



Midhurst Town Council

**A Meeting of The Midhurst Town Council took place
on Monday 19th July 2021 at 7:00pm at the Midhurst Town Council Office, Old Library,
Knockhundred Row, Midhurst GU29 9DQ**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr C. Lintott (Chairman), Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr D. Coote, Cllr G. McAra, Cllr A. Procter, Cllr M. Richardson, Cllr J. Travers and Cllr D. Fraser

Officer: Julian Quail, Assistant Town Clerk

C/101/21 - Apologies for Absence – Cllr Purves and Cllr Yeo.

Not Present – Cllr D Smallman and Cllr G Upjohn.

C/102/21 - Public Participation Session:

Mr Colin Hughes spoke to the Council about Rother Valley Together (RVT) and the Midhurst Youth Trust (MYT).

Rother Valley Together - Following the decision by WSCC to withdraw certain social support, RVT has delivered services for the elderly to mitigate social isolation and provide friendship for 10 years; WSCC had provided funding support of £50,000 per annum. This has mainly been spent on providing staff, while management is provided on a volunteer basis. The club operates on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and since reopening following the easing of Covid restrictions the club has been meeting in small groups. Unfortunately, during this period membership has declined following several deaths and admission to homes. The average age of those remaining members is about 84 - the number of remaining members is approximately 54. Whilst retaining the club for its current vulnerable membership RVT now considers it appropriate to lower its age profile and will launch a new initiative called *New Horizons* to appeal to those aged 70 plus and aims to open on a Wednesday. This will be launched at the end of October with financial support received from the Lottery of £10,000. Unfortunately, in addition to the pandemic, WSCC decided to change their contract details which in effect only allowed RVT to bid for the contract if they did so for the whole of the Chichester District. RVT is essentially an organisation which delivers services north of the Downs in the Rother Valley. They were therefore unable to bid nor able to form a partnership with Age UK. From the end of June WSCC ceased to provide any funding. The remaining funds required to keep RVT going will be met through donations and grants. Colin Hughes thanked MTC for its support over the years and hopes the council will be able to continue to support RVT.

Midhurst Youth Trust: WSCC has also stopped financially supporting the MYT when the County ceased to provide a Youth Service. Mr Hughes explained that it is the intention of the MYT to restart their programme, which will involve more activities, such as environmental courses. The focus will be on 14–15 year olds. The club look forward to restarting in September with new ideas, new program of activities, outings and camps. Currently there is a large number of young people aged 15 to 16 doing their Duke of Edinburgh's Award; approximately 60 are doing their Bronze Award and 10 their Gold Award. The Trust with the help of one of the Sainsbury's Trust and the Boltini Trust recently purchased the Stedham Camp site. This site provides an outdoor facility for local Schools, Scouts Guides and many community organisations. The cost for using



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this site helps to fund the MYT. Colin Hughes thanked MTC for its support over the years and hopes the council will be able to continue to support MYT.

Cllr Lintott thanked Mr Hughes for all his continued support of these two important organisations in Midhurst.

Midhurst Vision: Mrs McCullough and Mr Allnutt, representing Midhurst Vision, provided a helpful brief on how the Midhurst Vision was creating a coherent design template for the town including hard landscaping, planting, wayfinding, street furniture and lighting. The design and materials to be used will help shape its identity in the heart of the South Downs National Park. Design companies have been invited to tender their proposals. Three tenders were received for the Placemaking project from Terra Firma, Deacon Design and Lizard Landscaping. The tenders were circulated to all project group members, including members of MTC. The landscape company should be appointed by early August.

Midhurst MEDS: Olly Wheeler from Midhurst MEDS (Medical Emergency District Support) provided a very helpful summary of his role as a volunteer first responder in the Midhurst area. Since the closure of Midhurst Ambulance Station in 2016, South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB) has been unable to meet its aspiration to keep a fully manned Ambulance Response Post at the Fire Station and as a result this has left Midhurst area residents without quick access to emergency responders. To maintain and develop this voluntary service, local support is required. This includes people to fundraise for them, groups to prioritise grant allocations and help promoting our cause. Among the aims of Midhurst MEDS is to provide new defibrillators in the area, and offer CPR and BLS (Basic Life Support) training free of charge. In addition, if they can pay responding volunteers a part time or a retained wage, a much better service can be provided. One full time and 1-2 part time responders, at a cost of £50,000 per year, will provide coverage 24hrs a day, 7 days a week; that's roughly 30 pence, per person, per week.

Cllr Lintott thanked Mr Wheeler for his presentation and all he is doing to help the people of Midhurst and offered free use of the Old Library for CPR and BLS training. It was suggested that Mr Wheeler also connect with representatives from the Midhurst Angels.

Action: The Events Officer to liaise with Mr Wheeler on behalf of the representatives from the Midhurst Angels to raise awareness within that group.

Meeting reconvened.

C/103/21 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting held on 21st June 2021. Proposed Cllr Travers, seconded Cllr Fraser, all agreed.

C/104/21 - Matters Arising from those Minutes

Cllr Procter asked if the action regarding the term of office ending on Ognells Poor House for Judy Fowler was still active. This will be considered at the September meeting.



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C/105/21 - Report from County and District Councillors

West Sussex County Councillor Kate O'Kelly - Report previously circulated and attached. Cllr Lintott informed Cllr O'Kelly that the planters removed from Petersfield Road were hopefully due to be returned on 11 August. Cllr Jeffries noted that she had not received a response from a submission via the Love West Sussex reporting service. Cllr O'Kelly said she would feed this back and that we should let her know the details of any reports not responded to in future.

District Councillor Gordon McAra - Report previously circulated and attached. Cllr McAra noted that Chichester District Council were struggling from a lack of staff due to ping-pong from Track and Trace; this was particularly affecting waste collection staff. It was noted that despite a considerable fine, Southern Water were still continuing to release excess effluent into local rivers.

C/106/21 - Planning and Infrastructure Committee

Minutes of 14th June 2021 were adopted by Council. Proposed Cllr McAra, seconded Cllr Fraser, unanimously approved.

Minutes of 28th June 2021 were adopted by Council. Proposed Cllr Fraser, seconded Cllr McAra, unanimously approved.

C/107/21 – Community and Environment Committee

Minutes of 14th June 2021 were adopted by Council. Proposed Cllr Sutton, seconded Cllr Watts, unanimously approved.

C/108/21 – Actions

The actions were provided to the committee before the meeting. There were none outstanding. *Assistant Clerk note: This is not the case. There is one outstanding action regarding local trustees, this to be picked up at September full Council.*

C/109/21 – Reports from Outside Meetings – There were none.

C/110/21 - Matters of Report

Cllr Fraser reminded everyone that Barclays Bank was closing shortly.

Cllr Procter thought it would be nice to have music from local buskers at the weekly market.

Action: Events Officer to liaise with Cllr Procter and feedback to C&E.

Cllr McAra mentioned that there was a possibility that MTC could obtain a grant for the Skatejam under the heading of cultural event.

Action: Events Officer to speak with Cllr McAra about a cultural grant.

C/111/21 - Finance, Asset and Policy Committee

Minutes of 26th April 2021 were adopted by Council. Proposed Cllr Procter, seconded Cllr Travers, unanimously approved.

Cllr McAra confirmed that the CLT had withdrawn their request for a grant from MTC.

C/112/21 - Date of Next Meeting – The next meeting will be Monday 20th September 2021 at 7pm.



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There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 20:15.

Signed:.....

Dated.....

Chairman