

**Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
Held in the King Edward VII Meeting Room, Ascot Racecourse, SL5 7JX
On Tuesday 13 December at 7.00pm**

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

In attendance: Helen Goodwin, Clerk to the Parish Council.

8344 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Herring, C Lester & C Roberts.

8345 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The chairman asked to receive any Declarations of Interest in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct. Cllr C Richardson declared her connection with South Ascot Scouts and South Ascot Village School (agenda items 7 and 8); Cllr A Sharpe declared her connection with Thames Valley Hospice and the Quince Players (agenda item 8).

8346 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 October were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

8347 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chairman advised the council that:

- The clerk has received from Wayne Phelan, of the Sunninghill Trust, the formal letter from their solicitor advising they are bringing the lease on South Ascot recreation ground to an end and offering the opportunity of a new, 7-year, lease. If the council does not wish to enter into a new lease the Trust will begin discussions with the borough. The clerk has: written to the Sunninghill Trust and their solicitor to acknowledge receipt of the letter; contacted David Hilton to ask him to liaise with RBWM and confirm they are in alignment with the parish and; contacted our solicitor to ask advice.
- A small working group looking at the Ascot rejuvenation plans met with London Square recently; some boards showing their latest plans were available at the meeting.
- RBWM has now written back to the clerk and the parish council's lawyer with details of the objections lodged against the Village Green application; a small group of councillors will be convened to look at the objections and respond in timely fashion.
- An email from Bruno Peek, the Pageantmaster, has been received advising that there will be no beacons for the Coronation. However, 6th June 2024 will be the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings and there beacons will be lit to mark that event; this should therefore coincide with the Party in the Park that year.

8348 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned.

8349 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 18 October and 15 November were presented by Cllr R Wood who highlighted: the 'Maryland' application which now includes a huge basement to accommodate parking and an underground swimming pool and; the application for the old Lloyds TSB building which is to be a bakery and another café.

The minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting held on 01 November were presented by Cllr R Ellison. Highlights included the Cycling & Walking Working Group, the timings for the locking of the gate at Victory Field, events planned for next year. Cllr Ellison informed the council that the Sunninghill Victorian Street Fayre next year is to be held on 19 November. The committee will be consulting with Sunningdale parish council to find out if they plan to hold an event for the Coronation. Cllr Ellison also advised that some of the Leisure committee councillors are involved, in a personal capacity, with organising the Wheelbarrow Race next year.

The minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting held on 29 November were presented by Cllr A. Sharpe.

8350 COLOUR RUN

The council considered the proposal to allow the use of South Ascot recreation ground for a Colour Run being planned by local schools for April 2023. It was emphasised that this is a collaboration between various schools, it is a charitable event and appears to be very well organised.

The council agreed unanimously to allow the use of the recreation ground for the Colour Run and there will be no charge. The Clerk was requested to advise the Sunninghill Trust that this would be taking place.

8351 FINANCIAL UPDATE & DRAFT BUDGET

Cllr R Wood presented the draft budget for 2023/24 and explained the expected increase in costs, which include taking on another member of staff as well as general cost rises due to inflation. In addition, sums have been budgeted for civic celebrations, such as the Coronation and the Victorian Street Fayre, and for the local elections to be held in May 2023. An increase in S137 grant expenditure has already been agreed by F&P and full council, and the L&C committee has proposed capital works to be carried out in the year.

Cllr Wood reminded the council that SAPC currently has the lowest precept in the borough, at £32.23 for a Band D house, compared with Sunningdale's at £61.29 and the average in RBWM of £74.94.

Cllr Wood explained how the total of the costs proposed would affect the precept required and set out three options as examples of how the council may wish to proceed:

- To accept all costs and increase the precept accordingly (an increase of 79%);
- To reduce or defer some costs, eg by £40,000 and either (a) increase the precept by 21%, leaving a free reserve of £0 or; (b) increase the precept by 60%, keeping the free reserve at £85,000;
- To defer the planned Victory Field play equipment refurbishment by a year and keep all other proposed costs, putting the precept up by £70,000 (33% increase) to break even, bringing reserves up to £100,000 which would be sufficient to fund the work planned.

After discussion it was proposed that:

- the £90,000 currently held in earmarked reserves for South Ascot be taken out and put into free reserves as current facility is beyond economic repair;
- £30,000, the budgeted amount for a new toddler facility, to be taken out of the budget for the Victory Field refurbishment as this facility qualifies for CIL funding;
- All other planned costs to remain in the budget, resulting in an increase of £130,000 to £387,317.
- the precept to be increased by the appropriate amount, to include starting to rebuild reserves over a four year period to fund the replacement of major capital equipment such as play equipment;
- the enhancement/replacement of the play area at South Ascot recreation ground will be funded by CIL, subject to lease conclusion and formal approval of the required funds as per the CIL procedures and full Council approval.

The council agreed to this proposal by a majority vote of 10-1. Cllr Wood will make these changes to the draft budget and calculate the proposed precept for 2023/24, to be agreed at the next meeting in January.

8352 GRANT APPLICATIONS

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

- Royal British Legion £135
- Spotlights Musical Theatre Group £300
- The Quince Players £300
- Ukrainian Support Group £300
- Sunningdale Scouts £300
- Rotary £300
- Wildlife in Ascot £300
- South East Berks Gang Show £365
- Food 4 Children £500
- Thames Hospice £800
- South Ascot Scouts £800
- Citizens Advice East Berkshire £1,419

All were agreed unanimously by show of hands.

8353 SAFER STREETS

Cllr C Richardson presented a paper setting out the results of the public consultation which ran through September and how those results have been translated into the proposals now being put forward. A colour-coded map showing the different speed restrictions being proposed was shown; the proposal fully complies with the Department of Transport guidance.

The proposal to support the Cycling & Walking Working Group to put the recommendations to the public for comment in 2023 before engaging the Highways Authority was agreed unanimously.

8354 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Cllr A Sharpe outlined the reason for the request for the small increase in the use of CIL funds to purchase bike maintenance stands for installation at three of the parish council owned parks. The project to provide the stands, in conjunction with RBWM, was agreed previously but the cost has risen and the extra sum of £353 is required.

The proposal to provide the extra funds out of CIL was agreed unanimously by show of hands.

8355 MEETING SCHEDULE

The clerk presented the draft Meeting Schedule for 2023/24. The council agreed to adopt the schedule unanimously by show of hands.

8356 UPDATE FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

A written report from borough councillor David Hilton had been circulated which covered subjects such as the RBWM 2023/24 budget (currently out for public consultation); a Biodiversity Action Plan and; a Moving Traffic Camera Enforcement Pilot (currently out for consultation).

Cllr P Deason asked if the parish council wished to respond to the borough's consultation on the draft Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Implementation Plan. It was agreed that Cllr Deason should prepare a response on behalf of the parish council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Cllr A Sharpe, Chairman