



The Queen's Hall
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Parish Clerk: Sam Heynes
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held at 8.15pm on 31st March 2022

Present: Mr A Burton (Chairman), Mr P Ceccherini, Mr J Dickie, Mrs A King, Mr S Oversby-Powell, Mr A Podmore and Mrs J White

In Attendance: Mrs S Heynes (Parish Clerk)

Public Question Time: None

FC182 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllrs Sheldon and Symonds offered their apologies which were accepted.

FC183 Declarations of Interest.

None.

FC184 To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 20th January 2022, 3rd February 2022 and 17th February 2022.

The minutes of the meetings held on 20th January 2022, 3rd February 2022 and 17th February 2022 were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

FC185 To receive a report from Mark Davies, Relationship Manager, CCLA, on the investment portfolio.

Mr Davies provided a background introduction to the CCLA and explained they only look after organisations in the public sector and went on to provide an update relating to Cuckfield Parish Council's investment portfolio. The Public Sector Deposit Fund, which the Parish Council had invested in, was created approx. 10 years ago in response to the Icelandic banking crisis. Investments were placed with a range of robust, Triple A organisations to mitigate risk. Due to the recent very low interest rates there had been little return received on the investment to date.

The invested funds were not protected by the government, however the risk was so low there was felt to be little chance of losing any money. There was an alternative investment option to increase the interest earned however it was recommended a minimum of 5 years investment was agreed. There was also a 90 day notice period to withdraw funds, with quarterly dividends being paid.

Mr Davies would share information regarding the alternative scheme and this would be considered once the S106 funds were available after the Buttinghill land transfer.

FC186 To receive reports from the District Councillor and County Councillor.

Cllr Bradbury attended the meeting and shared the latest news regarding WSCC Children's Services not being entered into a trust due to the progress made whilst being in special measures. He also explained how WSCC was working hard to support Ukrainian refugees via an active resettlement team who were looking for local self-contained accommodation that could be made available to refugees. Full

details were available on the resettlement page on WSCC's website [Refugee resettlement in West Sussex - West Sussex County Council](#)

Cllr Bradbury advised he would be attending a meeting to discuss High Street regeneration for Cuckfield next week.

Cllr Bradbury advised the pause in MSDC's District Plan update was still in effect, and that Mims Davies MP and other South East MPs had met with the Secretary of State Michael Gove recently to emphasise housing numbers required a review. Cllr Bradbury was confident there were strong planning reasons why the Cuckstye site was not viable based on the housing numbers proposed. Cllr Burton updated Cllr Bradbury with the news that Fairfax had been advising residents that the development was progressing as the site was a 'done deal'.

Cllr Burton flagged concerns regarding the landowner's behaviour at Cuckfield Golf Course in pushing the boundaries of planning law, and Cllr Bradbury acknowledged this. Cllr Bradbury reiterated his support for the proposed traffic calming on Ardingly Road and offered support for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Cllr Oversby-Powell questioned the lack of progress with Denning Place planning enforcement issues, however Cllr Bradbury reported there was nothing he could do.

The Clerk would share the correspondence sent to Mims Davies MP regarding Taylor Wimpey with Cllr Bradbury so he could follow up for a response.

Cllr Salisbury provided the following written report:

District Plan

This remained 'paused' until MSDC hear from the Minister in reply to the MP and Leaders letters. Work was continuing in the background with officers to assess various scenarios should there be any change; since the length of the delay will impact on the total timeline for the new plan and care must be taken not to endanger the 5 year land supply position.

Denning Place.

The position remains as advised previously.

Cuckfield Golf Course.

The owner continued to test the enforcement process. Enforcement was underway on the B8 storage to the west that would appear to be linked to the golf course so a planning application had been submitted. If refused there could be an appeal process and enforcement could not proceed until that was finalised.

Buttinghill

Officers had been requested to provide a chronological list of the various exchanges between all organisations to try and unpick what had happened and establish what should happen next and by whom.

