

FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on 20th March 2017 at Salvation Army Hall, 7.30 p.m.

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

01.556.17 Minutes of Meeting held on 20th February 2017

DC Mr. Newman commented that he has approached HDC regarding the removal of the trees surrounding the garden at Orchid House, Kerves Lane and had explained how this is affecting the visual amenities of adjacent properties.

The Minutes were approved by Mr. Sitton and seconded by Mr. Hough. Mrs. Sumpter signed the Minutes.

02.556.17 Matters arising

03.533.16 Operation Watershed

Mr. Friswell advised that he has not been contacted by the riparian owners who recently received letters that explained their responsibility for maintaining the flow of the stream at the end of their gardens. The first action has now been carried out.

Old Piggott Court building

Saxon Weald has now responded to the letter which included the Land Registry documents and has asked for further information.

Resolved to ask Mr. Travers to speak to Mr. Andy Marley (Saxon Weald 07741243233)

03.533.16 Bus Stop – hardstanding close to Millais

This work is scheduled to be carried out at the beginning of the next financial year.

03.533.16 Bus Shelter in Elm Grove (official Melksham Close bus stop)

It is feasible for this Council to apply for a community grant and it is agreed that this is a well-used bus stop particularly by elderly residents. Mr. Friswell suggested that Saxon Weald could release part of its garden area for the bus shelter. This issue is ongoing maintenance.

Resolved DC Dr.Skipp will raise the matter at his next meeting with HDC Mr. Crowley. He will also speak to Saxon Weald. DC Dr. Skipp agreed that this is a very well used bus stop and will benefit from a bus shelter

Crossing Stirling Way-Harwood Road

CC Mrs. Millson is discussing the way forward with WSCC Mr. Ian Patrick. It is agreed that there is a need for some form of crossing in this area.

05.553.16 Winterton Court

The appeal for the second application was allowed and so now Saxon Weald has the option to develop the area with two approved plans (third plan at HDC Committee Meeting was approved in March)(Mr. Sitton spoke on behalf of this Council explaining this Council's objections). Residents prefer Option 3.

Regarding parking permits, in the February Minutes it was suggested that Saxon Weald would be responsible but it was thought that this would be an unlikely move on its part because of enforcement costs.. At this meeting it is suggested that Saxon Weald is contacted again in order to ascertain whether – if parking permits are issued it has the option to ask HDC to be responsible for enforcement. This is the case at Horsham Hospital.

Resolved to write to Marc Hubbard, Saxon Weald advising that this Council prefers the third submitted application for Winterton Court site and to suggest that the matter of parking permits is further explored.

04.554.17 Planning – meeting with Dr. Lyons

This will take place on Monday 15th May at 4.00 p.m. Mrs. Sumpter will attend together with representatives from FNC Planning Committee.

07.544.17 Depot Road

Mr. Miles Davey, WSCC, responded to the email on 13th March and will look at the issues relating to yellow lines in Depot Road past No.67. He is also arranging for the current faded yellow lines to be repainted.

Resolved to ask Mr. Batchelor, Ms. Dumbrell and Mr. Sitton to arrange a meeting to put forward the best option for changing the yellow lines layout

Oxford Road

Ms. Dumbrell explained that residents believe the extension of the double yellow lines along the north side (school side) could be reduced. This has been referred to WSCC Miles Davey but he has responded by saying that it was a highways condition for the new development that visibility is retained at all times and for this reason the single yellow lines were changed to double yellow lines. He is speaking to the Highways Team again.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will visit the area and a further letter will be sent to Miles Davey

08.554.17 Boxall Walk and Station Road

Station Road – WSCC Chris Stark has not responded to e mails regarding the overgrown Leylandii trees.

Resolved FNC will ascertain whether this Council is able to use the standard letter explaining resident responsibilities

Boxall Walk – Ms. Dumbrell is pleased that the ivy has been trimmed back although does not know who carried out this work. She is very concerned that the fence is not stable. Separately she recently contacted HDC regarding fly tipping along the path and was delighted with the quick response and removal.

This led to a general discussion about litter and how there is a real decline in standards around Horsham Town and surroundings, especially highlighting areas along A24 where fly tipping is very evident. It has to be accepted that lack of funding is the issue. Mr. Hough commented that, as a resident, he has approached the Managers of both Tesco and Waitrose regarding litter that is surrounding their buildings.

Resolved to ask Denne Chairman, Trudie Mitchell to raise the matter at the next Horsham Unlimited Meeting, specifically to ask shopkeepers to be more aware of the areas around their buildings.

04.555.17 District Councillors' Reports – Orchid House

DC Mr. Newman again referred to issues at Orchid House, Kerves Lane. He has spoken to HDC about the removal of the trees along the garden boundaries but there is no update.

Separately Mr. Hough spoke about how the footpath along Kerves Lane is now being blocked by deliveries of hard core and the associated diggers. He has passed photographs to CC Mrs. Millson. DC Mr. Newman also agreed to take up the matter.

05.555.17 ELECTORAL REVIEW

The Local Government Boundary Commission has put forward draft recommendations for future electoral arrangements for Horsham. Relating to the Forest area, this will mean that a significant number of homeowners will be transferred to the Denne area for the purposes of County elections and as there will be more than one boundary area this will be confusing. HDC has confirmed that it has no intention of changing the current neighbourhood council boundaries.

