

MINCHINHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 31st January, 2022,
at 7.00pm at Minchinhampton Baptist Church office, Tetbury Street.

Before the formal meeting members interviewed three candidates for co-option for the vacant seat to represent the council's Brimscombe Ward and selected Mr Jim Coubrough.

176/22: Present: Cllrs N. Hurst (chair), M. Allen, A. Bathe, G. Ford, S.Hemmings, P. Howarth, C. Morriss, A. Mylechreest, A. Nicholls, L. Reid, P. Schwartz, the clerk, Gloucestershire County Cllrs C. Turner and S. Robinson.

177/22: Apologies: Cllrs A. Smith, S. Waddington, L. Woakes.

178/22: Public questions/participation. None.

179/22: Declarations of interest/requests for dispensations: None.

180/22: Minutes: The minutes of the council meeting held on 13th December, 2021, were proposed by Cllr Morriss, seconded by Cllr Schwartz, and approved.

181/22: Planning minutes: The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10th January, 2022, were received for information only.

182/22: Appointment of deputy chair of council: This item was carried over from the previous council when no nominations for the role had been forthcoming. The appointment was not a necessity, argued Cllr Mylechreest, although Cllr Morriss said its purpose was for a councillor to gain experience in readiness for becoming chair. It was agreed to further carry forward the item to the next agenda.

183/22: County and district councillors' reports: Cllr Turner's comprehensive update on her work as both a Stroud District and Gloucestershire County Councillor had been circulated and is available on request from the clerk. It made clear work continued on how best to take forward 20mph projects across the county, including the test area for them in central Minchinhampton. Cllr Robinson had begun talking about a possible integrated transport scheme which might re-route the no 40 bus from Stroud to Wotton-under-Edge up Culver Hill to Amberley war memorial triangle and back down through Pinfarthings to Nailsworth. Considerable discussion about use of smaller buses and their funding followed.

Stroud District Cllr Hurst reported his meeting with officials from Stroud District Council about the parish council becoming involved in the way the district managed its Friday Street car park in Minchinhampton which he saw as critical to the realisation of the Minchinhampton Neighbourhood Development Plan. Cllr Hurst, Cllr Hemmings, and Gloucestershire County Cllr Turner had been among attendees at a police community liaison event at Minchinhampton Rugby Club which drew criticism as local Police Community Support Officers were not present.

184/22: Financial matters: a) Finance Committee – The minutes of the Finance Committee held on 17th January, 2022, were received for information; **b) 2022-23 budget** - The 2022-23 budget had been approved at the December council but was re-presented as it now clearly also indicated earmarked reserves to be carried

forward and available CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies. The standstill budget expenditure of £110,000, was again approved. It is detailed on the council's website and a printed version available on request from the clerk.; **c) Grant request** – Minchinhampton Youth Club, based at the Minchinhampton Youth Centre – part of Minchinhampton Community Hub – had requested funding towards a sessional worker from The Door Youth Project in Stroud who would support and train volunteers who ran Older Youth, Younger Youth and Children's clubs whose memberships included children with special educational needs. Cllr Nicholls proposed, Cllr Morriss seconded, and it was agreed to grant £1,000 towards the annual £2,500 cost of the sessional worker; **d) Vestry Cottage rental** – Cllr Hemmings gained support for his proposal that the cottage tenants be permitted a compromise seven months rent free, instead of six, during the time in which the building was undergoing refurbishment; **e) Amberley Playground** – The clerk and deputy clerk had met the playground management chair and the advice officer from the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association at the site. Councillors were advised that until a proposed lease was received from the Gloucester Diocese there could be no progress on the council's potential investment in safety and other improvements to the play equipment.

Cllr Robinson left the meeting at this point.

185/22: Payments: The below list of payments of the council was proposed by Cllr Morriss and widely approved.

L. Taylor and Sons Ltd (petty cash)	£50.00
Cotswold Canals Trust	£40.00
James Wilkinson	£1,310.00
Sue Black	£324.00
J. Jutsum	£500.00
SLCC	£183.00
Minchinhampton Baptist Church	£20.00
Edge IT Systems Ltd	£182.40
Softlink Computer Systems Ltd	£19.20
Glasdon UK Ltd	£373.44
Water Plus Payments	£67.03
S. Hemmings	£14.39
H. R. Wilson	£72.00
T. Kirby (paid)	£40.00
T. Hawkins and Sons S.G.M.S.	£218.34
Staffing	£2,555.10
A. Bullock	£75.00
S. Pizzey	£50.00

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

Cllr Howarth left the meeting.

186/22: NDP Implementation Committee: Councillors were reminded of a recommendation from the last Staffing Working Group that a clerk or possibly apprentice clerk would be required to support this new committee when it launched after two years of disruption from Covid. It had been further recommended that councillors to represent each of the five wards of the council, plus four members of the public, be selected and a start date for meetings earmarked. No volunteers were willingly forthcoming. The chair would therefore

investigate writing terms of reference to kick start the process and the clerk resurrect a previous list of potential clerical assistants.

187/22: Reports: a) **MARCAC** – Cllr Schwartz’ report about issues before the Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons Advisory Committee had been circulated and is available on request from the clerk. She had raised the question of commons’ traffic at the full county council meeting in December which had prompted a planned meeting to discuss the matter further. The move was prompted by growing concern about the pressures on wildlife and green spaces and the hope that some traffic calming might be agreed; b) **Minchinhampton CAN** – A social supper at the Minchinhampton Market House in May was considering the launch of a plant based recipe book to be sold on the evening. Over £400 had been raised for three community groups with a recycled clothes event. A project at Minchinhampton School had hit its £70,000 target to install solar panels.

188/21: Clerk’s report: The re-launch of a monthly Tom Long’s Post was expected during the week beginning 7th February, 2022. Following training in the use of Microsoft Publisher from Cllr Hemmings, staff expected the four page TLP to be initially available via the council’s website, and a link on its Facebook page. Its return would also be publicised on posters on council noticeboards and at strategic venues around the parish. Previously around 1,650 copies were professionally printed and distributed by volunteers. The deputy clerk was congratulated on gaining her FILCA – Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration – qualification.

189/22: Items for future discussion: A graziers’ meeting report would be received at the February meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed: Date: