



The Queen's Hall
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Sam Heynes: Parish Clerk
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council held at 8pm on Thursday 29th August 2024

Present: Mr A Burton (Chairman), Mrs M Dormer, Mr S Oversby-Powell, Mr A Podmore, Mr M Sheldon, Mr A Symonds, and Mrs J White

In attendance: Mrs S Heynes (Clerk) and Ms N Ripert (Communications & Admin Officer)

Public Question Time: None

FC044 To receive apologies for absence

Cllrs Ceccherini, Gill and King offered their apologies which were noted.

FC045 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

FC046 To approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13th June 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2024 were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

FC047 To receive reports from District Councillors and County Councillor

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bradbury and Knight. Cllr Avery attended and provided an update regarding the District Plan which was now with the Planning Inspectorate for review prior to examination in October. Any changes to housing targets at government level should not have any impact on the District Plan allocations.

MSDC were looking to consult regarding the parking times and charges across the towns in the district due to public opposition to the proposed changes. A conversation regarding the Hanlye Lane development occurred, highlighting that the developers had consciously disregarded the feedback submitted by Cuckfield Parish Council. Cllr Avery would follow up on this further.

The proposed 20mph zone in Cuckfield was discussed, and it was highlighted that Cllr Bradbury continued to refused to accept there was a case for this in Cuckfield and so was still withholding his support. Cllr Bradbury had offered a meeting with the Highways Consultant regarding this but it had still not been arranged.

The proposals to expand the car park at the Recreation Ground had been submitted to MSDC and been well received, they had advised that when funding was available this would be reconsidered.

The proposal to implement charging for road closures by MSDC had been abandoned.

FC048 To receive a verbal report from the Chairman

Cllr Burton requested that the business plan was added to future agendas for regular review, with an update of progress achieved to date. The draft District Plan was felt to be

in a strong position against the current government requirements.

FC049 To note the Full Council Action List

The action list was reviewed and noted.

FC050 To approve Bank Reconciliation Statements for Unity Trust and CCLA accounts for June and July 2024

Council reviewed and approved the bank reconciliation statements for Unity Trust and CCLA accounts for June and July 2024.

FC051 To review and approve the current year to date budget and expenditure for 2024-25 (to 22 August 2024)

No comments were forthcoming, the current budget and year to date expenditure was approved.

FC052 To receive an update regarding the Angela Fox Nature Garden

Several councillors had reviewed the garden progress and were pleased with the planting schemes implemented over the summer. The water fountain had been purchased and the fox sculpture had been commissioned, S106 funds had been approved to cover these items. The garden designers had taken over the regular garden maintenance.

FC053 To receive an update on the installation of solar panels at the Queen's Hall

A planning application was required before the solar panels could be installed, this was being investigated. The information regarding the economics of the solar panels had been shared but would be recirculated.

FC054 To consider the quotes for a new energy contract for the provision of gas and electricity for Parish Council assets

Council had reviewed the updated quotes for the provision of gas and electricity and instructed the Clerk to review the most cost-effective provider and instruct them to take over the provision before the end of the existing contract.

FC055 To consider the recruitment of a Community-Based Youth and Children's Worker in partnership with Holy Trinity Church to help improve provision for youth and children in the area

Councillors expressed concerns about the scale of the task to provide a youth provision within the village. In principle Council supported the proposal and would consider the request for financial support, and would like to be part of a working group to determine the next steps for this scheme. Cllr Symonds offered to liaise with Rev Valentine.

FC056 To consider the adoption of the updated Pension Discretions Policy

Council reviewed the policy and resolved to adopt it.

FC057 To consider the recommendation from the ACE Committee to instruct The Handmade & Hire Company to manage the Christmas Street Festival for 2024

Council resolved to instruct the Handmade & Hire Company to manage the Christmas Street Festival for 2024.

FC058 To consider the proposal to create a replica WW2 aircraft spotting post within the bunker compound. This would be created from wood and reclaimed 'wriggly' tin and would not be a permanent fixture, painted the same green as the bunker so it would blend into the surroundings, with planting around it. It would be no higher than 1.5m and approx. 4-5 square meters footprint

Council reviewed the proposal and were happy to grant permission for this to proceed.

FC059 To review the following grant applications and resolve whether to award the funds:

- a. **Application on behalf of the Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex to be used as a contribution to the operating costs of HEMS – helicopters, rapid-response vehicles, medical equipment, fuel, highly-trained crews.**

Council considered the request and resolved to provide a grant of £200.

FC060 Confidential Business: Clerk Resignation & Recruitment

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.

Council noted the resignation of the Parish Clerk and discussed how to proceed with recruiting a replacement. After some discussion it was resolved to delegate the details of this to the HR Committee, who would meet once proposals for the future had been prepared. The Clerk's final day would be 31st October 2024.

FC061 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.

Cllr Burton would not be at the next Full Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.48pm

Signed: _____

Future Meeting:
17th October 2024