

# FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Salvation Army Hall, 7.30 p.m.

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

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

The Minutes were approved by Mr. Hough, seconded by Mr. Friswell. Mrs Sumpter signed the Minutes.

## **02.554.17 Matters Arising**

### **02.553.16 Public Forum – DC/16/2514**

The Clerk is to ascertain when this application will go to HDC Committee and if possible FNC will be represented. The reasons for this Council's objections have been forwarded – over intensification of the site and not in keeping with the surrounding area.

### **03.533.16 Operation Watershed**

Mr. Friswell has now distributed the leaflets to the Riparian house owners with the exception of Cotswold Court where it is proving difficult to establish the landowner/freeholder. There has been no response to the leaflet drop. At this time there are no issues with the stream in this area. The problem is at the top of Kennedy Road and again it is difficult to establish the freehold ownership of various tracts of land.

**Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will check Land Registry to ascertain ownership**

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

This work has still not been carried out. This will be “chased” and in addition the question of a bus shelter in Elm Grove will be again raised.

**Resolved to write to CC Mrs. M. Millson and also WSCC Mr. Ian Patrick**

### **09.550.16 Blueprint**

Currently there is an Acting Chairman, Mr. Andrew Cooke, although he states that he does not wish to continue in this role on a permanent basis and it is not known whether Mrs Frances Haigh is intending to continue to be on the committee. The three NC Chairs have discussed Blueprint with HDC and asked for guidance as to how Blueprint will proceed – the suggestion is that site allocations are removed from the document to become HDC responsibility. HDC confirmed there is no further money available.

The Blueprint Steering Committee is to meet on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **09.550.16 Twittens**

Mr. Friswell has contacted HDC Mr Tom Crowley and thanked DC Dr. Skipp for his involvement. HDC has been asked to dedicate the paths that it owns and this matter is currently with HDC Legal Department.

#### **04.552.16 Councillors' reports – ice skating rink**

Mrs. Sumpter will be discussing this with HDC Mrs Brahma- Pearl at a meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The main issue is that this attraction opened **before** planning permission was granted and it does not seem that any action was taken before approval was eventually given.

#### **Godwin Way Car Park**

Whilst this is not in our area, this Council will write to North Horsham Parish Council adding its support to the car parking charges objection.

#### **Resolved to write a supporting letter**

#### **Community Infrastructure Levy Policy**

HDC has modified paragraph 1.14 but this still does not show a commitment to liaise or communicate with Neighbourhood Councils. Mr. David Moore, Trafalgar Chairman has written a letter that “sums up” this Council’s opinion of the proposed amendment. The word, “agree” with NC’s should be made clear. FNC will also write with their comments.

#### **05.553.16 Public Forum – Winterton Court**

Mr. Friswell attended a recent meeting between Saxon Weald representatives and New Street residents at which the proposed third application was discussed. Mr. Friswell said that the atmosphere at this meeting was more relaxed. The current situation is that the second application has now gone to “appeal”. Of the three applications, the third is the most acceptable (although not desired). Miss Dumbrell said that residents do realise that this site will eventually be developed and the unlikelihood that it will be low density housing. The major continuing concerns are lack of infrastructure (lack of school places) and traffic implications.

This Council posed the question “How, realistically, can car parking provision be solely used by residents and how can future residents be stopped from using local roads?” Miss Dumbrell said that Saxon Weald has stated that New Street residents cannot use the development car parking area. Mr. Travers referred to issues at the top of Kennedy Road (old Piggott Court) where non-resident owned cars are parked during working hours and this has been exacerbated by CPZ extensions.

Miss Dumbrell said that HDC and Saxon Weald are again contacting Sun Alliance regarding using its current car park as another exit route. She is hopeful that there will be serious discussions. The comment was made that Sun Alliance will probably wish to develop its car park in the future and a sensible way forward would be for this to be considered as a town planning project.

It is not known when Saxon Weald’s third plan will be discussed at Committee level.

### 03.554.17 Public Forum

There were no questions from residents.

### 04.554.17 District Councillors' Reports

DC Mr. Newman said that the planning application for 15 St. Leonard's Road was approved by Committee. One neighbouring resident has since contacted him and, after further investigation, he now fully agrees that one window in the plan will directly give sight into a bedroom in her property. Mr. Newman commented that the plans/amendments were handled by three planning officers through the stages and when overlooking was raised at Committee level, the final HDC Officer involved with the application, said there was no problem. He has advised the resident to now make a complaint – which is the formal next stage and he would fully support this complaint. After the “complaint” stage the resident's option would be to take the matter to the Ombudsmen.

This information led to a general discussion about HDC Planning. This Council has written to HDC Director of Planning, Dr. C. Lyons on a number of issues, including planning enforcement and time scales for response to planning amendments. In the case of amendments, maybe developers are using this route to make major changes that have to be approved or refused within a two week timescale.

One Councillor pointed out that on two recent appeals that went against HDC, the prime reason was lack of policies to substantiate HDC refusal.

It is thought that one of the main problems for planning enforcement issues is officer workload.

