



**SUNNINGHILL & ASCOT
PARISH COUNCIL**

**The Courtyard (Ascot Racecourse)
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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 Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 7.00pm

Members Present: Councillors A Sharpe (Chairman), B Story (Vice Chairman), P Carter, P Deason, R Ellison, M Finch, C Herring, S Humphrey, A Jezard, S Jones, C Lester, S Verma, R Wood, I Steers

In attendance; Elizabeth Yates, Clerk to the Council and Jayne Strand, Administrative Assistant to the Clerk and Jasmine Imsirovic from Licensed Victuallers School attended as a parishioner.

7396 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor John Gripton.

7397 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman asked to receive any Declarations of Interest in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct. The Chairman stated that she had a non pecuniary interest in the application for a grant received from the Sunninghill Royal Voluntary Service Darby and Joan Club as her sister had made the application.

7398 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting, held on 14 May, were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

7399 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that a by-election for a Parish Councillor for the Ascot Ward was to be held on 16 July. She also informed councillors that the process for recruiting a new Parish Council Clerk was on going. The Chairman raised the idea of holding a one off 'Meeting of Members' to discuss the strategic direction and priorities of the Parish Council. The 16 July meeting had been set aside for councillor training and so it was thought an appropriate date to hold such a meeting as the desired trainer was unavailable on that day. The Clerk added that she anticipated that the meeting would be conducted in a manner which allowed for all councillors to express their opinions and feel included. The Clerk reminded Councillors of the need to obtain a Parish Councillor email address in accordance with the Council's General Data Protection Regulation processes and that this email address would be included on the Parish Council's web site, along with biographies of Councillors if submitted.

7400 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned for a maximum of 15 minutes to allow Members of the Public to address the Council about matters of local concern as none were present.

7401 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Planning Committee minutes of 28 May and 11 June were presented by Councillor Robin Wood who drew councillors attention to the significant planning applications considered at these meetings, which included the part change of use of the lower and upper ground floor of Jagz public house and function room into 13 guest bedrooms, changes to the retail unit at 68 Sunninghill High Street, the proposed construction of four two-bedroom extra care units, additional staff/resident parking and revised refuse storage/collection facilities at Lynwood Care Home, following the demolition of 2 residential blocks (44 residential units) and the alteration of the internal floor space of the existing care home to increase the number of care bedrooms from 93 to 102. Councillor Wood noted that the appeal regarding the application for the construction of 11 x 2 bed apartments and associated access at Claver Drive in Sunninghill had been dismissed.

The Leisure Committee minutes of 4 June were presented by Councillor Robert Ellison. Councillor Ellison informed Councillors that he had been elected as the committee Chairman for a further year and that Councillor Mark Finch had been elected as Vice Chairman. He provide an update on the purchase of new swings and a see-saw for South Ascot Recreation Ground and the purchase of the senior size football goals for both Parish Council pitches. Quotes had been obtained for the replacement of the mini goals at Victory Field.

Consultation with Cheapside Preschool had begun, thanks to Councillor Sneh Verma. regarding the proposed Cheapside Play Park refurbishment and Councillor Mark Finch, with the help of his daughter, had produced a mood board for use at the forthcoming Party in the Park. Arrangements were in place for the Party and thanks were given to Jayne Strand. All Councillors were given the rota list of help needed during the Party and Councillor Adam Jezard agreed to distribute flyers to the properties on Oriental Road in Sunninghill, which backed onto Victory Field. The Chairman informed Councillors that the Vicar of St Michael and All Angels Church would rededicate the Victory Field at the start of the Party, as it was one hundred years since the Parish Council purchased the ground for recreational use by parishioners. Further works to the hedge at Victory Field and Tom Green's Field would continue in the autumn, as would the next set of works at the Blythewood Nature Reserve, with the Clerk having gone to tender for the tree condition survey works. The Christmas lights for 2019 had been ordered. Councillor Mark Finch proposed using glass jars to obtain feedback from those attending the Party as to what their priorities were.

7402 END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL AUDIT

Councillor Robin Wood presented the end of year accounts as Lead Member for Finance. He stated that overall the income was as budgeted for, with expenditure being one per-cent below budget. Overall the funding situation was in line with expectation and the expected income from the precept for future years was considered to be sufficient to cover the planned upkeep of current assets and facilities. Councillor Peter Deason asked for clarification regarding reserve movements which Councillor Wood explained in terms of future capital spend. The end of year Internal Audit Report for 2018/19 was noted.

7403 END OF YEAR EXTERNAL AUDIT RETURN 2018/19

7403.1 Members approved, by a show of hands, the Annual Governance Statement for signing by the Chairman and the Clerk.

7403.2 Members approved, by a show of hands, the Statement of Accounts, Section 2, for signing by the Chairman and the Clerk.

