

**Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
held at The Parish Council Office, The Courtyard, High Street, Ascot, SL5 7JF
on Tuesday 11 February 2020 at 7.00pm.**

Members present: Councillors A Sharpe (Chairman), B Story (Vice-Chairman), P Carter, P Deason, R Ellison, M Finch, J Gripton, B Hilton, S Humphrey, C Lester, C Richardson, R Wood.

In attendance: Borough councillor D Hilton; Helen Goodwin, Clerk to the Council.

7583 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillors C Herring, S Jones and S Verma.

7584 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

7585 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 02 January 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

7586 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- i) The second Casual Vacancy is going through due process and, having been advertised, has received no requests for election. The process of advertising for co-option is therefore beginning.
- ii) The Chairman recently attended a reception held by Sebastian's Action Trust.
- iii) The chairman and Clerk met with Alistair Warwick, COO at the racecourse, who intends to make arrangements to come and talk to the Parish Council in the near future.
- iv) The Clerk has circulated a note about a climate change workshop to be held tomorrow evening. The chair reported that she had contacted the borough to express disappointment that we had so little notice and had not received minutes of previous meetings.
- v) The Chair had been invited to meet the new manager of the Royal Berkshire Hotel and had now done so, accompanied by the Clerk. The hotel management is keen to be involved in the community.

7587 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned.

7588 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Planning Committee Minutes of 07 January and 28 January were presented by Councillor R Wood who noted that there were no major applications in that time and the majority of applications were presented for approval to RBWM.

The Leisure Committee Minutes of 04 February were presented by Councillor R Ellison who reported that the main item on the agenda was the Street Fayre which will be held on 15th November. Some preliminary work has already been carried out and a sub-committee is in the process of being formed, for which all are invited to volunteer. He also reported that, due to ash die-back, we have had to have three trees taken down at the front of Victory Fields. These are to be replaced on a two for one basis. The next stage of the Woodland Management plan is on schedule for work to be carried out before the end of February. Cllr M Finch reported that he and the Clerk had been to Cheapside park and met up with the Parks & Landscape Officer at RBWM, along with Charlie Clayton who carries out our playground safety inspections. We are now in a position to move forward with preparing an invitation to tender to send out.

7589 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BUDGET 2020/21

Councillor R Wood presented the Quarterly Financial Report and reported that expenditure is below plan and income is in line with budget, with the exception of a few items. Overall we are in a strong financial position. He noted that election costs incurred, which hadn't been included in the budget, amounting to £7,500, and this should be included in the budget in future election years. The leisure capital spend is small in comparison with the budget – this is because Cheapside is unlikely to be spent this financial year and the accounts therefore look as though we are under budget in spending. There are two matters to take into account – next year's Leisure spending will include both South Ascot and Cheapside; we are going to our parishioners asking for an increase in precept just at the time when, if you look at the actual figures for the current year it looks as if we are fine. Overall reserves are expected to be £127,000, some of which is the sum to be spend in Cheapside, leaving uncommitted free reserves of approximately £77,000.

The budget for 2020/21 as proposed, with the increase in precept and taking £45,000 of funds ring-fenced for South Ascot forward into 2021/22, leaves a shortfall income against expenditure of £20,000. However, overall it represents a sound position going forward. The council voted by a show of hands and the budget was accepted unanimously.

7590 SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Cllr P Deason presented a paper entitled "Ascot Place-making: Way forward suggestions for Borough" and a letter drafted to Ian Motuel at RBWM regarding place-making. Discussion on both documents was deferred to be included in item 7590.

7591 THE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL YEAR 2020/21

The Clerk presented the proposed meeting schedule for the year 2020/21. A request was made to move the Leisure committee meeting from October to 8th September and, with that proviso, the Council were in agreement with the schedule. The Chairman noted that the council had previously agreed to one full council meeting of the year being used specifically for CIL discussions – the specific meeting is to be advised at a future date. The Chairman reminded the council of the purpose of the Annual Assembly and advised that this year the borough councillors will be asked to give formal presentations, as well as the chairmen of the parish council committees. Cllr P Deason suggested we also have a presentation regarding the parish plan, as well as on the Green Corridor project.

7592 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr D Hilton reported as follows:

- i) He has had a conversation with the borough's Planning Policy Manager regarding the place making that is going to be starting in March and there could be an opportunity for the parish council to be involved in talking to the planning policy team and the company running the consultation about the delivery. The council discussed the proposal and agreed, in principal, that this was an opportunity they would like to explore further.
- ii) He has been looking into the issues surrounding the A329 between Heatherwood and Silwood Park, including the traffic data which the consortium put together and a lot of information associated with the Heatherwood Hospital project. There will be a public consultation in the near future to include members of the parish council and this will inform the place making. Cllr P Deason asked if this could be extended to Sunninghill, especially if the parish council was willing to contribute financially, but Cllr D Hilton advised that he did not think this was possible, however this is a question for the meeting as part of the public consultation.
- iii) He spoke about the issue of SANG in terms of the land in South Ascot and at St George's school.
- iv) The council tax is set to increase by 2%, which is the maximum allowed by legislation without a referendum, but the borough will be operating with a large deficit. This is largely due to the fact that the national government has passed the responsibility for the support of vulnerable children and adults to local governments. While the borough is determined to support this service, it takes a large percentage of the overall funds available.
- v) Cllr P Carter asked Cllr D Hilton to explain the borough's stance on the proposed withdrawal of the Advantage card discount for parking in Windsor. He advised that this had yet to be decided.

7593 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i) Cllr P Carter reminded the council that maintenance of the green on Blythewood is the responsibility of the parish council and there is an area in the corner of it which has become a dumping ground for garden rubbish from the local housing which needs clearing. In addition, it has been a long standing practice for old Christmas trees to be left on the green in January for removal, but this year they were not removed until February.
- ii) Cllr J Gripton asked for an update on Charters Oaks. Cllr D Hilton reported that this is a commitment for the borough and that he will be meeting with Mr Pilgrim, Head teacher at Charters, this week, following which he will update the parish council

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- iii) Cllr B Hilton reported that she and Cllr J Gripton had inspected the allotments and that, while most were fine, one or two were in a very poor condition. She will liaise with the parish office to arrange for letters to be sent out to specific allotment holders reminding them of their responsibilities to maintain the allotments.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:20.

Councillor Allison Sharpe, Chairman