check this is factually correct, and if so, MTC should write to Goodwood asking them to encourage local stops which bring much-needed business to the area. A discussion then took place about signage of Midhurst from the A3.

The group asked Mrs Truscott to ask MTC if anything could be done about the dangerous turning by the Spreadeagle Hotel at the end of West Street into Red Lion Street, where a mirror would help. Mr Morley responded that County Councils do not allow mirrors under any circumstances, as he has investigated this in the past. The group had also complained of lorries going the wrong way down the one-way section here, and whether more signage is needed. Mr Purves commented that No Entry signs should be sufficient and if drivers cannot heed those there is not much else to be done.

149. Matters of Report

149.1 The Clerk reported that the Amenity Worker had been signed off sick for 2 weeks' minimum, and she reassured members that there is a back up plan for litter problems and urgent gardening work.

149.2 The Clerk reported that the date of the next Community & Environment Committee meeting has been moved to Tuesday 26th February 2019.

149.3 The Clerk reported that one of the Midhurst Dog Wardens is going to attend the Community & Environment Committee meeting on Monday 25th March 2019 to talk about their work in the town.

149.4 Mrs Guest asked if any members were going to attend the meeting with Gillian Keegan MP as informed by the public representation earlier in the meeting. All agreed that Mrs Guest would attend on behalf of MTC.

149.5 Mrs Guest reported that she had been invited to a CCG meeting about Midhurst Hospital, and both she and Mr McAra would be attending. MTC had not been



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officially invited, as both members had been invited in other capacities. They both agreed to represent MTC at that meeting as well as the other organisations they represent.

- 149.6** Mrs Guest reported that Voluntary Action Arun & Chichester are having a network group meeting for all voluntary agencies in the area at the South Downs Centre, North Street, from 10am to 11.30am on Thursday 19 February 2019. All welcome.
- 149.7** Mrs Sutton reported that she and Mr Purves had attended the drop-in session at the Grange on Saturday. They had talked to a lot of people, mostly about swimming pools. The next session on 16th March 2019 needs another Councillor to volunteer.
- 149.8** Mr Cheshire reported that in addition to the Love West Sussex app, there is another one from SSE called Lights On West Sussex. He had used it recently to report an unlit street lamp, and it had worked really well.
- 149.9** Mr Whittaker reported he had seen someone arrested in Midhurst, and was pleased to see the Police active in Midhurst.
- 149.10** Mr Morley reported that he and Mr McAra had issued a publication distributed to all Midhurst households. Based on residents' and traders' opinions around the town, he concluded that Midhurst is in a bad place currently due to the financial and political climate of the country. He wanted to make it clear that MTC cares a great deal when businesses close in the town, and that the town will benefit from the revived Vision process, if it can be led by an appropriate leader.
- 149.11** Mr Purves reported that a number of members have indicated they are not going to stand for re-election in May, and encouraged any other members to indicate to the Clerk if they are likely to not stand, as this knowledge will aid planning.
- 149.12** Mr Purves reported that he had today received and accepted a letter of resignation from the Clerk, Ms Ongley. They will now be planning her notice period and recruitment of a replacement.

150. Signing of Cheques

Ms Lintott and Mr Morley signed 6 cheques.

With no further business the meeting closed at 7.58pm.