



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 11TH JANUARY 2021 AT 7:30pm
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE DUE TO COVID-19.**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr M. Purves (Chairman), Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr R. Watts, Cllr D. Smallman, Cllr S. Morley, Cllr N. Yeo

Officer: Julian Quail Assistant Town Clerk

Also Present: Melanie Kite, Town Clerk and Jess Brown-Fuller, Events and Promotions Officer

CE/001/21 – Apologies for Absence – Cllr Procter.

CE/002/21 - Declarations of Interest - None declared.

CE/003/21 – Minutes of Meeting of 14th December 2021 – The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 14th December 2021.
Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Lintott, all agreed.

CE/004/21 – Matters Arising from the Minutes of 14th December 2021
No issues.

CE/005/21 – Public Participation – adjournment of meeting.
No members of the public were present.
Meeting re-convened.

CE/006/21 – COVID 19

Vaccination: MTC are not actively involved in delivery of the vaccine. Members of the public will be contacted in due course by the local GP Surgery. Further advice can be obtained from the Midhurst Angels.

Small Business Grants: The availability of small business grants has been communicated through the MTC Facebook site. In addition, Midhurst Business Network have also provided information.

Covid Ambassadors: Covid Ambassadors are still present in Midhurst.

CE/007/21 – Policing in Midhurst

It was noted that permanent Speed Indicator Devices (SID) lose their impact over time. Cllr Yeo has been investigating options for mobile SIDs. It is important to assess what sites and how many devices are required. It is also important that the device can record so data can be gathered. The current permanent one on Petersfield Road does not record activity. A single mobile system that records activity is approximately £1,800. Two devices would cost about £2,200. This excludes fixings. Permission from the police and WSCC are required before they can be activated. If they are attached to lampposts, SSE will need to grant permission. There are strict rules which govern the use of these devices. Certain locations, such as June Lane, may not be suitable. Initial thinking is that the main arterial routes into the town may be the best option. It will be important to manage the public



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expectation with regards to what the council can achieve. One other concern is that these devices are not compatible with police systems. The hand-held police devices are the only ones that are compliant. However, the SIDs are complimentary to the police devices.

Action: Cllr Yeo to gather the necessary information and then speak with the police before presenting the preferred solution to the committee.

Action: Cllr Morley to provide Cllr Yeo with the Community Speed Watch Sites.

Action: All committee members to provide Cllr Yeo with options for mobile SIDs.

It was noted that the police presence in the town had improved and had been maintained over the last few months.

Thefts had increased in the surrounding area. It was recommended that Facebook be used to remind people of the presence of thieves. It was important that the public continue to report such incidence to the police, so they can build up a picture of the problem.

Action: Cllr Smallman to liaise with PCSO Ford for formal publicity material.

Police poster regarding Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) will be placed at Carron Lane recreation ground and MTC notice boards.

CE/008/21 – Carron Lane Car Park Gate

At the 14th December meeting it was agreed that Mr Quail would liaise with PCSO Ford regarding the committee's preference to close the car park gate at 21:00. PCSO Ford had recommended that the gate be closed at 17:00. While the committee understood the police position, they were concerned that this would impact on dog walkers and others during the Summer months. In addition, MTC need to be cognisant of guiding activity. It was proposed by Cllr Purves and seconded by Cllr Lintott that the gate be closed at 17:00 during Winter months and 20:00 during Summer months. All agreed.

This would be reviewed later in the year. The groundsman had kindly agreed to open and shut the gate. It was noted that a replacement needed to be identified, such as Pro-Tec and councillors, while the groundsman was on leave.

Action: Mr Quail to inform PCSO Ford of the committee's decision.

Concern was raised at parking on the grass verge from the beginning of the play area to the corner of the car park. This will damage the grass. Responsibility for maintaining the verge falls to WSCC. The border for maintenance is delineated from MTC's responsibilities by the footpath that runs parallel to the road.

Action: Cllr Yeo will consider the overarching use and costs of placing bollards or fencing to stop parking.



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CE/009/21 – Carron Lane Playground, Cllr Yeo

It was noted that some of the play equipment was showing signs of wear and some of the equipment was not being used. MTC provisioned a report on the potential future use of the playground two years ago. This included replacement of the skate park, which is being progressed now. However, other recommendations had not been progressed due to a change in councillors. The committee is keen to improve facilities for younger children.

Action: Cllr Yeo to make enquiries on options for improving the playground.

It was agreed that the overgrown vegetation behind the guide hut and bounding the carpark needs to be removed after the skate park has been completed. An assessment of the amount of work will be carried out.

CE/010/21 – Civic Activities and Rural Amenities

Northern Gateway, Cllr Sutton - Two bids have been received for the design of the Northern gateway. No bid had been received from a third company the third company declined to bid.

It was recommended by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr Lintott that Peter Anderson Studio be invited to provide 2D illustrative designs for the proposed town entrance signage for £1,550. All agreed.

It was further proposed by Cllr Sutton and seconded by Cllr Smallman that South Downs ecoscapes be invited to provide a planting design for 1525.00. Cllr Purves, Cllr Lintott, Cllr Sutton, Cllr Watts, Cllr Smallman, and Cllr N. Yeo agreed. Cllr S. Morley and Cllr Upjohn abstained. Motion carried.

Riverwalk Project, Cllr Watts - As a result of Easebourne Parish Council being unable to apply for the necessary CIL money this year to fund the picnic area, it was agreed that MTC's proposal to develop St Anne's would be held in abeyance pending development of the picnic area. In addition, the St Anne's proposal required further discussion with the Vision CIC.

CE/011/21 – Budget Monitoring

- The committee noted the current financial position for the end of November.
- It was agreed that Mr Quail can progress the tender for finger posts. However, it is necessary to liaise with Phillipa McCullough to ensure a cohesive approach to signage.

CE/012/21 - Matters of Report

Cllr Purves informed the committee that CDC has stopped the review of local recycling centres.

On a separate issue, he thanked Cllr Watts and Cllr Yeo for all their hard work since joining the council.

Cllr Sutton confirmed that Midhurst Matters will be printed tomorrow and be delivered at the month.

Cllr Morley was concerned that people were walking their dogs off the lead at the Carron Lane recreation ground. He was also concerned at some of the feedback regarding Sainsburys. Cllr Morley welcomed Sainsburys to the town but felt that, following feedback, they were unable to predict what products were going to be available and when because this was directed by head office. He hoped that this information could be fed back to the company.



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Mrs Brown-Fuller would welcome the opportunity to brief the committee at the February meeting on potential events for Easter this year and the Queen's Jubilee in 2022.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 8.55pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date.....