



# Midhurst Town Council

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

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllr M. Purves (Chairman), Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr R. Watts, Cllr D. Smallman and Cllr A. Procter

**Officer:** Julian Quail Assistant Town Clerk

**Also Present:** Sharon Hurr, Town Clerk and RFO, Jess Brown-Fuller, Events and Promotions Officer and Cllr D. Fraser

**CE/063/21 - Apologies for Absence – Cllr Yeo.**

**CE/064/21 - Declarations of Interest - None declared.**

**CE/065/21 - Approve the Minutes of Meeting Held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. A spelling mistake was noted at CE/062/21. Egmont Mews is not spelt Muse.

Proposed Cllr Sutton, seconded Cllr Lintott, all agreed.

**CE/066/21 – Public Participation – adjournment of meeting**

There was no public participation.

Meeting Reconvened

**CE/067/21 - Policing in Midhurst**

The Assistant Town Clerk informed the committee that he had met with PCSO Nathan Ford and a colleague that afternoon to catch up. The regular interaction with the police is helpful and has created a good working relationship. It was agreed that PCSO Ford would attend a future council meeting, possibly with Sgt Danny West, who provides MTC with regular statistics.

It was noted that a dog had died recently following ingestion of drugs at Caron Lane recreation ground.

**Action: Assistant Town Clerk to liaise with PCSO Ford and Sgt West to establish a convenient date and time to attend a future meeting.**

**Action: Assistant Town Clerk to inform PCSO Ford about the death of the dog.**

The latest police statistics were discussed and clarification regarding the red figures – thought to be an increase in crimes – required clarification. It would also be helpful to drill down into these figures to provide the committee with a greater understanding.

**Action: Assistant Town Clerk to seek clarification of the latest police statistics.**



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## **CE/068/21 – Civic Activities and Rural Amenities**

Northern Gateway – Cllr Sutton explained that she had now received detailed plans from Eco Scape for the planting of flowers at the Northern gateway, following installation of the new sign. It had been suggested that rather than lay turf embedded with wild flower seed, it has been recommended that MTC sow flowers that will encourage pollination. It was noted that Tara Signs still had yet to provide costings for the new sign. It had been agreed that the Town Clerk would liaise with their representative and obtain the necessary information.

**Action: Town Clerk to speak with Tara Signs.**

Performing artists open stage at the Market Square on Sunday afternoons - Cllr Fraser wishes to organise an open stage for all types of artists in the Market Square on Sunday afternoons from 13:30 to 15:30. This could involve all kinds of artists from actors to musicians. Cllr Fraser had written to the Town Trust outlining his thoughts but had yet to receive a response. The local Parish Church supported this potential event.

**Action: Cllr Fraser will undertake a feasibility study and report back to the committee with potential costings.**

Cemetery Regulations – Cllr Yeo had amended the current cemetery regulations. The following changes are required:

- The amended regulations had suggested that MTC does not allow artificial flowers, as deer and rabbits are prone to eating real flowers. As such, it was agreed that we rephrase the proposed regulations to allow artificial flowers which will require people to regularly maintain them.
- The tone and language of the regulations be softened to account for the feelings of those who have lost loved ones.
- Remove condition 26 re natural burials until further information becomes available.

It was agreed that once the above requirements have been actioned, the draft regulations will be submitted again to the committee for their consideration. Once agreed they would be sent to local funeral directors.

**Action: Clerk to review the amended regulations and look at how we make soften the tone and language. In addition, Clerk to amend the regulations re artificial flowers and remove condition 26.**

**Action: Assistant Clerk to provide final agreed draft to local funeral directors.**

Quotation 1598 - Sussex Land Works – Cllr Watts explained the need to install 6 metres of heavy-duty surface Aco drains to run alongside existing tarmac car park where the car park meets the stone track leading to the skate Park. This water is to be piped downhill towards open area of ground next to play park where we will install a new polystorm plastic crate soak away. This is to avoid water eroding the path to the new skate park and subsequent water gathering next to it, causing flooding. It is not currently clear which budget allocation will fund this remedial work, but the committee agreed that the work was required and asked the Assistant Town Clerk to seek two more quotations in line with financial regulations.



