

## FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at Salvation Army Hall, 7.30 p.m.

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

In the absence of Mrs. Sumpter, Mr. Stanley chaired this meeting.

### **01.555.17 Minutes of Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

The Minutes were approved by Miss Dumbrell, seconded by Mr. Hough. Mr. Stanley signed the Minutes.

### **02.555.17 Matters Arising**

#### **03.533.16 Operation Watershed**

The question of flooding at the top of Kennedy Road (within old Piggott Court) is an issue that has been discussed for more than two years and in the opinion of some Councillors would seem to be unresolvable. However, Mrs. Sumpter has now obtained Land Registry documents that imply Saxon Weald is responsible for the car park. There is the question as to whether Southern Water is ultimately responsible for drains.

**Resolved to forward the Land Registry documents to Saxon Weald. CC Mrs. Millson also agreed to become involved.**

#### **03.533.16 Bus Stop – hardstanding close to Millais**

The official name for the area that needs hardstanding is Watercress Place bus stop. It is understood that this will be carried out – see Ian Patrick e mail. CC Mrs. Millson explained that there is a need for some form of crossing in Harwood Road because the bus has a circular route and Stirling Way residents (in the main) have to cross the road.

Regarding the bus shelter in Elm Grove (official Melksham Close bus stop), it is agreed that this is a well-used stop, especially by older residents, and there should be a way that a bus shelter can be erected and maintained.

**Resolved CC Mrs. Millson and DC Dr.Skipp will pursue the matter**

#### **04.552.16 Ice Skating Rink**

It is disappointing that HDC has made no comment about the fact that this facility was erected before planning permission was given. This is FNC criticism about the attraction.

#### **05.553.16 Winterton Court**

Miss Dumbrell has been in contact with Marc Hubbard, Saxon Weald who has advised that the Appeal Inspector visited the site to assess Application 2 on 20<sup>th</sup> February. It is anticipated that the third plan will go before HDC Committee in March. Approval has been given for the dismantling of the current buildings.

Miss Dumbrell had hoped there would be news about a two way exit but this was not the case. In answer to the question regarding parking permits, it was explained that only Saxon Weald would be the enforcer and it is unlikely due to ongoing costs.

#### **04.554.17 Planning**

It is proving difficult to arrange a meeting with Dr. Lyons and it will probably now be April.

**Tates/Hilliers**– there is no further news about this proposal.

#### **07.554.17 Christmas Arrangements**

FNC has sent a letter to Gill Buchanan outlining its concerns about lack of coordination and clarity. From Horsham Unlimited Minutes – the subject has been extensively discussed and arrangements and changes are already in hand for 2017.

#### **07.554.17 Depot Road**

Mr. Batchelor has visited the specific area where there are issues with parking/yellow lines and agrees with issues raised through the residents' petition. CC Mrs. Millson said that it is important to immediately highlight the problems with WSCC Miles Davey as the new CPZ is due for assessment.

**Oxford Road** – Miss Dumbrell said that general opinion is the double yellow lines have been extended more than is necessary and too many parking bays have been removed.

**Resolved to contact Miles Davey and CC Mrs. Millson also agreed to take up the matters**

#### **08.554.17 Boxall Walk and Station Road**

It is disappointing that Chris Stark has advised that Boxall Walk footpath does not meet the deterioration level for intervention. He has written to residents informing them of their responsibility to remove the ivy and make good the fence and any damage that has been caused.

**Resolved to again contact WSCC Chris Stark to advise him that there is a health and safety hazard. CC Mrs. Millson also agreed to become involved**

**Station Road** – the leylandii trees have still not been cut back and it is now impossible for residents with prams to walk along the pavement without stepping into the road. Miss Dumbrell has suggested that the question of owner responsibility should be made clearer and one way would be to add an article in WSCC Connections. She was disappointed not to have received any response to this suggestion.

**Resolved to again contact WSCC Chris Stark. CC Dr. Dennis will also follow up the general question of overhanging hedges as there are similar problems in Trafalgar Road.**

#### **03.555.17 Public Forum**

There were no questions.

#### **04.555.17 District Councillors' Reports**

DC Mr. Newman advised that Mrs Pat Rutherford has died and there is to be a celebration of her life at St. Mary's Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, at midday. Mrs. Rutherford had been an active District Councillor and in the past, very supportive of this Neighbourhood Council.

**Kerves Lane** –Mr. Newman referred to the recent application for five houses to be built in wooded land alongside Larchwood. He commented that the plot is the same size as other houses along Kerves Lane but this plot will have five houses and a narrow entrance passage. FNC Committee will forward its comments to HDC Planning.

