

Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
Held at All Saints' Church, London Road, Ascot SL5 8DQ
On Tuesday 15 June 2021, commencing at 7.00pm

Members present: Councillors A Sharpe (Chairman), B Hilton (Vice Chairman), P Carter, L Davison, P Deason, R Ellison, M Finch, C Lester, C Richardson, B Story and R Wood.

In attendance: RBWM Councillor Mr D Hilton; Mr S Shah representing J McCann & Co Ltd; Mrs H Goodwin, Clerk to the Council.

7931 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Herring, S Humphrey and S Verma. Cllr J Gripton was absent.

7932 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

7933 MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 04 May 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

7934 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced she has been invited, as a representative of the Parish Council, to attend the launch as a 'Partner in Action' of Blacknest Forest School; this forms part of its efforts to implement conservation and teach students how to connect with nature.

7935 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned.

7936 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

- (i) The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 11 May and 01 June were presented by Cllr R Wood.
- (ii) The minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on 18 May were presented by Cllr B Hilton.
- (iii) The minutes of the Leisure & Cultural Committee meeting held on 08 June were presented by Cllr M Finch.

7937 FINANCIAL UPDATES

Cllr R Wood presented the End of year 2020/21 accounts, explaining that the year ended with an excess of income over expenditure of £63,000, mainly due to Leisure capital projects planning for the year not yet having been spent. This includes Cheapside playpark, the spending on which will be this year. The budget had also included changes to the office, which haven't happened yet. In addition, there was no parish event due to the pandemic and also less spend on grounds maintenance. There was, however, increased litter collection costs and an increase in maintenance of equipment required, due to the extra use during the lockdown. Cllr Wood noted that Ascot Racecourse didn't make their usual contribution to the hanging baskets, so there was a shortfall there.

Current reserves stand at £360,000, but there are elements of this which are earmarked for projects such as the forthcoming spend on Cheapside and sums intended for spending on South Ascot playpark when a lease can be agreed. This leaves just over £100,000 unallocated funds, representing four 4 months of expenditure. CIL funds are additional to the current reserves and are currently at £308,000.

Cllr Wood presented the internal audit, explaining that this has highlighted a few issues but there is nothing of major concern. Issues include having bank reconciliations signed by a councillor who is not a bank signatory and this has been undertaken. The Term Deposit interest hadn't historically been put through the books but now has. Cllr Wood was surprised that the auditor wished to have CIL funds included on the AGAR report, but this has also been done. There were a couple of items which were incorrectly coded and this has now been rectified.

7938 END OF YEAR EXTERNAL AUDIT RETURN 2020/21

- (i) The Annual Governance Statement, Section 1, was reviewed. The clerk was asked if the objectives identified by the internal auditor as not having been met were being addressed and the clerk confirmed they were. The Annual Governance Statement, Section 1, was and approved unanimously by show of hands.
- (ii) The Statement of Accounts, Section 2, was reviewed and approved unanimously by show of hands.

7939 GRANT APPLICATIONS

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137, applications for grants were invited and the following awards were made:

- i) 1st South Ascot Guides & Rangers - £1,745 – proposed by Cllr M Finch, seconded by Cllr P Deason, all were in agreement.
- ii) Bracknell & District Parkinson's - £500 – proposed by Cllr R Ellison, seconded by Cllr P Carter, all were in agreement.

7940 COOMBE LANE

The chairman advised the council that there is now a permanent TPO on the land off Coombe Lane which has recently been sold. There has been considerable discussion on social media between concerned residents who have been using the land for decades for walking and recreation and Borough Councillor Hilton spoke about options open to the parish council in supporting residents' claims of use of the land.

There was discussion around the issue and whether the fact that the land is green belt, with the addition of the TPO, is enough to protect it from development. The council agreed that the Clerk should meet with Borough Cllr Hilton to further discuss residents' claims to use of the land and look in more detail at the options available to the parish council to support them in this.

7941 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

- (i) The council was advised that the papers for the Transformation of Libraries Service will be published on Thursday and, while unable to give details at this stage, Cllr Hilton was confident people would be pleased with the outcome. He was able to say that the Fire Brigade Trust has offered £4,800 for Sunninghill library which will cover an extra two hours a week for three years.
- (ii) Cllr Hilton spoke about the ongoing issues of dog fouling in the area and that he has had complaints about this issue on Blythewood Lane. He advised that a new PSSO relating to dogs has recently come into force; this covers the whole borough and includes issues of dog fouling as well as out of control dogs. In addition, signs will be put up at either end of Blythewood Lane flagging the issue and the fact of the PSSO.
- (iv) On developments, Cllr Hilton advised that Berkeley Homes has updated its plans for the development at Sunningdale Park and these include a different mix, but overall more dwellings - and therefore more cars. Regarding the Heatherwood site, Taylor Wimpey has offered to show plans for the hospital site - while it will be interesting to see what comes forward, there seems to be a relatively small amount of open space within it.
- (v) Sunningdale Health Hub is going to consultation and some councillors will be attending a preview presentation. A suggestion was made that the name of the Hub should be changed to The 'Sunnings' Health Hub as it will also serve Sunninghill and Cllr Hilton agreed that the two parishes should work together on projects such as this.
- (vi) Cllr Hilton spoke about the Sunninghill Gas Works development, which will be maintained by a management company when completed. The site includes a park area which is adjacent to the playing field.
- (vii) Cllr Hilton was asked when domestic bin collections will be changing and also if the collection of fabrics and small electricals will be resuming. He will check and report back to the council.

7942 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Cllr Wood updated the council on the CIL Working Group. The group has agreed there needs to be an open and transparent policy for deciding on projects for the use of CIL funds. The processes of other parish councils have been looked at in agreeing the procedures to be adopted. The working group has agreed that proposals for consideration should tie in with the Neighbourhood & Parish plans and they have established eight criteria for reviewing applications. Projects will be ranked by each member of the working group and an overall weighting given. Those projects with the highest ranking will be brought to full council for consideration. In addition, some funds need to be retained for future activities, for example the community centre when Ascot is rejuvenated.

An application form has been drafted and this, with the agreed procedures, are nearly ready to be finalised ready for publication and use. These will then be published on the website and social media and community groups as well as individuals will be able to apply. It is hoped that, by the time the council next meets, there may be some recommendations. Ongoing, applications will probably be brought to council on a 6-monthly basis.

- (ii) The council was advised that the roadworks at Heatherwood roundabout have been stopped for Royal Ascot week but will resume on 21 June. The work should finish no later than the end of August. J McCann, who is carrying out the work, has had the benches at the war horse memorial cleaned and repainted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.25.

Cllr A Sharpe, Chairman