



Midhurst Town Council

**A Meeting of The Midhurst Town Council took place
on Monday 21st December 2020 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 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

C/155/20 – Chairman’s Announcements – The Chairman reminded Members that the meeting was being recorded for the sole purpose of the Clerk’s Minutes, and that normal code of conduct applied.

C/156/20 - Apologies for Absence – Cllr Smallman

C/157/20 - Declarations of Interest – None declared at this time.

C/158/20 - Public Participation Session -No public questions. Midhurst Vision were not represented. Meeting reconvened.

C/159/20 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting – These were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting held on 16th November 2020.
Proposed Cllr Purves, seconded Cllr Watts.

C/160/20 - Matters Arising from those Minutes – Cllr Procter reminded the Clerk that the posters on dementia had not been put up.

Cllr Morley asked for a progress report from the cemetery working party. Cllr Watts had agreed to look at the tender letters for the hedging, vegetation and roadway. On a separate matter he had spoken to a contractor about helping our groundsman with the annual hedge cutting.

Cllr Yeo had begun researching natural burial sites and had made initial enquiries with a company specialising in these. There will be an area for memorial trees and specific places will be set aside for memorial benches within the plans.

C/161/20 - Report from County and District Councillors

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

Topics covered were:

- COVID, test and trace and vaccination centres
- WSCC budget 2021/22
- Children’s services and Ethical investment

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

- COVID,
- Efficiency Review



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- Hyde Housing residents can contact the company directly on <https://www.hyde-housing.co.uk/complaints/>
- Temporary closure of the Novium Museum
- Census 2021
- New business start-ups in the district
- Homemove – system for applying and bidding for social housing
- Puppy sales – sixfold increase in sales during the pandemic. Huge increase in of unlicensed breeders and unscrupulous breeders selling puppies. This risks dog and puppy welfare and the public being scammed.
- CDC have joined a scheme with DEFRA to investigate ways to increase the number of trees outside woodlands
- Riparian owners being mindful of the time of year and weather conditions.

C/162/20 - Finance, Asset and Policy Committee – Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2020 were approved by the committee.

Proposed Cllr Sutton, seconded Cllr Procter, all agreed.

Adopted by Council.

C/163/20 – Budget 2021/22 – It was resolved to approve the 2021/2022 budget as recommended by the finance committee.

Precept 2021/22 - £201,753, +8.9% yr/yr

Band D annual council tax £89.40, +0.11pence per week per Band D household.

Proposed Cllr Sutton, seconded Cllr Yeo all agreed.

C/164/20 - Planning and Infrastructure Committee – The Minutes of 9th and 23rd November were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Upjohn, seconded Cllr Watts, unanimously approved.

Adopted by Council.

C/165/20 - Community and Environment Committee – The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Sutton all committee agreed. Adopted by council

C/166/20 – Census 2021 – Councillors agreed that more information was required before committing to help. Cllrs Yeo and Watts will lead on this and a meeting will be set up with John Heaton, Census Engagement Manager, South and West of West Sussex.

C/167/20 - Reports from Outside Meetings – No meetings had taken place.

C/168/20 – Matters of Report –

Cllr Lintott announced that Mrs Jess Brown-Fuller had accepted the position of Events and Promotions Officer and will be starting on Thursday 7th January 2021. She will be working two days a week on Monday and Thursdays.

A copy of the job description will be forwarded to all councillors.



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Cllr Coote thanked Cllr Lintott for all her work on photographing and arranging the awards for the Midhurst traders shop window competition. Cllr Sutton had also helped.

There will be a planning meeting on Monday January 4th to discuss the old brickworks site planning application for development of residential properties.

Cllr Morley confirmed to councillors that it is not the community speed watch team's remit to monitor or comment on vehicle noise and nuisance from motor bikes.

Cllr Jeffries will reply to Mrs Chrisite of Guillards Oak regarding her complaint about the traffic along the A272 and that the Town Council were not doing anything about it. Cllr Jeffries and Mrs Christie have been corresponding for some months over this issue.

Cllr Lintott, chairman, thanked all councillors for their help and support this year, recognising how much more demanding on people's time COVID-19 had put upon everyone. She acknowledged the efforts of many and that Midhurst Town Council had achieved a lot this year.

She wished all Members a very happy and healthy Christmas.

C/169/20 - Date of Next Meeting – The next meeting will be Monday 18th January 2021 at 7pm.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 8:03pm.

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

Chairman