It is regretted that Dr. Lyons is unable to attend a Meeting but Mrs. Sumpter suggested that a group of Councillors arrange to meet Dr. Lyons' during his working hours.

### 05.554.17 Planning

DC/1746/16 Amberley, Chesworth Close was refused by HDC and the resident is now appealing.

### Planning applications – Dec 2016

16/2904	23 Parsonage Road	Loft and garage conversions	n/o
16/2937	Winterton Court	65 new homes this time	Response to be made after HFNC Committee 16/1/17
16/2899	17 Clarence Road	To erect a dual anthracite grey and white PVCU conservatory to the rear of the conservatory	n/o
16/2907	25 Devonshire Road	Single storey rear extension	n/o
16/2897	72 St Leonards Road	Single storey rear extension to back of dining room and relocation of bathroom to first floor	n/o

16/1011	15 St Leonards Road	Conversion ground floor shop and ancillary area to form 2 x 2 bed flats	Went to HDC Planning Committee 10/1/17
16/1760	Landmark House, Station Rd.		Comments lodged
16/2675	25 Highlands Road	Replacement two storey dwelling on footprint of existing bungalow	n/o
16/2337	Amendment – 124 Brighton Rd.	4 apartments	Our objections to the original application remain. The only change is to ease the movement of cars which was one of this Council's main objections!
16/2766	Data Backup Solutions, Unit 8, Redkiln Close	Change of use from B1(c)/B8 to B2. Premises will be used as a micro-brewery with an ancillary brewery shop and tap room/tasting area.	n/o
16/2744	135 Comptons Lane	Ground floor and first floor extensions	n/o
16/2514	20 Comptons Lane	Demolish existing house, build smaller dwelling, with drive to 3 new houses	A separate response has been made.
16/2781	219 St Leonards Road	Replacement pitched roof to rear extension, repositioning of entrance door to front elevation, additional fenestration to side elevation and internal alterations	n/o

### **TATES/HILLIERS**

On 9<sup>th</sup> January, Mr Friswell attended a meeting that was convened by the owner of the "Hilliers" site, Mr. Jonathan Tate and his Consultant, Mr. Tim Rodway. This was the first meeting to put forward an initial proposal for a housing development at the lower end of the site. Mr. Tate said that he did not want to change any of the current layouts but the access route would run through the centre and would take away half the current car parking facilities. The comment was made that if the other side of Brighton Road was added to the site allocation document, it would be highly unlikely that a "Hillier" application would be handled any differently.

This Council welcomed the fact that it was included in the first stage of the suggestion. It is hoped that a similar first meeting would be arranged if the other Brighton Road development moved forward, especially as this Council is keen to save the Area of Outstanding Beauty view and will want to suggest that bungalows are built at this part of the site.

#### **06.554.17 Treasurer's Report**

Current Account £3,152.18, Reserve Account £1,281.14. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses for January have been paid. The hire of the hall has been paid for one further year.

The Salvation Army will be contacted regarding the dates in April and December which will not be the third Monday due to Easter and Christmas.

#### **07.554.17 Christmas Arrangements 2016**

Replies have been received from both Mr. Garry Mortimer-Cook and Mrs. Gill Buchanan to the letters that were sent concerning Horsham Town Christmas arrangements. Both letters imply that the footfall and expenditure increased in 2016 but this Council has made the point that advertising for late night shopping, opening hours and car parking arrangements – especially when it was free - could be improved upon.

Separately, Mrs. Sumpter commented that there is a proposal to erect a large Christmas Tree in Carfax for Christmas 2017. This Council would not want this to go ahead unless the tree and its roots could be set into the ground and maintained for future years. It does not necessarily have to be planted in Carfax.

#### **7.554.17 Correspondence**

Higgins Way Lighting – final details have yet to be agreed and are currently being processed by Mrs. B. Bell (guides and scouts). Noted

RAGE Incinerator – this Council will object on the grounds that the incinerator would be accessed through a housing estate. This Council will also ask that if the incinerator is approved, any electricity generated is passed to residents.

Newsletter – Mrs. Sumpter will now ask for various paragraphs for the next newsletter.

St. Leonard's Road – the pavements are currently micro re-surfaced.

Depot Road – Mr. Batchelor agreed to look at the correspondence received from Depot Road residents concerning parking issues, especially during school terms.

#### **GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN**

This is scheduled for 3-5<sup>th</sup> March and this Council will promote this initiative and arrange a working party for 4<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **08.554.17 Any Other business**

Station Road hedge has still not been cut back. No work has been carried out along the Boxall Walk footpath.

**Resolved to contact CC Mrs Millson**

#### **Newsletter**

It is proposed that a newsletter is prepared and distributed for the Spring. Mrs. Sumpter was contacting Horsham Pages about distribution, which she suggested was delivered with Horsham Pages, and the timescale. Mrs Sumpter asked that articles are prepared and forwarded to her by the end of February.

Due to other commitments both Mrs. Sumpter and Mr. Friswell will be unable to attend the February Meeting and there will be an Acting Chairman on that evening. The date for the April Meeting will have to be changed owing to the Easter dates this year. April date will be **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April. The December date will be 11<sup>th</sup> December.**

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.