



Midhurst Town Council

A Meeting of the Planning and Infrastructure Committee took place on Monday 28th June 2021 at 7:00pm at The Old Library, Knockhundred Row, Midhurst.

MINUTES

Present: Cllr D. Coote (Chairman), Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr R. Watts, Cllr M. Purves, and Cllr D. Fraser

Officer: Julian Quail, Assistant Town Clerk

P/108/21 – Apologies for Absence – Cllr J. Sutton and Cllr G. McAra

P/109/21 - Declarations of Interest – None

P/110/21 - To approve Minutes of Meeting Held on 14th June 2021

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Lintott, unanimously agreed.

P/111/21 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 14th June 2021

None

P/112/21 - Public Participation Session

There was no public participation.

Meeting Reconvened

P/113/21 - Planning Applications

113.1 SDNP/21/02447/HOUS - Single storey side extension and replacement rear extension including associated internal alterations - 12 Elmleigh Midhurst GU29 9HA

Decision: The Council had no objections. However, MTC is aware that there is an exceptionally large long established Cherry Tree in the front garden adjacent to the drive, which should be protected during building work.

113.2 SDNP/21/03112/HOUS - The relocation of a kitchen into the downstairs space, removal of internal staircase and replaced with an external staircase. Window to be replaced with an external door and window - Parkview Carron Lane Midhurst GU29 9LF

Decision: The Council had no objections.

Cllr Don Fraser arrived at 07:15pm

P/114/21 - Tree Applications

114.1 SDNP/21/03015/TPO - Fell 1 no. Sycamore tree (quoted as T1) within Area, A1 subject to MI/58/00667/TPO - 10 Elmleigh Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9HA

Decision: The Council had no objections.



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P/115/21 – Decisions

These were noted with no comments.

P/116/21 – Proposed Permanent Speed Limit Order - TRO/CHN2101/RC

After a brief summary from Cllr Watts, it was agreed that the proposal to reduce the speed limit on parts of Bepton Road and the Severals Road should be supported by MTC.

Action: The Assistant Clerk to write to the WSCC TRO Team supporting the proposal to reduce the speed limit on parts of Bepton Road and the Severals Road.

P/117/21 – Report from SDNP Parish Workshop

Cllr Watts provided a very helpful and detailed account of the workshop, which was broken into four individual sections with questions at the end: Visitor Management, Nature Recovery, Planning and CIL Projects. From a planning perspective the Government has been busy recently addressing three main areas: The need to build more homes, Simplify the Planning System, and the aesthetic appearance of new housing. In the recent Planning White Paper, the SDNP asked for clarity on how the paper would affect National Parks. They also raised concerns about the reduction in the value of Neighbourhood Plans. There was a Select Committee meeting recently where apparently the Government were asked some difficult questions. The recently produced algorithm that calculated the amount of housing required in any given area has been withdrawn as it is not working. There is to be a Planning Position Statement released in the next few weeks, which will make specific reference to national parks. This statement will address: Tourism, Knowledge Base and Beauty. The SDNP has produced a number of technical advice notes, i.e., on Glamping, and there are more of these to come.

It is also worth noting that from an environmental perspective the park has suffered a decline in nature over the last decades. There is a national drive to reverse this and a NATURE RECOVERY WORK program is being launched which aims to increase the amount of land managed for nature. National investment of £100m under the slogan HELP NATURE RENATURE. Funds are available from SDNP for nature recovery projects, although these are mainly aimed at farming.

There was a short review of a number of projects. Specific mention was made about bus shelters being a suitable community project. It was noted that this may help Cllr Upjohn in his project for a Real Time Passenger Information System (RTPI) at North Street bus station.

During the question and answer section, two main topics of interest for MTC.

1. Planning Enforcement. There were complaints from a number of Parishes that Chichester Planning Enforcement team were not actually enforcing anything. Some commentators felt that this meant that SDNP planning was losing any respect because although they add conditions to planning applications, nothing was being done to enforce breaches. SDNP enforcement is sub-contracted to CDC, but there is a liaison officer, Nat Beldersen, who we could contact.



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Action: Assistant Clerk to liaise with Nat Belderson, SDNPA Planning Link Officer, regarding the need to remove the fence a 9 Elmleigh and the lack of response from Emma Kierans, CDC Planning Officer Enforcement.

2. Motorbike Noise. While generally everyone recognised that this was not something that the Park could address, as it falls under the Highways Authority, those present were told that this is a national problem and that the Police are looking at ways to address it.

P/118/21 – Actions

The actions were provided to the committee before the meeting, who reviewed those that were outstanding. A number were closed and a revised table is attached to the minutes indicating the latest progress.

P/119/21 - Matters of Report

Cllr Coote informed the meeting that he had received a letter from the SDNPA regarding an opportunity to comment on the Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The SDNPA is consulting on a draft Design Guide SPD and would like to hear our views on this document. The aim of the Design Guide SPD is to raise design standards in the National Park and to provide best practice guidance regarding the design of new developments. The Design Guide SPD applies to both residential and non-residential development and will be a material consideration in the determination of relevant planning applications once adopted. The consultation will run for a period of ten weeks, starting on Monday 28 June 2021. All comments must be received by 11.59pm on Monday 6 September 2021. A response will be drafted by Cllr Coote, Cllr McAra and Cllr Watts.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.23pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date:.....