

**Minutes of a meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council
Held in the King Edward VII Meeting Room, Ascot Racecourse SL5 7JX
On Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 7.00pm**

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

In attendance: Emma Powell and Ambika Chouhan of the Project Centre; Helen Goodwin, Clerk to the Parish Council; Olivia Marsden, Parish Council Project Administrator.

8729 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Herring, D Hilton, B Story and R Wood, and accepted by the members.

8730 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

8731 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 09 January were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

8732 VICTORY FIELD PRESENTATION

Representatives of the Project Centre, Emma Powell and Ambika Chouhan, presented the Stage 2 report. Questions put by councillors were answered by Emma and Ambika as follows:

1. The proposal is to site the younger children's play area (along with a longer-term view of a café) next to the road. It was questioned why this is the chosen option when this will subject small children to traffic noise, fumes and possible danger. In addition, this will mean the play area is the furthest distance away from most of the car parking and the longest walk for those with prams, who are walking to the site. It was asked what other options were considered and why this option was preferred.

The explanation was that this decision was made in conjunction with the working group for the reason that this would make the café and play area visible from the road which would both make users of the area feel safer and also bring more people into the park, attracted by the café. In addition, the front area of Victory Field, which was originally the site of the caretaker's house, has utility connections and is not in the green belt, giving more scope for development for the café. Parents and carers of young children would therefore be able to make use of the café while also being able to be close to their children playing.

2. The expected levels of use for each of the playground area and the MUGA court were queried.

It was explained that the next stage of work would include a feasibility study which would help to answer this question. However, it would be hoped that, by increasing the variety of equipment for different age ranges, use of the recreation park would increase.

3. It was noted that the 'quick win' option deprioritises the café and asked why this is.

It was pointed out that it was necessary to show different options to give a broad spectrum. A café facility would need a feasibility study and an architect would need to be appointed, all of which comes at a cost.

4. Project Centre was asked about its experience of a running track of the type envisaged in the proposal, and whether it was considered such facilities work as a standalone item.

It was explained that such tracks, with distance markers, have proved very popular in other parks and are particularly useful for Park Runs.

5. The cost calculation uplifts were questioned as it appeared that a total uplift of more than 70% was being proposed. While the requirement to make a profit is understandable, it was asked whether every item included is subject to design and construction or just purchased as a standard item from a supplier.

The response was that Project Centre did not agree that the 70% uplift was a correct calculation. However, the costings came through a professional cost consultant who would have picked up whatever is the recommended uplift.

6. It was also asked whether there have been any price comparisons for play equipment with other companies – the example was given of a 6.5m timber bench which is shown at a cost of £16,400, which seems very expensive.

The response was that the figures given are just indicative and actual costings will be subject to comparisons to be undertaken at a later stage.

7. It was asked whether the amount of car parking spaces would be affected.

It was confirmed that there is no reduction in car parking spaces under the current plans.

8733 FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chairman made the following formal announcements:

- Sadly, Chris Roberts has had to resign and we therefore now have a Casual Vacancy.
- Thank you to everyone who took part in presenting the Annual Parish Meeting. It was well received and a good attempt was made to cover all of the topics suggested for inclusion.
- Coombe Lane Public Inquiry has concluded. The Inspector's recommendation is awaited but will be several months. A full statement was given at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- Locality, the company carrying out the survey for the Parish Plan will be contacting stakeholders and representatives of the parish. This will include parish councillors and further information will be provided when the details are known.
- St Michael's School has a vacancy for a school governor. Please contact the school if that is of interest.
- The next full meeting of the Council will be Annual Council. Councillors intending to stand for, or stand down from, positions of Chairman or Vice-Chairman, are requested to inform the Clerk ahead of time.
- The Complaints Procedure discussed at the last meeting was due to be brought to this meeting but this has been delayed due to work on the Village Green application and will now be brought forward to the next meeting.
- South Ascot Lease – we still have a time extension. Our solicitor is awaiting replies to enquiries and the provision of a map setting out the land and the boundary responsibilities.
- We have received a draft business plan from the Plunkett Foundation in relation to the community centre for the Ascot Redevelopment scheme. They will be providing answers to some outstanding questions and then their report can be shared with RBWM, London Square and SAPC.
- There is another public meeting tomorrow at the Cordes Hall regarding the Novello Picture House.

8734 PRESENTATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES, INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND PAYMENTS LISTS

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 16 January, 20 February and 19 March were presented by the clerk.
- The minutes of the Leisure & Cultural Committee meetings held on 23 January and 05 March were presented by Cllr L Davison West. The pressing items were regarding the Children's Theatre – there were concerns about the lack of parking on the field last year and it has been agreed to allow parking this year. Victory Field has been discussed and plans for the forthcoming Party in the Park.

- The minutes of the CIL Committee meetings held on 31 January and 06 March were presented by Cllr R Tavoletti who explained that there are lots of ideas on the plan and it was hoped to move some of them forward. During February councillors scoped their projects out and at the March meeting they reported back. They will report further at the next meeting.
- The minutes of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on 06 February were presented by Cllr A Sharpe. Discussions and decisions had included: the distribution of Street Fayre funds; the chairman's allowance; the Q3 financial report; Ascot Rejuvenation; the costs for the public inquiry for the Coombe lane TVG.
- The Interim Internal Audit report was presented by the clerk.
- The payments list of invoices to be paid this month were presented by the clerk.

8735 ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR ANPR CAMERAS

The case for the increased amount for the ANPR cameras was put before council and all were in agreement. The resolution to pay £4,158 for the ANPR cameras was approved unanimously by show of hands.

8736 DEFIBRILLATOR

The case for funding the defibrillators at a cost this year of £540 was approved unanimously by show of hands.

8737 CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct document was presented and mention made of the reference to the Monitoring Officer (MO) – the chairman made clear that this is a legal position held by a borough officer and, although many issues in the first place would be brought before the clerk in the first instance, all references to the MO would mean that person at the borough.

The Code of Conduct was Approved unanimously by show of hands.

8738 ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Chairman reminded the council that the next meeting, in May, is the annual meeting and all members should consider which committee(s) and working group(s) they wished to stand on.

8739 UPDATE ON OUTSIDE MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr L Davison West spoke about the work of a group looking at the provision of a youth centre, which met recently at Charters. They will be putting out a survey to Charters students for what they might want for a youth group for ages 13-17. Members of the group will be visiting youth centres, including those outside the borough, to research ideas.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Cllr A Sharpe, Chairman