

**FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at Salvation Army Hall, 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Messrs. G.Sitton, G. Stanley, B. Travers  
Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chairman), Ms. J. Dumbrell  
**District Councillors** 2 DC Mr. G. Newman, Dr. D. Skipp  
**County Councillors** 2 CC Mr. A. Baldwin, Mrs. M. Millson  
Public 1  
Press 0  
**Apologies** J. Batchelor, N. Friswell, M. Hough CC Dr. N. Dennis

**01.559.17 Minutes of Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Following clarification about the short term housing block in Bishopric, the Minutes were proposed by Mr. Travers, seconded by Ms. Dumbrell and signed by Mrs. Sumpter.

**02.559.17 Matters Arising**

**03.533.16 Bus Shelter (Melksham Close)**

It would seem that there is a way forward relating to funding although there will be issues regarding siting and who will maintain the bus shelter after its erection.

**Resolved to contact HDC to ask that it takes over maintenance responsibility**

**05.533.16 Winterton Court**

HDC Andy Flack is aware of the objection to naming the development, Innes Court.

**08.544.17 Litter**

Letters have now been sent to Mail Boxes Etc., William Hill and Horsham Barbers, Queen Street asking that they take steps to remove litter from the pavements outside their premises.. To date, there has been no response. A letter of thanks will be sent to the volunteers who remove litter along Brighton Road.

**04.555.17 Grass Verges in the vicinity of Kerves Lane**

CC Mr. Baldwin did visit the area with WSCC Chris Stark but regrettably Highways will not replace the broken wooden bollard or speak to the resident who regularly removes one bollard from the grass verge. Chris Stark confirmed that the grass verge issues do not meet intervention levels.

**05.557.17 Pigeon Droppings under the Iron Bridge**

Independently of FNC, Mr. Sitton has been in contact with Network Rail concerning the state of this bridge. He will have a site meeting with a Network Rail representative and it was agreed he will also discuss Neighbourhood Council issues – specifically pigeon droppings.

**09.557.17 Liberty Development**

At a meeting with HDC Chris Lyons, Mrs. Sumpter referred to the Nil CIL attached to the Liberty Development. HDC Chris Lyons basically said that if, at any stage, Liberty chose to appeal against any decision, there is the possibility that an Inspector will direct that no payments are levied (some payment is better than none).

Separately Mrs. Sumpter referred to affordable housing and the fact that Liberty proposed 9% against HDC request for 35%. The final agreement is 18%.

Mrs. Sumpter would like Blueprint to add/set affordable housing percentages within the Neighbourhood Plan.

**09.557.17 Tesco Express, Redkiln Way**

CC Mr. Baldwin was disappointed that Highways will not look at ways in which to improve the traffic problems at this site. Despite initial representations from this Council and other interested parties. Highways never raised any objections to the set up in Redkiln Way and in fact this is also the case at Tesco Express, St. Leonard's Road. In reality all the concerns have materialised. BT has now fixed the broken manholes in Redkiln Way.

**09.557.17 Kingslea School**

CC Mr. Baldwin is still hoping to meet with the Headmaster regarding a 20 mph speed limit in Kings Road. He confirmed that Highways will not consider placing a pedestrian crossing at the site. It is feasible that a 20 mph lighting sign can be erected that would operate around school hours.

**09.557.17 Millais School Hedge**

There has been no response from Millais School Governors to our letter regarding hedge cutting during bird nesting time. This is disappointing. Mr. Sitton confirmed that the school has chosen to replace hedges with fences, probably because of maintenance costs.

**04.558.17 Planning**

A letter was sent to MP Mr. Jeremy Quin relating to the size of apartments in office conversions under permitted development. However, to date, there has been no response. Separately Mrs. Sumpter said that there is a Government motion to allow office buildings under permitted development, to be pulled down and re-built or to increase in height. This Council will certainly not be in favour of this proposal.

**Resolved to write a further letter to Mr. Quin, congratulating him on his re-election and to ask for a response to our letter**

**07.558.17 Any Other Business**

Ms. Dumbrell again raised the issue of the increasing number of rats in Horsham Park and the fact that there are fewer swans and ducks on the pond.

**Resolved to refer the matter again to HDC Evan Giles**

**03.559.17 Public Forum**

The member of public again raised the issue of overhanging vegetation on to pavements and how this is impacting on pedestrians. He referred to the pathway alongside the Salvation Army building and the railway bridge where the overgrown vegetation is impacting on the width of the road. County Councillors will pursue the Railway Bridge issue.

