

FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 24th April 2017 at Salvation Army Hall, 7.30 p.m.

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

01.557.17 Minutes of Meeting held on 20th March 2017

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Sitton and seconded by Mr. Hough. The Minutes were signed by the Acting Chairman, Mr. Friswell.

02.557.17 Matters Arising

03.533.16 Operation Watershed – Old Piggott buildings

Mr. Travers has now spoken to Mr. Andy Marley at Saxon Weald and Mr. Marley will now investigate the matter.

Resolved to continue to actively monitor progress

03.533.16 Bus Shelter (Melksham Close bus stop)

Unfortunately the contact at WSCC, Mr. Ian Patrick, is currently on sick leave and CC Mrs. Millson said that he is her primary contact. DC Dr. David Skipp has spoken to CEO Mr. Tom Crowley who then contacted HDC Mr. Nigel Weston. A reply is currently awaited but Mr. Weston has already informally referred to the fact that Saxon Weald owns part of the land that will be needed.

Resolved to continue to press for this bus shelter

05.533.16 Winterton Court

It was unanimously agreed that the proposed name, Innes Court is not suitable.

Resolved to contact HDC Mr Andy Flack to propose that either the name remains the same or changed to Winterton Square.

Separately during the Public Forum part of the Agenda, the member of public expressed his concern that the buildings are to be demolished without any attempt to re-use any of the bricks/slates. He said that there are a considerable number of roof slates that are able to be re-cycled and he is disappointed that the contractor is using health and safety issues as a reason for not doing this.

07.544.16 Depot Road

Mr. Sitton and Ms. Dumbrell have now made a site visit and do agree with Mr. Batchelor's previous findings that the yellow lines are not "fit for purpose". They referred to turning problems in the vicinity of the bus cage and believe that yellow lines along the opposite side of the road would be safer. They also suggest that the yellow lines are extended to Corunna Drive and that a "turn left only" from the Millais School exit should be explored. There may be a problem with parking for the allotment holders but this could be alleviated by having restricting times.

Resolved to send proposals to WSCC Mr. Miles Davey.

07.544.16 Oxford Road

Similarly Mr. Sitton and Ms. Dumbrell have suggested that there are too many double yellow lines within the vicinity of the old school area and a detailed description has been forwarded to Mr. Miles Davey. It is hoped that changes can be included in the 2017/2018 programme – due to be prepared May 2017.

08.544.16 Station Road and Boxall Walk

Boxall Walk – the following paragraph has been received from the WSCC Highway Steward

“Regarding Boxall Walk: - Following my overgrown vegetation letter sent to the adjacent land owners, the offending vegetation has now been cut back. After visiting the site this morning, cutting back the vegetation has now revealed that the fence is indeed leaning towards the public Highway. I will be drafting a second letter to the owner to request that this issue is also seen to”.

Station Road

WSCC Chris Stark has sent the following e mail regarding the overgrown hedge. He has also confirmed that FNC is able to send a standard letter to any resident who is not maintaining his road hedge.

“Station Road hedge. Mick Norris has been back out to site and is pursuing the landowner for further cut back. We are looking to produce standard letters for parish councils to use that covers issues like this, which you can also have access to when they are completed. In the meantime this is the wording we use for a first contact letter and I am happy for this to be altered to come from the Neighbourhood Council:

Dear Owner/Occupier [or name if known],

Overgrown Vegetation: Number/ Name of House, Road, Parish, West Sussex

As you may be aware, it is the responsibility of owners/occupiers to prevent their vegetation from interfering with the use by the public of adjoining highways.

The County Council makes regular checks to try to ensure that problems do not occur and as part of these checks the Highway Manager has become aware that vegetation on your property is overhanging the adjoining footway/carriageway and causing an obstruction to users of the highway. Overhanging vegetation can cause a problem for pedestrians, particularly those who are blind or partially sighted or who have mobility problems. Low vegetation overhanging the highway may be at face/eye level for the very young.

Would you please arrange for the vegetation (indicated on the attached plan) to be cut back, within fourteen days of the date of this letter, so that no part of it overhangs the footway/carriageway. If you do not cut back the vegetation as requested the County Council will arrange for the work to be carried out itself and will recover from you the reasonable costs of so doing.”

08.554.17 Litter

Mrs. Trudie Mitchell, Denne NC Chairman will speak to shopkeepers at the next Horsham Unlimited Meeting regarding litter problems in the town. Separately Mr. Hough again raised the issue of litter along Brighton Road and is extremely concerned that without the volunteers who regularly clear the road, this area would be in an appalling state. He would like FNC to contact the volunteers to formally express its thanks for the work that is carried out.

