



**SUNNINGHILL & ASCOT
PARISH COUNCIL**

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Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council held at the Parish Council Office, The Courtyard, High Street, Ascot, SL5 7JF, on Thursday 4 January 2018 starting at 7.00pm

Members Present: Councillors A Sharpe (Chairman), B Hilton (Vice-Chairman), P Deason, R Ellison, D Hilton, S Jones, C Lester, P Morris, S Humphrey, B Humphreys, A Nehra, B Story

In attendance: Elizabeth Yates, Clerk to the Council

6931 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Phil Carter, Charlotte Herring, John Gripton and Robin Wood.

6932 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman asked to receive any Declarations of Interest in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct. None were received.

6933 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on 5 December 2017, were approved as a correct record and signed as such, subject to a minor amendment regarding minute 6922 requested by Councillor Pat Morris.

6934 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed Members that she and the Clerk were due to visit Jayne Kirk, the County Executive Officer from the Berkshire Association of Local Councils (BALC), on Monday 15 January.

6935 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned for a maximum of 15 minutes to allow members of the public, if present, to address the Council about matters of local concern as no members of the public were present.

6936 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Planning Committee minutes of 19 December were presented by Councillor Barbara Hilton.

6937 BUDGET AND PRECEPT DETERMINATION

A previously circulated report on the budget and precept for the financial year 2018/19 was considered. Councillor David Hilton proposed that the precept was ratified. Councillor Ajay Nehra seconded this proposal which was unanimously approved by a show of hands. Therefore it was resolved that the Precept would be set at £169,593 based upon a Tax Base (Band D equivalents) of 6,455.77, which equated to a Precept per Band D property of £26.27, with an additional Compensating Grant from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead of £6,161. This represented a zero increase in the Band D Precept Charge from the last financial year.

Councillor Robin Wood, in his capacity as Lead Member for Finance, had amended the draft budget, further to minute 6918. Councillor Peter Deason asked for a meeting with Councillor Wood regarding the formatting of the budget, a meeting to which Councillor David Hilton asked to attend. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange this meeting and that the budget for 2018/19 was approved as the formatting did not affect the budget figures.

Councillor Peter Deason asked if any progress had been made regarding the proposed Oriental Road footpath project in Sunninghill and Councillor David Hilton replied that the Borough had been contacted about its funding. The Clerk added that she had met with the Borough's term contractor on site and that an estimate for the project was being obtained. The Chairman then added that she had raised this project with the Borough Officers whom she and the Clerk had met at the last communications meeting held on Thursday 7 December 2017.

6938 INTERNAL AUDIT – INTERIM REPORT

The previously circulated report was noted and the Clerk's request to re-appoint the firm of internal auditors for the next financial year approved. There were no significant matters or formal recommendations arising from the report.

6939 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

The previously circulated report was considered and the next steps agreed. The Clerk informed Members that Councillor Charlotte Herring had expressed an interest in assisting with the initial review of data held by the Parish Council and this assistance was welcomed. The Clerk added that she and the Chairman would ask about training for Parish Councillors at their meeting with BALC and that the financial implications of the GDPR had been included within the administration budget for next year. Some Members expressed concerns about the onerous nature of the regulations and the impact they would have on their working arrangements, particularly regarding data held on Councillor's servers. The Clerk stated that National Association of Local Councils was lobbying on behalf of Parish Councils regarding the need for a proportionate response to the GDPR and Councillor David Hilton added that the Borough's monitoring officer was also looking into the effect of the regulations on Borough Councillors.

6940 THE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The arrangements for the Annual Assembly, to be held on 21 March 2018, were discussed. The following suggestions for speakers and topics of interest were put forward by Members as follows:

The Parish Council's activities over the last year and future projects
The Parish Plan Questionnaire results
Ascot Regeneration
Ascot Racecourse developments
Planning matters
Local policing
Plans for local GP surgeries
Education - Charters School
Litter – the Council's approach and resource
Blythewood Kingfisher Project

The local charities were also to be invited, with the Chairman asking the Clerk to emphasize to them that it was an obligation to attend and present their accounts to electors.

Concerns were expressed by some Members that a focus on planning and Ascot Regeneration would not fit in with the aim of the Assembly which was to inform electors as to the activities of the Parish Council and give an opportunity for them to ask questions of the Parish and Borough Councillors. Others felt that development was a key concern for residents and that the Ascot Development Group, Borough Planners and the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group could provide a useful input. Councillor Peter Deason added that the Parish Council could use its website to help inform residents of developments within the Parish.

The Chairman and Clerk agreed to take these suggestions forward, shape the Annual Assembly agenda and confirm the venue.

6941 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor David Hilton, in his capacity as a Borough Councillor, informed Members that the Borough Local Plan would be submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of January 2018, that the Council Tax was likely to increase by 1.95%, with an extra 3% social care levy, and that he had a copy of the Borough Leader's letter on 'rough sleepers' in Windsor should any Member wish to read it.

6942 THE SUNNINGILL VICTORIAN STREET FAYRE AND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2018

The Victorian Street Fayre date and time were agreed, as being Sunday 18 November 2018, from 12 noon to 4.00pm. Councillor Barbara Hilton emphasised that all Parish Councillors had a responsibility and involvement with the Fayre, which was a considerable undertaking for the Parish Council. The Chairman went on to discuss a number of possible ideas for Remembrance Sunday 2018, which was the week before the Fayre, including the lighting of beacons, a display of poppies on lamp columns in High Streets and the sowing of poppy seeds on the bank adjacent to Victory Field and on Parish roundabouts. These matters had been discussed at the last communications meeting with the Borough, with a view to coordinate activities, as had a project entitled 'For King and Country' which sought to uncover the stories of those who lost their lives in the First World War. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council raised the possibility of a permanent beacon being installed within the Racecourse with Alastair Warwick at the February Parish Council meeting and that there was a desire for the Pavilion project and associated works at Victory Field Recreation Ground, Sunninghill to be completed by Remembrance Sunday.

6943 GRAEME KENNEDY FUND

The Chairman informed Members about Mr Kennedy, the Groundsman at Sunningdale Parish Council and it was agreed that a sum of £500 would be given to Sunningdale Parish Council, from the Chairman’s allowance, in recognition of Mr Kennedy’s service to the community and to assist with the fund being set up in his name.

6944 OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Pat Morris raised the circulated amended plans for the Pavilion at Victory Field and urged the Parish Council to progress with the project. Councillor Peter Deason replied that a meeting with the architects was to take place on Friday 5 January.

Councillor Christine Lester raised the notes written by Councillor Peter Deason following the last Ascot Rejuvenation Stakeholder Group Meeting and asked if these notes were to be considered at the meeting. Councillor Barbara Hilton replied that she thought it would be more useful to consider this topic following the Ascot Centre Development Group presentation to the Parish Council and public consultation, due to be held in January 2018. Councillor Deason was thanked for his notes.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Councillor Allison Sharpe, Chairman