

MINCHINHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 29th November, 2021,
at 7.00pm at Minchinhampton Baptist Church office, Tetbury Street.

Before the formal start of the meeting chair Cllr Hurst called for a moment's reflection to respect the sudden death of former Brimscombe Ward parish councillor Mark Huband. He also announced the death of ex-parish councillor John Williams' wife who had been seriously ill for a considerable time.

Cllr Hurst then introduced the council's new deputy clerk Claire Whitehead, who was present for her first full council.

150/21: Present: Cllrs N. Hurst (chair), A. Bathe, G. Ford, P. Howarth, C. Morriss, A. Mylechreest, A. Nicholls, L. Reid, P. Schwartz, A. Smith, S. Waddington, Gloucestershire County Cllr S. Robinson, the clerk, deputy clerk, one member of the public.

151/21: Apologies: Cllrs M. Allen, S. Hemmings, L. Woakes, Gloucestershire County Cllr C. Turner.

152/21: Public questions/participation: A member of the public asked the council to act as custodian trustee of the Neu-Lindsey nature reserve if it was taken on by Minchinhampton CAN (Climate Action Now). This request, about a Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust site owned in Amberley, had previously been before the council's Finance Committee. It was agreed to discuss it further later in the meeting, during the report of the Finance Committee.

153/21: Declarations of interest/requests for dispensations: None.

154/21: Minutes: The minutes of the council meeting held on 25th October, 2021, were proposed by Cllr Morriss. A correction at 142/21 that changed the size of the Neu-Lindsey site to an acre, was approved and the minutes then widely agreed.

155/21: Planning minutes: The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8th November, 2021, were received for information only.

156/21: Appointment of deputy chair: There were no nominations. Cllr Hurst drew attention to the need for a successor to be seriously considered after Cllr Hemmings had earlier resigned the deputy's position. Cllr Hurst also further highlighted his own decision not to continue as chair after the 2024 elections.

157/21: County and district councillors' reports: A report from Gloucestershire County and Stroud District Cllr Turner about county and district initiatives had been circulated and was available on request from the clerk. Gloucestershire County Cllr Robinson drew attention to the problematic roll out of fast broadband at Amberley after contractor Gigaclear's main sub-contractor for rural sites, Complete Utilities, went into liquidation. Cllr Robinson further drew attention to a meeting it was hoped to arrange in the New Year to discuss the possible re-routing of buses through Pinfarthings and Amberley. He

further highlighted difficulties in attempting to introduce 20mph limits through Watledge and other smaller lanes.

Stroud District Cllr Hurst reported the redevelopment of Brimscombe Port, in neighbouring Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish, was out to partners. He had received representations from people in the port area who required more involvement in the scheme. Weed clearance had been undertaken in Windmill Road, Minchinhampton, and more was expected. A brief discussion ensued with Cllr Waddington about the SDC's true recycling and contamination rate(s).

158/21: Finance Committee report: The committee's 2022/23 budget proposals, including a standstill precept of £110,000 were presented, and are attached. Cllr Hurst was interested to investigate the use of ringfenced reserves for future projects after underspends during the current financial year. He further suggested a possible extra Finance Committee before the final budget was agreed at the council's January meeting. A "shopping list" would be compiled of matters required by MPC before it further considered the custodian trusteeship of the Neu-Lindsey site.

The committee had appointed new internal auditors IAC, and Cllr Hemmings was to reply to the Minchinhampton Parochial Church Council on behalf of the committee about the outstanding invoice for the Vestry Cottage rent.

The verger had been offered first refusal on the use of the Vestry Room at a cost of £2,000 per annum ongoing, and £1,000 pro rata for the first year as the space was still currently being used as storage by various entities.

A grant of £250 had been agreed towards the Eye Witness 2020 Covid 19 pandemic film.

The committee had agreed that the proposal for custodian trusteeship of the Neu-Lindsey site was premature since its understanding was that Minchinhampton CAN was not yet a legal entity and as such was currently unable to take the nature reserve on.

159/21: Payments: Cllr Mylechreest advised the council should in future pay the Information Commissioner by direct debit, as it was cheaper. Cllr Morriss then proposed and Cllr Ford seconded the approval of the below list of payments of the council:

Stroud Living Landscapes	Play areas grass cuttings	£840.00
S. Hemmings	IT monitor and equip	£202.27
SLCC	Membership	£186.00
Glasdon UK Ltd	Snow equip	£233.21
Softlink Computer Systems Ltd	Laptop and apps	£706.80
S. Hemmings	Zoom sub	£14.39
SLCC	ILCA fee	£144.00
James Wilkinson	Drystone walling	£1,080.00
H. R. Wilson	Bookkeeping services	£216.00
J. Barber	Stationery	£19.77
A. Bullock	Cleaning services	£51.00

Staffing	Salaries	£1,767.68
S. Black	Locum services	£1,071.00
Information Commissioner	Annual fee	£40.00

The above include VAT where applicable. MPC was able to reclaim this.

160/21: Clerk’s report: The council’s electricity supplier Bulb had entered administration but would be kept running by government funding. The chair had sent a card expressing sympathy on behalf of MPC after former member Mark Huband, who resigned only recently, had died in hospital after being taken suddenly ill. Council agreed to contribute £200 towards the £1,275 cost of two strings of Christmas lights and trees being arranged by Minchinhampton Life for the central High Street. Landowners had objected to MPC’s application to add a footpath on their land at Brimscombe to the Definitive Map. Cllr Morriss was leading this process on behalf of the council.

It was hoped the speed limit TRO public consultation questionnaire would be circulated to all households in the parish in January. Cllr Schwartz presented her investigation(s) as to the cost of using Royal Mail and other means for delivery. A discussion ensued which agreed the flyers would instead be distributed by other means i.e.via the web, through schools and publicised in parish magazines and similar.

161/21: Minchinhampton CAN: Cllr Reid reported a busy schedule with a successful film night and also a used clothes sale, plus further events planning for the spring.

162/21: Items for future discussion: Neu-Lindsey progress, public rights of way claim(s), and speeding/VAS results would all be placed on the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed: Date: