

**Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
Held in the King Edward VII Meeting Room, Ascot Racecourse, SL5 7JX
On Tuesday 07 September 2021, commencing at 7.00pm**

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

In attendance: RBWM Cllr Mr D Hilton; Mrs H Goodwin, Clerk to the Council.

7995 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs L Davison, C Herring, C Lester and S Humphrey.

7996 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

7997 MINUTES

With the following amendment to item 7978 the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 July 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed as such:

“Cllr C Richardson was nominated to attend the RBWM Local Access Forum”.

7998 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i) The chairman apologised for the fact that the Terms of Reference for Committees was omitted from this meeting's agenda; this will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.
- ii) The chairman and clerk have met with a representative of the racecourse and their concessionaire to discuss the possibility of providing refreshments at Victory Fields. They were very interested and keen to try to help. They will be coming to inspect the facilities at Victory Fields.
- iii) The chairman and clerk have met with the owner of Coombe Grange to advise that we are planning works on their boundary (new fence) and to update them on CIL funding that the council has at its disposal.
- iv) The chairman and clerk met today with representatives of the Tree Council who were very keen to work with the council on a big project including providing and maintaining hedging at Tom Green's Field, trees at Victory Fields and trees at the cemetery. They are coming back to Sunninghill at the end of the month to inspect Network Rail works and we plan to meet with them then and show them the relevant sites.
- v) The chairman attended an event at the War Horse Memorial recently, representing the parish council. The War Horse now stands as a memorial to all animals serving at war rather than just horses.

7999 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned.

8000 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 03 and 23 August were presented by Cllr R Wood. He highlighted two major applications – the former Missanda in Wells Lane, where permission was granted for two houses but the proposal now is to divide each into three terraced houses. The committee felt this represented overdevelopment. Secondly, change of use and refurbishment of Silwood Manor which, initially,

was included in the submission version of the Local Development Plan but was taken out by RBWM. The proposal is to put apartments into the manor house and use the outbuildings for dwellings. The planning committee gave feedback that this would be against the proposal, albeit the use of the manor for apartments is favourable.

In addition, the minutes of 23 August refer to a major application for Class O approval at Berkshire House, Ascot High Street. Such approval effectively allows the owners to bypass planning rules if they pass restricted tests, such as converting offices into flats. The committee has concerns about parking, less than one space for each flat, but unfortunately this isn't grounds for refusal so it is expected that this application will be approved.

8001 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Cllr R Wood reported that the precept income has been received, although other income is slow, the pitch fees have not yet been received and burial fees have been lower than budgeted so far. Expenditure, especially capital projects, is also behind, meaning reserves have increased to £399,000. £145,000 of this is to cover items that may be coming but there are no specific details. There is nothing untoward to report.

8002 MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of conduct was passed unanimously by show of hands. Cllr D Hilton reminded councillors that any complaints from the public should be referred to the Borough.

8003 JUBILEE PARTY IN THE PARK

Cllr M Finch gave an outline for new councillors of the biennial Party in the Park and explained his thinking behind the schedule he is proposing for next year's Platinum Jubilee. There was discussion as to whether commercial companies could be involved to sponsor various aspects of the event. It was suggested the budget for the parish council spend on this event be increased. It was pointed out that the longer day being proposed would mean more manpower is required. Councillors agreed that, in principle, they were very supportive of the plans and suggested a working group be set up to make more detailed plans and draw up a budget.

8004 CIL WORKING GROUP

Cllr R Wood gave an outline of progress so far and explained that there is a video which has now been posted to the website. The working group is trying to get projects that will be representative going forward and plans are moving in the right direction. The list that was drawn up a few years' ago is still part of the working group's considerations, although the items related to South Ascot are on hold. Charters' School wishes to apply for CIL funds to extend their canteen; a form has been sent to them. Another possible project is the extension of the cemetery and enquiries are starting to be made about that. The owner of the land is away but his PA has informed the chairman that they are interested in engaging with the Woodland Trust to consider putting trees on some of the land; it is hoped that the parish council could work alongside them with that.

8005 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

Cllr D Hilton reported that August is a quiet month so there is not very much on which to report.

- Planning - Development management: In response to input from Parish Councils the borough now has two Development Control panels again. Cllr Hilton doesn't think anything is gained by this as the most experienced Councillors were on the single panel and expertise is now diluted in the two panels. Delegated authority to planners is unchanged so only major applications go to panel - 10 or more dwellings or greater than 1,000 sq. metres of development. Any other applications where the parish council has serious concerns will need to be called in and Cllr Hilton said that he is always happy to help.
- Place making: In the borough's submission of the BLP they committed to a Place Making strategy for Ascot. This will be drafted and it will cover the wider area of Ascot including South Ascot. Cllr Hilton has talked to Adrien Waite, Head of Planning, about the last meeting held in the Community Room at the Racecourse where, in relation to Ascot Centre, the Ascot Development Brief seemed to be ignored and they started from scratch, which seemed to Cllr Hilton to be a waste of time. He will be happy to hear parish council views. This is not imminent but just to make the parish council aware.

- Article 4 directives: There has been some concern regarding an immediate Article 4 directive on a permitted development application at Berkshire House. An Article 4 would ensure that a full planning application for the change from offices to residential is required.
 - Guidance states that immediate directions can be made in relation to development permitted by the general permitted development order, where the development presents an immediate threat to local amenity or prejudices the proper planning of an area.
 - The catch is that in all cases the local planning authorities must have already begun the consultation processes towards making a non-immediate Article 4 direction.
 - This is Paragraph 045 of the guidance and Cllr Hilton will send a link to anyone who would like to read it.
 - The Application does not gain immediate approval as there are a number of issues that require prior approval and the planning team will be looking very carefully at these.
- Afghan refugees: The borough council is providing safe refuge to Afghan staff who supported UK operations and HM Armed Forces in Afghanistan. They have confirmed they will initially support two households and they have already secured suitable accommodation for them. They have previously addressed rough sleeping and this has had a knock-on effect on the availability of suitable accommodation. As a consequence they are asking the private sector if they will be prepared to assist by offering accommodation; a number of landlords have already been in touch to ask if they could help the refugee families. An appeal was made for donations of clothing etc for refugees and the borough was overwhelmed with donations and needed to stop this after a week so that what had been donated could be sorted. There is a lot of goodwill in the borough.
- Sunninghill Library: Cllr Hilton reported that it was his understanding that funding should be in place to support the Sunninghill Library. He emailed Cliff Chermiside, a trustee of the Sunninghill Reading Room Trust, to ask who the cheque from the Fire Brigade Trust should be payable to; he received a reply today so now knows who to send the cheque to.

Questions were put to Cllr Hilton regarding:

- Placemaking for Ascot – Cllr Hilton advised that the Crown Estate is planning a total change of strategy and will not be in the position to agree to anything coming forward from the racecourse until next year.
- A322 – Cllr Hilton advised that some work has been done looking at projects to improve the A322. The funding issue is being considered.

8006 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Richardson gave an update on the Walking & Cycling Walking Group – following last meeting the document was submitted to RBWM and they are running several engagement sessions. Cllr Richardson will be speaking at one in Sunningdale tomorrow. She advised that, if councillors have new ideas, they are welcome to submit them through the website.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:07.

Cllr A Sharpe, Chairman