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

**Monday 22nd January 2024 at 7:30pm in**

**Midhurst Town Council Offices, Old Library, Knockhundred Row, Midhurst, GU29 9DQ**

**MINUTES**

**Present**: Cllr D Coote, Cllr M Facer, Cllr D Fraser, Cllr A Lambert, Cllr G McAra, Cllr D Merritt, Cllr P Piper, and Cllr R Watts (Chairman).

**In attendance**: S Hurr (Town Clerk), District Councillor Hanah Burton.

**C/120/23 Chairman’s Announcements:** The Chairman welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

**C/121/23 Apologies for Absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllr John Travers and County Councillor Kate O’Kelly.

**C/122/23** **Declarations of Interest:** None

Meeting halted for Public Participation Session

**C/123/23 - Public Participation Session:** None present and no questions had been received**.**

Meeting reconvened.

**C/124/23 - Minutes of the Previous Meetings (and actions):** The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd January 2024 were proposed by Cllr Merrit, as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Piper, agreed by all present and adopted.

**C/125/23 - Matters Arising from those Minutes:** None.

Cllr Burton arrived at the meeting.

**C/126/23 Report from County, and District Councillors.** A report from Cllr O’Kelly had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Burton will forward her report shortly, as the attachment had been absent from the email forwarded to the Town Council earlier in the day.

Cllr Watts sought updated information regarding The Grange site. Cllr Burton reported that Chichester District Council had yet to make a decision as to whether it should be retained to the be developed by them, or whether it should be put on the open market.

Cllr Watts requested that the Reports from County and District Councillors be moved on future agendas to follow the review of all minutes.

**Action:** The Clerk to alter future agenda, listing Reports from County and District Councillors after the review of all minutes.

**C/127/23 Finance, Asset, Community and Environment Committee:** Two sets of minutes were re-presented to Councillors following an error of conflation between the minutes of the November 2023 and December 2023 meetings at the last full Council meeting (2nd January 2023).

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2023 were proposed by Cllr Watts as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Merritt, agreed by all present and adopted.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2023 were proposed by Cllr Lambert as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Fraser, agreed by all present and adopted.

**C/128/23 Planning and Infrastructure Committee:** Minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2023 were proposed by Cllr Piper as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Merrit, agreed by all present and adopted.

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd January 2024 were proposed by Cllr Merritt as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Facer, agreed by all present and adopted.

**C/129/23** **Reports from Outside Meetings:** Cllr Watts reported that he had attended a meeting of Midhurst Vision and that the Clerk had circulated a report from Midhurst Vision prior to the meeting. Cllr Watts also reported that a further meeting was due to take place the following day (23rd January 2024) which would consider how the appearance of the North Street Car Park could be improved with planting, a welcome sign and an interpretation sign with map.

**C/130/23 Proposed meeting with local publicans, representatives from the Town Council, and a Chichester District Council Licensing Officer to discuss various matters:** Cllr Lambert reported that he had met with Police Community Support Officer Nathan Ford and had concluded that a meeting for local publicans would provide a useful opportunity for sharing of information and undertaking training.

**Action:** The Clerk to write to local publicans providing an invitation to an information sharing meeting.

**C/131/23 Introduction of Bookings at Bepton Road, Waste Disposal Facility:** Cllr Wattsreported that the Council had recently been made aware of the plan to introduce bookings for vehicles to take waste to Bepton Road, Waste Disposal Facility. Following a short debate regarding the potential issues a bookings process may cause, it was agreed that the Council should request a meeting with a senior officer at West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to discuss this matter further.

**Action:** The Clerk to email WSCC to request a meeting with officers regarding the introduction of a booking system for waste disposal and copy to Cllr O’Kelly.

**C/132/23 Matters of Report:** Cllr Coote reported that the Community Hub had recently introduced a free lunch on a Monday at the Methodist Church starting at 11.30 which was already proving very successful particularly for older people.

Cllr McAra explained that a previous Town Councillor Steve Morley had produced a highways report which would be of interest to Councillors.

***Post Meeting:*** *The Clerk forward the Steve Morley highways report to all Councillors.*

Cllr McAra reported that the Midhurst Food Hub would shortly be returning to its building to the rear of Market Square, following refurbishment.

Cllr McAra further reported that a Community Land Trust Meeting would be taking place at the Old Library at 7pm on Thursday 8th February 2024 and encouraged Councillors to attend.

Cllr Watts reminded Councillors that the Chichester District Council ‘All Parishes’ meeting was taking place at 5pm on Monday 19th February on line, and asked which Councillors would like to attend?

**Action:** Cllrs Coote and Watts will attend the ‘All Parishes’ meeting.

Cllr Watts reported that the Council was currently seeking a new energy provider and that quotations from Utility Aid who were associated with the National Association of Local Council to undertake such work, were due to be received on Wednesday 24th January 2024 and would last from 10am until 4pm. Cllr Watts confirmed that he would select the provider on behalf of the council from the quotations received with the support of office staff and report back to Councillors at a future meeting.

Cllr Watts also reported that Hyde Housing had requested a meeting with the Town Council and that he and Cllr Coote as Chairman of Planning would attend.

**C/133/23 Date of Next Meeting:** 7.30pm, 26th February 2024

The meeting ended at 8.10pm.

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

Chairman