



Midhurst Town Council

A meeting of the **FINANCE ASSET AND POLICY COMMITTEE**
took place on Monday 24th May 2021, in The Old Library, Knockhundred Row, Midhurst, at
7:30pm

MINUTES

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

Officer: Melanie Kite, Town Clerk

Also in attendance: Mrs Danielle Dunfield, CEO, The Great Sussex Way

F/50/21 – Election of a Chairman of the Finance, Asset and Policy Committee for 2021 - 2022

Cllr Richardson was proposed by Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Procter. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Richardson stand as chair for the 2021/22 year.

F/51/21 - Election of Vice Chairman for 2021 -2022

Cllr Travers was proposed by Cllr Procter, seconded Cllr Lintott. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Travers stand as vice-chair for the 2021/22 year.

F/52/21 -Chairman’s Announcements – Cllr Richardson thanked the committee for their support last year and for voting for him to stand again in this civic year.

He welcomed Cllr Fraser to the committee.

He welcomed and introduced Mrs Danielle Dunford, The Great Sussex Way as a guest speaker to the meeting.

F/53/21 - Apologies for Absence – Cllr Jeffries, Cllr Sutton

F/54/21 - Declarations of Interest. Cllr Procter declared an acquaintance with Mark Jasper of Boom Credit Union through her work with the debt advisory charity.

Cllr McAra declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 14, Midhurst Community Land Trust

F/55/21 - To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2021 – These were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Travers, seconded Cllr Lintott, all agreed.

F/56/21 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26th April 2021 – No matters were raised.

F/57/21 - Public Participation Session – Meeting adjourned

Danielle Dunfield, CEO of The Great Sussex Way, (TGSW).

Danielle began by introducing herself with a brief explanation of her background. She was appointed as the CEO for The Great Sussex Way in January of this year with the remit to increase the visitor footfall and spend throughout the district with particular attention to the towns north of the Downs – termed Destination Marketing.



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TGSW has started to produce an 'itinerary' for visitors to use. This is an interactive programme on the website and enables visitors to plan their visit to the area dependent on what interests them; self-guided tours following a wine route, artisan foods or historic buildings as well as bike rides and walks. It will recommend overnight stays and list local eateries and hostels.

The committee members thanked her for her presentation and said how delighted they were to be able to work with TGSW in promoting Midhurst as a destination place.

The committee will meet informally to discuss how to take this forward. Cllr Procter offered to be the liaison person and all ideas will be filtered through her.

Cllr Procter and the events officer will begin by gathering photos of Midhurst and the surrounding area to send to TGSW to upload onto the website.

Meeting Reconvened

F/58/21 - Financial Reports to 30th April 2021- These were not available due to only having closed the 2020/21 accounts on Friday 21st May. These will be presented to committee with the May accounts.

The Clerk gave a verbal update of the April accounts:

Payments over £500:

Hugh Alexander, cemetery works - £2,400

WSALC, subscriptions 2021/22 - £1,612

Intraset, streetlamp post testing - £1,032

East Sussex Council, IT support - £1,379

Income received over £500:

YMCA – £6,468 grant monies

CIL monies - £30,000

Roger Poat Funeral Services- £1,670

F/59/21 - Bank Reconciliations – The bank reconciliation was not available for end April 2021. These will be agreed and signed at the next meeting.

F/60/21 – Boom Credit Union –

Following the presentation from Boom Credit Union at the last meeting the committee members considered the proposal to invest reserve monies with Boom.

Cllr Procter wanted more assurance that the credit union had members in Midhurst and that Boom Credit Union was financially stable.

All members agreed that the council should engage in philanthropy and agreed to proceed but with caution and in line with the council's Investment Policy and Strategy document. Cllr McAra proposed that up to £25,000 could be invested for six months and reviewed after this period.

Proposed Cllr McAra, seconded Cllr Travers, all agreed.

F/61/21 – Cemetery sub-committee, Cllr Travers updated the committee. Work is to start on clearing around the graves but the road and removal of the hedge will be undertaken when the machinery is available to hire.

Cllr Yeo is updating the Cemetery Terms and Conditions



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F/62/21 – Midhurst Community Land Trust – The letter from the Chairman of the MCLT had been previously circulated.

Cllr McAra explained that the reason for the request to the town council for it to consider offering a grant or for it to allocate CIL monies is that the trust requires funding for the Plans/feasibility and massing 3D modeling work and for a Topography survey for its project to build affordable homes to rent in the area. The total cost for this is £5900 +VAT.

The trust is working very closely with SDNPA and CDC on the planning of the development and the project is supported by both.

Cllr McAra took questions and confirmed that no other council could give CIL monies given the regulations governing CIL.

He explained that once the project had started and planning had been approved it was likely that they would qualify as a housing trust for any future funding requirements. This meant that it would not need to approach the town council again.

Cllr Lintott proposed that subject to the availability of the CIL monies, MTC would grant it to MCLT for the work as described in the letter.

Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Fraser all agreed. Cllr McAra did not vote having declared an interest.

F/63/21 – Old Library Boiler – Cllr Richardson had undertaken an investigation of the boiler and flue and what options are available as a replacement. It was agreed that the gas boiler would be replaced with electric, as this greener energy is the way forward.

He will speak to Total Gas and Power, the supplier, about installing phase 3 electrics to the Old Library. Cllr Richardson will provide a full report for the committee to consider at a later meeting.

F/64/21 - Matters of Report.

Cllr Richardson mentioned that the finger post at the bottom of Knockhundred Row had been hit by a vehicle and that it required highways attention to correct it.

He thanked the Clerk and RFO for all the work she had done for the council on the finance side.

The chairman closed the meeting at 21:09pm

Signed _____
Chairman

Date _____