



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 14th JUNE 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 N. Yeo

Officer: Julian Quail Assistant Town Clerk

Also Present: Jess Brown-Fuller, Events and Promotions Officer and Cllr D. Fraser

CE/45/21 – Election of Chairman of Community and Environment Committee 2021/22

Resolution: Cllr Mark Purves was elected as Chairman of Community and Environment Committee for the Civic Year 2021 -2022.

Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Watts, unanimously agreed.

Cllr Purves accepted office and took the chair.

CE/46/21 - Election of Vice- Chairman of Community and Environment Committee 2021/22

Resolution: Cllr Nigel Yeo was appointed as Vice-chairman of Community and Environment Committee for the Civic Year 2021 -2022.

Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Sutton, majority agreed, Cllr Upjohn abstained.

Cllr Yeo accepted the position.

CE/047/21 – Apologies for Absence – Cllr Smallman and Cllr Procter.

CE/048/21 - Declarations of Interest - None declared.

CE/049/21 – Public Participation – adjournment of meeting

There was no public participation.

Meeting Reconvened

CE/050/21 - Policing in Midhurst

General – Cllr Yeo provided a brief summary of the meeting he attended with Mandy Jameson, Senior Communications Manager for the PCC. The meeting had been positive, but areas of concern remain, especially the noise and speed created by motorbikes and other vehicles. There is a perception that the police are not gripping this issue. It is understood that the police are considering employing noise assessment kit to help elevate this issue. The use of e-scooters and their responsible use was also articulated to Ms Jameson. It is understood that the House of Common’s Transport Committee launched an inquiry to explore the safety and legal implications of electric scooters, their impact on congestion, and potential contribution to reducing the UK’s greenhouse gas emissions, ahead of the Government’s obligations to reach net zero by 2050. The Transport Committee’s short inquiry on this emerging policy area will compliment a consultation launched by the Department for Transport on micro-mobility vehicles.



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Latest Crime Figures – These were provided prior to the meeting and noted. It is not clear why the crime statistics for Midhurst are combined with Easebourne.

Action: The Assistant Clerk to liaise with the police to ascertain why the crime statistics for Midhurst are combined with Easebourne.

CE/051/21 – Civic Activities and Rural Amenities

Northern Gateway – Cllr Sutton explained that she had yet to receive the proposed costings for new sign. It is being recommended that the sign is not lit to comply with the SDNPA 'Dark Sky's' policy.

Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) - Cllr Yeo explained that CDC had contacted MTC and invited them to view and comment on the revised Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). CDC currently has eighteen air quality monitoring locations using diffusion tubes to monitor Nitrogen Dioxide and four real-time air quality monitoring stations to monitor pollutants, of which Rumbolds Hill is one. NOx emissions from the Bus, diesel car and diesel LGV sectors dominate this location with the ratio of NOx emissions are at approximately 85%, while HGV emissions declined as a proportion of the total NOx emissions over this period with a reduction from approx. 12.5% to 6%. It was noted that the data has been skewed by the pandemic and decrease in traffic during 2020. It is not clear to MTC why the number 60 bus is a double decker and enquires should be made with WSCC about the use of hybrid vehicles.

Action: The Assistant Clerk to write to Matt Davey, WSCC Director of Highways, Transport and Planning

Grants 2021/22 – The Assistant Clerk explained that it was proposed that this year MTC would have only one phase for the grants appeal. All grant applications are required by the end of August. The Grants committee will consider these during September and will make their proposal to this committee in October, followed by final ratification from Full Council. A full review of the process and procedures will be conducted later this year. The proposal was agreed.

Action: The Assistant Clerk to contact those organisations that normally apply and advise them of the change to the 2021 grants process.

Action: The Events Officer to publicise this change across the various available media platforms.

Dante Statue - Cllr Sutton briefed the committee on the theoretical decision to locate the statue in South Pond. This followed a visit to the South Pond by Cllr Sutton, Philip and Jean Jackson, Harvey Tordoff representing the Midhurst Society and Andrew Mitchell representing the Town Trust. It was agreed by those present that the best place to locate the statue was in the gardens of South Pond. Initial contact has been made with CDC to seek permission to place the statue here. Philip Jackson has very clear ideas about there being no clutter around the sculpture. As such, discussions have begun with CDC to meet this wish. Although Phillip Jackson was keen to have some lighting, this may not be possible due to the SDNPA 'Dark Sky' policy. The committee will continue to be apprised of progress.

Action: Cllr Sutton to brief Barbara Coote on the proposal to locate the Dante statue at South Pond.



