**Meeting of Midhurst Town Council took place on**

**Monday 26th June 2023 at 7:00pm at the Midhurst Town Council Offices,**

**Old Library, Knockhundred Row, Midhurst, GU29 9DQ**

**MINUTES**

**Present**: Cllr D. Coote, Cllr M. Facer, Cllr G. McAra, Cllr D. Merritt, and Cllr R. Watts

**In attendance**: S Hurr, Town Clerk, and Chichester District Councillors, J. Brown-Fuller (also the Town Council Events Officer) and H. Burton, and one member of the public.

**C/028/23 Chairman’s Announcements:** The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

**C/029/23 Apologies for Absence:** Cllr D. Fraser

**C/030/23** **Declarations of Interest:** None

Meeting halted for Public Participation Session

**C/031/23 - Public Participation Session:** Mr Lambert, asked if it was possible to introduce coach parking at The Grange Car Park, as the public service buses had recently successfully used part of the car park as a temporary bus station, and this would bring visitors into the town. Cllr Brown-Fuller confirmed that this was currently being considered by Chichester District Council.

Meeting reconvened.

**C/032/23 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2023 were proposed by Cllr Merritt as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Coote, agreed by all present and adopted.

**C/033/23 - Matters Arising from those Minutes:** None

**C/034/23 Report from County, and District Councillors.** Reports from Cllr O’kelly and Cllr Burton had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Merritt, sought assistance from Cllr O’Kelly with rectifying a raised drain cover in West Street which had become a significant trip hazard. Councillor O’Kelly confirmed she will request that this matter is considered by officers.

Councillor Burton, explained that her report was now out-of-date following the opening of North Street on 23rd June, and also confirmed in response to a question from Councillor Coote, that a review of the incident and how it was progressed after the first few days following the fire, would be taking place as was usual with any such incident.

**C/035/23 Finance, Asset, Community and Environment Committee:** Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2023 were proposed by Cllr Merritt as a correct record, seconded by Cllr McAra, agreed by all present and adopted.

**C/036/23 Planning and Infrastructure Committee:** Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2023 were proposed by Cllr Merritt as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Travers, agreed by all present and adopted. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2023 were proposed by Cllr Merritt as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Travers, agreed by all present and adopted.

**C/037/23 Review of outstanding actions:** None.

**C/038/23** **Reports from Outside Meetings** Cllr Travers reported that he had attended a site meeting with the structural engineer, representative from British Telecom, Midhurst Society and sculptor Philip Jackson, regarding the potential positioning of the Dante statute. It was concluded that the position by the corner wall of the Spread Eagle at South Pond would not be suitable due to the underground utilities’ infrastructure. Another site further around the pond will now be considered by the South Pond group.

Cllr Watts also reported that following a request from Ognells Trust, Cllr Travers and he would be representing the Town Council, and a meeting with the Ognell’s Chairman had been arranged.

Cllr Watts also reported that he had attended a meeting of the Midhurst Vision group and noted that a report from the group had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**C/039/23 Recruitment of Town Councillors:** Cllr Facer had produced a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. A debate took place about how to attract new Councillors, who could represent residents.

**Action:** All Councillors to consider the matter of Councillor recruitment and circulate their ideas to Councillors and staff.

**C/040/23 Grants (ad hoc) – Draft form, and Draft Terms and Conditions:** The Clerk had produced a new set of Terms and Conditions to accompany the applications form. With one alteration, Cllr Travers proposed the adoption of the amended Terms and Conditions, which was seconded by Cllr Facer and agreed by all present.

**C/041/23 SDNP Litter Picking Grant:** The Events Officer reported that grants were available for litter picking equipment, and sought permission to submit an application. Cllr Watts proposed that an application should be made, which was seconded by Cllr Travers and agreed by all present.

Cllr Brown-Fuller left the meeting and did not return.

**C/042/23 Matters of Report:** Cllr Watts reported that Cowdray Estate were planning to introduce scrapes to allow water from the river to run across the meadow land, and a public consultation would take place shortly regarding this project.

**C/043/23 Date of Next Meeting:** 7.30pm24th July 2023

The meeting ended at 8.19pm.

Signed………………………………………………………… Dated……………………………………….

Chairman