

Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
Held in the King Edward VII Meeting Room, Ascot Racecourse SL5 7JX
On Tuesday 01 August 2023 at 7.00pm

Members present: A Sharpe (Chairman), B Hilton (Vice Chairman), P Carter, J Gripton, C Herring, D Hilton, C Revilla, C Richardson, D Sanders, B Story, R Tavoletti, M Turton, S Verma and R Wood.

In attendance: Helen Goodwin, Clerk to the Parish Council; Mr P Deason.

8530 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs L Davison West and C Roberts sent apologies which were accepted by the councillors present.

8531 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

8532 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June were then approved as a correct record and signed as such. It was noted that the nominative trustees of the Sunninghill Trust were appointed one (Will Dalton) in 2021 and the other (Wayne Phelan) in 2019. As trustees are appointed for four years Wayne Phelan's appointment time ends this year and the clerk will write to the Trust to see if he wishes to continue as a trustee.

8533 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chairman advised the council that:

- With regard to the South Ascot recreation ground lease: the parish council Calderbank offer to the Sunninghill Trust expires on 14 August and, to date, no response has been received from the Trust's solicitor. Should there be no response in the next few days the clerk will write to the Trust to advise that the council will begin to remove the equipment from the land.
- RBWM recently held a cabinet meeting in which it was resolved to place a PSPO on the Victory Field outlawing the consumption of alcohol and the lighting of barbeques. The clerk contacted them to ask the reason for this, given that Victory Field is parish council land, and received a response explaining that the borough has the authority to do this and that a number of complaints of antisocial behaviour had been received. The parish council office has not been advised about the antisocial behaviour and has requested a meeting with the officer at the borough dealing with this.
- Village Green Status for Coombe Lane Woods – the Commons Registration Authority has appointed a KC who will be calling a pre-enquiry meeting, probably later in August.
- An issue was reported at the last meeting of a member of the public claiming to have suffered concussion after hitting his head on a hanging basket. The parish council's insurers are handling this. Councillors discussed the issue of some hanging baskets being too low; there is only one on Ascot High Street considered too low and this will be removed. Those on Sunninghill High Street will remain as they are.
- The chairman recently accompanied a representative of Wildlife in Ascot (WiA) and their biodiversity officer to walk over Victory Field and Tom Green's Field (TGF); they were pleased to note that, on their nighttime bat walk, they found many bats and owls and that TGF is very advantageous for biodiversity and wildlife. The trees were also looked at and it was noted that, while none of our Oak trees meet the criteria to be considered 'Ancient', two do fit the new category of 'Veteran'. We will ask our tree consultant, when he next visits, to advise on having them 'halo-ed' which would prolong the life of the trees by up to 100 years. WiA is keen we maintain wild edges in Victory Field.

- Yesterday RBWM convened a meeting to discuss the Supplementary Planning Document for the Rejuvenation of Ascot. Three councillors were invited to attend; there will be further meetings on a monthly basis.

8534 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned.

8535 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19 July were presented by Cllr D Hilton.
- The draft minutes of the Leisure & Cultural Committee meeting held on 25 July were presented by Cllr C Richardson.
- The List of Payments made in May and June and the invoices to be paid in August were all presented and approved unanimously by show of hands.

8636 APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr D Hilton explained that, as borough councillor, he had acted as a representative on the Heathrow Community Noise Forum. He explained about his work on the Forum which began in 2014 when the noise trials were taking place, and the fact that, while there are no longer plans for a 3rd runway at Heathrow, there are to be changes which will affect the departure routes. The community is to be consulted on this next year and he is therefore of the opinion that it is important to stay involved. The Forum meets every two months. The council agreed that Cllr Hilton should be formally appointed onto the forum.

8537 FINANCIAL REPORT

Cllr R Wood presented the accounts for the first quarter of the year. He reported no untoward aspects that can't be accommodated; there has been slightly higher spending on civic activities, including the costs of the mugs and the bunting. The costs shown for the hanging baskets need to be looked at in more detail. In terms of income there has been less than might be expected but this is because it is summer and various items of income have not yet been received.

8538 UPDATED PARISH PLAN AND VISION

Cllr C Richardson presented the proposal to use Locality to carry out the update of the Parish Plan and set out a vision for the parish, at a cost of £10,637.50. It was suggested they be asked to ensure there are concrete proposals at the end of the report so that the result isn't simply a 'Wish list'. Cllr Richardson explained that the parish council would be a stakeholder and would be consulted first to ensure the brief meets the needs and expectations of the council and to ensure wording is such that residents understand what is in the power of the parish council. It was questioned whether, as an organisation, they have the ability to make recommendations or can just supply data.

On the proposal to engage Locality to carry out the work, at a cost of £10,637.50 the council voted by show of hands and approved it unanimously.

8539 ASCOT GREEN WEST

Cllr R Wood gave a presentation showing the changed plans recently submitted to RBWM by London Square. The presentation is attached to these minutes. Along with Cllrs A Sharpe, D Hilton and B Hilton, Cllr Wood will prepare a letter of objection on behalf of the parish council setting out the points as made in the presentation. The letter will be sent to RBWM planning department by the clerk. In addition, the chairman will write to the council CEO to bring the matter to his attention. All members of the council were in agreement with these actions.

8540 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council was invited by Sunningdale Parish Council (SPC) to engage with them regarding updating the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) which runs out in 2026. Cllrs D Hilton, R Wood, along with the clerk and the projects administrator, met with SPC via Zoom and discussed how to move the project forward, in particular to consider community and environmental changes since the last plan was drawn up. Comments were made that the project shouldn't be 'starting again' but should focus on reviewing just those

aspects that require updating. Cllr D Hilton has suggested two planners to consider recruiting to lead the project, following which a budget will be drawn up and brought to council. Cllr Wood will be issuing to each member of the parish council two items from the existing NP with a request for councillors to review them and respond with comments on whether those items require updating.

A further meeting with SPC will shortly be arranged to move this project forward.

8541 VICTORY FIELD

Cllr A Sharpe spoke about the work that the Leisure & Cultural committee has put in looking at Victory Field and explained how the current equipment is old and in a poor state of repair. Cllr C Richardson went on to list the changes being considered including a new toddler area at the front of the park, a café/kiosk, conversion of the MUGA court into a third tennis court and the erection of a new, separate, MUGA court, improvements to the play equipment for older children and installation of an activity trail around the perimeter of the site. The working group has been discussing these plans with Project Centre, who have the expertise, and the plan is for them to draw up a feasibility study. Overall the site needs to be looked at as a whole, rather than carrying out work piecemeal. However, the study will have a cost to it and it should be understood that the overall work will come at a price.

8542 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MEETING

Cllr D Hilton explained that he was invited to a meeting with the three borough councillors of our ward and it is planned that this meeting will be held once a month in order to maintain a strong link between the borough councillors and the parish. Cllr Hilton is happy to take questions from parish councillors to borough councillors and will ensure, through this route, that the plans of the parish council are brought to borough level.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Cllr A Sharpe, Chairman