



Midhurst Town Council

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TOOK PLACE ON MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 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 R Watts, Cllr D Merritt, Cllr J Sutton and Cllr G. Upjohn

Officer: Sharon Hurr, Clerk

CE/079/22 – Chairman’s Announcements: Cllr Yeo welcomed everybody to the meeting and asked for a minute’s silence in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

CE/080/22 – Apologies for Absence – Cllr A Procter and Cllr L. Jeffries

CE/081/22 - Declarations of Interest - Declarations of Interest - To receive from Member’s declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary interests in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting in accordance with The Localism Act 2011 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012: None

CE/082/22 - Minutes of Last Meeting- To approve the minutes of meeting held on 11th July 2022: The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

CE/083/22 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of 11th July 2022- To consider matters arising from the minutes that are not on the agenda: None

CE/084/22 – Public Participation – adjournment of meeting

Mr Johnny Culley provided a brief summary of the benefits that being a Fairtrade town would bring to Midhurst. Fairtrade is helping farmers and producers in developing countries to be paid a stable and fair wage and have decent working conditions. This gives them the opportunity to afford healthcare, education and enough food for their families. Fairtrade already has a significant presence in the county with ten Fairtrade Towns and Villages. West Sussex, itself, was awarded Fairtrade County status in October 2017 and has committed to supporting Fairtrade.

While MTC is keen to explore this opportunity, it is aware of the tension between fairtrade and support to local businesses. In addition, concern was raised at the additional resources required by the office, especially given its current workload.

Action: Cllr Yeo and the Assistant Town Clerk would conduct some additional research into the possibility of Midhurst becoming a Fairtrade Town.

Mr Gordon McAra spoke to the committee about a new event in Chichester called The Button Boot becoming an opportunity for Midhurst. This is a take on a boot sale but with buttons for cash. If people have pre-loved items, such as books, jewellery or toys, that can be bought by buttons given to the public on the door. No money changes hands. It’s all about the pleasure of passing on, recycling and re-using.



Midhurst Town Council

The committee agreed that this is something that the Event's Officer should consider for next year's Sustainability Day.

Meeting Reconvened.

CE/085/22 – Events Update

Summer Street Party: This took place on 27th August 2022 and Councillors were thanked for their support on the day. All agreed that it was a tremendous success. A wash-up meeting was earlier in the day. Useful feedback was also received from those present at this committee meeting.

Jumble Trail in September: This event has been postponed due to the passing of the Monarch.

2022 Christmas Street Party: This year's Christmas Street party will be held on Friday 2nd December.

Monthly Farmer's Market: The success of the monthly farmer's market is allowing it to grow. Up to 15 stalls are anticipated for 1st October in the Market Square. Local musicians will continue to be part of the market.

Halloween Trail: Although yet to be confirmed, the current thinking is that a pumpkin themed trail will be arranged, with further details to follow.

Midhurst Matters: This quarter's Midhurst Matters will be distributed towards the end of this month.

CE/086/22 – Civic Activities and Rural Amenities

Real Time Passenger Information System (RTPI) Business Case: Cllr Upjohn had been liaising with Liz Robbins - WSCC Team Leader, ITS and Traffic Monitoring - and provided the committee with an update. Cllr Upjohn confirmed that there may be potential funding available and the costs are like to be approximately £3,000 - £4,500. Cllr Upjohn is hopeful that funding from WSCC will allow for the RTPI will be cost neutral to MTC. Further details will be available once MTC receive confirmation of the grant.

Bins: Cllr Yeo is continuing to work on moving of some of the town's bins and would liaise with CDC over bin changes. Further stickers re the 'Pooh Bag Fairy' will be attached to bins across the parish. It was noted that one of the bins at South Pond need the bin changed from a red one to a black one.

Northern Gateway: A site meeting with Tara Signs will be held in the next few weeks to consider various aspects including traffic management when the sign is installed and laying of the concrete base. It was agreed that the site meeting will be held after Cllr Sutton is available at the beginning of October.

CE/087/22 – E-Scooters in Midhurst

A report from Cllr Merritt was circulated prior to the meeting. Although there are not many e-scooters in Midhurst at the moment and they are not currently considered a problem, use of e-scooters could grow out of control. There is a need to educate people across the town and it was agreed that an article in Midhurst Matters could help inform people of the need to be safe when using them. A further letter from Paul Thompson - Rother College Director of Welfare - would also be helpful. Cllr Merritt would continue to liaise with Midhurst Rother College to assist in spreading knowledge. Cllr Yeo agreed to raise this issue at the Midhurst and Easebourne Policing Liaison Forum.

CE/088/22 – Cemetery

The Clerk updated the committee on progress at Carron Lane Cemetery. The work on the trees is continuing and is hoped to be finished soon. A topographical survey has just been completed and this will be followed by Truth Survey – identification of the interred – and a design phase. The installation of the new composting bins will be considered at the next FAP meeting.



Midhurst Town Council

CE/089/22 – Annual Inspection of Carron Lane Recreation Ground

The report on the annual inspection and a summary of recommendations by the Assistant Clerk were circulated prior to the meeting. Wicksteed conducted their annual assessment of the recreation ground at Carron Lane in August. This includes the playground and the play area, outdoor gym equipment and the area surrounding the skatepark and the broader recreation ground; it does not include the skatepark itself. There is one high risk on page 23 and page 64 of the report which relates to the Double Fitness Station. It would appear that the Double Fitness Station needs replacing at a cost of circa £1,600.00. However, Cllr Yeo is leading on updating the recreation ground and it may be prudent to just fix it, pending a paper from Cllr Yeo on the way forward. The intent is to update the recreation ground within the next 2-3 years. Therefore, the key question for consideration was how much money, given the recommendations in the annual report, should be spent prior to this work being carried out. It was proposed and agreed that the following actions be taken:

1. Page 7: Pedestrian gate leading to the play park. The hinge post needs replacing and construction of the gate lends itself to potentially trapping and hurting children's fingers.
2. Page 9/34: There are four timber slats that are rotting and need replacing on the Toddler's Multi-Gym
3. Page 23/54: The Double Fitness Station has been closed because of a worn bearing. This item will need replacing or repairing. It was agreed that the cost of the repair provided by Playsafe should be implemented.

Action: Assistant Clerk to arrange for the above repairs to be actioned.

CE/090/22 – Actions

The actions were provided to the committee before the meeting, who reviewed those that were outstanding. Both are a work in progress.

CE/091/22 - Matters of Report: MATTERS OF REPORT (Note: Decisions cannot be made under this item; it is for information only):

Cllr Upjohn reminded the committee that the two planters are due to be moved from Carron Lane to Petersfield Road.

There being no further business the Meeting was closed at 8.38pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Date.....