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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Present:** Mr A Burton (Chairman), Mr P Ceccherini, Mr R Gill, Mrs A King, Mr S Oversby-Powell, Mr A Podmore, Mr M Sheldon, Mr A Symonds, and Mrs J White

**In attendance:** Mr M Avery, Mrs S Heynes (Parish Clerk), Mr J Knight and Mrs N Ripert (Communications & Admin Officer)

**Public Question Time:** Three members of public were present to discuss proposed renovations of Cuckfield Tennis Club and to ask for support to progress with access to funding from MSDC.

**FC100 To receive apologies for absence.**

Cllr Dormer offered her apologies for personal reasons, which were noted.

**FC101 To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of any matter on the agenda. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If you become aware, during the meeting, of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item you must immediately disclose it.**

None.

**FC102 To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

**FC103 To receive reports from District Councillors and County Councillor.**

Cllr Avery presented his report. The District Plan had been signed off and was now available for comment and feedback, the closing date was 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024. MSDC were hoping for the Planning Inspector to review the plan in July 2024. If all went well, sign-off of the plan should be achieved by the end of 2024. Fairfax had been advised their planning application for a new 'garden community' (Cuckstye) on the borders of Ansty and Cuckfield would not be supported by MSDC as it was not in the District Plan.

Regarding the requested transfer of ownership of the Broad Street car park from MSDC to CPC, MSDC were looking to start charging more for using the car parks in the villages so was unlikely they would consider handing this asset over to the Parish Council. Cllrs Avery and Knight were requested to follow up again with Officers at MSDC regarding the transfer of S106 funds for expanding the parking at Cuckfield recreation ground as there had still been no response to queries raised. A meeting was scheduled at MSDC to discuss the Courtmead Road site on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024, further feedback would be provided later. Council requested that the general poor response from Officers to the Parish Council be raised as it was unacceptable.

A meeting to discuss the Hanlye Lane development had occurred in December 2023, it was an in-depth meeting and the developers were reviewing feedback with a view to changing the design proposals. The S106 funding for this needed to be amended as the proposal had been to allocate funds to replace the scout hut; Council were concerned that this was

too specific and it needed to be a more generic allocation to community facilities rather than a specific building.

Finally, the climbing frame at Brick Lane was to be removed. Council requested it be considered to move this to another location within the village as it was a valuable asset.

**FC104 To receive a verbal report from the Chairman**

The Chairman noted that planning for the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting was required, this would be discussed later in the meeting.

**FC105 To note the Full Council Action List**

The action list was reviewed and noted.

**FC106 To approve Bank Reconciliation Statements for Unity Trust and CCLA accounts for November and December 2023**

The bank reconciliation statements had not been circulated and so this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

**FC107 To review and approve the current year to date budget and expenditure for 2023-24 (to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024)**

The year to date budget and expenditure was reviewed and approved.

**FC108 To consider the budget and precept for 2024-2025:**

**a. Approve and adopt the proposed budget for the financial year 2024-25**

Council reviewed the proposed budget and accepted the proposed forecast expenditure for 2024-25.

**b. To approve the F&GP recommended precept increase of 6% for 2024-25 and issue a demand to the collecting authority, Mid Sussex District Council, for a total of £276,980**

Council resolved to accept the recommendation of the F&GP committee to increase the precept to £276,980 for 2024-25. The Clerk would write to MSDC to advise them.

**FC109 To consider the report received from Cuckfield Tennis Club regarding renovations to their clubhouse**

Council considered the request from Cuckfield Tennis Club to support their renovations and resolved to provide support for their plans as and when they progress, and support any grant applications where possible.

**FC110 To consider applying for the Community Highways Scheme to request a 20mph zone be implemented within Cuckfield with an initial suggested zone of the Broad Street/High Street/London Lane triangle, expanding to South Street and beyond Warden Park Academy. Support for the scheme is required from our County Councillor or MP, as well as from the community and the Parish Council in order for it to be considered.**

Council reviewed the proposal and voted on whether to proceed with the scheme, motion carried 6 vs 3. The Clerk was instructed to continue to chase Cllr Bradbury for his support to enable the community highways scheme application to be submitted.

**FC111 To receive an update regarding the Angela Fox Nature Garden, and consider the quotation of £1,950 to produce a full garden planting design to include:**

- **Strategic planning and project management**
- **Full breakdown of plant costs**
- **Illustrations suitable for public display**
- **A clear picture of plant characteristics and growth expectations**

Council reviewed the quote and resolved to proceed with the design. The Clerk was

instructed to advise the designers they could commence work. It was resolved to request a wormery and possibly a bee hive be incorporated into the design.

**FC112 To consider the future of Cuckfield Village Hall and whether to proceed with the plans to achieve full planning permission for a rebuild, whether to consider a smaller scheme of renovation to maintain the hall for future use or whether to consider selling the plot of land for alternative use**

The Chairman shared that the costs to proceed with the rebuild design were higher than anticipated, and so a change of direction was recommended. Council resolved to investigate further options, including a structural survey to establish the future longevity of the building; investigate options for improving the building and its insulation, and also to obtain a land valuation. The Clerk would provide an update to the architect and preschool so they were aware of the change of direction.

**FC113 To note the report showing Cuckfield cemetery income to January 2024**

Council reviewed the report and noted the burials and income to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

**FC114 To consider the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and discuss and agree the format, key speakers and attendees**

Council resolved to continue with the roadshow format for 2024. Several speakers were suggested before Council resolved to invite New England Wood Trust, Cuckstye and CPRE to speak.

**FC115 To review the draft Business Plan 2023-2027 and agree a final version for adoption**

Council reviewed the draft plan and resolved to adopt this. The Clerk was instructed to create a pictorial report to share on the website with a view to launching this at the APM.

**FC116 To note items arising after the preparation of this Agenda which the Chairman agrees to take as urgent. Such matters will be for noting only or deferral to a future meeting only.**

Council expressed their disappointment at the news that the Post Office were not considering opening a post office at the Queen's Hall currently, and the Clerk was instructed to write to Mims Davies regarding this matter, to ask for her support in requesting this be reconsidered.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Future Meeting:**  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2024