

Midhurst Town Council

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

**Monday 29th July 2024 at 7:00pm in**

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

**MINUTES**

**Present**: Cllr A Lambert, Cllr McAra, Cllr D Merritt, Cllr P Piper, and Cllr J Travers (Vice-Chairman) and

Cllr R Watts (Chairman)

**In attendance**: S Hurr (Town Clerk)

**C/034/24 Chairman’s Announcements:** The Chairman welcomed Councillors to the meeting. On behalf of the Town Council, the Chairman warmly congratulated the Council’s Events and Promotions Officer Jess Brown-Fuller on her election as Member of Parliament for Chichester Constituency, and a card was circulated for signature.

**C/035/24 Apologies for Absence:** Apologies had been received from Cllrs D Coote, and G McAra. Cllr M Facer is currently on sabbatical.

***Post meeting:*** *County Council K O’Kelly had sent an apology which was not seen until the conclusion of the meeting.*

**C/036/24** **Declarations of Interest:** None

***Meeting halted for Public Participation Session***

**C/037/24 Public Participation Session:** No members of the public were present and no questions had been presented to the Council.

***Meeting reconvened.***

**C/038/24 Report from County, and District Councillors.**  ChichesterDistrict Councillor H Burton had not submitted a report on this occasion.

***Post meeting:*** *West Sussex County Councillor K O’Kelly provided a report which was not seen until the conclusion of the meeting, and has been forwarded to Councillors.*

**C/039/24 - Minutes of the Previous Meetings (and actions**): The minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2024 were proposed as a correct record by Cllr Piper, seconded by Cllr Merritt, agreed by all present, signed and adopted.

The closed minutes of 13th May 2024 will be carried over until the next meeting of the Council.

**C/040/24 - Matters Arising from those Minutes:** The Chairman confirmed a meeting had been held with CDC officers regarding the old Grange site. Councillors present had suggested consideration was given to re-visiting the possibility of a supermarket, and affordable homes particularly work/life unit with a workshop/studio on the ground floor and accommodation above.

**C/041/24 Reports from Outside Meetings:** None

**C/042/24 Lilac Cottage Update:** The Chairman reported that external works had been completed with the exception of one leaded window which required a repair, the replacement of the rooflight and the completion of the repair work to the garden wall, which had been found to be in a poorer condition than initially thought and a second structural engineer report obtained. Further funds (Community Infrastructure Levy) had been secured, which allowed flexibility in how timely the works could be completed. The Chairman confirmed the plan to provide two of the ground floor rooms for sole use by the Midhurst Community Hub. Cllr Gilson sought clarification regarding the work of the Hub which the Chairman explained as providing advice and support for those in the community who had difficulty accessing support services often based some distance from the town.

The Chairman explained that there were currently three actions which had been agreed by the Lilac Working Group, which he was seeking approval for by full Council:

* The Chairman proposed that the Council agree that further repair work to the wall up to a total of £13,760 (with a lower quotation sought), this was seconded by Cllr Merritt and agreed by all present.
* The Chairman proposed that the Council agree that both phase two (ground floor rooms, electrical, plumbing, heating and general works) and phase three (upper floor rooms, electrical, plumbing, heating and general works) was completed simultaneously, which was seconded by Cllr Merritt and agreed by all present.
* The Chairman proposed that the Council agree that all further works up to a total of £66,589, this was seconded by Cllr Lambert and agreed by all present.

**C/043/24 Council Recruitment:** The Chairmanexplained that with the Events and Promotions Officer leaving the Council, the decision had been taken to alter the role, to one which would include all aspects of the Council’s work. The role would be titled ‘Assistant Clerk’, with the incumbent providing assistance to both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. Recruitment for this role would take place over the next few months.

**C/044/24 Road Closures for Events:** The Chairman expressed his concerns regarding the number of road closures for events taking place within the town, and the impact on residents. Following a discussion, Cllr Merritt proposed writing to CDC the licensing authority, with regards to these concerns, which was seconded by Cllr Lambert and agreed by all present with the exception of one abstention.

**C/045/24 Matters of Report:** None.

**C/046/24 Date of Next Meeting:** 7.30pm, 23rd September 2024

The meeting ended at 8.15pm.

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

Chairman