

Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
Held in the King Edward VII Meeting Room, Ascot Racecourse, SL5 7JX
On Tuesday 11 January 2022, commencing at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Ms Catalina Estrada of Imperial College, Mrs C Paige of Ascot Wildlife;
Mrs H Goodwin, Clerk to the Council.

8109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs C Herring, L Davison, and C Lester. Cllr S Verma was absent.

8110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

8111 MINUTES

An amendment was made to the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 December 2021 to show that borough councillor J Sharpe attended a meeting with Cllr D Hilton, not Cllr A Sharpe. With this amendment the minutes were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

8112 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chairman advised the council that:

- A meeting the chairman and clerk were due to attend in December with Alastair Warwick of Ascot Racecourse has been postponed to the end of January;
- The chairman recently attended a NALC seminar which was very informative on the subject of parish councils upholding public standards, civility, good behaviour, good governance and staff training. The House of Lords has made recommendations on the subject of behaviour in public life and this has trickled down to local government. Members of the House of Lords are embarking on training and local councils are encouraged to do the same.

8113 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned.

8114 GREEN CORRIDOR PROJECT

A presentation was made to the council by Catalina Estrada of Imperial College, Silwood Park, reporting on the Diversity Assessment of Sunninghill & Ascot Green Corridors. A summary of the aims and methods of

the study was explained, along with the findings and outcomes. Catalina explained how they would like to move forward, extending the survey and engaging with the public. An invitation was extended to the survey team to give a presentation at the Annual Assembly and it was also suggested that Catalina come to the Party in the Park so that residents can learn more about the project. The slides of the presentation given will be made available for councillors to access on the website.

8115 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 04 January were presented by Cllr R Wood who highlighted a continuing trend of applications to convert buildings into small flats, one example being the old Lloyds Bank building on Ascot High Street, for which an application has been submitted for conversion into two flats with 1st floor offices; similarly, on Sunninghill High St, an application has been submitted to turn a flat above some shops into two studio flats. He commented that the committee is resisting this trend as much as possible.

8116 PRECEPT 2022/23

Cllr R Wood explained the implications of the planned expenditure for 2022/23 and the increase that would be required to balance the budget. There are enough reserves to cover this but, to balance the budget, the increase would have to be 10.75%. He suggested increasing the precept to £32.23, a 4% increase, and funding £9,000 for Platinum Jubilee celebrations and £5,000 for expected legal fees out of reserves. This would leave sufficient reserves to cover the 3-month requirement.

The level of precept to be set for the coming year was discussed and agreed unanimously to be set at 4% increase to £32.23 per Band D property.

8117 INTERNAL AUDIT

Cllr R Wood presented the Internal Audit report which showed no areas of significant concern. The areas outlined in the report will be addressed; the risk assessment will be brought to F&P and the financial regulations revised as advised.

8118 SPEED LIMIT PROPOSAL

Cllr C Richardson explained how the Walking & Cycling Working Group, which is a joint working group across Sunningdale and Sunninghill & Ascot, came to the conclusion to push for a 20mph speed limit, which has been shown to be beneficial. The working group proposes to canvass opinion of residents across both parishes as to whether they wish to change the speed limits. Securing public support would help the move to the next stage which is to lobby the borough to bring in the 20mph speed limit.

On proposal 1, to engage the community on 20mph (wording to be agreed at a later date), the parish council was in favour.

On proposal 2, it was agreed that this would be brought to a future meeting.

8119 THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The chairman reminded the council that this is the last full council meeting before the Annual Assembly in March 2022. Due to Covid restrictions there was no Annual Assembly held in 2020 or 2021, but one must be held this year. The onus is on the council to decide where it is held, who is invited and who gives

presentations. Historically the parish council gives some presentations and invites RBWM to do the same. Thames Valley police have traditionally been asked, as well as Charters School and Wildlife in Ascot. Cllr C Richardson volunteered to present the Walking & Cycling Working Group work and to speak to residents about it. Achievements of the parish council over the last few years should be set out, including the funding of the library and the new park installation at Cheapside. It is also important to present ideas for what is planned in the coming year(s).

It was suggested that a possible location might be St George's school or St Mary's school, both of which both have large theatres which would give plenty of room for social distancing. The clerk agreed to contact the schools to make enquiries. The maximum number of people expected is approximately 50-60.

8120 SOLICITOR FEES

In light of the fact that the borough will be taking responsibility for any costs after the submission of the form, council agreed unanimously to the proposal set out.

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

Cllr A Sharpe, Chairman