

# Burgess Hill Town Council



**MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber on **Monday 22 November 2021**

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**Present:** Anne Eves      Town Mayor  
Janice Henwood      Deputy Town Mayor

Graham Allen  
Andrew Barrett-Miles  
Roger Cartwright \*  
Emma Coe-Gunnell White \*  
Matthew Cornish  
Peter Chapman  
Robert Duggan  
Robert Eggleston  
Lee Gibbs  
Simon Hicks  
Tofojul Hussain \*  
Joseph Foster  
Sarah Lawrence \*  
Sylvia Neumann  
Max Nielsen  
Kathleen Willis \*

\* Denotes non-attendance.

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(19.00)

## **276. OPEN FORUM**

There was one member of the public present.

## **277. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tofojul Hussain and Councillor Roger Cartwright.

## **278. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Robert Eggleston and Councillor Andrew Barrett Miles declared a personal interest in the Beehive.

Councillor Peter Chapman declared an interest with the Escape Youth Group.

## **279. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Mid - Sussex Applauds**

Burgess Hill made a great showing yesterday at the MSDC award ceremony for those who do so much for the community.

- Eric Palmer and Ian Lucas from The Kiln, came second in the Stronger Communities category.
- Heather Warne of Burgess Hill History and Heritage Association came third in the Lifetime Achievement category for services to local history.
- Martin and Marie Jupp, of the famous Fish and Chip shop in West Street, won the Business in the Community award for donating over 1,200 meals to the Clair Hall vaccination team during the pandemic.
- Megan King (from Scrapless) and Katy Burlace (from Remake) came joint second in the Take Pride in Mid-Sussex category, recognising residents who promote recycling and waste reduction.

Town Mayor Anne Eves passed on her condolences to the family of former Councillor Michael Hoddell who recently passed away.

The Burgess Hill Christmas event was a fantastic successful event. Residents really enjoyed the Star Wars characters visiting the different shops.

Town Mayor Anne Eves gave her apologies for not taking the opportunity to thank the team who organised the excellent event and recognised the amount of detail that went into the planning. Everyone noted their thanks to the events team.

Nine trees and thirty whips have been planted around Burgess Hill.

**280. COUNCIL MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday **20 September** 2021 were **AGREED** and signed as a correct record.

**281. PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on Monday **18 October** and **8 November** 2021 were **AGREED**.

**282. MOTION TO COUNCIL: PREMISES LICENCE (Sale of alcohol)**

**Cllr Henwood , seconded by Cllr Barrett-Miles had submitted the following motion for consideration by the Council:**

“The Town Council should not sell alcohol in the Help Point”

Cllr Henwood requested a recorded vote.

**A discussion ensued and the following points were raised:**

- In October the Planning Committee reviewed the premises licence put forward to sell alcohol at the Help Point, the response from the Committee was sought, to give the chance for Councillors to give their feedback at the next Council meeting.
- The Town Council building was there to help residents and selling alcohol would be wrong for the image of the Council and contrary to the MSDC Health and Wellbeing programme that the Town Council promotes.
- There was disappointment that the premises application was not discussed before it was submitted to MSDC and there should have been more open communication.
- It was an officer based decision and not anything out of the ordinary.
- Alcohol was sold on premises and on markets and there was discussion as to why there would be an issue to sell alcohol at the Help Point.

- It was raised that this may not help someone suffering with alcohol abuse and the Help Point should be for information only.
- This would support the market and give businesses the opportunity for further growth and support they deserve.
- The Leader of the Town Council gave his thanks to the planning of the Help Point re-launch. He recognised that Gemma Wallis, the Help Point Manager, had put lots of thought and effort into creating a shop in the Help Point that provided local artisan products. He mentioned it was an officer led initiative. The Leader confirmed it had been successful.
- Interest was raised to find out how businesses can get a space on a shelf in the Help Point.
- Personal family experience was shared.
- Councils up and down the country stock a wide range of products including alcohol to support local businesses which is driving activity and serving a huge purpose for the economic development. It was mentioned that East Grinstead, Lewis and Cuckfield all have a premises license as they also hold functions.

**RESOLVED that:**

**The recorded vote was as follows:**

There were five votes in favour of the motion and six votes against and therefore the motion was not carried.

Graham Allen: **Against**

Robert Eggleston: **Against**

Lee Gibbs: **Against**

Simon Hicks: **Against**

Joseph Foster: **Against**

Max Nielsen: **Against**

Sylvia Neumann: **For**

Janice Henwood: **For**

Andrew Barrett-Miles: **For**

Peter Chapman: **For**

Robert Duggan: **For**

Anne Eves: **Abstain**

Matthew Cornish: **Abstain**

**283. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT KEY AREA GROUP: NOTES OF MEETING**

The Notes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Key Area Group held on 21 October 2021 were **AGREED**.

This year's Hamper Project was mentioned to the Councillors and food donations were being requested.

**284. CULTURAL QUARTER : NOTES OF MEETING**

The Notes of the meeting of the Cultural Quarter held on 4 November were **AGREED**.

**285. TOWN TWINNING**

Council considered the Town Twinning Association request as set out in Agenda Item 10.