It would appear from the paperwork that all properties to the east of Brighton Road – extending as far as Hornbrook will be transferred from Forest to Denne Ward. Geographically, Denne Ward will extend the width of the town. An estimate of change could be as many as 1000 residents. Part of what is currently in Denne Ward will move into the Broadbridge Heath Ward.

Resolved FNC will object on geographical grounds

03.556.17 Public Forum

There were no questions from the member of public.

04.556.17 District Councillors' Reports

DC Mr. Newman said that a decision regarding a site for Horsham Football Club in the Hop Oast vicinity is due to be made on 21st March. It seems that an approval decision is “tied up” with approval to develop the old Holbrook/Sun Alliance playing fields and the stumbling block appears to be the “affordable housing” issue in the developer’s proposal.

DC Mr. Newman referred to his recent attendance at an Audit Committee. He did say that he has confidence in the HDC Scrutiny Committee. The Audit Committee discussed the continuing error rate with the outsourcing of finance matters – including housing benefit and council tax – and how these errors have resulted in significant financial penalties as well as anxiety for benefit recipients. This Council found it difficult to understand why CenSus did not carry out its own audit prior to year-end at which time errors could have been discovered and presumably remedied.

Dc Dr.Skipp has attended a Horsham Vision Board Meeting – a new Consultancy has been appointed. He was pleased to advise that Horsham Vision is looking at ways in which it can improve the appearance of Queen Street and accepts that this is a key area for accessing the main town. The current thinking is that the make-up of Queen Street will remain the same, i.e. niche small shops.

There is no real “handle” on the way ahead for The Forum area. Hurst Road is under consideration but the fact that the ownership of buildings is in different hands means that at this time no strong plans are being “thought through”.

Separately Councillors hoped that the Piries Place development will move ahead quickly as this is an area that is in great need of rejuvenation. There has been disappointment that the hotel will be a Premier Inn as opposed to a more “niche” hotel but this is now approved.

05.556.17 Planning

DC/1545/16 The Old Dairy Site, 40-44 Brighton Road, Horsham – there is still concern that this site is in disrepair and is subject to fly tipping. The Planning Enforcement Officer has been approached in the past but in November 2016 advised that work was to start imminently.

Resolved to contact agents, Savills, Sevenoaks and Planning Enforcement Officer

See planning applications on this site

www.forestnchorsham.org.uk/planningapplications-access/

06.556.17 Treasurer's Report

Following an approach by Horsham Town Community Partnership, it is agreed that this Council will co-sponsor for the Riverside Walk in the sum of £100.

Horsham in Bloom has asked for this Council to sponsor a planter either at the railway or bus station. After discussion it was agreed that this will be refused as the planter is not within the neighbourhood.

07.556.17 Correspondence

Horsham in Bloom "Wingdong" – Mrs. Sumpter will attend.

Section 106 list – Mrs. Sumpter asked Councillors to look at the recent e mail regarding monies still awaiting allocation.

Newsletter – Mrs. Sumpter has now prepared the Spring Newsletter and this is to be circulated with Horsham Pages. This should be received within the next week

08.556.17 Any Other business

New Street Garden launch – Dr. Skipp said that this is to be a low key affair as he is keen that the facility is primarily used by local residents/playgroups. Dr. Skipp agreed to liaise with Mrs. Sumpter regarding the date so that she can attend and propose the introduction of a "Friends Group".

East Street lights – the lights are still on in East Street and it appears that the current problem is associated with the timer. The consensus of opinion is that the lights should remain in place throughout the year. The lights in the trees (in Lynd Cross area) have now been removed.

Green Spaces – Mrs. Sumpter who is working on mapping green spaces, said that this project is now moving forward, especially since the introduction of parish online mapping. When completed it is hoped that there will be policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Separately there was a discussion about affordable housing and it is hoped there will be a definitive statement in the Neighbourhood Plan. At this time it would seem that developers are choosing not to fulfil their initial promises, citing unaffordability of their part.

Horsham Rugby Club – following a successful grant application, Horsham Rugby Club is to submit a new application for a number of improvements and changes. Mrs. Sumpter suggested this might include floodlighting and this aspect of the application will be considered by the Planning Committee.

Horsham Youth – Mr. Hough continues to be concerned that there is not a District Councillor with a specific youth interest and who will champion future grants. Denne NC is also concerned about this matter. The coffee project is definitely moving into Hurst Road premises and all costs will be met from the youth fund.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will bring this matter up at the next HDC/Neighbourhood Meeting.

Brock Taylor, Estate Agents – Mr. Friswell distributed a recent advertisement. This says that this Estate Agent can help if householders wish to sell off parts of their gardens for development. He is disappointed that this local Estate Agent is becoming involved in ways that will change the appearance of the town.

This matter will again be raised at the April Meeting. HDC will be asked if there is a Planning Policy for Urban backland development.

Greenways Nursing Home development – the path is flooding easily and this means that pedestrians have to walk into the road. It is understood that the developers have no responsibility to improve the situation until the development is completed.

Resolved to contact CC Mrs. Millson

The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.