

**Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
held at The Parish Council Office, The Courtyard, High Street, Ascot, SL5 7JF
on Tuesday 10 December 2019 at 7.00pm.**

Members present: Councillors A Sharpe (Chairman), B Story (Vice-Chairman), P Deason, R Ellison, M Finch, J Gripton, C Herring, B Hilton, S Jones, C Lester, I Steers, S Verma, R Wood.

In attendance: Helen Goodwin, Clerk to the Council; Mr C Joyce, RBWM Infrastructure & CIL Officer.

7526 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillors P Carter & S Humphrey.

7527 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman asked to receive any Declarations of Interest in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct. Cllr I Steers declared his membership of the climate action group CESA.

7528 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29 October 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

7529 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised the council:

- i) The Returning Officer received no requests for an election to fill the Parish Councillor vacancy and it was therefore to be filled by co-option. Notices were posted inviting applications, with 10 December as the application deadline. Three applications have been received and arrangements will be made to interview the people concerned.
- ii) Datchet parish council has organised “Fundamentals” training for new councillors – if anyone wants to know more please contact the clerk.

7530 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned.

7531 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Mr Chris Joyce, the RBWM Infrastructure and CIL officer spoke to the council outlining his role and the processes and procedures around CIL funding. He agreed with councillors that more stakeholder engagement is needed and advised that he plans to establish new ways of working with parish councils to understand what they want from him and what the local priorities are.

Mr Joyce agreed that, to allow councils to plan better, he will be advising parishes on where funding is being spent by the borough and what amounts of CIL funding parishes can expect to come in terms of projects due but not yet started. He will be drawing up a plan of borough proposed projects and priorities within the next six months, so that the parish council can work with the borough to decide how best to fund the projects it wishes to prioritise. It was also agreed that parishes should work with neighbouring parishes where projects affect larger areas.

7532 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

- i) The Planning Committee minutes of 5 November and 26 November were presented by Councillor R Wood who reported that they were in the main tree related. The two major applications he drew the council’s attention to were:
 - a. 19-01464 The Henly And Beharral Houses and Lynwood Court - the committee voted against this but the RBWM panel has allowed it;
 - b. 19-01701 Sandridge House – the committee was against this and the borough has rejected it.

- ii) The Finance & Personnel Committee minutes of 19 November were presented by Councillor A Sharpe who reported that, primarily, discussions were held regarding the recommendations by the clerk to move forward with extending the team by one part-time member, ensuring greater flexibility of workshare around the office and giving the clerk a more strategic role while also allowing time to study for the appropriate qualifications. In addition a reorganisation of the office space was recommended. The committee was happy with the ideas presented and recommended them to the council subject to approval of the budget.

7533 GRANT APPLICATIONS

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

- i) Citizens Advice Bracknell and District – £1,000; budget £1,000 again for next year;
- ii) South East Berks Gang Show - £250;
- iii) The Sunningdale Hope Trust – £500;
- iv) Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre - £350;
- v) 1st South Ascot Scout Group - £750.

The council considered an application from Youthline Ltd but decided against making an award on this occasion as a grant was awarded in June 2019. It was agreed that a further £1,000 for the Citizens Advice Bracknell and District would be included in the 2020/21 budget.

7534 THE BUDGET 2020/21

Councillor R Wood presented the draft budget for 2020/21 and it was discussed by the council. Concern was expressed regarding proposed spending at South Ascot playpark in view of the fact that there is not yet a long-term lease in place. It was noted that much of the play equipment is old and dated and is coming to the end of its useful life; the matting in the young children's play area needs replacing and some more accessible equipment is required. The council agreed that the budget for spending at South Ascot should be reduced to £45,000 which will allow for any necessary repairs to be carried out, but equipment will not be replaced on a large scale at this stage. A further £45,000 of reserves will be ring-fenced for replacement play equipment when the issue is resolved.

The council discussed the precept for 2020/21 and it was proposed that it is increased to ensure sufficient reserves are retained, to meet operational costs and to maintain assets. The chairman reminded the council there is a mandate for a precept increase as the majority of parishioners responding to the Parish Plan had expressed the opinion that they would be happy for it to be increased if necessary. She also pointed out that, while CIL funds are available for capital projects, the precept should be used to maintain assets. Our precept for a Band D property is currently £26.25 and the proposed increase to £30 would mean ours is still one of the lowest parish precepts in the borough. The council voted by a majority of 8 to 4 to make a one-off increase to the precept, bringing it up to £30 for a Band D property. The justification for this is that the capital investments which have been made on council-owned property over the last few years, and the proposed further investment in the next year, require a level of maintenance and management which is in excess of the that which can be funded by the current level of the precept.

7535 PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan is now, pending a few grammatical amendments, in a format that may be published on the council's website with a paper copy available for review in the office. A flyer has also been prepared to publicise this and the Green Corridor survey. The council agreed that this should now go ahead.

7536 PARISH REPRESENTATIONS TO BLPSV-PC CONSULTATION

Representations are required by the Borough by 15th December. The council agreed that the report is very well done and thanked Cllr Deason for his hard work. The pollution aspect of the BLP was discussed and the fact that the borough may not be able to meet its climate change obligations if the plan goes ahead. The council agreed by a majority of 11 to 1 that the representations prepared by Cllr Deason should be submitted. Cllr Ian Steers made clear that he would prefer the term "extremely weak" with regard to the climate change policies referred to in key representation (v).

7537 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

The borough council matters were not discussed as Borough Councillor D Hilton was unable to be present.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i) Cllr B Story advised the council that the borough is supportive of the suggestion of a commemorative plaque for Woodcote House saying it was the home of Ascot's Belsen Boys.
- ii) Cllr R Ellison advised the council that planning for the Victorian Street Fayre of 2020 would soon begin and a date would shortly be set for the first planning meeting. Volunteers were requested from the council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:15pm.

Councillor Allison Sharpe, Chairman