

Mid Sussex District Association of Local Councils (MSALC)

Chair: Cllr Tony Steer (Bolney Parish Council)
Clerk: Anna Beams, Mulberry & Co, 9 Pound Lane, Godalming, GU7 1BX
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Minutes of the Meeting of Mid Sussex District Association of Local Councils held on Thursday 24th February 2022 at 6.30pm by Zoom.

Present:

Cllr Graham Stafford	Albourne Parish Council
Cllr Iain McLean	Albourne Parish Council
Cllr Jon Millbanks	Balcombe Parish Council (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Annabel Moir	Bolney Parish Council
Cllr Martin Sheldon	Cuckfield Parish Council
Cllr Mark Hind	Fulking Parish Council
Cllr Ian Weir	Hassocks Parish Council
Cllr Nick Owens	Hassocks Parish Council
Cllr Kristian Berggreen	Hassocks Parish Council
Cllr Rodney Jackson	Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council
Cllr Michael Curties	West Hoathly Parish Council
Cllr Ian Gibson	Worth Parish Council
Trevor Leggo	West Sussex Association of Local Councils, CEO
Anna Beams	Secretary

- 1. Welcome**
Cllr Jon Millbanks took the Chair, welcomed members and opened the meeting.
- 2. Apologies**
Received and accepted from Councillors Bruce Forbes (Turners Hill Parish Council), Cllr Alan Brown (Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council) and Slaugham Parish Council.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th November 2021**
The Minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting held on 18th November 2021.
- 4. To receive an update from Trevor Leggo, CEO of WSALC**
Trevor Leggo provided an update on the following:

Remote Meetings: Trevor reported that he has written a letter to the Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and all local MPs regarding the need for parishes to have discretion over the holding of remote meetings. He has been advised that Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and

Communities, is looking favourably upon the matter but that no decision is forthcoming. He further explained that any changes to the Local Government Act 1972 would require primary legislation.

NALC Lobby Day: Each year NALC hold a Lobby Day where county association representatives are invited to meet with local MPs to discuss or highlight local issues. This year the Lobby Day will be held virtually on 23rd March. Trevor has written a letter of invitation to all local MPs but, to date, has not received any responses and has issued a reminder today. The most pressing matter in West Sussex appears to be a lack of understanding of how the new algorithm for calculating housing numbers is working. Trevor added that it may be helpful for members to also contact their local MPs directly to highlight matters of local importance and communicate the views of local councils.

Policing: The half yearly Police focus groups will resume in May when parish and town councils meet with Trevor, the PCC office and a local Police Inspector to review policing in their local area during the previous six months. The next meetings in the Mid Sussex district are due to take place on 26th May. Clerks have been notified of the dates and invited to send representatives.

Jo Shiner, Chief Constable Sussex Police, will be delivering a Zoom presentation on Friday 25th February to West and East Sussex parishes on the subject of 'Big Data' and how the use of data informs decision making. Each parish may nominate one representative to attend by contacting Anna Beams.

Cllr Rodney Jackson raised the issue of e-scooters and the apparent lack of enforcement. Trevor explained that the law appears to be vague on the matter but that in many cases the scooters may be seized.

Trevor added that he is very grateful to Cllr Ian Gibson for handing over the Mid Sussex financial documents which are now in the possession of Anna Beams, MSALC Secretary.

5. To receive a report from MSALC's representatives on the WSALC Board and consider any recommendations

Trevor Leggo reported that Becky Shaw, CEO of WSCC, was in attendance at the recent WSALC Board meeting and that she was supported by Lee Harris, Executive Director of Place Service and Emily King, Director of Communities. Becky Shaw gave the Board an overview of priorities since her appointment in January 2020 which are listed in the [WSALC Minutes](#).

An update was also provided regarding the Rampion 2 Windfarm and its impact on West Sussex parishes.

6. To receive an update on the position of the MSALC accounts

Trevor Leggo advised that the MSALC bank account is currently frozen due to inactivity. The balance is £1,230.37 although a management charge of £5.00 per month is being levied. Anna Beams will begin the process of unfreezing the account and releasing the funds.

7. How Mid Sussex District Council and Parishes together can prevent unnecessary carbon emissions from new and improved housing at no cost – a presentation from Cllr Nick Owens, Hassocks Parish Council

Cllr Nick Owens delivered the above presentation (*appendix A*)

Cllr Ian Weir added that the Hassocks Neighbourhood Plan included a policy regarding carbon emissions which has proved effective and resulted in the District Council being much more rigorous with the developer over the level of energy efficiency within the development.

8. To discuss inviting Flo Churchill to deliver a planning update to MSALC regarding developments in planning

Trevor Leggo explained that Flo Churchill MRTPI FCMI is the planning associate to WSALC and provides training to town and parish councils. She has worked for 31 local authorities, mainly in the role of Interim Planning Director. It has been suggested that Flo Churchill could be invited to deliver a focussed training session to MSALC member councils. Trevor added there would be a fee for the training of approximately £150.00.

It was unanimously **AGREED** to invite Flo Churchill to deliver a training session to MSALC members and that Trevor Leggo and Anna Beams should liaise with Flo regarding a suitable date.

9. To consider any items raised by member councils

No further items were raised.

10. Date and format of the next meeting

Wednesday 15th June 2022 @ 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 19:27

Signed:

Date: