



# Midhurst Town Council

**A Meeting of The Midhurst Town Council took place  
on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7:00pm by video conference due to COVID-19**

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllr C. Lintott (Chairman), Cllr D. Coote, Cllr L. Jeffries, Cllr Morley, Cllr G. McAra, Cllr A. Procter, Cllr M Purves, Cllr M. Richardson, Cllr D. Smallman, Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr J. Travers, Cllr Upjohn, Cllr R. Watts, Cllr N. Yeo

**Officer:** Melanie Kite, Town Clerk

Also present: County Councillor K. O’Kelly, District Councillor J. Fowler, Mrs P. McCullough (Midhurst Vision), the press, Mrs J. Brown-Fuller (Events Officer)

**C/001/21 – Chairman’s Announcements** – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first council meeting of the new year and also welcomed Jess Brown-Fuller the council’s new Events Officer. Members were reminded that the meeting was being recorded for the sole purpose of the Clerk’s Minutes, and that normal code of conduct applied.

**C/002/21 - Apologies for Absence** – None

**C/003/21 - Declarations of Interest** – None declared at this time.

**C/004/21 - Public Participation Session** – Mrs P. McCullough spoke on behalf of the Midhurst Vision. Report previously circulated. Key points:

The group’s strategy is based on five objectives – Improving first impressions of North street and a pedestrian link to the Grange car park.

Enhance the attraction of the old town

Support town businesses

Create, develop and support a vibrant programme of events.

The group’s next meeting will be in February. Cllr Jeffries asked that councillors are given adequate notice of the date.

Mrs McCullough was reminded that the Town Council will be getting new finger posts and will therefore need to know what the Vision group is planning on wayfinding in town.

Full report attached.

Meeting reconvened.

**C/005/21 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – These were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

Proposed Cllr Purves, seconded Cllr Sutton.

**C/006/21 - Matters Arising from those Minutes** – No matters were raised.

**C/007/21 - Report from County and District Councillors** –



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West Sussex County Councillor Kate O'Kelly; report previously circulated and attached.

Topics covered were:

- Covid - Latest data – 4791 new cases in West Sussex for the 7 days up to 12<sup>th</sup> Jan  
585 new cases in Chichester District – 483.0/ 100000
- Vaccination roll out - There is a vaccination hub at St Richards and a GP vaccination hub in Pulborough. Midhurst practice team have been ringing patients and booking appointments over the last weekend and are vaccinating.
- WSCC Budget decisions - Closure of child and family centres including Petworth – a concern for rural North Chichester area
- Now off the table -Closure of 2 out of 11 of the HWRS – charging for DIY waste at HWRS, Bus subsidies, Bus discretionary passes
- Adults and Health service planning overview - Savings options all being considered  
Review of in-house residential services – closure of Marjorie Cobby House, Shaw day services, reduction in well-being programme. The committee was of a view that reducing support for prevention of physical and mental health at this time is short sighted.

Chichester District Councillor Gordon McAra. Report previously circulated and attached. Topics covered were:

- Corona virus Midhurst is now in Tier 4
- CDC continues to offer support grants for businesses and organisations in the area, with funding of up to £5000 still available.
- The shop vacancy rate in Chichester is 9.2% and heading in the wrong direction. Midhurst also has a number of vacant shops.
- The Council is promoting a new Move it or Lose it campaign starting in January, to promote wellbeing and a healthier life style.
- CDC's Planning Department is launching an enhanced pre-planning service in January,
- An amendment to CIL regulations
- The Environmental Protection Team deals with 10 -15 cases of vulnerable people who hoard at their homes each year
- The rural gigabit scheme has been successful with 91 applications.

**C/008/21 - Finance, Asset and Policy Committee** –Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved by the committee.

Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Travers, all agreed.

Adopted by Council.

**C/009/21 – Planning and Infrastructure Committee** – The Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Upjohn, seconded Cllr Coote, unanimously approved.

Adopted by Council.

Following a question from Cllr Procter, Cllr Coote confirmed that the committee had raised an objection to the railway shed being retained and that the area could be used for affordable housing.



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**C/10/21 - Community and Environment Committee** – The Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.  
Proposed Cllr Morley, seconded Cllr Watts all committee agreed. Adopted by council

The gate at the car park will be repaired under Chichester District Council's insurance. The repair work will be carried out within the next few weeks.

**C/11/21 – Approval of Minutes** – It was **resolved** that the Minutes from Committee meetings will be reviewed and approved by committee members in its meeting the following month.  
Councillors, and members of the public will continue to be able to comment and debate committee minutes at Full Council meetings before they are adopted by Council.  
Proposed Cllr Coote, seconded Cllr Travers all agreed.

**C/12/21 - Reports from Outside Meetings** – the Clerk reported on a meeting with John Heaton who is administrator for the Census 2021 in this area. Mr. Heaton was interested to know more about Midhurst and the various local volunteer groups who may be able to offer advice and assistance during the Census period.  
The Grange will be host to the main support centre.

**C/13/21– Matters of Report** –  
Cllr Travers commented that the Christmas in Midhurst banner was still up at the northern entrance. The banner was put up by Midhurst Vision who will hopefully be removing it promptly.

**C/14/21 - Date of Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 7:50pm.

Signed:..... Dated.....

Chairman