



**MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber on **Monday 7 March 2022**

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**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.*

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(19.00)

**309. OPEN FORUM**

Nil

**310. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sarah Lawrence, Anne Eves, Graham Allen and Tofojjul Hussain

311. [DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST](#)

Nil

312. [CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

Cllr Henwood mentioned that some members of staff had left the Council She wished them well in their new careers and thanked them for their service. Staff who had or were leaving were Alexa Gardner (13 years' service) and Emily Bryant (3 years' service). She welcomed new members of staff Clair Muschamp, Kayleigh Davidson, Molly Devine and Joshua Willis.

Launch of Burgess Hill Asset List.

Cllr Henwood reported that Emily Bryant had been working with Burgess Hill Heritage and History Society to develop a working document to capture all the assets of the town. This will be promoted in the About Town magazine to be issued on 21 March. Councillors are invited to participate in the social media promotion of this. This will include filming and giving information on sites located in the Town Centre. Councillors were asked to nominate themselves for this. Cllr Henwood asked that the historic wall which had been demolished in Oat Hall be included.

313. [COUNCIL MINUTES](#)

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 31 January 2022 were **AGREED** and signed as a correct record.

314. [PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES](#)

The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on Monday 1 February 2022 and Monday 21 February 2021 (minutes previously circulated) were **AGREED**. Cllr Henwood mentioned that the committee had discussed the Traffic Consultation on various area in town and submitted their comments.

315. [CUSTOMER SERVICES KEY AREA GROUP NOTES OF MEETING](#)

The Notes of the meeting of the Customer Services Key Area Group held on 24 February 2022 were **AGREED**.

Cllr Duggan reported that a compromise had been reached on the Mill Road rewilding site. A strip next to the road would be mowed followed by the stripping of some turf and the remainder would be left wild. The Buddleia would be moved. The CEO was looking into signage for Cyprus Road businesses.

316. **STRATEGIC AND DEVELOPMENT KEY AREA GROUP NOTES OF MEETING**

The Notes of the meeting of the Customer Services Key Area Group held on 28 February 2022 were **AGREED**.

317. **SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE**

Cllr Willis gave out yellow and blue ribbons to all present. Cllr Eggleston showed a picture of his grandparents who had lived on the Moldova/Ukraine border. Russia has a history of persecuting and oppressing people – in this case the liberal democracy of Ukraine. All councillors were moved by the devastation they were witnessing. A new word – doomsscrolling - had been coined as people search their phones for news of Ukraine. The war will impact everyone but none so much as those experiencing destruction and loss of life. The general public are supportive of the Ukrainians and the following actions were proposed:

1. Fly a Ukrainian flag from the Council offices
2. Find a way to contribute to the humanitarian effort. A financial contribution would be considered.

Cllr Barrett-Miles supported this proposal and suggested a grant be made.

Cllr Foster supported the proposals

Cllr Hicks supported the proposal and said that it was not just Ukraine where horrible things are happening. He predicted that the town may soon have to assist refugees with help and meaningful support.

The concept of an inclusive town could be broadened to include refugees. We would also have to take the burden of the effects of the war on ourselves. The CEO undertook to seek out local agents to see how best we can support efforts.

A letter should be sent to the Prime Minister, local MP, Homes England and MSDC to encourage them to commit to supporting environmental initiatives and remove our reliance on Russian oil and gas. Houses can now be built almost grid free and proper environmental standards should be embraced and insisted upon by the government and planning authorities. The CEO undertook to write a draft to be sent to the leaders of the various parties in Council for approval prior to despatch.

**318. ROTA OF MEETINGS FOR NEXT COUNCIL YEAR**

The Rota of meetings was accepted. It was agreed that, if possible, the Annual Town Meeting be held before Purdah next year (early March).

**319. DIARY DATES**

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

MARCH		
Council	Monday 7 March	19.00 hours
Planning Committee	Monday 14 March	19.00 hours
APRIL		
Planning Committee	Monday 4 April	19.00 hours
Annual Town Meeting – Cyprus Hall	Monday 11 April	19.30 hours
Planning Committee	Monday 25 April	19.00 hours
MAY		
Annual Meeting of Council	Tuesday 3 May	19.00 hours

**RESOLVED** that:

The contents of the report were noted.

**320. UPDATES**

A request had been sent to MSDC on 1 December for a meeting to discuss the Martlets site and initiatives which could improve the aesthetics and environment of the site. A meeting has been agreed for 11 April. Officers are putting together project proposals for various initiatives to improve the area. A meeting of the Strategic and Development KAG will be held prior to this to discuss our strategy. It is understood that only short-term projects can be considered due to the nature of the development. Both NRR and MSDC want to keep their options open. It was agreed that Cllrs Eggleston, Chapman, Barrett – Miles and Eves would attend the meeting on 11 April.

Cllr Eggleston reported that the tender for the demolition of the RBL building had been published and it is hoped that the demolition would commence in May 2022.

**320. 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.

**321. COUNCIL MINUTES**

The Confidential Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Monday 31 January 2022 were **AGREED** and signed as a correct record.

**Meeting terminated at 20:40 hours.**