

Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
Held in the King Edward VII Meeting Room, Ascot Racecourse, SL5 7JX
On Tuesday 28 March 2023 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Mark Holliday representing the Cordes Hall Committee; David Hilton, ward councillor, RBWM; Helen Goodwin, Clerk to the Parish Council.

8433 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received. Cllrs P Carter and C Lester were absent.

8434 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The chairman asked to receive any Declarations of Interest in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct. Cllr A Sharpe declared an interest in item 8440 as a member of the Quince Players who use the stage lighting in the Cordes Hall.

8435 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

8436 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The acting chairman advised the council that:

- a. The cemetery is now nearly full with only three full burial spaces left (other than reserved spaces), although there is room to continue interring ashes. Because of this the decision has been made to only allow full burials of residents of the parish. Land for a new cemetery continues to be sought and various local landowners and agents have been contacted but nothing found as yet.
- b. The chairman and clerk recently attended a NALC seminar on Maintaining Standards in Public Office, at which standards and sanctions were debated and members and officers of other parish councils spoke of their own experiences, which was very interesting.
- c. The chairman recently attended an RBWM summit on Community Safety and Crime. More police officers are being employed in the borough and a survey has been conducted; those attending the summit were asked to comment on the concerns expressed in the survey. The highest ranked concern in the survey was burglary, however there is very little domestic burglary in our area and the feedback given was that antisocial behaviour was more of an issue in this area.
- d. Alastair Warwick is now CEO of Ascot Racecourse and the chairman has written to congratulate him on this promotion.
- e. The working group on the Ascot Rejuvenation project met in March, recognising that RBWM is now undertaking their Ascot SPD. They have today invited the four members of the working group to a meeting just before Easter.
- f. The Annual Assembly, held last week, has received positive feedback from members of the public who attended and it was considered to be very successful.
- g. To mark the jubilee, and in view of the fact that RBWM does not appear to be going to provide decorations for Ascot High Street, lamppost roundels will be purchased.

8437 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

Mr Mark Holliday introduced himself – representing the Quince Players and the Cordes Hall management committee and gave a background to the reasons for the CIL application made by his committee.

Discussion followed and councillors put various questions to Mr Holliday in relation to the application, in particular relating to the quotes obtained for the work, the longevity of the proposed lighting rig and the community use of the Cordes Hall building.

8438 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 17 January, 21 February and 14 March were presented by Cllr R Wood. He highlighted two items – the first applications for the Coombe Lane land where people are looking to erect houses; one described as ‘infilling’ and the other as ‘a unique and at the forefront of design technology building’. Both were strongly resisted by the planning committee as they are in the greenbelt and, it is felt, inappropriate. They are both on the land for which we are currently applying for Village Green status.
- The minutes of the Leisure & Cultural Committee meetings held on 31 January and 07 March were presented by Cllr R Ellison. The main focus of one meeting was a presentation from the LTA to talk through the process of a gate entry system for the tennis courts; this would regulate and increase the usage of the courts. The committee welcomed the idea but agreed to wait until some decisions have been made as to the work required on the upgrading of the whole of Victory Field before making a final decision. The first meeting of the Street Fayre working group has taken place; all Councillors are requested to get involved.
- The minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on 07 February were presented by Cllr A Sharpe.
- The List of Payments made in January was presented and approved.

8439 MOVING CIL FUNDS

The council agreed unanimously by show of hands to open a ‘Company 30 day notice’ account with the Buckinghamshire Building Society and to move £500,000 CIL funds to this account.

8440 CIL FUNDING REQUESTS

1. Cordes Hall lighting

The discussion was around:

- Whether the planned new community building on the Ascot Green West site includes a theatre space and, if so, whether the parish can support two theatres.
- Whether new lighting for the Cordes Hall would increase the footfall and bring new people to use the facilities.
- Whether the Cordes Hall Management Committee should be funding such a purchase out of hall income.

On the basis that it is now not thought to be viable to include a theatre in the planned community building, the question of supporting two theatres was not considered a barrier to providing the funds.

The proposal to grant the requested CIL funding to the Cordes Hall Management Committee for the replacement of the lighting system, the operating desk and some stage rigging was voted on by show of hands and agreed by a majority of 7 to 3 with 2 abstentions.

2. St Michael’s School fence

The discussion was around:

- Whether this was an appropriate use of CIL funding as it is not required as a result of development in the area.

The clerk advised the council that a parish council does not have powers for expenditure on education or schools and, as the request had come directly from the school, it would not be within its power to grant these funds.

The proposal to grant the funds to St Michael’s school for the replacement of a fence was voted on by show of hands and rejected by a majority of 7 to 2 with 3 abstentions.

3. **Sunningdale Scout Hut.**

The discussion was around:

- Whether this is an appropriate use of CIL funds as it will not be available for use by the wider community.
- Clarity around the actual percentage of Sunningdale Scouts are children from Sunninghill & Ascot, given that the building is not this parish.
- The size of the funding being requested.

The proposal to grant the funds requested by 1st Sunningdale Scout Group to build a new hut was voted on by show of hands and was rejected unanimously.

All three applicants for CIL funding will receive a letter giving the council's decision and, where the application was rejected, setting out the reasons for the decision.

8441 ASCOT GREEN WEST COMPARISON DOCUMENT

The document prepared by Cllr Deason was approved to be submitted to RBWM from the parish council, unanimously by show of hands.

8442 HERITAGE STATUS APPLICATIONS

It was proposed that the council should apply for Heritage Status for two buildings in the parish – the old Methodist Chapel and the Cordes Hall. This would protect each of the buildings as a landmark view, although not affect what can be done inside.

The proposal was put to council and all were in favour by show of hands.

8443 SOUTH ASCOT LEASE

The proposal was put to the parish council that its solicitors be instructed to prepare a settlement offer on a Calderbank basis. The proposal was agreed by show of hands with 11 in favour and one abstention.

The council further wished for the Trust to be informed of the decision and such settlement offer will be made unless the Trust can demonstrate that it has entered meaningful negotiations with RBWM. Advice will be sought from the council's solicitor to this course of action.

8444 NEW COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Two documents were put before the council: a revised Model Publication Scheme and the NALC Model Standing Orders. Councillors were requested to study both documents and give feedback to the clerk by 30 April in order for final documents to be presented for adoption at the annual parish council meeting in May.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Cllr A Sharpe, Chairman