**Resolved to contact Salvation Army. The standard letter that Highways has sent to this Council will be amended and it is agreed will be sent to future residents who do not maintain their hedges.**

**04.559.17 District and Councillors' Reports**

CC Mrs. Millson explained that the recent elections have slowed down Council work. At this stage newly and re-appointed Councillors are attending induction meetings. Following recent boundary changes, CC Mrs. Millson's area has changed and she is now also involved with Denne NC as her boundary now incorporates the lower part of Forest (south side of

Brighton Road) and stretches into the town. CC Mrs. Millson attended Carer's Week and there will be reports about "Carer's Support Sussex".

DC Mr. Newman attended the HDC Civic Service. He confirmed that Mrs. N. Brahma-Pearl has now left HDC and will take up her appointment as CEO Crawley in the Autumn. Mr. Adam Chambers has been appointed to take over her role.

DC Mr. Baldwin said that he is currently trying to make contact with all the schools within his division.

DC Dr. Skipp advised that New Street Green will have an informal opening on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 10.30 a.m. and at this time it is hoped to encourage local residents to become involved in a Friends Group. A noticeboard is planned.

*(at this stage, the state of the noticeboard close to North Street Subway was discussed and a letter will be written to Saxon Weald explaining that this noticeboard is now warped and due to vegetation, is becoming inaccessible).*

Dc Dr. Skipp advised that the Cabinet Member for "rubbish" has now stepped down and has been replaced. Mr. Ray Dawe, Leader has asked Mr. Jonathan Chown to interact with NC's but he has not reinstated a Cabinet Member to represent Horsham Town.

#### **05.559.17 Planning**

At a recent meeting with HDC Dr. Lyons, attended by Mr. Travers, Mrs. Sumpter and Mr. Friswell, the importance of responding to Planning Applications was stressed because in the event of any appeal, the Inspector will always refer to responses to applications. It is also important to adhere to the timeline and Mrs. Sumpter suggested that the Planning Committee respond on a fortnightly basis.

Mrs. Sumpter did discuss Highway issues with Dr. Lyons who explained that Highways will only object if an application will cause "severe harm". Any cases that this Council feels should be referred to compliance and enforcement should be directed to HDC Maddie Hartley.

Regarding planning amendments, Dr. Lyons explained that in order to comply with planning application timelines, plans are often approved knowing that there will be amendments both from the applicant and HDC to "iron out" any issues.

Mrs. Sumpter will prepare a detailed report for circulation.

#### Planning Permissions

Mr. Travers advised that approval has been given to recent applications where this Council has raised objections and this includes Century House where there will be 37 apartments and 13-15 Queen Street where the upper floors will be converted to apartments and will include an "overhang".

#### **06.559.17 Local Consultation Document – Horsham Vision**

Councillors were asked to submit their comments following the recent Consultation. Mr. Sitton was keen to encourage cycling routes and this will be pursued by the Cycling Forum.

This Council will emphasise the importance of including Queen Street into the vision and will ask to be fully involved in any plans.

In general terms, this Council would like more creative greenery within the area, specifically around Bishopric and suggests that the water feature, starting at The Olive Tree Public House, is extended. It would like to see more proper seating around the town and for more traditional signs – especially at the entrances into the town.

Blackhorse Way – this should be one way and this would allow for pavements along this route.

#### **07.559.17 Treasurer's Report**

HDC has forwarded a further remittance of £1,090 to the account. The current balance is now £6,701.94, Reserve Account, £1,281.19. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for June.

#### **08.559.17 Correspondence**

Local Government Boundary Commission – the final recommendations have been received. Whilst these make the boundaries even more confusing, FNC will make no further comments.

#### **09.559.17 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

At the last meeting joint neighbourhood council meeting with Mrs. Brahma Pearl, youth funding was discussed. Neighbourhood Councils are asked to confirm their approval for continuing youth funding to be paid from the Special Charge.

**Resolved this Council will write to HDC Trevor Beadle to confirm that FNC is in agreement. A meeting with Liz Burt, Horsham Matters is to be arranged for 4<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 5.00 p.m.**

Mrs. Sumpter attended the recent HDC Reception. It proved to be a good network opportunity.

Cycling Forum – Mr. Sitton said that this Forum is concerned that there is little provision being made for cyclists in this area.

#### **10.559.17 Any Other Business**

Mr. Sitton would like a Pocket Park near Kingslea School to be considered when allocating Section 106 monies.

Gutters – these need to be cleared.

Queen Street Pedestrian Crossing – the pothole is increasing in size.

**Resolved CC Mrs. Millson will contact Highways**

**Jarratt Court** – the pipes that stick out from the ground need to be removed. This is a long term matter.

**Resolved DC Mr. Newman will pursue this matter.**

**The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.**