

**Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
held at The Parish Council Office, The Courtyard, High Street, Ascot, SL5 7JF
on Tuesday 02 January 2020 at 7.00pm.**

Members present: Councillors B Story (Acting Chairman), P Deason, R Ellison, M Finch, J Gripton,
C Herring, B Hilton, S Humphrey, C Lester, S Verma, R Wood.

In attendance: Helen Goodwin, Clerk to the Council.

7545 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillors P Carter, S Jones, A Sharpe and I Steers.

7546 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

7547 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 December 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed as such, with one amendment noted:

Item 7534: The proposed level of increase to the precept will bring it to £31 for a Band D property, not £30 as stated in the minutes.

7548 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Acting Chairman made no formal announcements.

7549 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned.

7550 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Planning Committee minutes of 17 December were presented by Councillor R Wood who noted that, of the 17 applications, seven were for trees.

7551 PRECEPT 2020/21

Cllr R Wood presented a paper setting out the budget for 2020/21. The council voted in favour of submitting to the borough the precept as per the proposed budget and as discussed at the meeting on 10 December. It was noted that this represents an increase of 18% on the current year and a deferment of 50% of the proposed capital spend at South Ascot playpark. It was agreed that the wording justifying the precept increase should be revised.

7552 INTERNAL AUDIT INTERIM REPORT

The Internal Audit Interim Report was presented which stated that “there are no significant matters or formal recommendations arising of which members or officers are unaware: consequently, we have not considered it necessary to raise any formal Action Plan in our report at present”. The Lead Member for Finance was congratulated for the positive report.

7553 THE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Annual Assembly is scheduled for 18 March; the venue is yet to be decided but the Cordes Hall and the Ascot Day Centre were agreed to be preferred choices, while the pavilion at Ascot Utd is also a possibility. The clerk will coordinate securing a venue and will compare the costs of each; the chairmen of the Leisure & Cultural Committee and the Planning Committee agreed to each prepare a presentation for the Assembly.

7554 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

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

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i. There was discussion regarding the co-option of a new councillor. The clerk reported that there have been three applicants and a meeting would be arranged at a mutually convenient date for the applicants to be interviewed. Councillors expressed the view that the interview process should include the whole council committee; the clerk will clarify the correct procedure. A secret ballot will follow the interviews.
- ii. There was discussion regarding the proposed changes in the office and whether the final budget for next year had yet been approved. It was agreed that the proposed budget will be recirculated and will be voted on at the next Parish Council meeting on 11 February.
- iii. The next climate change workshop hosted by the borough is to be held on 9th January. As yet, no councillors have volunteered to attend as representative of the council but the clerk will approach Cllr I Steers to ask if he is able to undertake this role. The organiser of the workshop has asked councils to submit “one wish” and it was agreed that the clerk should respond with “we would like the council to commit to the development of Ascot being carbon neutral”.
- iv. Cllr S Verma recommended the Parish Council dinner to be held at Bar 1 Ascot and it was agreed this should be held on 11th February after the PC meeting.
- v. Cllr R Ellison reported that the Sunninghill Wheelbarrow Race was very well attended. The Sunningdale Hope Trust won with their Isle of Wight ferry and they have been approached to take part in the Victorian Street Fayre procession.
- vi. Cllr J Gripton expressed concern regarding Ascot rejuvenation and discussion followed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Councillor Barbara Story, Acting Chairman