



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 13th DECEMBER 2021 IN THE MIDHURST TOWN COUNCIL
OFFICE, THE OLD LIBRARY, KNOCKHUNDRED ROW, MIDHURST AT 7:30PM**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr M. Purves, Cllr N. Yeo, Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr R. Watts, Cllr L. Jeffries and Cllr A. Procter

Officer: Jessica Brown-Fuller, Events Officer

CE/092/21 - Apologies for Absence – Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr D. Smallman

CE/093/21 - Declarations of Interest - None

CE/094/21 - Approve the Minutes of Meeting Held on 8th November 2021

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr R. Watts, seconded Cllr N. Yeo, unanimously agreed.

CE/095/21 – Matters Arising from the minutes of 8th November 2021

None.

CE/096/21 – Public Participation – adjournment of meeting

There was no public participation.

Meeting Reconvened.

CE/097/21 – Covid-19

Events Officer, Jessica Brown-Fuller, informed Councillors that following the updated guidance on gathering in public spaces, face coverings should be worn during Council meetings.

Action: Events Officer to send round guidance for Council meetings to all councillors.

CE/098/21 – Policing in Midhurst

Cllr L Jeffries attended a Zoom meeting, representing Midhurst Town Council, with Mandy Jameson from the Crime Commissioners Office. The District Commander was also in attendance. Overall, the level of satisfaction in policing has risen and there has been an increase of 100 PCSOs in Sussex, the biggest increase being between the Midhurst and the Heathfield area. There will be an 83p per month increase in the precept to cover the increase in community policing.

The force is embarking on an engagement plan, this should have been sent to the Clerk but if MTC are not in receipt of it, a copy should be requested.

West Sussex are outreaching ‘Do the Right Thing’, a campaign aimed at young males to help them understand what is a healthy relationship. Councillors applauded this initiative.

The attendees of the meeting were asked to rank their priorities from their local policing team, from 1 to 10, in order of important. Cllr L Jeffries represented Midhurst and ranked ‘visible neighbourhood



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policing' as the highest priority, followed by 'domestic abuse', 'rural crime' and 'road safety/drink & drugs'.

CE/099/21

a) Northern Gateway – Cllr J Sutton updated Councillors on the Northern Gateway project, which is forging ahead with a planning application for the sign, which has now been validated.

A grant has been applied for as part of the Welcome Back fund made available by Chichester District Council. This will pay £1,700 towards the planting around the Northern Gateway which will be provided by Rotherhill Garden Centre. Cllr J Sutton has explained that the plants will be purchased and Rotherhill have agreed to look after the plants until they're required for planting.

Cemetery Working Group – Cllr N Yeo updated councillors on the progress at the Cemetery on Carron Lane. A comprehensive tree assessment has been carried out at the site and 26 trees were identified as needing work, either felling to ground level or reducing. The tree assessment identified that of the 26 trees requiring attention, 15 were high priority. This is the first tree assessment that has been carried out at the site for some time and Cllr N Yeo recommended the next step is to go out for three tenders for the work to be carried out.

Cllr A Procter suggested it may be sensible to have some crossover of tree-work with the St Ann's Hill working group.

Action: Town Clerk to go out to tender for tree work to be carried out at Carron Lane Cemetery, based on the tree assessment.

Action: Town Clerk to liaise with Cllr A Procter as to whether some crossover with potential tree work might be suitable at St Ann's Hill.

Real Time Passenger Information System (RTPI) Business Case - Cllr G Upjohn, who is currently researching the costs associated with installation of a passenger information system at the North Street Bus Station, sent his apologies for the evening and will update Councillors at the meeting in January.

Dante – Cllr J Sutton has been working closely with the Midhurst Society and the South Pond Group to establish a suitable location for the bronze statue 'Dante', sculpted by local artist Philip Jackson. A proposed site is the entrance to the South Pond by the Spread Eagle, on the grass verge. This would be naturally lit by street lighting that is already in situ and visible from the road. The Midhurst Society have received a letter that there is a covenant on the verge that it must not be obstructed. The Midhurst Society is communicating with Cowdray, who placed the covenant on the verge before handing it over to CDC. Dante is in construction.

CE/100/21 – Speeding in South Street

Cllr N Yeo met with representatives from the South Street Speed Calming Group – their main concern is that cars accelerate rapidly once passing the crossroads along South Street as they leave the town and pass the South Pond. This area has been identified previously as a Community Speed Watch area. The South Street Speed Calming Group are requesting a 20MPH speed zone, which would be the first in the Midhurst area.

In order to accurately record data along that road, rubber strips placed along the road to record speeds for a week are at a cost of £200. Cllr N Yeo proposed that MTC pay for half of this amount to show support for the initiative. Councillors debated that by offering to pay half, a precedent is being set for other speed-watch groups in the area to come forward and request support. Traffic calming measures throughout Midhurst is something that MTC will try and support and as there are no 20MPH spots



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currently in Midhurst it is a worthwhile endeavour to see if this can be achieved. Cllr J Sutton seconded the proposal. All councillors agreed and Cllr N Yeo will go back to the South Street Speed Calming Group and offer MTC's financial support.

CE/101/21 – 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.

CE/101/21 – Events

Christmas Street Party – The Events Officer thanked Councillors who supported the event and asked for any feedback to be emailed, to collate and improve for 2022.

Christmas Window competition - Over 420 votes have been received online for the Christmas window competition – the winner, who will receive a £100 voucher for a local business, will be announced on Thursday via social media and in the newspaper the following week. The 'highly commended' prize, chosen by Instagram influencer MaryAnn Kauntze, @mymidhurstlife, will win a hamper created by businesses from the Midhurst Business Network.

Midhurst Matters The next edition of the Midhurst Matters will be going through doors at the tail end of December, including PR from the Christmas Street Party, current Town Council projects, how to book the Old Library and dates for your 2022 diary.

CE/102/21 - Matters of Report

Cllr L Jeffries noted how busy and thriving the Town was at the Brocante Market on Saturday 11th December and felt it was important to get a MTC market up and running again in 2022.

Cllr A Procter attended the latest Midhurst Vision meeting as a stakeholder and reported back to Councillors on the latest proposal for Midhurst in conjunction with Deacon Design. A lot of the greening of areas and planting was going to hinge on the approval of West Sussex Highways.

Cllr L Jeffries drove along Midhurst North Street in December and noted a number of the Christmas lights were not lit.

The Events Officer has been offered 500 daffodil bulbs by a resident who manages a Garden Centre. Events Officer will take them and offer them to local community groups or public spaces for planting.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 8.17pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date.....