



Midhurst Town Council

A meeting of the **FINANCE ASSET AND POLICY COMMITTEE**
took place on Monday 22nd March 2021 at 7:30pm
by virtual conference due to COVID-19

MINUTES

Present: Cllr M. Richardson (chairman), Cllr L. Jeffries, Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr G. McAra, Cllr A. Procter, Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr J. Travers

Officer: Melanie Kite, Town Clerk

Cllr Watts was also in attendance

F/21/21 - Chairman's Announcements - The meeting is being recorded. The 'chat' button on Teams video conferencing should not be used. Should a Member wish to raise a question or comment please use the 'raise a hand' button.

F/22/21 - Apologies for Absence – None received

F/23/21 - Declarations of Interest. Cllr Procter declared an acquaintance with Mark Jasper of Boom Credit Union through her work with the debt advisory charity.

F/24/21 - To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2021 – These were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
Proposed Cllr Travers, seconded Cllr Lintott, all agreed, Cllr Procter abstained having not attended the February meeting.

F/25/21 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22nd February 2021 – No matters were raised.

F/26/21 - Public Participation Session – Meeting adjourned

No members of the public were present.

Meeting Reconvened

F/27/21 - Financial Reports to end February 2021- These were noted as:

Total Payments £10,139

Payments over £500: Salaries £6,645, Amenity Van insurance £1,230, Web maintenance £600

Total Receipts £17,221

Receipts over £500: Q3 VAT refund £1,759, CDC Grant £15,000

F/28/21 - Bank Reconciliation – The bank balances as at the end of January 2021 were £304,733 and reconciled with the bank accounts.

These were approved as agreed and will be signed at a later date.

F/29/21 - Cemetery work - Cllr Watts updated the work of the cemetery working group.

Tenders had been received for the repair of the road through the cemetery and clearance of the overgrown vegetation which he brought to the Finance members.



Midhurst Town Council

It was agreed to accept the working group's recommendation and to engage Sussex Land Works to undertake the work for the road, £6,600 and vegetation clearance £1,056
Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Travers, all agreed.

Although this work is part of the overall cemetery project, it is a matter of urgency due to the funeral directors having problems with driving the hearses through the cemetery. The working group are still in the process of putting together - 'A future for the cemetery' - this document will be brought to the Finance committee when further progress has been made.

F/30/21 - Old Library boiler – It was agreed that further assessment of the boiler and flue was required. Two further opinions and quotations will be sought.

F/31/21 - Bank Standing Orders - Following a discussion on the benefits to the local community It was agreed to cancel the standing orders for Sussex Playing Fields and Action in Rural Sussex (previously known as Sussex Rural Communities).
Proposed Cllr McAra, seconded Cllr Lintott, unanimously approved.

F/32/21 - Total Power and Gas – It was agreed to approve the invoice for payment of £3,260.30
Proposed Cllr McAra, seconded Cllr Procter, all agreed

F/33/21 - Hugh Alexander (Boxhill) Ltd. - Following the Council's Financial Regulations, the invoice for payment of £11,468.40 was brought to the committee for approval
Cllr Travers proposed that the invoice was made, seconded Cllr Procter, all agreed

F/34/21 - Transparency Code – This had been circulated.
Proposed to accept Cllr McAra, seconded Cllr Lintott all agreed.

F/35/21 - WSALC subscription, Clerk – The Clerk gave a summary of events which culminated in the closure of SSALC and the restructuring of WSALC. The Clerk advised that the council should continue its membership to WSALC and to monitor what help and advice councils are given over the forthcoming year.
It was agreed to continue the council's membership of WSALC and review it in a year's time.
Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Travers, all agreed

F/36/21 - Credit Unions, Cllr Lintott – The Clerk had produced a document on Credit Unions and Boom Union for circulation - attached.
Cllr Lintott explained that her reason for tabling this item was for the Council to be engaged, in small way, in philanthropy.
With interest rates at an exceptionally low level putting a small percentage of the Council's reserve with this type of organisation would not be financially imprudent.
The Members agreed to consider this further. Clerk to invite a representative of Boom Credit Union to come and talk to the committee.

F/37/21 - Matters of Report.
Cllr Lintott thanked Cllr Richardson for moving the planter back into position outside Boots Chemist.



Midhurst Town Council

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday 13th May 2012.

Cllr Travers commented on the anti-social parking on North Street

Cllr McAra thanked the Riverside Surgery and Lloyds Pharmacy for all their excellent and very efficient work in organising and managing the COVID vaccinations.

The chairman closed the meeting at 20.21pm

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____