



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 8th MARCH 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 A. Procter, 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/022/21 – Apologies for Absence - Cllr R. Watts.

CE/023/21 - Declarations of Interest - None declared.

CE/024/21 – Minutes of Meeting of 8th February 2021 – The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 8th February 2021, with the following exceptions:

CE/022/21 - Photographs, Cllr Morley pointed out that the need to assign copyright to the photographers had not been agreed and that "... to the photographers" should be removed from the minutes.

CE/023/21 - Matters of Report, which stated that Cllr Purves informed the committee about parishes potentially becoming involved in a pilot to sow wildflowers, did not include the additional point about mowing and removing grass cuttings. The minutes have been amended to include this additional point. Proposed Cllr Morley, seconded Cllr Yeo, all agreed.

CE/025/21 – Matters Arising from the Minutes of 8th February 2021

None

CE/026/21 – Public Participation – adjournment of meeting

No members of the public were present-

Meeting re-convened.

CE/027/21 – COVID 19

No matters.

CE/028/21 - Policing in Midhurst

General - PC Elliot Crump has joined Northern Chichester district, which includes Midhurst, on the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The committee welcomed PC Crump but noted that his arrival should be aligned with the two Midhurst PCSOs to ensure that we have a recognised point of contact.

Dog Theft - The committee acknowledged the extremely helpful e-mail from PC Callie MacKinnon of the Rural Crime Team. Cllr Yeo requested that the Op Collar link and summary of the e-mail be placed on the MTC website and Facebook page.



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Action: Events Officer to speak with PC Callie MacKinnon before placing the information on the MTC website and Facebook page.

Speed Indicator Devices (SID) - Cllr Yeo thanked the committee for geographical options for mobile SIDs. The next step is to liaise with WSCC to determine if the current Highway assessments are still valid, as most of them have already been approved for speed watch sites. Cllr Yeo is speaking with various companies to assess which are the best SIDs.

Action: Cllr Yeo to speak with WSCC Highways to validate current assessments.

CE/029/21 – Skate Park and Security Issues

Following completion and signing off the new skate park, barriers had been used to stop people accessing the facility in line with Government guidelines. However, young men were seen breaking in and using the facility. MTC had done everything possible to stop this happening but it was difficult to enforce. It was agreed that the fencing would be removed to avoid any damage and signs asking people to enter from one side and exit from the other would be erected to help maintain social distancing. Most of the committee agreed.

CE/030/21 – Civic Activities and Rural Amenities

Northern Gateway, Cllr Sutton - Given that the new design would not be completed until the autumn, it was agreed that the committee ask the Green Volunteers to maintain the status quo, cutting back bushes, weeding and preparing the soil for planting spring and summer flowers. The Stag Garden would be cleared once the sign is ready with turf, shrubs and small trees planted.

Action: Cllr Sutton to speak with the Green Volunteers.

Development of Carron Lane Playground, Cllr Yeo – Two further consultants have been approached for ideas and costings. It is hoped that these will be ready for the next meeting. Various ideas have been spoken about, including a little roadway for young children to ride their scooters. It was agreed that a final paper is required with all options and recommendation before the committee can decide on a way forward. It was also noted that it may be necessary to move the exercise equipment.

Action: Cllr Yeo to investigate the moving of the exercise equipment.

Bollards, Cllr Yeo - It was noted that less people had been parking on the grass verge since the car park reopened. However, the verge was now quite cut up.

Action: Mr Quail to liaise with WSCC Highways to determine what remedial work was planned for the verge.

Cllr Morley suggested that we stop people parking in front of the removable bollards as this could stop access by emergency vehicle. The committee noted this suggestion but were also cognisant of the removal of two car parking spaces in a busy car park.



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2021 Flowers, Assistant Clerk – A final solution, within budget, had been circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. All agreed. It was noted that the company planning on conducting the stress testing had resent a revised quotation which exceeded the budget.

Action: Mr Quail to find an alternative company to conduct stress testing.

Fingerposts, Assistant Clerk – A summary of the two tenders received had been circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Leander Architectural be invited to provide 50 new fingers for the five finger posts in town for £9,826.00. All agreed.

Guide Hut and removal of greenery, Cllr Morley - A note and map had been circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. It was noted that this was a bigger job than had originally been thought. As no budgetary money was available for this work, it may be necessary to wait for FY22/23, unless there is money left over from the cemetery work. Alternatively, it may be possible for the Green Volunteers and the Friends of Midhurst Common to help.

Action: Town Clerk would speak with the cemetery contractors to ascertain what costs were applicable to remove all the brambles and overgrown foliage.

Action: Cllr Yeo to speak with the Friends of Midhurst Common

CE/031/21 – Budget Monitoring

The committee noted the current financial position for the end of January.

CE/032/21 – Events

Easter - The Easter Egg hunt is complete, with 9 eggs to find in town; the trail is about an hour long. It was agreed that a gift for all children taking part was preferable to a single winner. The Events and Promotions Officer will be at The Old Library on Easter Monday giving out Easter Eggs to those children who participate.

Litter Picking - The Events and Promotions Officer has recently spoken to CDC regarding a Community Litter Picking event. However, CDC are not currently hiring out their equipment due to Coronavirus restrictions but hope to be able to support the community again soon.

Action: The Events and Promotions Officer to liaise with Cllr Smallman on a way forward for a litter picking event.

Midhurst Matters - The Events and Promotions Officer is starting to plan the next edition of Midhurst Matters (Spring Edition).

Action: Committee members to provide Mrs Brown-Fuller with either idea or articles.

Markets - The Town Council have started to look at the viability of introducing regular markets in the Market Square. A survey has been sent to local businesses and will run for 7 days, after which point the Events and Promotions Officer will compile the results and send to councillors.

Midhurst Procession - The MADhurst committee reported that they may plan a smaller Grand Finale Day after the Government Roadmap suggested restrictions will be removed. In preparation for a



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potential Midhurst Procession to align with this prospect, the committee asked for the necessary road closures to be put in place. All other related decisions will be considered by Full Council at the appropriate point.

CE/033/21 - Matters of Report

Cllr Purves reminded the committee that additional signage is required at the Carron Lane car park to let the public know what time it will be shut.

Cllr Procter was concerned that the amount of cardboard in the bus shelter storage facility represented a fire risk. Cllr Purves explained that the facility belongs to CDC who have responsibility for the associated risk assessment.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 9.05pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date.....