



Midhurst Town Council

A Meeting of the Planning and Infrastructure Committee took place on Monday 22nd August 2022 at 6.45pm at The Old Library, Knockhundred Row, Midhurst.

MINUTES

Present: Cllr D Coote, Cllr G. McAra, Cllr D. Merritt, Cllr R. Watts and Cllr J. Hensey

Officer: Julian Quail, Assistant Town Clerk

Also: Sharon Hurr, Town Clerk and RFO

P/165/22 - Apologies for Absence: Cllr C. Lintott, Cllr G Upjohn and Cllr D Fraser

P/166/22 - Declarations of Interest: None

P/167/22 - To approve Minutes of Meeting Held on 25th July 2022

These were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

P/168/22 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 25th July 2022

None

Meeting halted for Public Participation Session

P/169/22 - Public Participation Session: No members of the public present.

Meeting reconvened.

P/170/22 - Planning Applications

170.1 SDNP/22/03069/LIS

To replace the existing eV rapid charging unit in the car park of the South Downs Centre.

South Downs Centre North Street Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9DH

Decision: MTC has no objection to this application.

170.2 SDNP/22/03122/HOUS

Single storey rear extension and associated works.

32 Ashfield Road Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9JS

Decision: MTC has no objection to this application.

170.3 SDNP/22/03273/HOUS

Erection of a two storey side extension following demolition of a single storey extension.

Holly Cottage Sandy Lane Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9RH

Decision: MTC has no objection to this application.

170.4 SDNP/22/03209/HOUS

Proposed two storey side extension with internal alterations.

2 Sandrock House Petersfield Road Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9LJ

Decision: MTC has no objection to this application

P/171/22 Tree Applications – Midhurst

171.1 SDNP/22/02787/TCA

Notification of intention to reduce overall canopy by up to 2.5m, remove 10 no. crossing branches on all sections on 1 no. Hornbeam tree

Land at Gilbert Hannam Close Midhurst West Sussex

Decision: MTC has no objection to this application

P/172/22 – Decisions

These were circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

P/173/22 – Review of South Down’s National Park Authority (SDNPA) Local Plan

The National Park, as part of its planning review has issued a call for more potential housing sites and green spaces to be proposed. The current plan includes four sites identified by MTC, who now wish to add two further sites for submission to the National Park.

- The first is the former bus depot in Pitsham Lane. This is capable of taking six houses subject to clearing up the site and access to Apple Tree Road. The site is owned by CDC and is likely to come on to the market shortly. Midhurst Community Land Trust has registered an interest in the site.
- The second is the play area in Holmbush Way. This site, owned by Hyde Homes is a run-down play area, very lightly used and has a reputation for Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). The site is quite large and could accommodate around 15 homes, plus a new play area. It was agreed that the committee would visit this site, individually, and come to the next meeting with their recommendation on the way forward.

In addition, no action has been taken over the caravan site at Holmbush. This has become overgrown with a likely loss of potential housing. A developer has attempted to communicate with the site owners, unsuccessfully. Given the need for house building sites, especially social and affordable housing in the area, it was agreed that MTC will approach the National Park and the developer to affect a Compulsory Order to acquire the site.

Action: Committee members to visit the play area at Holmbush Way for further discussion.

Action: Cllr McAra to draft a letter to SDNPA recommending, amongst other things, that the caravan site at Holmbush be subject to a Compulsory Order to purchase the site for housing.

P/174/22 - River Rother

The committee discussed the response from Lawrence Gosden, Southern Chief Executive Officer, to Gillian Keegan MP regarding the future works by the company to protect the River Rother. The committee appreciated the sentiment in the letter but were concerned that effluent would continue to be discharged into the River Rother, which would be dangerous to people and animals. In addition, the letter explained that Southern Water would continue their awareness campaign to the public. However, none of the committee were aware of any awareness campaign and agreed that this should be articulated to Gillian Keegan MP in their response, recommending that Midhurst be used by the company to raise awareness.

Action: Cllr Watts to draft a response to Gillian Keegan MP seeking her support in speeding up the building of two extra storm tanks at South Ambersham Wastewater Treatment Works, increasing the treatment capacity at Harting Wastewater Treatment Works and recommending that an awareness campaign be instigated in Midhurst.

P/175/22 – Actions: Committee to review outstanding actions

All actions are now complete.

P/176/22 – Matters of Report

Cllr McAra raised concern that the SDNPA were recently rejecting a number of planning applications that MTC had approved.

Cllr Watts informed the committee that there is a tree on the corner of New Road, going to Chichester, and opposite Bourne Way that makes it dangerous to turn right from New Road into Bourne Way. He would take a photograph of the tree and arrange for the office to raise it with WSCC Highways.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.37pm.

Signed: Date:.....
Chairman

DRAFT