



# Midhurst Town Council

**A Meeting of The Midhurst Town Council took place  
on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 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  
**Officer:** Melanie Kite, Town Clerk

Also present: County Councillor K. O’Kelly, District Councillor J. Fowler, Mrs P. McCullough and Mr. Allnutt for Midhurst Vision, PCSO Nathan Ford, Mrs J. Brown-Fuller (Events Officer) and the Press

**C/15/21 – Chairman’s Announcements** – The Chairman reminded Councillors that the Code of Conduct and rules governing council meetings apply and that the meeting was being recorded.

**C/16/21 - Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Yeo

**C/17/21 - Declarations of Interest** – None declared at this time.

### **C/18/21 - Public Participation Session:**

#### Report from PCSO Nathan Ford -

Focus is on managing gatherings of youths in town and identifying the main hot spots. When able to they are working closely with the school and engaging with the students. They are also communicating with residents to gain information and keep abreast of problems.

The PCSOs are aware of the drug problem centred on Carron Lane recreation ground in particular. PCSO Ford urged all residents to report any anti-social behaviour by calling 111. He emphasised that they would attend.

He was pleased that communications between the Town Council and his unit was good and working well.

#### Mrs McCullough and Mr. Allnutt representing Midhurst Vision -

The presentation and notes from the meeting of Midhurst Vision, stakeholders and Bracklesham and East Wittering Parish Council had been circulated to all councillors.

The presentation was to hear about the B&EW Vision Group, set up as a working group of the Parish Council, had worked on projects for the parish.

One point that resounded with Mrs McCullough was the way B&EW Vision had worked in an holistic way and hoped that this would also be the case for Midhurst Vision.

Mrs McCullough referred to the Vision’s projects of ‘way finding’ and helping Midhurst businesses and that these two areas were foremost in its work at present.

Mr. Allnutt requested closer communication and joint working relationship with the Town Council, Vision and town traders. He felt that small regular meetings would be beneficial.



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It was agreed that a meeting between these three groups would be arranged. Cllr Lintott will liaise with councillors as to who would represent the Town Council.  
There were no questions.

Meeting reconvened.

**C/19/21 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – These were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.  
Proposed Cllr Smallman, seconded Cllr Coote, all agreed.

Following a comment during ‘Matters arising from those Minutes’ an amendment has been made to item C/11/21 Minutes of Committee Meetings.

**C/20/21 - Matters Arising from those Minutes** – Cllr Morley felt that item C/11/21 of those Minutes was misleading and required clarification. C/11/21 was amended to read:

*It was **resolved** that the Minutes from Committee meetings will be ‘approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting’ by committee members in its meeting the following month. Members of Council continue to have the right to comment, challenge and move for or against committee minutes at Full Council meetings before they are adopted by Council.*

Council agreed to this amendment.

**C/21/21 - Report from County and District Councillors –**  
West Sussex County Councillor Kate O’Kelly; report previously circulated and attached.

Topics covered were:

- COVID data and vaccine rollout
- WSCC budget decisions- the budget was finalised at full council on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. To balance the budget eleven of the forty-three children and family centres will close.
- Health and Adults scrutiny committees – saving options were considered in the Health and Adults services.

Cllr Coote expressed his concern at the closure of children and family centres especially at this time of hardship for many families and children. He thought it was an ill-considered move by WSCC. County Cllr O’Kelly agreed with his comment and said that these concerns had been conveyed.

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

- £60,000 Government grant for temporary accommodation for rough sleepers
- Shop vacancy rate and business start-ups in Chichester district
- COVID recovery grants scheme
- Hyde Housing – proposals for a new agreement with CDC to ways to deliver improvements on housing developments
- Business support grants
- Tree planting project in conjunction with DEFRA
- Trial for a kerb side collection scheme for textiles and small waste electricals



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There were no questions

**C/22/21 - Finance, Asset and Policy Committee** – Cllr Procter asked if the Town Council ever asked for a report from the organisations who received Town Council grant money. Grants given to new organisations had reported back to Council in the past.

A list of organisations who receive grants will be posted on the website.

It was agreed that a review of the Town Council's grant policy and Terms and Conditions would be undertaken.

**C/23/21 – Planning and Infrastructure Committee** – The Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were adopted by Council.

Proposed Cllr McAra, seconded Cllr Sutton, unanimously approved.

Cllr Morley asked for an update on the Metis Homes development on the old brickworks site. The company is currently in further discussions on amendments to its application with SDNP.

Cllr Procter asked if, following the Town Council's request for photos to be submitted with all tree applications, whether this had been resolved. Cllr Coote said that this is still being pursued by the committee with CDC planning.

**C/24/21 - Community and Environment Committee** – The Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were adopted by Council.

Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Morley, unanimously approved.

Cllr Morley commented that some general maintenance work was required on trees and general undergrowth around the back of the skate park. Cllr Morley and Cllr Purves will do a site visit to discuss the work required.

**C/25/21 – New website demonstration** – Jessica Brown-Fuller, Events Officer, gave a demonstration of the new council website. It has been launched but is still under construction.

**C/26/21 - Reports from Outside Meetings** – Cllr Morley commented on the Midhurst Vision meeting which he had attended. He was particularly pleased to hear that they will be working closely with North Street shops to help the owners and tenants improve the frontage and windows of the properties.

Cllr Purves requested that all councillors are kept informed about the work that the Vision group proposes to do.

**C/27/21– Matters of Report –**

Cllr McAra confirmed that the county council elections will be going ahead and that the Grange Centre, Midhurst will be used as a main centre and not Westgate Leisure Centre as in past election years.

Cllr Sutton mentioned that the trees outside Turner House and near the gas works on the Petersfield Road needed attention. Cllr Coote agreed to look into this and report back.



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Cllr Lintott, had received an email from a resident asking what the Town Council's view was on an event and alcohol licence application for the Walled Garden, Cowdray. She asked Councillors if they wished to discuss this at a committee meeting.

The Council is not a consultee in these applications and decisions are made by Chichester District Council. It was decided to review this at the next Planning Meeting.

**C/28/21 - Date of Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8:23pm.

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

Chairman