



Midhurst Town Council

A meeting of Midhurst Town Council took place on
Monday 20th June 2022 at 7:00pm at the Midhurst Town Council Office,
The Old Library, Knockhundred Row, Midhurst, GU29 9DQ

MINUTES

Present: Cllr C. Lintott (Chairman), Cllr J. Sutton, Cllr D. Coote, Cllr R. Watts, Cllr D. Smallman, Cllr M. Richardson, Cllr J. Travers, Cllr L. Jeffries, Cllr G. Upjohn. and Cllr D. Fraser

In attendance: County Councillor Kate O’Kelly, Sharon Hurr, Town Clerk and RFO and three members of the public.

C/094/22 – Chairman’s Announcements - None.

C/095/22 – Apologies for Absence - Cllr G. McAra and Cllr A. Procter.

C/096/22 - Declarations of Interest - None.

Meeting halted for Public Participation Session

C/097/22 - MTC Annual Town Awards: Presentation to Rebecca Piper

Cllr Lintott presented Rebecca Piper with an MTC Annual Town Award for her work with Tandem. Rebecca was unable to attend the Annual Town Meeting in May.

Rebecca is the secretary for Tandem and does a fantastic job of ensuring that they are organised, she manages the membership and ensures that deadlines, such as inspection dates for the vehicles are met. Shortly after she became secretary a number of the then committee resigned and she was one of only two left to carry on. During that time, she not only kept Tandem going but also managed to recruit new volunteers and a new committee. She has been invaluable in helping Richard Watts assume the role of Tandem’s Chairman and continues to work tirelessly so that Tandem can offer support for the elderly.

C/098/22 - Public Participation Session

Philippa McCullough from Midhurst Vision was not present. Cllr Lintott read a prepared statement, which is at **Annex A** to these minutes.

Action: Cllr Yeo to speak with the local police to establish who is the land owner in relation to the land around Midhurst police station.

Meeting reconvened.

C/099/22 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the annual council meeting held on 16th May 2022 were proposed by Cllr Smallman, seconded Cllr Yeo, all agreed.



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C/100/22 - Matters Arising from those Minutes.

None.

C/101/22 - Report from County Councillor Kate O’Kelly

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr O’Kelly emphasised the Household Support Fund (HSF), which has been extended from the 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022. This fund is administered by West Sussex County Council (WSCC). The allocation for WSCC for this period is £4,870,362. Although administered by county, CDC officers are able to make professional referrals and issue food and fuel vouchers for customers that they are working with directly. This fund is predominantly for support with energy, food and water. However, it can include support for wider essentials associated with these costs, such as white goods and clothing etc.

Cllr Coote raised concern about the Electric Vehicle (EV) charger roll out and how this is going to work across the County. Cllr O’Kelly responded by explaining that the contractors who are installing the EV chargers as part of the County project have started putting in charge points in car parks across the county. Cllr O’Kelly has expressed her concern with the CDC Cabinet Member because CDC have not joined the partnership, so none of the CDC owned car parks in the district are included in the roll out. Cllr O’Kelly commented that looking forward, it is hard to see how this critical infrastructure is going to catch up with the need as more people will be switching to an Electric vehicle over the next few years.

C/102/22 – Finance, Asset and Policy Committee

Minutes of 25th April 2022 were adopted by Council. Proposed by Cllr Fraser, seconded by Cllr Travers, all agreed.

C/103/22 - Planning and Infrastructure Committee

Minutes of 9th May 2022 were adopted by Council. Proposed Cllr Watts, seconded Cllr Upjohn, all agreed.

C/104/22 - Planning and Infrastructure Committee

Minutes of 23rd May 2022 were adopted by Council. Proposed Cllr Fraser, seconded Cllr Upjohn, all agreed.

C/105/22 – Community and Environment Committee

Minutes of 9th May 2022 were adopted by Council. Proposed Cllr Smallman, seconded Cllr Watts, all agreed. Cllr Coote thanked the office for all their hard work in organising the Queen’s platinum Jubilee celebrations.

C/106/22 – Co-option

A personal statement from Dominic Merritt-Smith had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mr Merritt-Smith spoke briefly to council members and received questions. A vote was taken and Mr Merritt-Smith was co-opted onto the council. Proposed Cllr Smallman, seconded Cllr Watts, Cllr Lintott abstained, all remaining councillors agreed.



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C/107/22 - Actions

There are no outstanding actions.

C/108/22 - Reports from Outside Meetings

None

C/109/22 - Matters of Report.

Cllr Upjohn raised concern that the Grange was not accepting cash payments, which restricted some older people from making transactions. Cllr Jeffries commented that companies can decide to negate cash transactions providing it was not discriminatory.

Cllr Upjohn noted that while the signage in the town directs the public to the Grange for the use of toilets, it was not always open. Cllr Lintott confirmed that since the demolition of the public toilets agreement with CDC was that the toilets at the Grange could be used instead.

Cllr Smallman raised concern at the continued problems with the road surface at North Mill Bridge and the sinkhole at the top of Church Hill, outside the old Lloyd's building. Cllr Lintott confirmed that the road surface at North Mill Bridge was being resurfaced in early July. She encouraged Cllr Smallman to report the sinkhole via the WSCC 'Love Clean Streets' app.

Cllr Smallman expressed concern at the continued illegal parking on North Street and the associated problems that delivery trucks were causing to local traffic by double parking.

Cllr Sutton informed the meeting that the Midhurst Community Hub had now received charitable status.

Cllr Lintott informed the meeting that a taxi had hit the CorTen steel planters outside Tesco's and driven off.

The Clerk explained that guttering at the back and side of the Old Library needs either repairing or replacing. The gully at the edge of the South Downs meeting room was also leaking. A quotation had been received for repairs. As this was within financial tolerance it was not necessary to bring this to council. A second quotation is being sought. If this is not received soon then the initial quotation will be accepted.

The Clerk reiterated the need for councillors to volunteer for both the Sustainability Day on 2nd July and the Skatejam on 16th July. It would also be appreciated if councillors would provide plants for the plant swap stall at the Sustainability Day.

C/110/22 - Date of Next Meeting. The next meeting will take place on Monday 18th July 2022 at 7pm.

Signed:.....

Dated.....

Chairman



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Appendix 1

Midhurst Placemaking Project - MTC Update June 2022

Deacon Design is still working on completing the montages (photo/illustrations) of the five short term sites for improvements and the material for the consultation. As we would like to share some of this with key stakeholders before it goes out to the public, the community consultation was been postponed until after summer holidays in early September. We also plan to hold a preview evening with a presentation by the landscape architects to all town council members who are able to attend and other key stakeholders from the local authorities and business community.

Small, informal meetings with West Street businesses are ongoing and have proved a good approach to a difficult subject! There is a consensus that the current situation on West Street is dangerous for pedestrians and shop owners and that making it one way and removing on-street/pavement parking with a couple of loading bays could be a reasonable solution. Discussions of how this could be achieved successfully is still being discussed with highways and is likely to continue for some time.

There is good news on the highways front with North Street in that it looks likely that we will be able to trial retractable bollards in a loading bay. However, this is at early stages and conversations with MTC, highways and relevant business owners will be required to enable this to go ahead.

We are also establishing ownership and likely responsibilities for maintenance for the proposed new areas of planting and also building maintenance in the case of the CDC owned building in North Street car park.

We are struggling to find a contact for the land owner in relation to the land around the police station. Philippa has spoken to and emailed the police constable at the station, but no name has been provided as to the person responsible for making decisions about proposed planting in this area.

The next placemaking project group meeting is planned for later in July.