



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2022 IN THE MIDHURST TOWN COUNCIL
OFFICE, THE OLD LIBRARY, KNOCKHUNDRED ROW, MIDHURST AT 7:30PM**

MINUTES

Present Cllr N. Yeo, Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr R. Watts, Cllr G. Upjohn, Cllr D. Smallman and Cllr L. Jeffries

Officer: Julian Quail. Assistant Town Clerk

Also: Sharron Hurr, Town Clerk and RFO and Jess Brown-Fuller, Events Officer

CE/012/22 – Election of New Chair

To receive nominations for the office of Chair of the Community and Environment Committee following the resignation of Cllr Mark Purves. It was proposed by Cllr Lintott and seconded by Cllr Smallman, that Cllr Yeo be elected as the new chair. All agreed.

CE/013/22 – Election of New Vice Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Yeo and seconded by Cllr Watts, that Cllr Smallman be elected as the new vice chair. All agreed.

CE/014/22 – Chairman’s Announcements

The new chair thanked everybody for their support and welcomed them to the February meeting.

CE/015/22 - Apologies for Absence – Cllr A. Procter and Cllr J. Sutton

CE/016/22 - Declarations of Interest - None

CE/017/22 – Events

Grange Monthly Market – Cllr Fraser and Cllr Watts will represent MTC at the February market.

Volunteers for April. Please contact the Events Officer.

Half Term - Midhurst Town Council warmly invite Midhurst families to a free event with Nick Clark, Magician, in the Old Library on Knockhundred Row, on Wednesday 23rd February at 2pm and at 3.30pm. Tickets are strictly limited due to space. If you would like to attend, please email eventsofficer@midhurst-tc.gov.uk with how many tickets you require and the preferred time you would like to attend. We will then respond via email with confirmation. Given the anticipated response a third show has been added.

Midhurst Matters – The next issue of Midhurst Matters will distributed at the end of March. It will include the date for the Annual Town Meeting, which has yet to be decided, but will take place in May 2022.

Shop Appy - Shopappy is a website that allows local independent shops and businesses to show information, products and services they have for sale in your town or city in one place. Shopappy aims to encourage you to go into town and use the shops and businesses nearby. But sometimes you do not have time. The site brings all of the products and services together into categories so you can search for items easily or you can choose to look at the products in your favourite shops instead. This app will be spoken about in the Midhurst area on 3rd March 2022 at the Midhurst Business Network meeting.



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Hiring the Old Library – Following an article in the Midhurst and Petworth Observer, residents are welcome to contact Julian Quail on 01730 816953 or via his e-mail address assistantclerk@midhurst-tc.gov.uk to hire the old Library. The cost is £10 for non-commercial events and £15 for commercial events.

New Monthly Market – Following last year's 6 weekly trial of a weekly market, it was proposed and agreed that a new monthly market would begin in both the Town Square and the Old Library on Saturday 2nd April 2022. The market will run from 09:00 to 14:00, with traders coming within a 40 mile radius of Midhurst. Proposed Cllr N. Yeo, seconded Cllr R. Watts, unanimously agreed. MTC will charge £30 per 3mx3m pitch for regular traders and £35 for casual traders. The Market Square can accommodate fourteen pitches, focussing on fresh produce, consumables and larger items. The Old Library will focus on smaller non produce based stalls.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee - On 6th February this year Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives will take place throughout the year, culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. The bank holiday will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. MTC are considering purchasing a metal beacon (£500) for use on the Thursday, 2nd June 2022. CDC have grants of £250 available, but MTC have yet to decide if they will use this grant for a beacon. In addition, Easebourne Parish Council (EPC) will work with MTC and make a contribution. The committee are yet to conclude whether to go ahead with this purchase. On the Saturday, 4th June 2022, MTC, EPC and Cowdray Estate will join forces to deliver a celebration at the Cowdray Ruins. This will involve refreshments, a stage with local acts, plus fairground rides. On the Sunday, it is hoped that individual street parties will be held in Midhurst. MTC are happy to help local residents apply for road closures, and may contact the Events Officer, Jess Brown-Fuller on eventsofficer@midhurst-tc.gov.uk or 01730 816953.

