

MINCHINHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 28th March 2022,
at 7.00pm at Minchinhampton Baptist Church office, Tetbury Street.

205/22: Present: Cllrs A Nicholls (Chair), A. Bathe, C. Morriss, A. Mylecreest, L. Reid, P. Schwartz, S. Waddington, the deputy clerk.

206/22: Apologies: Cllrs N. Hurst (chair), M. Allen, J. Colbrough, G. Ford, S. Hemmings, P. Howarth, L. Woakes, Gloucestershire County Cllrs C. Turner and S. Robinson, the clerk.

207/22: Public questions/participation: None.

208/22: Declarations of interest/requests for dispensations: None.

209/22: Minutes: The minutes of the council meeting held on 28th February 2022 had been circulated, were proposed by Cllr Morriss, seconded by Cllr Waddington, and approved.

210/22: Minutes: **a) Planning Committee** – The minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14th March 2022 had been circulated, for information only; **b) Finance Committee** – the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 21st March 2022 had been circulated; recommendations to approve the new Asset Register and Risk Register were received and approved by full council.

211/22: County and district councillors' reports: No report was received from County Cllr Robinson. Cllr Turner's report included information on how SDC and GCC are getting ready to assist with incoming Ukrainian refugees, SDC's consultation on its new canal strategy, and how tenants had started to move in to the seven new build council homes on Summersfield Road. Over 1700 people had responded to GCC's bus survey earlier this year and as a result, an enhanced partnership agreement between the council and local transport services has been drafted. GCC consultation on the proposal to move Stroud library into the Five Valleys centre remains open until 25th April 2022.

212/22: Financial matters: **a) The internal audit report, observations and summary** were received. It was noted by councillors present that most observations in the report were due to non-compliance as the new auditor (IAC) specialises in Local Councils and had therefore picked up issues which the council's previous auditor may not have been aware of. It was also noted that most of the recommendations had since already been acted on.

AT THIS POINT THE COUNCIL VOTED TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC AND TO MOVE INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION. This action was taken due to the potential discussion of tender figures but as that did not happen, the minute is public information.

b) Consideration of land purchase at GL68PE. Particulars of the forthcoming public sale by tender of a paddock and buildings off Cirencester Road in Minchinhampton had been circulated, along with notes made following the discussion at the Finance Committee earlier this month. The council concluded it would not bid for the land as it is not suitable due to size and location. Councillors present would prefer to look for smaller parcels of land in areas of the Parish which do not already have allotments within walking distance for residents, such

as Brimscombe and Box. Cllr Ford had confirmed earlier in the day that Horsfall House was not willing to progress the idea of using land they own close to the Box Lane playground for Parish allotments.

It was noted that whilst the council has almost 40 people on the waiting list for an allotment, it already has 64 plots and there is no legal requirement to provide a given number per 1,000 of population. Also raised was the likelihood that some people on the waiting list, as well as some of the current allotment holders, may no longer reside in the Parish and would therefore not be entitled to an allotment according to the current terms and conditions. It was agreed by councillors that allotments should be raised for further discussion at the next full council meeting.

THE COMMITTEE AT THIS POINT RECONVENED IN PUBLIC SESSION.

c) Approval of investment policy – this was proposed by Cllr Waddington and seconded by Cllr Morriss.

d) MPC bank balances/year to date report – these were not attached to the Clerk's email so could not be discussed.

213/22: To readopt the General Power of Competence. Cllr Morriss proposed that council readopt the GPC and Cllr Reid seconded.

214/22: Appointment of a) Deputy chair of Council – Cllr Morriss put himself forward for consideration

b) Council representative on Minch Life – Cllr Nicholls agreed to continue as council representative as there were no other volunteers.

215/22: Reports: a) 20's Plenty for Us speed limit campaign – Cllr Schwartz presented her report on the 'Slimbridge Declaration', part of which has been adopted by GCC. It is likely that speed limits will be reduced to 20mph in town and village centres such as Minchinhampton and Amberley but not on rural country roads, which are frequented by vulnerable users such as horse riders, walkers etc. Council widely agreed that GCC should be asked to support the Slimbridge Declaration in its entirety, not just part of it, and that enforceability of reduced speed limits needs to then be considered. **b) Minchinhampton CAN** – Cllr Reid reported that the recent School Swish event had been a success, raising £350. A Social Supper is now being organised for the end of May, using local chefs and produce with the aim of increasing sustainability. **c) NDPI Committee working party** – a report was circulated prior to the meeting which was read, noted and endorsed.

216/22: Clerk's Report: Councillors noted that The Hub site off Tobacconist Road had been confirmed as belonging to the Minchinhampton Parish Church and is now run by a new charity Minchinhampton Community Hub, and that the council will not therefore be conducting a safety inspection of The Hub skatepark this spring. Councillors were advised that National Trust warden Richard Evans will attend a handover meeting for the repair/maintenance of commons' seats at The Trap House on 7th April 2022.

Cllr Waddington updated councillors on the work which is required to the Market House Undercroft and advised that the builder cannot start until August of this year. The CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) committee is now launching a new appeal for the iron work and will be putting in an application to the Lottery Heritage Fund.

Councillors present confirmed that they wish the clerk to formally object to the name Wimberley Park for the residential development at the former business estate in Brimscombe; they would prefer Wimberley Mill.

The items for payment list, which was circulated for information only, was duly noted by councillors present.

217/22: Councillors' items for future discussion: Allotments; Graziers' meeting; Highways meeting.

The meeting ended at 8.03pm.

Signed: Date:.....