**A discussion ensued and the following points were raised:**

- The link between Burgess Hill and Schmallenberg should be kept alive and focused visits should be organised i.e. music and art.
- Support should continue for Twinning as this would be beneficial to Burgess Hill.
- Concerns were raised that this was an out of date activity in the modern world.
- The Leader of the Town Council mentioned that lots of people are involved with the Twinning and he was interested to see how other Twinning associations have coped in the modern world. He wanted to look at engaging younger people in this.
- The Twinning was a good opportunity to see how another culture lived.
- Thoughts were raised about trying to get the Burgess Hill Academy involved with the Twinning i.e. music or arts and crafts. There was a desire to connect with another culture in different ways.

**RESOLVED that:**

**That a Twinning Committee comprised of Councillors Town Mayor Anne Eves, Councillor Max Neilsen and Robert Eggleston, be formed to take the Twinning with Schmallenberg and Abbeville forward.**

**286. BOLLARD LEASE**

Council considered a lease from MSDC for a bollard at the Cyprus Road Car park store to be approved and entered into as set out in Agenda Item 11, dated Monday 22 November 2021.

**RESOLVED that:**

**That the lease from MSDC for a bollard at the Cyprus Road Car park store be approved and entered into.**

**287. ABOUT TOWN REVIEW**

Council considered a consultation with the public to ask them what they liked about the magazine and to provide any suggestions to include in the distribution channels as set out in Agenda Item 12, dated Monday 22 November.

**A discussion ensued and the following points were raised:**

- The Kiln would like a page in the next issue of About Town.
- The consultation was an excellent idea and it was important for the Town Council to communicate effectively with residents, especially those who like physical copies of the magazine.
- About Town was only distributed three times a year which meant that some organisations missed the deadline to promote themselves. An events mailbox had been set up to keep people up to date with upcoming events.
- It was raised that this was a good way to obtain feedback from those reading it.

**RESOLVED that:**

**That a consultation on About Town magazine be held and responses brought back to Council during 2022.**

## **288. REGENERATION OF MARTLETS CENTRE**

Council considered the report as set out in Agenda Item 13 dated Monday 22 November 2021. The following points were raised:

- It was announced this month that MSDC's bid for the Levelling Up fund was not successful and even if MSDC were successful, the earliest that New River could proceed on site would be in spring 2023.
- It was raised that New River acquired the lease in 2009 and planning consent was given in 2016 and again in 2020. It was mentioned that even if everything went according to plan, the re-development would most likely be completed in 2025 or 2026.
- Burgess Hill Town Council had been patient and were doing what they could bring change to the town.
- Burgess Hill Town Council was disappointed that an attractive environment had not been created. The Town Council put in a reasonable submission for use of the Martlets Hall and Library site but that was not accepted by MSDC. An environment fit for the town had not been created.
- There was decay in the Martlets Shopping Centre. The properties were owned by MSDC. Burgess Hill Town Council needed to persevere with New River to spend more money on fixing properties and to make them fit for retail habitation.
- Burgess Hill Town Council would like MSDC to financially support the programme and support the Burgess Hill local economy.
- Burgess Hill Town Council didn't think the delay in the regeneration was deliberate but this had been swept away by the speed of retail changes.
- Burgess Hill Town Council was expecting successful change by September 2020 but this didn't happen.
- Burgess Hill Town Council had given a lot up for a scheme that had not been delivered and it was time for them to compensate for the loss and to support the Town which had been treated with such disdain.
- It was raised that the Marlets was shut because it was commercially unviable and if Burgess Hill Town Council wanted compensation then Burgess Hill Town Council would need to use good arguments to leverage.
- New River was not a developer and they acquired a lease from the administrators with Thornfield.

- A Councillor raised that MSDC had left the Martlets in such a disgraceful, appalling state and that Burgess Hill was a growing town so this was not acceptable. It was raised that BHTC needed to push MSDC and encourage residents to contact MSDC directly, to express their fury with this dire situation.
- Burgess Hill Town Council needed to be compensated and supported with funds and resources by MSDC.
- MSDC should make the development a priority.

**RESOLVED that:**

MSDC and New River be invited to a meeting with the Town Council to discuss:

- (i) a Meanwhile Lease on the Martlets Hall and Library site;
- (ii) an urgent programme of aesthetic and environmental improvements to the Martlets Shopping Centre to support trading in the area generally and also creating more lettable units;
- (iii) as the retail environment in Burgess Hill is undermined by the condition of the Martlets Shopping Centre, a financial grant to support the Town Council's Bridge-the-Gap programme;
- (iv) how the town might be financially compensated for the loss of the Martlets Hall if the full consented scheme cannot be delivered, or if it can, only after further considerable delay.

**289. ESCAPE YOUTH CLUB DONATION**

Council considered donating £500 to the Escape Youth Club to cover their removal costs as set out in Agenda Item 14 dated Monday 22 November 2021.

Escape Youth Club were moving to the Cherry Tree and they had lots of equipment.

**RESOLVED that:** Burgess Hill Town Council donate £500 to the Escape Youth Club to assist their move from the Park Centre to the Cherry Tree Centre.

**290. DIARY DATES**

Council received a schedule of forthcoming events as set out in Agenda Item 15 dated Monday 22 November 2021.

**RESOLVED** that:

The contents of the report were noted.

**291. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**In view of the confidential nature of the business transacted, it was proposed that, in the public interest, the public and press be excluded.**

**AGREED**

**292. STAFF MATTER**

Item withdrawn

**293. Meeting terminated at 20:50 hours.**