CE/018/22 - Approve the Minutes of Meeting Held on 10th January 2022

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

CE/019/22 – Matters Arising from the minutes of 10th January 2022

None.

CE/020/22 – Public Participation – adjournment of meeting

There was no public participation.
Meeting Reconvened.

CE/021/22 – Covid-19

It was agreed that the standing agenda item re Covid would be removed for the moment, but could be reinstalled if necessary.

CE/022/22 – Policing in Midhurst



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Cllr Yeo informed the meeting that the Midhurst and Easebourne Policing Liaison Forum had met on Friday 21st January 2022 in the Old Library. While it had not been well attended, Cllr Yeo was thankful for the attendance of Sgt Danny West who provided a very helpful summary of the latest annual crime figures. There have been 72 additional crimes in the running year, making a total of 338. However, when Sgt West drilled down into the data, there is no increase in criminal damage or burglary. There is an increase in domestic violence, which is possibly due to the pandemic. There was also an increase in public place violent crime but a detailed check by Sgt West on recorded crime showed that there was a wide range of reasons for the reports. Examples included neighbour disputes, and 'road rage' incidents. There were not trends or any factors that made him overly concerned as incidents will always occur but it will continue to be monitored. The majority of violent crime continues to be linked to domestic incidents, primarily inside the home. Midhurst and Easebourne continues to be a very safe place to live. Dealing of drugs is quieter, which may be due to a couple of arrests within the town. Operation Interceptor was developing intelligence regarding drug dealing in Midhurst. Local information is critical in helping the police crackdown on dealing. He encouraged people to phone 101 and provide any evidence they have on drug dealing. Operation Mini was looking into stolen and vandalised cars in the area. The police are erecting signage and promotional material to help ensure that people are aware of this problem.

CE/023/22

Cemetery Books – It was discussed and agreed that Phillipa Harrison from Pear Technology can collect all of the cemetery books for scanning as part of the cemetery project. Payment for this work will not be required until the precept has been received.

Tree Survey 2021 – Following receipt of three quotations regarding the completion of the work identified by the South Oaks Arboricultural consultant, Wood Be Ltd were chosen as the preferred contractor. Proposed by Cllr Yeo, seconded Cllr Watts, this was agreed with the exception of Cllr Lintott and Cllr Smallman who abstained. Wood Be Ltd had also identified additional work that requires attention. It was agreed that this work should be completed while the company are at the cemetery to the cost of £3,920.00. Proposed Cllr Lintott, seconded Cllr Smallman, this was agreed with the exception of Cllr Watts who abstained.

Dante Statue, South Pond – The proposed agreement is that MTC will be required to insure and maintain Dante's Statue which will be situated at South Pond. The recent quotation from Gallagher (Came and Co) based on a sum insured of £150,000 will increase the annual premium by £460.31. Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Lintott, this was agreed with the exception of Cllr Smallman who abstained.

Cemetery Lodge – The soffits and bell tower at Cemetery Lodge require repair and painting. Three quotations have been received and are being reviewed by the committee. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

Real Time Passenger Information System (RTPI) Business Case - Cllr Upjohn provided an update on this project. There are three options. The issue of power supply has yet to be resolved. There is the option of a battery powered RTPI. It is understood the battery will last circa 6 years. Planning permission is likely to be required. The committee believe a solar option should also be considered.

CE/024/22 – Actions

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



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CE/011/22 - Matters of Report

Cllr Watts raised concerns at the increased amount of dog fouling in the town. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting.

Cllr Yeo informed the committee that he had received an e-mail commenting that the cemetery was looking smart and tidy after the recent work.

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

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date.....