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**Action: Assistant Town Clerk to seek two further quotations.**

2022 Summer and Winter Flowers – It had not been possible for Cllr Purves and the Assistant Town Clerk to walk round the town and review the current flowers prior to the meeting. However, this did not negate the committee discussing various aspects of the plan for 2022. It was felt that the two planters currently situated at Caron Lane recreation ground should be moved back to either North Street bus station or Petersfield Road. It was agreed that before the planters are moved Cllr Purves and the Assistant Town Clerk would complete their review of the current flowers and speak with those businesses that have raised concern about the number of planters on Petersfield Road. The review of the flowers would be formally reported at the next meeting. It was also agreed that the Assistant Town Clerk would liaise with Windowflowers to ascertain the potential cost, if any, for moving the two planters from the recreation ground.

**Action: Cllr Purves to agree a day and time for the review of flowers.**

**Action: Assistant Clerk to liaise with Windowflowers re the cost of moving the planters from Carron Lane recreation ground.**

Markets in the Square – The Events Officer provided a precis of the current situation. Further consideration will be given to holding further, perhaps monthly, markets next year.

**Action: Events Officer to liaise with Petworth Town Council re their Farmer's Market.**

Dante Statue – Cllr Sutton provided a summary of the current situation. Despite CDC's initial rejection to situating the statue at South Pond, there is a possibility that further negotiation may result in a different decision. It is important that all parties recognise both the role Dante played during the early Renaissance and the honour of having Phillip Jackson statue in the town. Concern was raised at the potential associated maintenance costs.

**Action: Cllr Sutton to liaise with South Pond representative.**

**Action: Town Clerk to draft a letter to Phillip Jackson.**

## **CE/069/21 – 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/070/21 – Events**

August Street Party – Everybody agreed that the August Street Party had been a great success. The committee thanked the Events Officer for all her hard work. Consideration will be given to holding a similar event next year.

Big Town Tidy – The Big Town Tidy will be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021 between 09:30 and 13:00. Any member of the committee and the wider public are welcome to take part. Please meet Jess Brown-Fuller at the Old Library at the above date and time.



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Halloween Trail – While the details have yet to be developed, a Halloween Trail will take place on 31<sup>st</sup> October from the Old Library. Prizes will be available and MTC hope that children and parents will take part. More information to follow.

Christmas Window Competition – While MTC are keen to work with the Town Team CIC on delivering a Christmas window competition, it is important to recognise that the Council consider this free to enter and will not be charging shops for the opportunity to enjoy this festive competition. The Events Officer will be attending a future TTCIC meeting to clarify this position. It has yet to be decided who will judge the competition.

Christmas Street Party – The Christmas Street Party will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 between 17:00 and 20:00. It was noted in the wash-up to the August Street Party that two people are required to marshal each road closure. It would be appreciated if all councillors will take part. It was noted that more bins will be required for this event. Previously Cowdray have been kind enough to meet this need.

## **CE/071/21 - Matters of Report**

Cllr Lintott informed the meeting that Kirstin Bosley had taken over as head of the Midhurst and District Guides.

Cllr Purves read a written report from Cllr Yeo who had attended the Midhurst Security Meeting on behalf of MTC.

- It was attended by the PCSO Nathan Ford, Piers Taylor from CDC and Ted Liddle from ProTec.
- It focussed on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). Four sites, including Holmebush and Carron Lane recreation ground were visited.
- The recreation ground in Holmbush is currently strewn with litter around the rotunda. Bins, seats and so forth were in a poor state and vegetation is obscuring undesirable behaviour. Piers Taylor said he would liaise with Hyde who manage Holmbush to try and get the rotunda removed and the seats and bins upgraded while securing CDC volunteers to cut down the vegetation. The Midhurst Green Volunteers have agreed to help.
- Carron Lane and Easebourne recreation grounds were seen as examples of good practice with clear signs laying showing what was allowed and discouraged, good bins and other facilities. Notably both facilities were respected by users and generally the behaviour is good.
- Piers Taylor is hoping to expand this group to include Hyde.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:.....  
Chairman

Date.....