04.555.17 District Councillor's Report – Orchid House, Kentwys Drive/Kerves Lane

During building works the grass verges have consistently been used by lorries and vans for parking and the result is that the grass verges are now damaged. A post has also been removed. However, WSCC Thomas King has responded with the following comment

“324558 – Brighton Road/Kerves Lane – Missing post and Verge damage I have inspected the site and there are currently no intervention level defects in the verges. Therefore no action will be taken at this time”.

(The photograph showing the removal of the post is regrettably inadmissible as evidence as it does not show the time or date).

05.556.17 Planning – The Old Dairy Site

Since the last meeting, a gypsy group broke into the site and stayed for one night. The agents, Savilles, Sevenoaks were contacted. In the meantime there has been no sign of any building work being carried out and the site continues to fall into disrepair. It would appear that building work is being delayed because of “amendments” to the original approved plan. This Council has repeatedly written to HDC Simon Chalcraft and will now write to the Environmental Health Officer.

Resolved to pursue this matter

08.556.17 Brock Taylor, Estate Agents

The Estate Agent advertisement was again discussed and whilst the implication is that an Estate Agent can influence a Planning application, this is “only an implication”. It is agreed that Brock Taylor is not the only Estate Agent to offer help when residents are thinking of selling back land for development.

It is agreed that a letter will be written to CEO Mr. Tom Crowley to ask whether this type of advertising by local Estate Agents is compatible with HDC Policy on back land development.”

Resolved to contact HDC

05.555.17 Electoral Review

FNC did submit objections to the electoral review. CC Mrs. Millson explained that the new boundary lines will mean that FNC will be involved with three County Councillors in the future.

Resolved to ask CC Mrs. Millson for further details

03.557.17 Public Forum

In addition to expressing his disappointment that there will be no re-cycling of building materials during Winterton Court demolition, the member of public is concerned about new parking restriction notices that have been erected in New Street. These refer to 9-5 parking restrictions in the parking zone and can be misunderstood to mean there is **no** parking within these hours. It seems to be a Department of Transport initiative and is meant to alert the public that within the zone there are various restrictions within 9-5 hours.

Resolved CC Mrs. Millson has agreed to place an explanation in local newspapers

04.557.17 District Councillors' Reports

DC Dr. David Skipp advised that benches are being installed in New Street Green and there will be a noticeboard for community use. The opening will be “low key” and this is intentional.

05.557.17 County Councillor’s Report

CC Mrs. Millson referred to the problem with pigeon droppings along and under The Iron Bridge and she believes that there will be cooperation between WSCC and Network Rail to eradicate this problem.

Resolved CC Mrs. Millson will continue to monitor this problem

PARKING PERMITS IN CLARENCE ROAD

A Clarence Road resident contacted this Council with a complaint that residents living in the McCarthy and Stone development are being issued with parking permits and in Zone D. He objects because a) Brighton Road is in Zone E and (b) the development has its own parking bays and should not therefore be given road parking permits.

CC Mrs. Millson said that she was extremely surprised when HDC confirmed this was happening. HDC has agreed not to issue any further permits and will be asked not to renew those that have already been issued. The question of Zone D and Zone E is debatable because the entrance/exit route to the site is from Clarence Road. CC Mrs. Millson has ascertained that McCarthy and Stone residents do pay for their parking bays and the cost is higher than the HDC permits.

Resolved CC Mrs. Millson will contact HDC to confirm that no further permits will be issued and current permits will not be renewed

GREENWAYS – COMPTONS LANE

CC Mrs. Millson apologised that she has not followed up the issue of pedestrians having to walk in the road whilst this development is taking place.

Resolved to ask CC Mrs. Millson to follow up this issue and also to ensure that the developers “make good” the area when the building works are completed

05.557.17 Planning

Mr. Travers has circulated the Planning Committee responses to 13 applications this month. He referred to DC/17/0765 1A Clarence Road demolition. The original application to erect two semi-detached houses would have been in keeping with the area but the new proposal is to build 5 new flats and FNC objects to this change.

Mr. Travers also commented on DC/16/2969 where a resident in Station Road is proposing to remove his bay window so that there is room for the front of his property to have hard standing for car parking.

17/0541	131 Comptons Lane	Erection of two side dormers	N/O
17/0614	97 Oakhill Road	Demolish existing & build single storey rear extn	N/O
17/0560	Horsham Rugby Club	Artificial pitch and new floodlights	N/O
17/0440	3 Rangers Lodge	Vehicle crossover and dropped kerb	N/O
17/00762	12 Depot Road	Single storey rear extn	N/O

17/00743	The Lodge, Copperfield Manor	Internal conversion of loft space – listed building consent	HFNC is concerned that there are no external openings proposed in this scheme. N/O
17/0725	2 Amiesmill Cottages	Two storey side extn	N/O
16/2969	40 Station Road	Dropped kerb and white line & demolish front of house to make way for hardstanding	This is currently a yellow line so no parking spaces will be lost. The applicant should bear in mind that even with a white line other people can still park there. N/O
17/0602	49 Oakhill Road	Single storey extn at rear	N/O
17/0757	4 Comptons Lane	First floor side extension	N/O
17/0772	13 Heron Way	Single storey rear extn	N/O

DC/17/0680 – 25 Highlands Road – demolish bungalow and erect 2 storey house - HFNC OBJECTS to this proposal as the site is not large enough to accommodate a detached 4/5 bedroomed property. As the site is on the end of the row of properties adjacent to the road it will be obtrusive, over dominant and detrimental to the street scene.

