



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 8.30pm on 30th March 2023

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

In Attendance: Mrs S Heynes (Parish Clerk)

Public Question Time: None.

FC149 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Podmore offered his apologies which were accepted.

FC150 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.

FC151 To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19th January 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2023 were approved and signed.

FC152 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings held on 7th April 2022 and 16th March 2023

The minutes of the APM meetings held on 7th April 2022 and 16th March 2023 were approved and signed.

FC153 To receive reports from the District Councillor and County Councillor

Cllr Bradbury offered his apologies, Cllr Salisbury attended the meeting for the last time as he was stepping down as District Councillor, and advised he was in the process of preparing a handover to his future replacement. Cllr Salisbury requested any items the Council would like to have addressed were shared with him so he could ensure these were not forgotten at MSDC.

Fairfax had commissioned their own traffic model for the Cuckstye development, however as the MSDC traffic model had already been approved by the Inspector this was unlikely to be considered by the Inspector.

Chairman Burton formally thanked Cllr Salisbury for all his work both as a Parish Councillor and a District Councillor over the past 20 years, and Councillor Bradbury for his support as the County Councillor for Cuckfield.

FC154 To receive a verbal report from the Chairman

As this was the last Full Council meeting of this Council, Cllr Burton expressed his

thanks to all Councillors for their hard work over the past four years. Cuckfield had displayed how resilient it was in the face of the challenges experienced, including COVID, the cost of living crisis and Cuckstye.

- FC155 To note the Full Council Action List**
The action listed was reviewed and noted.
- FC156 To approve Bank Reconciliation Statements for Unity Trust, NS&I and CCLA accounts for January and February 2023**
The bank reconciliation statements were reviewed and approved.
- FC157 To review and approve the current year to date budget and expenditure for 2022-23 (to 23rd March 2023)**
The budget was reviewed and noted.
- FC158 To consider the S106 application for the Court Meadow Site to implement car parking at the Village Hall and whether to request MSDC to ask the developer to change what the funding allocation be spent on, for example the expansion of the parking at Cuckfield Recreation Ground. S106 funding cannot be retrospectively awarded for a completed project.**
Council resolved to request MSDC change the S106 allocation from the parking spaces at Cuckfield Village Hall to parking spaces at Cuckfield Recreation Ground.
- FC159 To consider the next steps regarding the Observer Field land appropriation**
Council resolved to continue to pursue this matter as the sale particulars clearly demonstrate this plot was not included in the sale of the property.
- FC160 To consider the next steps regarding the Angela Fox Nature Garden**
Council resolved to source a gardener to stay on top of the maintenance of the nature garden, and to end the contract with Galassi Designs
- FC161 To resolve that all eligible staff members holding an employment contract with Cuckfield Parish Council are automatically permitted to enrol in the Local Government Pension Scheme**
Council resolved that all new staff be permitted to enrol in the Local Government Pension Scheme in future.
- FC162 To review progress made against the Business Plan for 2022-23**
The Business Plan had been reviewed in detail at the Annual Parish Meeting. Council had achieved much of the plan, and a new plan would be created by the new Council after the elections.
- FC163 To receive an update of the Communications Strategy meeting and consider next steps**
This item was deferred to the next meeting as the update was still not available.
- FC164 To consider the Clerk's attendance at the SLCC Management in Action Conference on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st June 2023 at cost of £456.50, which has a focus on teamwork and collaboration**
Council resolved that the Clerk attend the SLCC Management in Action Conference.
- FC165 To consider the annual renewal of the CRPE membership and whether to contribute the basic fee of £36 per annum or the increased suggested fee of**

£60 per annum

Council resolved to pay the £60 fee.

FC166 To consider the proposal for the provision of Christmas Street Lights in Cuckfield

Council resolved to proceed with option 3, the existing lighting scheme with the addition of a green garland with twinkling lights to the street light crossings for the period of 2023-2025 by a majority vote.

FC167 To discuss the hoardings still in place at the site owned by W&S Building Contractors at Wealden Stores, and consider the next steps to be taken to encourage the hoardings to be removed as a matter of urgency. The owner of the company, Mr Luke Malins, has expressed his contempt for the community, the use of the post box and threatened to leave the hoardings in place for 3 years if people do not stop asking him to remove them.

WSCC had advised there was no legal precedent to remove a licence for hoardings, however indications were that it would only be possible to extend the licence until the end of April 2023.

The site was almost finished so it would seem unlikely that the developer would leave the hoardings in place as it would be impossible to sell or rent the properties with them in place.

We recognise these hoardings are a real problem for the community, the Parish Council had asked multiple times but the developers were robustly refusing to work with us. It was resolved to publish an update for the community on Facebook including photographs which demonstrate that the works to the front of the building were in fact completed.

FC168 To ratify the annual insurance premium of £4,435.86 with Zurich for the 3rd and final year of the current contract, an increase from last year's premium of £3,971.74. The increase is due to an index-linked rise in costs applied to the premium in the event that reinstatement of an asset was required.

Council ratified the insurance premium payment for 2023-24.

FC169 To review and agree the Council and Committee meeting dates for 2023-24

Council agreed the meeting dates for 2023-24, these will be added to the website.

FC170 Confidential Business: Debt Write Off & Staffing Matters

To consider whether to resolve to exclude the press, broadcast media and public (pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) during consideration of the following confidential business to be conducted.

a) To consider the recommendation to write off the debt incurred by anon-paying hirer of Cuckfield Village Hall

Council resolved to write off the debt.

b) To consider increasing the hours of the Parish Clerk from 28 to 35 per week and consider financial implications.

Council resolved to approve the increase of hours and single increment increase to the Clerk's position.

FC171 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

Thanks expressed to everyone for their input over the past four years, and good luck to all who were standing for election in the May 2023 elections.

Meeting closed at 10.15pm

Signed _____

Future Meeting: 18th May 2023