

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 6:09pm in the King Edward VII Meeting Room, Ascot Racecourse, SL5 7JX**

**Members Present:** Cllr A Sharpe (Chairman), Cllr B Hilton (Vice-Chairman), Cllr M Beckett, Cllr R Gregory, Cllr C Richardson, Cllr B Story, Cllr S Verma, Cllr R Wood.

**In attendance:** Miss E Cope (Clerk/RFO).

**9135. CHAIRMANS WELCOME**

Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting, reminding them that all mobile devices should be switched to silent for the duration of the meeting.

A reminder to all in attendance of the fire safety regulations for the venue of the meeting.

**9136. TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr Davison West, Cllr Morrison and Cllr Revilla.

**9137. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**9138. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Chairman recommended that approval of the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 be deferred to the next meeting.

Approved by All

**9139. CO-OPTION**

The Chairman notified the Council of the resignation of Councillor P. Carter, due to ill health.

All approved for the Chairman to write a letter of thanks to Cllr Carter on behalf of Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council.

Councillors were advised of the process to fill the resulting vacancy. The Clerk confirmed that Democratic Services at RBWM had been notified, and that a Notice of Vacancy in the Office of Parish Councillor – Ascot Ward had been prepared for release the following day. A copy of the notice would also be made available on the Parish Council website.

The Clerk advised draft Part II minutes from the previous meeting, note that Councillors approved the co-option of Mr P. Olszewski to fill a vacant seat on the Parish Council. As two applications were received, and both candidates were considered to be well-suited to the role, Councillors had found the decision particularly difficult due to the high calibre of both applicants.

The Clerk confirmed that the unsuccessful applicant would be notified via email and invited to reapply as the resignation of Cllr Carter created a casual vacancy.

#### **9140. PLANNING MATTERS, APPLICATION NO: 25/01050 (Full CZP)**

The Chairman advised Council that the RBWM Windsor and Ascot Development Management Committee meeting scheduled for 4 September 2025 had been cancelled at short notice. Cllr Sharpe was due to make representation to the Committee.

Correspondence received by email from Democratic Services stated:

“Due to unforeseen circumstances, neither the Deputy Head of Planning nor the Assistant Director of Planning can attend the meeting of the Windsor and Ascot Development Management Committee on 4 September 2025. The Council is therefore unable to have representation at the meeting from senior management. Given the size and scale of application 25/01050/FULL, and following receipt of legal advice, it has been agreed that the application shall be deferred to the 2 October 2025 meeting of the Committee.”

The Parish Council wished to express its concerns in person regarding the proposed community and civic space, noting that the limited availability offered is considered highly unsuitable for a parish of this size. With a rising number of residents to serve, particularly due to the significant number of new homes across three major developments in Ascot (Cala Homes, Heatherwood Hospital, and London Square), the Council emphasised the need for adequate infrastructure and community provision.

The Parish Council expressed significant concerns regarding the proposed community and civic space within the Ascot development. Key issues raised included:

- **Inadequate Provision:** The limited availability of space was deemed unsuitable for a parish of this size, particularly in light of the significant number of new homes being delivered across three major developments (Cala Homes, Heatherwood Hospital, and London Square).
- **Commercial Lease Terms:** The developer’s proposal to offer the Parish Council a lease on the community building at a commercial rate, with a six-month acceptance window, was considered inappropriate. If not accepted, the building would be offered to other groups and eventually revert to commercial use, undermining its intended community function.
- **Contradiction with Planning Policy:** The Council noted that this approach contradicts the original intentions expressed during public consultation and is inconsistent with both the approved Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Neighbourhood Plan, which prioritise accessible and sustainable community infrastructure.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Wood for his extensive work ensuring the accuracy of the Council’s recommendations to date.

Councillors considered the proposed deferment of the application to the next meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> October to be insufficient time to respond to new information and approved a request to defer the application to the 6th November 2025 meeting. Budgetary requirements were considered and approved.

The Clerk was authorised to write to Cllr Knowles, Chairman of the Windsor and Ascot Development Management Committee, to formally request the deferment, also to contact the Plunkett Foundation to:

- Investigate protection of the community building via a charitable trust.
- Review the Sport England paper included in the Planning Officer’s report.

**9141. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7:00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6:57pm

Signed ..... Chairman

DRAFT