DC/17/0765 - 1A Clarence Road – Demolish building and build 5 new flats - HFNC OBJECTS to this proposal on the grounds of over-development. We were supportive of the original proposal for 2 semi-detached properties, but this proposal for 5 units will create more vehicle and parking problems in an area already saturated with cars. The front dormers are not acceptable and therefore the fifth unit in the roof will be unviable.

06.557.17 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £6,171.94, Reserve Account £1,281.17. The clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid.

Mr. Travers submitted the draft income and expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2017 and this shows a surplus of £65.59. The income would therefore not have covered two newsletters. The 2017/2018 precept has been received, £5,000 and as this is the same as 2016/2017, it is not in line with the Special Charge percentage increase.

Neighbourhood Councillors (at this meeting) propose that an additional £250 is allocated.

Resolved to follow up this request

07.557.17 Correspondence

LIBERTY DEVELOPMENT – it would seem that Liberty is renegeing on its infrastructure contributions and does this mean that the nil CIL decision is still relevant? HDC is to discuss this development scheme on Friday 29th April at which time there should be a clearer understanding of what is being proposed.

HALC – FNC has been asked to nominate two Councillors to be representatives at meetings.

Resolved to clarify neighbourhood councillors' position – currently neighbourhood councillors are invited but as observers and so do not pay the HALC annual charge

HDC boost to the District Economy – Mr. Hough attended this meeting and explained that it is about ways in which tourists can be encouraged to visit our market town and is not about ways to change its ethos. He is positive about this initiative and is happy to attend future meetings.

HTCP – Mr. Friswell referred to the latest newsletter and HTCP is hoping that Liberty Development's positive remarks about the riverside route will be honoured.

HTCP is also involved with documenting footpaths in the town and Mr. Friswell said he is concentrating on town footpaths and believes another group is monitoring rural footpaths.

Telephone Boxes – Mr. Sitton has circulated information about a crowd funding scheme to adapt the telephone box at the corner of Denne Road and East Street into a public access defibrillation (PAD) site. **Noted**

DEER PARK FARM HAMPERS LANE – it is noted that in the HDC Consultation Document, refers to the gypsy site at Deer Park Farm where there is one static and one touring caravan. This site is privately owned and has not been put forward as part of the "calls for sites" exercise.

08.557.17 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Mr. Sitton attended the cycle forum and explained that all the WSCC prospective Councillors were invited and there was good attendance. Everyone exhibited a positive attitude to creating cycling ways and walking strategies.

09.557.17 Any Other Business

HOP OAST – Mr. Hough referred to serious problems when accessing this waste disposal site and the fact that once in the queue, there is no way to reverse out and also no indication as to the length of time before accessing the skips. He also said that there was no management of the spaces at the skip site and therefore no way of knowing whether all the skips were being used. This added to the backlog.

Resolved CC Mrs. Millson agreed to follow up this matter and she added that often users were forming a queue on the road and this was a dangerous situation

TESCO KINGS ROAD (REDKILN WAY) SITE – There are a number of "near misses" at this junction and at times there are queues forming on the road. The suggestion that Tesco reverses its route to the petrol pumps has, in the past, been considered but would produce other issues. FNC Councillors commented that when the Tesco application was submitted it did object on the grounds of traffic problems but Highways did not object.

Resolved to write to Highways regarding the general problems in the area.

MILLAIS SCHOOL – Mr. Sitton was dismayed to see that Millais Ground Maintenance team erected a fence in place of a hedge when birds were nesting. As a private citizen, he

contacted WSCC who advised that it is no longer responsible for the grounds and therefore had no input into the programme.

KINGSLEA SCHOOL – there should be a 20 mph zone along Harwood Road.

Resolved CC Mrs. Millson said that she would pursue this matter but she thought that when the matter was previously discussed, Kingslea School did not agree with a 20 mph zone.

Poundbury – Dorset development – as a matter of interest, a newspaper report was circulated that coincided with 30 years anniversary since the Poundbury inception. Mr. Hough commented on another article. The homes were built close to each other to foster communities but this has also had a negative effect inasmuch as there is a higher burglary rate. The principle enshrined in Poundbury (and two other Duchy of Cornwall sites) is sustainable communities with a strong local influence on their appearance and materials with a mix of private for sale and affordable homes.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.