



Tel: (01444) 247726  
Fax: (01444) 233707  
Email: [council@burgesshill.gov.uk](mailto:council@burgesshill.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.burgesshill.gov.uk](http://www.burgesshill.gov.uk)

Wednesday 17 July 2024

To: MEMBERS OF BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL

**A MEETING of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber on Monday 22 July 2024 at 19.00 hours, when your attendance is required.**

**Steven Cridland**  
CEO

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE START TIME OF THE MEETING\*\***

FILMING, RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

**The use of social media is permitted but members of the public are requested to switch their mobile devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.**

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## A G E N D A

1. **OPEN FORUM**

Each member of the public is permitted to speak once in respect of business relevant to the Town Council or of local concern to the residents of the town at the discretion of the Chairman (during the Open Forum). They can also speak during the meeting (on topics relating to the published agenda and any other business raised during the meeting) as the agenda debate is progressed. Speakers are encouraged not to speak for more than three minutes, at the discretion of the Chairman or nominee (including the Chair of any other meeting of the Council).

If it appears that the number of speakers is likely to unreasonably delay

the disposal of business items on the agenda the Chairman may direct that a member of the public submits a question or comment in writing which shall be answered in due course.

2. **BURGESS HILL PANTRY: ADDRESS BY CLAIRE FULLER**

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In respect of any matter on the agenda.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To hear Chairman's announcements, for noting items only, if any.

6. **COUNCIL MINUTES**

To consider the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 7 May 2024, and the minutes of the following Extraordinary Town Council meetings held on:

29 April 2024

13 June 2024

24 June 2024

Minutes attached.

7. **UPDATE FROM WSCC**

Report from Cllr Stuart Condie

8. **UPDATE FROM MSDC**

Report from Cllr Robert Eggleston attached (Appendix 1)

9. **PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

To consider the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on 13 May, 3 June, 25 June and 15 July. (minutes previously circulated).

We have considered 76 applications for planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Our decisions and recommendations within our terms of reference are set out in the Minutes.

David Eggleton  
Chairman

10. **FINANCE KEY AREA GROUP**

To consider the Notes of the meeting of the Finance Key Area Group held on 24 June 2024 (Previously circulated)

11. **GRANTS AWARDS PANEL – NOTES OF MEETING**

To consider the Notes of the meeting of the Grants Awards Panel held on 24 May 2024 (previously circulated).

The following recommendations have been made:

The Grants Panel agreed to award grants to organisations as set out in the table above. A total of **£6,396** was allocated from the Minor Grants Fund (Minute 23 refers).

Organisation	Requested	Awarded
Mid Sussex Active	£1,000	£400
Sussex Chorus	£1,000	£700
Girlguiding Burgess Hill Division	£426	£396
Neighbourly Care	£1,000	£500
St Edwards Wives	£1,000	£500
Burgess Hill Heritage and History Society	£1,000	£500
Burgess Hill Pantry	£1,000	£700
Burgess Hill & District Bereavement & Friendship Group	£250	£250
Weald Classic Vehicle Club	£1,000	£500
Windmills Opportunity Playgroup	£1,000	£200
Central Sussex Rotary	£1,000	£500
The Sussex Harmonisers	£1,000	£500
4Sight Vision	£1,000	£750
<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,676</b>	<b>£6,396</b>

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the recommendations of the Grants panel be agreed

12. **GRANTS APPLICATION PROCESS**

It was discussed that the Town Council had seen a significant increase in applications received and historically the Grants budget was not fully

spent enabling a build-up of funds to allow a large number of beneficiaries and some receiving a significant grant.

Therefore, the Panel was asked to consider;

- Amalgamating the funding pot so one stream – major and minor to fall within this. Applications to be considered for running costs and one-off capital expenditure.
- Move the scheme to annually to enable the fund to be split amongst applicants in one fair round.
- Move the deadline for applications to 31 January each year allowing time for groups to ensure financial information collated and this fits better with workloads for Officers.
- Restrict the scheme to organizations that have 'Net Current Assets' of less than £1 million to ensure that the scheme supports smaller groups.
- Update the conditions of funding to state that preference is given to those groups that have not received a grant in the last 24 months. This will encourage organizations to look widely for funding rather than repeat applications with same groups receiving funding each year.

#### RESOLUTION

The Panel agreed with the considerations set out above and it was resolved that grants would be considered once a year, following a January deadline. This is subject to ratification at Full Council in July 2024. (Minute 24 refers).

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Resolution of the Grants Panel be approved

#### 13. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT KEY AREA GROUP – NOTES OF .MEETING**

To consider the Notes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Key Area Group KAG held on 10 June 2024 (previously circulated).

Councillors, and members of the public, were asked for their views on future events. All suggestions were written down and collated. Ideas were submitted and then a discussion on the potential viability of these. This is available to view at Appendix 2.

Our decisions and recommendations within our terms of reference are set out in the Notes.

Brenda Williams  
Chairman

**FOR NOTING**

14. **THE BURGESS HILL ACADEMY WORKING GROUP**

It has recently been revealed that Burgess Hill Academy has had its operational budget reduced by 28% in 2022-23 and 15% in 2023 - 2024, amounting to some £2.8M. This has resulted in acute shortages of equipment and resources and a deep sense of frustration by teachers and support staff that the Trust that administers the funding has let them down. Unfortunately, an impasse has led to a series of local strikes. A number of Councillors have expressed their concern over this situation, which is directly affecting the education of our town's young people and the standing of the school.

Councillor Peter Williams wishes to establish a non-political Working Group to support the school, with practical initiatives and a lobbying function. Cllrs Janice Henwood, Andy Stowe, Diane Black, Bob Foster and Brenda Williams have indicated an interest in the Working Group, which will also consist of 2 governors, 2 teachers and 2 parents.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. That Council gives approval to the establishment of the Burgess Hill Academy Working Group.
2. That the function of the Working Group be decided at an inaugural meeting (August 2024).
3. That the Working Group be part of Burgess Hill Town Council's formal activities, in the interest of its community.

15. **EUROPEAN FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

The following Councillors wish to be part of this group; Anne Eves, Stuart Condie and Brenda Williams. Their skills include languages and/or on-going association with Abbeville and Schmalleberg.

**RECOMMENDED:**

That Cllrs Anne Eves, Stuart Condie and Brenda Williams be appointed as representatives of Burgess Hill Town Council.

16. **DIARY DATES**

<b>AUGUST</b>		
Planning Committee	Monday 5 August	19.00 hours
Strategic Key Area Group	Monday 13 August	19:00 hours
Planning Committee	Tuesday 27 August	19.00 hours
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>		
Planning Committee	Monday 16 September	19.00 hours
Council	Monday 23 September	19.00 hours

**Recommended:** For noting.