7404 CHARITY DONATIONS, SECTION 137, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

Applications for funding were received from local charities and the following grants awarded:

Ascot Volunteer Bureau - £250

Bracknell and District Parkinson's Branch - £500

Sunninghill Royal Voluntary Service Darby and Joan Club - £300

Youthline Ltd - £1000. Councillors asked the Clerk to contact Youthline to identify which schools within the Parish they were engaged with and their processes for networking and spreading good practice.

Councillor Charlotte Herring suggested that the Parish Council did more to promote their charitable activities to encourage a wide range of applicants.

7405 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Councillors Ian Steers and Adam Jezard spoke to the Council about the need to further community engagement. Councillor Adam Jezard had examined other Parish Council's engagement strategies and web sites from which a strategy for this Parish Council could emerge, most notably from Coxhoe Parish Council. He had also examined the Local Government Association's guidance on community engagement and agreed to circulate his findings to Councillors. Councillor Ian Steers had proposed setting up a working group to look at the aims, methods, costs and potential benefits to the parish of Community Engagement and it was agreed that this matter would be more fully considered at the Member's Meeting on 16 July.

7406 BERKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS MEMBERSHIP

It was agreed that the membership to BALC would be renewed for another year by a show of hands. The Council would review the need for ongoing membership next year.

7407 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

The Chairman read out a report that had been previously circulated from Borough Councillor David Hilton. The main points were:

Parking enforcement: Councillor Hilton confirmed that he had discussed Councillor Peter Deason's proposed schedule of enforcement with a Director from the Borough who would ensure that action was taken. Councillor Hilton noted that this was a high priority with residents.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): The Borough Council had recruited a new CIL Officer who would manage CIL monies and also the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The Officer planned to visit the Parish Council in the near future.

The Oaks Leisure Centre: Councillor Hilton had submitted a finance paper recommending provision of an additional £100,000 for the project to allow designs to be completed and ground investigations to be carried out. The planning application would be considered by the Borough Wide Planning Management Committee in the next few months.

Ascot Place Making: The Borough's Local Plan had been delayed, allowing time to fill the Place Making gap. A stakeholder's meeting on this was to be held on 26 June. This meeting would consider how the proposed development at Heatherwood, the Shorts site and Ascot rejuvenation would be designed to form a unified whole.

A329 review: Councillor Hilton confirmed that a review of the A329 from Heatherwood roundabout to the Silwood Road junction was now underway. Councillor Hilton planned to meet with Borough Planners and the Borough's Highways team to discuss stakeholder involvement.

Councillor Christine Lester stated that a comprehensive infrastructure review and wider highway review would be necessary taking into account proposals for Ascot rejuvenation. Councillor Peter Deason agreed, adding that the highway review should encompass Sunninghill and South Ascot.

Councillor Deason went on to update members following a meeting held that morning with the Borough Planners and representatives from the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group regarding the preparation of a strategic policy for the Ascot area which was to be followed by the meeting on 26 June.

7408 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Councillors looked at what actions the Parish Council could take to mitigate the impact of climate change, noting the petition calling on the Borough to declare a Climate Change Emergency that was being debated at the Borough Council meeting that evening. A debate followed as to the appropriateness of the Parish Council declaring such an emergency and the practicalities that would be involved. Consideration was given to the activities that the Parish Council could undertake to improve biodiversity, sustainability and mitigate the causes of climate change. Councillor Mark Finch suggested drafting impact assessments for Council meetings, Councillor Charlotte Herring spoke about the need to consider climate change in its broader environmental context, Councillor Peter Deason asked Councillor Ian Steers to summarise the possible actions that could be taken identified to him by local residents, Councillor Phil Carter stated that he did not want to be 'rail roaded' into agreeing to a declaration without identifying actions that could be taken.

After a lengthy debate, Councillor Ian Steers proposed that the Parish Council should firstly declare a Climate Change Emergency and/ or secondly that the Parish Council agreed to setting up a group, endorsed by the Parish Council, with Parish Councillors whose mission was to engage the community and other stakeholders in mitigating the effects of climate change. Councillor Barbara Story proposed an alternative that the Parish Council committed to protecting the environment and mitigating climate change. *The parishioner in attendance (Jasmine Imsirovic) supported Councillor Steers's proposal that the Parish Council should declare a climate emergency and considered it to be a key issue facing the community.* The proposal from Councillor Barbara Story was approved, with climate change to be further considered at the meeting to be held on 16 July.

7409 OTHER BUSINESS

Due to the late running of the meeting, the Chairman did not ask for any other business.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm

Councillor Allison Sharpe, Chairman