

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
held on Tuesday, 28 June 2022 at 7.00pm
in St Michael's Church Hall, Church Lane, Sunninghill SL5 7DD**

Members present: Councillors A Sharpe (Chairman), B Hilton (Deputy Chairman), P Carter, L Davison West, P Deason, R Ellison, J Gripton, C Herring, S Humphrey, C Lester, C Richardson and B Story.

In attendance: Helen Goodwin, Clerk to the Council; RBWM Councillor D Hilton; Messrs W Dalton & W Phelan of the Sunninghill Trust; Mr Alastair Goulden of Swish Fibre.

8209 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Roberts & R Wood. Cllrs M Lee and S Verma were absent.

8210 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

8211 MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 10 May 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed as such. It was noted that Cllr B Hilton has formally declared acceptance of the office of Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council and of the Finance & Personnel Committee; Cllr R Ellison has formally declared acceptance of the office of Chairman of the Leisure & Cultural Committee; Cllrs C Herring & P Carter wish to stand on the Planning Committee; Cllr C Lester wishes to stand on the Leisure & Cultural Committee.

8212 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chairman made the following announcements:

- The Platinum Party in the Park was a great success and, although not intended as a profit-making event, achieved an income over expenditure sum of £3,385 which will be put towards charitable grants.
- The central reservations in Ascot High Street were finally tidied up on the weekend before Royal Ascot; this followed a great deal of correspondence between the clerk's office and RBWM and was eventually carried out by the parish council contractor and paid for by RBWM.
- The TVG application for the Coombe Lane land was prepared and submitted to RBWM in May. We are waiting for an update from them.
- The chairman reminded the council that there will be elections in 2023 and they should begin to think about whether they wish to continue to stand.
- There is an RBWM quarterly update meeting for parish councils, to be held this Friday on Teams. The chairman is unable to attend but Cllr L Davison West agreed to attend in her place.

8213 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned for 15 minutes and Alistair Goulden of Swish Fibre gave a presentation and spoke about the company.

8214 SOUTH ASCOT RECREATION GROUND LEASE

Mr Wayne Phelan spoke on behalf of the Sunninghill Trust, giving information about the background of the Trust and the help they give the community through providing grants to individuals and groups in the local area. He commented that they own a lot of land in the area and this is challenging to maintain; they also have a SANG in place on Allens Field with RBWM.

Wayne spoke about the South Ascot recreation ground, the strip of land opposite and the South Ascot Village Green land. The lease on the land, held by the parish council, expired in 2012; there have been a number of attempts to move forward with a new lease but these have not proved successful to date.

Wayne explained that the Trust has now appointed a new solicitor and they will soon be in a position to move forward with this issue. There is a legal process to go through which will involve serving a termination notice to the parish; there are no easements around this. However, as soon as the 6 month notice process is started the negotiation process can begin. They will therefore be sending a notice of termination to the parish in the next few weeks and then will be able to move forward with offering a new lease on specific terms which the parish can agree or, if not, RBWM could become involved.

Cllr David Hilton spoke, agreeing that there is a working relationship between RBWM and the Sunninghill Trust which is good for both parties. He mentioned that RBWM, as a council, has a property company so has people who are experienced on leases and he offered help to the Trust if they require any advice; he also offered his services as an intermediary if required. He explained that the borough is keen to see this issue move forward and Duncan Sharkey has written to the Trust to begin a conversation. He noted that one of the Trust's stated aims is supporting recreational facilities and, in this, the Trust is aligned with the objectives of the parish council.

The chairman pointed out that the parish council will require a lease considerably longer than the 7 years previously offered as it is looking to invest a significant sum of money to rejuvenate the site, including razing the children's play area and installing all new equipment and a new set of changing rooms, etc. The whole area will be enhanced.

Cllr Davison West spoke about how the playground is almost unusable as it is in such a poor state, which is a great shame as there are so many families who wish to use it.

Wayne Phelan agreed that the Trust understands the lease will need to be longer than 7 years.

8215 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 18 May and 22 June were presented by Cllr P Deason. The big issues are the London Square proposals for the centre of Ascot and the Halfpenny Garage application for Sunninghill. The parish council has now submitted to the borough detailed responses on both of these. A letter was received from Andrew Durrant regarding the parish council's response to the Ascot Green West proposal and the parish council will write back to him as it is not felt that he has properly addressed the issues. He will also be invited to attend the next full council meeting.
- The minutes of the L&C Committee meeting held on 24 May were presented by Cllr R Ellison. The main issue of the meeting was the preparation for the Platinum Party; the MUGA court fencing has now been installed and looks very good.
- The minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on 07 June were presented by Cllr A Sharpe.

8216 FINANCIAL UPDATES

The Clerk presented an update on CIL funds to 31 March. Cllr P Deason suggested the council might spend CIL money to employ a consultant to prepare a business case for the community space and this was thought a good idea.

The internal audit was approved. In line with the auditor's recommendation, the clerk reported that the precept for 2022/23 was set at £214,112; this was agreed at the parish council meeting on 07 January 2022, minute number 7794.

The internal audit was presented by the clerk and approved unanimously.

8217 END OF YEAR EXTERNAL AUDIT RETURN 2021/22

1. The Annual Governance Statement, Section 1, was approved unanimously by show of hands.
2. The Statement of Accounts, Section 2, was approved unanimously by show of hands.

8218 CONSULTATION ON 20MPH SPEED LIMITS

Cllr C Richardson presented the Consultation Documents on 20mph Speed Limits and explained that this was prepared in conjunction with Sunningdale parish council and had also been sent to Tim Golabek (RBWM) and Thames Valley police who had both responded with comments. The plan is for the consultation to be held in September when the schools return after the summer holiday.

The Consultation Document was approved unanimously by show of hands.

The budget of £500 was approved unanimously by show of hands.

8219 GRANT APPLICATIONS

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

- Windsor Horse Rangers - £470
- Hope Trust - £1,000
- Food4Children - £530

All were agreed unanimously by show of hands.

8220 UPDATE FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

- Cllr David Hilton advised that RBWM is just starting the process of putting its budgets together and there are considerable changes for them in the way social care is funded; they do not currently know how the government is going to provide funding. Over the last two years RBWM has delivered an underspend, which is positive.
- The World Café – this is an RBWM initiative with the idea to engage with residents with the aim to help the borough council develop strategies to do the right things in the right areas for people. The first one will be held next week in South Ascot and will be about the cost of living crisis; the Ascot Fire Brigade Trust will be represented, along with others such as Citizens Advice.
- The Ascot Green West proposals – Cllr Hilton has written to representatives of the parish council regarding this upcoming planning application. One issue is the plan for the community building, which Cllr Hilton feels should be managed by the parish council and be the parish council's offices. A lot of work was carried out in the past on pulling together ideas for this, including costs and budgeting, and this needs to be picked up again. There will be decisions for the parish council to make including the space required and how it will be used – it needs to be of sufficient size and be able to 'pay for itself'. In Cllr Hilton's opinion, the developer (London Square) has been speaking to individual groups and separating them out; he suggested a meeting is arranged which all the stakeholders attend.
- There was conversation regarding the proposal for Halfpenny's – Cllr Hilton advised that residents who had concerns should send in their objections to RBWM.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.45.

Cllr A Sharpe, Chairman