



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 9th MAY 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 D. Smallman, Cllr J. Sutton and Cllr R. Watts

Officer: Julian Quail. Assistant Town Clerk

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

CE/045/22 - Apologies for Absence – Cllr A. Procter, Cllr G. Upjohn and Cllr L. Jeffries

CE/046/22 - Declarations of Interest - None

CE/047/22 – Public Participation – adjournment of meeting

There were no members of the public.

Meeting Reconvened.

CE/048/22 - Approve the Minutes of Meeting Held on 11th April 2022

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Smallman, seconded Cllr Yeo, unanimously agreed, with the exception of Cllr Watts who abstained.

CE/049/22 – Matters Arising from the minutes of 11th April 2022

None.

CE/050/22 – Events

MTC Monthly Market: The second monthly market was a great success. MTC are currently £502 in profit. It was proposed and agreed that attendance at the Grange Monthly Market 'Drop-In' would be moved to the Old Library and take place at the Monthly Market between 12:00 and 14:00. This would allow for additional help in clearing up after the market finishes. The Town Clerk thanked the Assistant Town Clerk and his wife for helping to clear up the Old Library last Saturday.

MTC Skate Jam: This year's MTC Skate Jam will take place on Sunday 15 May 2022 between 12:00 and 4pm at the Carron Lane Recreation Ground. It was noted that Carron Lane will be closed to all traffic. A poster advertising the event has been shared on social media and sent to some of the regular skaters. It was noted that annual scooter drive to the Bulldog Rescue Home on Carron Lane, will take place at 11:00 on the same day. No difficulties were anticipated. It was also noted that only one councillor had agreed to assist with the Skate Jam.

Action: Cllr Lintott to send an urgent e-mail to all councillors requesting their assistance with the Skate Jam.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: The Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be held from Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June. On the Thursday MTC will be lighting a metal beacon in the evening. On the Saturday, 4 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



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individual street parties will be held in Midhurst. Plans for the event are coming together with quite a few community groups coming forward to take part in the celebrations. It is being publicised as a Jubilee Picnic, so people feel they can bring their own food and drink. It was agreed that MTC would have a stall to provide information on the day and advice to local residents. It will also act as the point of contact for any lost children. The Events Officer needs all councillors to assist on the day.

Action: The Events Officer to send an urgent e-mail to all councillors requesting their assistance with the Jubilee Picnic.

Jubilee Tree Planting: The Jubilee Trees have now been planted: MTC, local community groups and local organisations expressed an interest in planting a tree to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Each tree will have a roundel indicating who has purchased the tree.

CE/051/22 – Policing in Midhurst

Cllr Yeo chaired the Midhurst and Easebourne Policing Liaison Forum on Friday 6th May 2022.

Graffiti: Apart from the recent attack of graffiti at the Caron Lane recreational ground, there were few instances of ASB in Midhurst and Easebourne. All were disappointed, including users, at the graffiti. It was noted that the tags were also present in Fernhurst, while there were various instances of graffiti in Chichester. A brief discussion took place regarding the future use of CCTV at Carron Lane but it was felt that the cost and practicality of this were not currently feasible.

Holmebush: Many thanks were given to the Midhurst Green Volunteers who tidied up the vegetation at Holmebush play area. Mark Armitage, Hyde Housing, had recently confirmed that the money had become available to remove the rotunda at the park. A community Day was being organised by Hyde and CDC to ask residence what they wanted at the play park.

Sussex Police: Police representatives informed the meeting that North Street car park was currently quiet but the meeting is aware that ASB and drug use could increase with the improved weather during summer. Local police had been called to fires being built by local teenagers on the Cowdray Estate across river from the back-up polo field in the adjacent woods. Cowdray were currently prepared to give the culprits another chance but may progress charges if it continues. **Op Downsway** which provides high visibility presence across anti-social driving hot spots had recently issued 11 tickets in the immediate area. The issue of motor bike noise in the town was also an on-going issue. The police are aware of motor bike noise pollution. **Op Mini** are urging motorists to be vigilant following a spate of thefts from vehicles across rural West Sussex. Items including sat navs, headphones, handbags, clothes and even bed linen have been reported stolen in recent weeks, as well as number plates.

Dog Fouling: MTC is aware of the increased amount of dog fouling that is occurring around Midhurst, especially in the Old Town. CDC are also aware of the situation. It was noted that a Civil Enforcement Officer can issue an enforcement fine. It was suggested that social media be used to Educate, Encourage and Enforce. A list of bins has been obtained from CDC and investigated by Cllr Yeo and Cllr Watts. It was suggested that three of the bins be moved: one from the top of St Ann's Hill, one opposite the tip and one outside the Old Library. The one opposite the tip should be located about 100 yards in the layby opposite the common. It was also suggested that the bin at St Ann's Hill should be moved because that would spoil the view of the monument

CE/052/22 – Civic Activities and Rural Amenities

Cemetery Sub-committee: Cllr Yeo chaired the Cemetery Sub-committee on Friday 6th May 2022.



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- Wood Be Ltd have nearly finished removal of trees, dead branches and crown reduction at the cemetery. However, it is strongly recommended that the Rhododendron Ponticum be removed first to comply with the DEFRA rules on this species and to allow a larger chipper to be employed. It was proposed and agreed that Wood Be Ltd should remove the Rhododendron Ponticum at the cemetery.

Action: Assistant Clerk to inform Wood Be Ltd should to remove the Rhododendron Ponticum at the cemetery.

- Sussex Landworks are now providing Chris Savill with 4 days a month to help maintain the cemetery. Chris will be tasking them appropriately. It was noted that the grass is overgrown. This additional help will provide the additional manpower required to keep the cemetery tidy.
- The cemetery books have now been scanned and returned. Additional books were scanned above and beyond those originally thought to be the case.
- CDS, the mapping company, have provided a quote for the topographical survey, digitization and design of the cemetery. This will take approximately two months and provide a clear understanding of the layout of the cemetery. The end result of this work will allow for EPITAPH software to manage the cemetery. It features comprehensive control over bookings, sales, grave and memorial management, documents, reports and finance. Epitaph replaces all statutory records.
- It had been discovered recently that the current burial charges were incorrect and that the family of children under the age of 12 were not to be charged for a burial or interment. It was agreed that the MTC burial charges should be re-issued to local funeral directors. In addition, the costs for the burial of a new grave should be increased by £100 to account for the removal of spoils by the grave digger.

Action: Assistant Clerk to provide the revised fees to local funeral directors.

- It was proposed and agreed that benches, on a long-term basis, should be made from recycled plastic, which will help with on-going maintenance. The positioning of the benches will be recommended by the mapping exercise by CDS. In the short term, people will be allowed, pending agreement from the council, that wooden benches can be installed by the relevant family, who will have responsibility for maintenance, installation and removal.

CE/053/22 – Actions

The actions were provided to the committee before the meeting, who reviewed those that were outstanding.

CE/054/22 - Matters of Report

None

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 8.40pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date.....