**Orchid House (vicinity Kentwyn Drive)** Planning permission was granted for this house and whilst its size is described as overpowering, it has approval. However, the owners have now removed all the trees around the plot and this does mean that Orchid House overlooks neighbouring properties. DC Dr.Skipp said that "Horsham Vision" is now in limbo as the original contractors have been dismissed. However it is important that there is a vision to include the areas, The Forum and Hurst Road and he is concerned about the appearance of Queen Street that is on the main route into town. Regarding the fire station, it is understood that plans to relocate are in abeyance.

#### **05.555.17 County Councillors' Reports**

CC Mrs. Millson advised that the budget has now been agreed with a 3.9% tax increase – 2% of which is ring fenced for social care. She said that central revenue support is basically being reduced to zero and even with 1.9% increase, there will still have to be savings. She believes that Highways budget is likely to be reduced again and she referred to neighbouring Counties who, for example, spend less on highway maintenance and do not fill pot holes to the same extent as West Sussex – winter maintenance road percentages are:

WSCC - 42%

East Sussex – 28%

Hampshire – 29%

Another disappointing outcome could be that grass verges are not maintained in the same way as currently – only maintaining visibility around junctions. This suggestion is alarming and will have a negative impact on the landscape.

In answer to Mr. Batchelor's question suggesting a referendum on a tax increase to maintain services, Mrs Millson explained that this is unlikely to happen as history has shown that where referendums have taken place, residents have voted not to increase taxes to cover shortfalls. The end result has been that the cost for such referendums has had to be found from other budgets.

**NOVARTIS SITE** – the sale has now been completed and contracts for development are now out to tender.

**Redkiln Way** – Mrs. Millson is currently looking at ways in which to improve the turning for lorries that have to reverse into the Forward Freight Solutions depot.

### **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF HORSHAM**

The consultation ends on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017. Dr. Dennis explained that this review has taken place so that areas and numbers of residents are more fairly distributed. In his opinion the current recommendations are the best so far and should be adopted.

The Forest neighbourhood is larger than Denne and the main proposal affecting this Neighbourhood Council is that the area on the south side of Brighton Road will now be in the Denne boundary. He said that if any comments/objections are made, these must include an alternative plan that is an improvement and has impact.

Councillors queried the effect on current Forest Neighbourhood Councillors, especially as three Councillors live on the south side of Brighton Road and their properties will be within the Denne boundary. Dr. Dennis did not think neighbourhood boundaries were changing and therefore it would not have any relevance. He did think that one comment could be to change the name of the Denne boundary to avoid confusion.

**Resolved this Council will contact HDC Maxine Mears for clarification**

#### **06.555.17 Planning**

[See planning applications on this site](http://www.forestnchorsham.org.uk/planning-applications-access/) [www.forestnchorsham.org.uk/planning-applications-access/](http://www.forestnchorsham.org.uk/planning-applications-access/)

#### **07.555.17 Treasurer's Report**

Current Account £2,380.18, reserve account £1,281.15. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for February and March (due to Treasurer's absence in March) and the Chairman's expenses have been paid. Petty cash has been reimbursed.

#### **08.555.17 Reports from Representatives on outside bodies**

**Youth** – Mr. Hough attended the meeting concerning youth and explained that the service continues to provide an excellent service although there is always the issue with ongoing funding. He is concerned that whilst the committee has representation from both Denne and Trafalgar NC there is no District Councillor "champion" who could add a voice when the next round of Special Charge expenditure is discussed. Mr. Hough explained that the Café Nero project had been very successful but the fund could no longer maintain the cost. He understands that the Friday night project could continue in a Hurst Road Hall.

#### **09.555.17 Any Other Business**

**Car Parking** – Mr. Hough said that he had looked at the original report when Sunday car parking charges were proposed and this stated that it was anticipated that the introduction would result in a 30% reduction in usage. From using data from automatic number recognition, the figure is actually 28% - this is the only comparative data available.

Since the charges were introduced, the revenue has been £200,000 gross and £160,000 net. This is on target.

Waitrose has changed its Sunday parking arrangements, adding charges, which may mean that shoppers will return to the HDC car parks.

**Queen Street** – the tactile paving is breaking up – CC Mrs. Millson will contact Highways.

**Rubbish** – Councillors reported areas where fly tipping has already taken place. In answer to a question about the legality of charges, CC Dr. Dennis explained that it depends on whose legal opinion is considered to be right and it is not an easily resolvable issue.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.