



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 12th APRIL 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 S. Morley, Cllr R. Watts, Cllr N. Yeo

Officer: Julian Quail Assistant Town Clerk

Also Present: Melanie Kite, Town Clerk, Jess Brown-Fuller, Events and Promotions Officer and three members of the public

CE/034/21 – Apologies for Absence – Cllr Smallman.

CE/035/21 - Declarations of Interest - None declared.

CE/036/21 – Minutes of Meeting of 8th March 2021 - Proposed Cllr Procter, seconded Cllr Lintott, all agreed.

CE/037/21 – Matters Arising from the Minutes of 8th March 2021 - None

CE/038/21 – Public Participation – adjournment of meeting - Three members of the public were present.

Concern was raised regarding various issues, including the closing of Carron Lane recreation car park gate, the capacity of the car park and the overflow of cars parking on the verge along Carron Lane. The volume of traffic has increased since the opening of the new skate park and on occasions the capacity of the car park is not adequate. Cars parking on the verge is making it challenging for people living on Carron Lane to exit their properties. In addition, although the number of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents is not significant, those that occur are spoiling the park for other people. It was also noted that cars, particularly driven by younger people are driving far too fast on Carron Lane and traffic calming measures should be introduced.

Philippa McCullough, representing Midhurst Vision, noted that the new sign for the Northern Gateway may benefit from further discussion and recommended that a decision was not reached this evening. There was a brief debate about the meaning of Midhurst, which is understood to derive from the Old English words midd (adjective) or mid (preposition), meaning "in the middle", plus hyrst, "a wooded hill". Cllr Sutton had kindly provided the options from the designer to Mrs McCullough, whose initial thoughts indicated design one. It was suggested that MTC also look into planting more trees around the town.

Meeting re-convened.



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CE/039/21 – Civic Activities and Rural Amenities

Carron Lane Recreation Ground – It was agreed to bring forward this agenda item to allow the public to listen to the discussion on the various factors relating to Carron Lane recreation ground. It was noted that it is very difficult to manage the various aspect. The local PCSOs are visiting the recreation ground on a regular basis but cannot be present all the time. While MTC were delighted at the response to the skate park, the large numbers that visit it, especially at the weekend, brought its own challengers. These include some ASB, large amounts of rubbish and the car parking filling up, leading to cars parking on the verge. Various suggestions, were discussed including the introduction of the yellow lines to stop cars parking on the verge, expansion of the car park and traffic calming measures. It was proposed by Cllr Lintott and seconded by Cllr Watts and agreed by all that the new WSCC Highways Area Manager be invited to a site visit to discuss options.

Action: Assistant Clerk to speak with the new WSCC Highways Area Manager (Chris Stark) to arrange a site visit.

The installation and closing of the car park at night had been introduced by MTC to alleviate ASB. However, this has brought its own problems and the residence of Cemetery Lodge have been subject to abuse from people. It was proposed by Cllr Yeo and seconded by Cllr Sutton and agreed that closure of the car park gate be suspended. This was agreed by Cllr M. Purves Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr A. Procter, Cllr R. Watts, Cllr N. Yeo. Cllr S. Morley and Cllr G. Upjohn voted against this proposal. It was agreed that the contract with Pro-Tec be changed after the weekend.

Additional bins may be required to manage the volume of rubbish.

Action: Assistant Clerk to enquire into options for additional bins.

Northern Gateway – Prior to the meeting the committee were provided with various design options for the new signage. After a long discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Purves and seconded by Nigel Yeo and agreed by all that Cllr Sutton should liaise with the designer and ask them to introduce trees into option 1 and insert the phrase “The heart of the South Downs National Park” into option 2. Once these changes have been made the designs will be presented to the committee.

Action: Cllr Sutton to make the above changes.

Developing Carron Lane Playground – Cllr Yeo continues to liaise with various contractors about option for the playground. Three detailed proposals had been submitted ranging in price from £40,00 to £60,000.

Action: Events Officer to liaise with playground users to gauge their thoughts on the proposals.

Clearing Foliage at Guide Hut - The Friends of Midhurst Common are unable to help clear the foliage surrounding the guide hut because they do not have the necessary equipment. Following consultation, it was felt that a sub-committee be created to bring a costed proposal to C&E later in the year for potential inclusion into next year’s budget.



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Fingerposts – Designs for the new fingers were provided to the committee prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the following changes be made to the designs:

- Remove the 4 signs for “North Street Parking”.
- Amend “St Mary’s RC Church” to “Midhurst RC Church”.
- Amend “Grange Centre” to “Leisure Centre and Library” if capacity allows.
- Add “Market Square” fingers. Quantity 3.
- Add “Old Town” fingers with shopping symbol. Quantity 3.
- Add “North Street” fingers with shopping symbol. Quantity 3

The changes will be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Assistant Clerk to provide above changes to Leander Architectural.

Wild Flowers - An enquiry had been received about the opportunity to grow wild flowers in Midhurst. It was noted that while this is a good idea in principle, it is very difficult to grow and control wild flowers. It was agreed that MTC would wait for the Northern gateway project to mature before taking a decision.

CE/040/21 – COVID 19

All agreed that it was nice to see the town come out of initial lockdown.

CE/041/21 - Policing in Midhurst

General – MTC are pleased with the regular presence of police in Midhurst.

Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) – It was agreed that potential purchase of SIDs should be postponed for 2-3 months while we gather and analyse the information provided by the community speed watch. It was noted that community speed watch data can be misleading.

South Down Safer Roads Initiative – A report was provided Cllr Jeffries prior to the meeting and noted by the committee.

CE/042/21 – Budget Monitoring

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

CE/043/21 – Events

Easter - The Easter Egg hunt had been hugely successful with around 80 children visiting the Old Library. Thanks go to the Events Officer for her work over the Easter weekend.

Skate Park – The soft opening of the new skate park would take place on Wednesday 21st April at 10am. This would be limited to councillor and a few invited guests. On 31st July, Maverick, who built the skate park, would be holding a large skate jam for all Midhurst residents. This would involve a competition for riders with prizes and will be hosted by Maverick, with the Town Council providing additional elements such as food trucks and a few entertainment stalls.

Midhurst Matters (MM) - MM postponed until June. Ideas for articles to the Events Officer would be appreciated.

Litter Picking – MTC are organising an event on Sunday 30th May to align with the wider UK initiative.

Markets – Members of the Council and the Events Manager met with representatives of Bray Associates to discuss the potential of a weekly market in Midhurst. Bray are keen to pursue a trial period to see if it works for all involved. All agreed that Market Square is the preferable location, so are seeking approval from the relevant trusts.



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Midhurst Procession - The MADhurst committee reported that the Grand Finale Day will not take place in its traditional format. It has yet to be decided if MTC will replace the carnival procession to align with MADhurst this year.

CE/033/21 - Matters of Report

It was noted that post lockdown, the egregious behaviour of some people parking on North Street has returned.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date.....

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