FC187 To receive a report from the Chairman.

Cllr Burton highlighted the well-attended meeting in opposition to the proposed Cuckstye development. Positive feedback had been received regarding the format of the event. Informal reports had been received from Fairfax that work was ongoing regarding the proposed development, clarification of this had been requested of Cllrs Bradbury and Salisbury.

The Annual Parish Meeting was planned for next week and Cllr Burton reminded everyone to submit their Committee updates for inclusion. The information boards

needed to be prepared for the evening, considering what had been achieved over the past 3 years and the priorities for the coming year.

FC188 To note the Full Council Action List.

Cllr White advised she was now an official NW coordinator; all other actions were noted.

FC189 To approve Bank Reconciliation statements for January and February 2022.

The bank reconciliation statements were reviewed and approved.

FC190 To review and approve the current year to date budget and expenditure for 2021-22.

The annual budget and expenditure was reviewed and approved. The Clerk was instructed to prepare an update for the Annual Parish Meeting, with a focus on the grants received over the year.

FC191 To review and approve the committee meeting dates for 2022-23.

Meeting dates were reviewed and approved.

FC192 To review and ratify the preschool grant for 2022-23.

Council resolved to approve the grant at £9 per hour, however the Clerk was instructed to advise Preschool that Council were doing this to mitigate the financial issues for the year, and this did not preclude an increase to hourly rates in future to offset inflation. The £9.50 rate for the grant would be introduced next year.

FC193 To review and resolve purchases in commemoration of the Platinum Jubilee.

Council resolved to make the following purchases:

A Bronze plaque for installation on the front of the Queen's Hall, design to be finalised.

A jubilee bench finished in steel together with fixings required for a concrete location. Wildflower seeds in red, white and blue for donation to Holy Trinity Primary School for planting within their grounds.

FC194 To ratify the expenditure for the installation of the external WC at the Queen's Hall.

Council resolved to proceed with the installation of the toilet at the Queen's Hall. The Clerk would apply for S106 funds towards this, and instruct the builders to schedule the works.

FC195 To discuss a Community Highways Scheme Application to convert the two zebra crossings to pelican crossings on Ardingly Road using S106 monies from the proposed housing development on Hanlye Lane.

Cllr Bradbury had provided assurances of his support earlier in the meeting, and Council resolved to proceed with the proposal.

FC196 To consider options for the Cuckfield Cemetery Registrar function following P&S Gallagher's decision to relinquish the responsibility.

Council resolved to bring the support of the burial ground function in house rather than look to outsource to an alternative provider. Initially, Council resolved to create a 6 month contract of up to 7 hours per week to complete the role transfer, and to start work to digitalise records to make it easier to investigate when queries were received. The hourly rate was to be agreed.

FC197 To consider services which NALC may be able to provide to support small councils such as Cuckfield Parish Council.

Council reviewed the services being offered and had no items to add.

FC198 To ratify the Parish Council insurance provision.

Council ratified the year 2 renewal of the insurance cover provided by Zurich at a cost of £3,971.74 (inc VAT). Need to update our new equipment mowers and CCTV.

FC199 To review progress made against the Business Plan and agree priorities for 2022.

Council reviewed the Business Plan and flagged the need to create an Environmental Policy (to include items such as wild flower plating, using local suppliers, pollinating plants on the High Street etc).

The need for the Communications Plan was also discussed, to include the new What's on Cuckfield site, proposed Visit Cuckfield website, Facebook and website updates.

FC200 To note items arising after the preparation of this agenda which the Chairman agrees to take as urgent.

The encroachment of land at the Observer Field was noted and would be added to the next Full Council agenda for discussion.

The Clerk advised that a wedding party had threatened to sue the Council for breach of contract due to the licence conditions imposed for using the garden. Legal advise would be sought.

Meeting closed at 10.25pm

Signed _____

Future Meeting: 5th May 2022