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Carron Lane - Donate a Tree and Traffic Loops - Cllr Yeo briefed the committee on his meeting with Michael Dare, Assistant Highways Manager for WSCC's Highways, Transport and Planning department. Concern had been raised at both parking on the verge and the speed at which some people approach the last bend on Carron Lane, approaching the recreation ground. Mr Dare had informed him that bollards were not an option and suggested that he contact Darren Wilkinson – WSCC Arborealist. The Assistant Clerk had met with Darren to discuss the possibility of placing planters on Carron Lane from the verge opposite the entrance to Cemetery Loge for about 50 metres. In addition, planting two cherry trees, further down Carron Lane, at the beginning of the recreation ground, were discussed. The committee are keen to progress the cherry tree option but not, at the moment, the planters. It is understood, that the trees would be maintained by WSCC's contractors. This excludes watering, which will be the responsibility of MTC. With regards to speeding cars, WSCC will not recommend speed calming measures but will, if MTC pay £120, install traffic loops on the corner mentioned above. The committee agreed for Cllr Yeo to progress this and ask for the white lines to be re-painted in the middle of the road, on the corner.

Action: The Assistant Town Clerk to brief Cllr Coote on the potential purchase of two cherry trees on the verge next to Carron Lane recreation ground.

Action: Cllr Yeo to liaise with Michael Dare re white lines and traffic loops on the approach to Carron Lane recreation ground.

Real Time Passenger Information System (RTPI) - Cllr Upjohn briefed the committee on options for RTPIs at the North Street bus stop. Of the options provided by WSCC, it was felt that the new 'Anton' display was potentially the most cost effective, given that the display is battery powered (lasts 6 years) and has no additional costs for a feeder pillar and power supply.

Action: Cllr Upjohn was asked to develop a business case for a RTPI for consideration at a later meeting.

MTC Notice Board - Cllr Procter was not available to progress this agenda item. However, the committee felt that the current notice board was looking tired and did need replacing. The Assistant Town Clerk was asked to liaise with Cllr Procter regarding the need for a business case.

Action: Cllr Procter to develop a business case for a new MTC notice board consideration at a later meeting.

Cemetery Project (Phase 2) - Cllr Watts briefed the committee on his meeting with Jack Knight from Sussex Land Works to discuss the next phase of the work to improve the cemetery. This involves the removal of hedges and Rhododendron bushes. It had been suggested that the remaining ground be covered in top soil and grass seed applied, at a cost of £100. The committee agreed to this proposal. Concern was raised at the amount of work the MTC Groundsman had to undertake to maintain the cemetery. It was proposed that the council either pay a contractor to regularly trim it or purchase a number of strimmer's which could be used by council members to help the groundsman.

Action: Cllr Purves to discuss the additional help re strimming at the cemetery with the MTC groundsman.



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CE/052/21 – Events

Skate Park Jam – The Events officer briefed the committee on the proposal for the ‘Skatejam’ on 31st July 2021 by the installation company Maverick. The overall cost of the ‘Skatejam’ was included in the design and build original quote. The additional costs of £259.99 included the following ideas:

- St John’s Ambulance - £125.00 + VAT – they have access to the Guide Hut HQ if first aid is required.
- Toilets – Guide HQ are opening their toilet facility for use on the day.
- DeLuca’s Ice cream van 12pm-4pm – free of charge and Sneaky Duck catering 12pm – 4pm – free of charge
- Sweet memories sweet seller – trestle table down by skatepark. Public liability requested, will re-visit on 24th June to clarify details. Free of charge
- Wizzbits Toys – TBC. Small toys available, pocket money toys
- Lawngames – Giant Jenga and giant Connect 4 – borrowed from contacts. Possible purchase giant dominoes, cost £14.99 from Austen’s Home Hardware.
- Display stands with presentation of the skatepark and thanks to our sponsors plus a Trestle table with Town Council information – 2 councillors to man this stall. Volunteers required.
- Litter pickers and bin bags located in the Guide HQ on the day to keep on top of litter, bins emptied half-way through the afternoon.
- The **Steve McGill Award** will be presented on the day to a suitable recipient, who has benefitted the community in relation to sports for young people. Cost of trophy and engraving - £40

These were approved by the committee.

Welcome Back Street Party – The MADhurst Grande Finale and the MTC Carnival are not being held this year and it is proposed that MTC re-allocate the funds reserved for the annual Carnival Procession, to a ‘Welcome Back’ street party on Knockhundred Row/West Street. It is proposed that this event is held on Saturday 28th August from 10am-3pm. This was approved by the committee.

Monthly Market – Concern has been raised by a number of local shops about the introduction of a monthly market in Midhurst. The Events Officer has spoken with them to reassure them that the additional footfall would benefit the town. MTC has promoted this through a number of media platforms, including the Midhurst and Petworth Observer.

CE/044/21 - Matters of Report

Cllr Purves read out a number of points raised by Cllr Procter, who had provided her apologies.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date.....