



The Queen's Hall
High Street
Cuckfield
West Sussex
RH17 5EL
01444 451610
01444 454276

Parish Clerk: Sam Heynes
clerk@cuckfield.gov.uk

Minutes of the Extra Meeting of the Full Council held at 7.30pm on 22nd July 2021

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

In Attendance: Mrs S Heynes (Parish Clerk)

Public Question Time:

1 member of the public spoke regarding their dismay at the process around the planning applications submitted by Cuckfield Golf Club and MSDC's response.

1 member of the public spoke regarding the Parish Council's legal right to prevent access to Courtmead Road by non-residents.

1 member of the public raised the option to make Courtmead Road a gated community, and that this had been discussed before.

FC091 Apologies

Cllrs Laing and Podmore offered their apologies which were accepted.

FC092 Declarations of Interest

None.

FC093 To consider the news of the proposed sale of Mid Sussex District Council's site on Courtmead Road (known as the 'playmeadow') at auction on 28th July 2021, and what actions Cuckfield Parish Council wished to take in respect of this.

Legal advice sought in 2014 had indicated that although a resident of the site would have access rights across the road, building/site traffic could be required to obtain a license from the Parish Council before they could access the site. The Clerk was instructed to share this advice with the auctioneers to add to the auction pack if possible.

7.51pm Cllr Dickie arrived.

The Parish Council had expressed their interest in purchasing the site however MSDC had not engaged or responded to a request for a meeting to discuss this. It was generally felt the site was significantly overpriced at £400,000 - £450,000, and this was based on the expectation that it could be developed and sold on at a large profit.

The Clerk was instructed to contact local news to see if there was any interest in the story and invite them to the site to meet with Councillors.

The site had previously been registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), this had lapsed but if it could be reapplied it would delay the sale of the site, allowing time for the community to raise funds to make a purchase if they were minded to. Council resolved to submit an ACV application to Mid Sussex District Council for the site.

The Clerk was instructed to attend the auction and make a bid for the plot up to £50k, and investigate whether there was a reserve price allocated to the plot. Should any local

residents wish to contribute to the funds via the Courtmead Road Resident's Association to make a bid they would be welcome to do so and should contact the Clerk, on the understanding that the site would not be developed and the funds would be a gift should the Parish Council be successful with their bid. Preserving the views and the open space was the priority of the Parish Council.

FC094 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.

None.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed _____

Future Meeting:

29th July 2021

Cuckfield Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence on 14th May 2020, all decisions made during this meeting are done so under this power.