



MINUTES of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber on **Monday 31 January 2022**

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

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

Also Present: Steve Cridland

* *Denotes non-attendance.*

(19.00)

294. OPEN FORUM

Several members of the public attended to discuss 3 Alexandra Road, Burgess Hill.

The following points were raised:

The 'green oasis' had been there for sixty years. There had been damage to this land and a feeling of sadness over this was expressed. The community would be willing to purchase this plot.

Many residents were surprised as they had not seen this application notice and they felt that this should not have been allowed to happen.

They would be grateful if individual Councillors and colleagues of other levels of government would step in to avoid this from happening to other green spaces in Burgess Hill.

A member of the public asked whether the staff survey would be made available to the public. As this was an external consultation conducted among staff, it would be a breach of confidentiality to bring all of this into the public domain however, some actions from the staff survey would come into the public domain.

A member of the public asked about the Beehive progression. There was a £4.8 million pound loan from the public works loan board. There would be a revaluation regarding the cost of the building in early spring. The pandemic and brexit had impacted the increase in material costs for this. The building would commence in 2023. The Beehive would provide a modern, multipurpose, art facility in the centre of Burgess Hill.

295. [APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE](#)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Max Nielsen, Janice Henwood, Matthew Cornish and Sarah Lawrence.

296. [DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST](#)

Councillor Andrew Barrett-Miles advised that he had not received the Council Agenda and therefore was not sure if he needed to declare a personal interest.

297. [CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

There was a vacancy on the Town Council itself. If anyone wanted to express an interest in becoming a Councillor then they should contact the Help Point.

If 10 electors within the Town expressed a desire there would be a by election.

There had been good sales at the Help Point and this was going well.

In November 2021 the full Town Council requested a meeting with the District Council and New River, but as this had not been granted the Clerk would push again for a date.

298. PRESENTATION BY LOCAL PANTRY TRUSTEES

The Pantry officially opened in July 2021 and had more than 200 members. The Pantry aimed to bridge the gap between the food bank and a retail store. A member of the Pantry would be able to receive goods worth £20 from spending £4. Becoming a Pantry member offered independence and to help those in crisis.

There had been a sustainable steady growth due to encouragement through social media, media coverage, referrals, foodbanks and word of mouth. The Pantry would be looking to generate revenue in other ways.

The Pantry had opened new avenues for people to obtain food supplies and had accepted donations from Fareshare in order to be more sustainable. The Pantry received donated funds and food from different organisations including Co-op and Waitrose. The Pantry had received restricted funding and they had applied for specific things such as laptops. It had been a good year for fundraising and there would be lots of funding options for the Pantry to apply for.

The Pantry would be looking for opportunities to provide more staff to ease pressure off the workload.

299. COUNCIL MINUTES

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 22 November 2021 were **AGREED** and signed as a correct record.

It was advised that Lewis had been spelt wrong in the previous Council minutes and this would need to be changed to Lewes.

300. PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on Monday 29 November 2021, Monday 20 December 2021 and Monday 10 January 2022 (minutes previously circulated) were **AGREED**.

301. FINANCE KEY AREA GROUP NOTES OF MEETING

The Notes of the meeting of the Finance Key Area Group held on 24 January 2022 were **AGREED**.

**302. RESOLUTION FROM THE FINANCE KEY AREA GROUP MEETING-
REVENUE BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2022/23**

RESOLVED that:

The 2022/2023 Revenue Budget was approved and the set Precept at £933,618. It was discussed that the cost of living would be increasing.

303. REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was suggested that a working party of Councillors should get together to identify issues in the existing Neighbourhood Plan. It was suggested that this be a preliminary exercise.

A boundary review would soon take place and the Town Council would absorb the land north of Burgess Hill into Burgess Hill.

It was suggested that a working party of Councillors should get together to identify issues in the existing Neighbourhood Plan.

It was pointed out that the District plan was under review as were the boundaries of Burgess Hill.

The District Council would potentially have another go at their District Plan. The housing numbers would need to be a firm part of the Burgess Hill Neighbourhood Plan and the Town Council would need to know what is required from them and what the Town Council could deliver.

RESOLVED that:

That Councillors, Anne Eves, Peter Chapman, Simon Hicks and Janice Henwood form a working party to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan.

304. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE

It was discussed that the About Town Magazine would be revamped. A survey would be included in the next About Town issue to ask residents about their thoughts on the magazine.

It was mentioned that a five day Jubilee celebration would take place in order to replace the original nine day festival as residents decided they would want a slightly shorter event.

The events had been good so far and the Community Engagement team had done a good job, especially pre-Christmas. The report was Noted.

305. DIARY DATES

Council received a schedule of forthcoming events as set out in Agenda Item 12.

FEBRUARY		
Planning Committee	Tuesday 1 February	19.00 hours
Planning Committee	Monday 21 February	19.00 hours
MARCH		
Council	Monday 7 March	19.00 hours
Planning Committee	Monday 14 March	19.00 hours

RESOLVED that:

The contents of the report were noted.

306. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was proposed that, in the public interest, the public and press be temporarily excluded and they were requested to withdraw from the meeting.

310. Meeting terminated at 20:40 hours.

