

Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
Held in the King Edward VII Meeting Room, Ascot Racecourse, SL5 7JX
On Tuesday 14 December 2021, commencing at 7.00pm

Members present: Councillors B Hilton (Acting Chairman), L Davison, R Ellison, J Gripton, C Richardson, C Roberts and R Wood.

In attendance: Mrs H Goodwin, Clerk to the Council.

8087 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs P Carter, P Deason, M Finch, C Herring, S Humphrey, C Lester, A Sharpe, B Story and S Verma.

8088 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

8089 MINUTES

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 November 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

8090 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no formal announcements.

8091 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned.

8092 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 07 December were presented by Cllr R Wood.

8093 GRANT APPLICATIONS

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

- Food 4 Children - £755
- South Ascot Guides - £500
- Thames Valley Hospice - £500

Awards were agreed unanimously by show of hands.

8094 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Cllr Wood presented information on two projects being considered for CIL funding.

- Charters School – to provide an External Covered Area for the 6th form for outside dining and socializing, external classroom and performance space; a shelter outside the 6th form building.
 - The CIL working group is satisfied the project provides infrastructure and would benefit the school and therefore the community. They are of the opinion it is a good project.
 - When originally approached, the working group advised Charters school to approach Sunningdale parish council in the first instance. No decision will be made until it is known what level of funding Sunningdale PC is prepared to provide.

- Cllr C Richardson on behalf of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council - Cycle storage and bike maintenance facilities.
 - The Cycling & Walking working group is of the opinion this would encourage more people to cycle to the parish facilities.
 - The proposal is to provide Sheffield stands and a maintenance stand at three of the playparks in the parish – Victory Fields, South Ascot and Cheapside.
 - The CIL working group is satisfied the project provides infrastructure and would benefit the community
 - Indicative costs are £2,757 in total.

Agreement to support this project in the use of CIL funds to a total of approximately £2,757 was proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Gripton. All were in favour by show of hands.

8095 DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2022/23

Cllr Wood explained how we reached the figures shown on the draft budget for April 22 to March 23. He explained that Admin Expenditures, in comparison with those forecast, are looking to increase due to the addition of a 3rd member of staff and an inflationary pay rise. Civic activities are also planned to increase due to both the extra budgeted for the Platinum Party in the Park, and the £5,000 for the library contribution to make up for the savings that RBWM is making. Leisure running costs are very much in line with the current year expectation. The big change is in capital projects which goes down significantly; there is no one significant element envisaged for playpark equipment being replaced. The major element in Leisure capital planned spending is £15,000 for court refencing at Victory Field, plus the normal tree works etc.

Taking all of this into account the budgeted total expenditure for 2022/23 is £237,356. This will necessitate an increase in the precept or, if the precept is kept on the same basis as this year, there will be a shortfall of £17,000 to come out of reserves.

A discussion took place as to whether the council should fund Platinum Jubilee mugs for the children of the parish, as they done for previous jubilees. A decision is to be made at a future meeting but it was agreed to include a sum in the budget to cover this eventuality.

- Cllr B Hilton proposed £5,000 be added to the budget for potential solicitor fees; this was seconded by Cllr R Ellison.
- Cllr R Roberts proposed £3,000 be added to the budget for Platinum Jubilee commemorative mugs; this was seconded by Cllr C Richardson.

With the inclusion of the two items of expenditure above, the draft budget was agreed unanimously by show of hands.

8096 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS

- Ascot Rejuvenation

Last Friday, London Square - a developer - presented initial plans for the redevelopment of the Ascot Car Parks site to Cllrs D Hilton and A Sharpe. The proposal is for stakeholders and the community to be consulted in January. Cllr Hilton will add any missing stakeholder groups to their list and will have the Parish at the top.

Cllr Hilton is concerned that the developers are progressing without the wealth of knowledge that was built up over two years when the Development Brief was written, including issues on parking. He is trying to arrange for them to meet the Racecourse, who were the driver behind the Prince's Foundation's work on the project.

- Flower Beds

After some delay Cllr Hilton has finally been advised that the cost of cleaning up the flower beds in the centre of the High Street in Ascot would be £301 plus VAT.

He has flagged to RBWM officers that the Parish might be interested in taking over the maintenance, but has learned that Officers have only talked to the Racecourse who have agreed to make a contribution towards planting shrubs. The Council was asked if they wish for this to happen or would prefer some greater involvement and to be involved in discussions with borough officers. Councillors asked for greater involvement and Cllr Hilton agreed to ask Andrew Durrant at RBWM to contact the clerk.

8097 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

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

Cllr B Hilton, Acting Chairman