

Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
Held in the King Edward VII Meeting Room, Ascot Racecourse SL5 7JX
On Tuesday 10 October 2023 at 7.00pm

Members present: A Sharpe (Chairman), B Hilton (Vice Chairman), P Carter, L Davison West, D Hilton, C Revilla, D Sanders, R Tavoletti, M Turton, S Verma and R Wood.

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

8588 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs J Gripton, C Richardson, C Roberts & B Story sent apologies which were accepted by the councillors present. Cllr C Herring was absent.

8589 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

8590 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 01 August, and the Extraordinary meeting held on 20 September, were approved as correct records and signed as such.

8591 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chairman made the following formal announcements:

1. Regarding the Village Green Application for the land off Coombe Lane: The clerk and chairman recently attended a pre-Inquiry hearing, with our barrister, at which the process for the Inquiry was set. The majority of the plot owners of Coombe Lane have come together and appointed a solicitor who is objecting on their behalf.
2. Regarding Ascot Rejuvenation:
 - SPD - Three parish councillors attended a meeting with RBWM. Following the meeting the various stakeholders discussed working together to prepare a mutually agreed response.
 - Ascot Green West Application - The four representative parish councillors and the clerk met last week with representatives of London Square, the developer for Ascot Green West. The developer feels the PC is holding up the process unnecessarily. It was agreed that it would be useful if the parish council drew up its own plans for the community space. The representatives of the parish council will also be seeking to meet with RBWM officers to discuss the process of the application.
4. Regarding South Ascot recreation ground: The Sunninghill Trust's solicitors have confirmed that their client has asked them to draw up a lease. The parish office is preparing a tender document to move forward with looking for a contractor to clear the land in case the lease does not arrive before the closing date of 29 December.
5. Regarding the Heritage Applications as requested by previous councillor Peter Deason: The application for heritage status for the Methodist Chapel at Sunninghill has been declined; we have yet to receive a decision on the application for the Cordes Hall.
6. The flags on Ascot High Street will be coming down shortly; the lamppost poppies will be going up next week. RBWM has yet to decide whether it will put up Christmas lights on Ascot High Street or not.

8592 PUBLIC ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was not adjourned.

8593 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES, EXTERNAL AUDIT, INVOICES & PAYMENTS LISTS

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 16 August and 20 September were presented by Cllr R Wood who highlighted two applications: the proposed conversion of space on the 2nd floor of Berkshire House (above Tesco) into a dwelling, which was opposed by the parish council, has been approved by RBWM; the proposal to allow advertising in the windows of the new One Stop shop in South Ascot, which was opposed by the parish council, has been declined by RBWM. It was noted that, despite this, advertising posters have been put in the windows and this will be reported to RBWM.
- The minutes of the Leisure & Cultural Committee meeting held on 26 September were presented by Cllr L Davison West who highlighted the work carried out by Cllrs R Tavoletti and D Sanders on the footpaths in the parish. A meeting is to be arranged for representatives of the L&C committee with Sharon Wootten of RBWM to discuss improvements and new footpaths.
- The minutes of the CIL Committee meetings held on 30 August and 27 September were presented by Cllr R Wood who explained that a conceptual framework has been adopted outlining the type of project likely to be able to be supported by the parish council over the next 7-10 years. More details will come out over the coming months as ideas are firmed up.
- The minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on 05 September were presented by Cllr A Sharpe who reported that strategies had been discussed along with options for the cemetery; the clerk is waiting to receive Heads of Terms on the lease on our own office.
- The External Audit report was presented by the clerk who confirmed no issues were raised by the auditors.
- The invoices to be paid this month and the lists of payments made in July and August were presented by the clerk.

8594 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Cllr R Wood presented a financial report which will be put on the councillor portal for all councillors to access. In summary expenditure, after five months, is below that expected – this is due to some budgeted spend not yet having taken place, but there are other areas which overspent against the budget, including several administrative lines, and civic expenditure is up to that which was expected for the whole year. Income is below budget so far and it should be noted that burial fees are at risk due to the lack of space in the cemetery. CIL income is shortly expected from RBWM, which will bring CIL reserves to £1.5m.

8595 VICTORY FIELD PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

Cllr L Davison West explained the proposal and the expectations for the project going forward.

The proposal to use £23,000 of CIL funds to engage Project Centre to produce a feasibility study for the design of Victory Field, as supported by both the Leisure Committee and the CIL Committee, was agreed unanimously by show of hands.

8596 REQUEST TO REVIEW CIL FUNDING LEVELS

Cllr J Gripton's proposal to ask RBWM to review the CIL rate to be charged on the development sites for new housing as part of Ascot Rejuvenation was presented.

The proposal was agreed unanimously by show of hands.

8597 ANPR CAMERA

Cllr A Sharpe explained the background to the request from Thames Valley Police (TVP) and the details of how ANPR cameras are funded and used was discussed.

The proposal to provide a maximum of £3,000 to help fund the installation of another ANPR camera was approved by a majority of nine in favour, one against and one abstention.

8598 COUNCILLOR TRAINING

The proposal to engage an independent trainer was discussed and agreed in principle, unanimously by show of hands. The clerk to follow up with more details of what is to be covered and councillors might request subjects they wish to cover.

8599 ENGAGEMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING

Cllr A Sharpe explained the reason for the request for funding to engage an architectural consultant. This would not only produce a design but would look at the viability of the space to ensure that we are moving forward with a design that will work for the parish council and the community.

The proposal to engage an architect to draw up the plans to a maximum sum of £5,000, was agreed unanimously by show of hands.

8600 SUNNINGHILL STREET FAYRE

Cllr A Sharpe advised the council that the plans for the Street Fayre are coming on well; officers have been working very hard and a programme is being finished and sponsors found. Members were advised of the roles requiring to be filled on the day and requested to sign up.

8601 BOROUGH UPDATE

Cllr D Hilton spoke about the fact that RBWM has intimated it may have to issue a S114. He also spoke about Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) and the fact that one has been put on Victory Field, preventing the consumption of alcohol. The amount of money RBWM is putting into funding bus services is going to decline and a survey is currently being conducted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Cllr A Sharpe, Chairman