

FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held on 15th May 2017 at Salvation Army Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Present: Messrs. N. Friswell, M. Hough, G. Stanley, B. Travers
Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chairman), Ms. J. Dumbrell

District Councillors 1 DC Mr. G. Newman

County Councillors 1 CC Mr. A. Baldwin, CC Dr. N. Dennis (arrived 8.15 p.m.)

Public 2

Press 0

Apologies Mr. G. Sitton, CC Mrs. M. Millson and DC Dr. D. Skipp

Mrs. Sumpter welcomed CC Mr. Andrew Baldwin to this Meeting. Mr. Baldwin is a newly elected County Councillor who will represent a new County area, some of which falls within Forest Neighbourhood Council. We now have three County Councillors and broadly speaking CC Mr. Baldwin represents parts of Roffey North, Roffey South, Kings Road and St. Leonards Road stopping at Tesco Express (towards Brighton Road). Mr. Baldwin agreed to let this Council have an outline map for future reference showing which area each of the 3 county councillors represents.

01.558.17 Minutes of Meeting held on 24th April 2017

Following an amendment to the wording regarding the situation at Hop Oast (lack of management of spaces rather than manpower), the Minutes were proposed by Mr. Hough and seconded by Mr. Stanley. Mrs. Sumpter signed the Minutes.

01.558.17 Matters Arising

03.533.16 Operation Watershed – Old Piggott Court Buildings

Mr. Travers now has the map showing the water course. Mr. Travers has received no further communication from Mr. Andy Marley at Saxon Weald.

Resolved to continue to actively pursue this matter

03.533.16 Bus Shelter (Melksham Close bus stop)

Mr. Ian Patrick has now returned from sick leave and there is every indication that a bus shelter/bus cage is feasible at this site.

Resolved to again refer this matter to CC Mrs. Millson and also to write directly to Mr. Ian Patrick (copying in DC Dr. Skipp)

05.533.16 Winterton Court name

From an article in WSCT, it would seem that the name, Innis Court, has already been agreed. However, this has not been confirmed by HDC or Saxon Weald.

Resolved to contact HDC Andy Flack to reiterate that this Council would prefer the new building to continue to be called Winterton Court (Square?)

07.544.16 Depot Road

The question of the yellow line positions has not yet been referred to Highways.

07.544.16 Oxford Road

Later in the Meeting, CC Dr. Dennis referred to the proposal to remove some existing double yellow lines and said that some residents in Oxford Road are unhappy with the proposal. They believe their drives will be blocked and also it will lead to car parking by residents in nearby streets. There are opposing views both of which CC Dr. Dennis accepts.

08.544.16 Station Road/Boxall Walk

There is no change to the ongoing issues.

08.544.16 Litter

FNC will send a thank you letter to the two litter volunteers who manage Brighton Road. It is accepted that without these volunteers, Brighton Road appearance would be adversely affected.

There was an in depth discussion about litter and how it is visually affecting areas within Forest Neighbourhood. Cigarette ends are a particular problem. CC Mr. Baldwin regretted the fact that there are no Town Wardens and such Wardens do have the right to apply fixed penalty notices. Whilst there are laws against litter and dog fouling there has to be firm evidence. In general terms, the lack of enforcement and enforcement officers on the ground, is a sad situation as it is affecting the visual amenities of this town. (It is regretted that HDC states it has no enforcement grounds to improve The Old Dairy Site, Brighton Road).

(During Public Forum a member of the public also raised his disappointment that there is an increase in dog fouling along New Street. CC Mr. Baldwin explained how difficult it is to prosecute owners)

Resolved that this Council will write to Shopkeepers where there is a litter problem outside their premises

04.555.17 Grass Verges in the vicinity of Kerves Lane

Mr. Hough again referred to damage of grass verges and recently the daily removal of one post to allow a builder's van to park during working hours on the grass verge. HDC states that it does not warrant intervention levels.

Resolved CC Mr. Baldwin is shortly to visit the area with CC Chris Stark and will raise the issues at that time.

05.557.17 County Councillor's Report – pigeon droppings along and under The Iron Bridge

It is noted that Network Rail is to carry out survey/repair works to The Iron Bridge in July and this should be an opportunity to eradicate the problems.

Resolved to contact CC Mrs. Millson and also Network Rail directly

06.557.17 Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Sumpter referred to the suggestion that FNC should receive an increase in their grant. Mrs. Sumpter explained the background to the Precept and felt that it would be highly unlikely that any request would be successful for this financial year. Mrs.

Sumpter will raise the issue when the next meeting takes place about the special charge usually in November.

09.557.17 Correspondence – Liberty Development – Community Structure Levy Charging Schedule (CIL)

HDC full Council approved and adopted the CIL Charging Schedule and this will be implemented on 1st October 2017. This Council registers its strong objection to the fact that Liberty Development has reneged on its promises but it is still registered as Nil CIL.

Liberty Developments will be purchasing the land with planning permission and then “auctioning” parcels of land to builders. It is understood that Liberty Development will have to build schools prior to the development commencing.

HDC has yet to give approval for Liberty Development’s proposal.

HALC - as this Council is not able to be full members, no fee will be paid.

HTCP – Mr. Friswell is hoping that HTCP will document Riverside footpaths in the near future. These footpaths are mostly outside the built-up area and outside of his planned scope.

Tesco Express Redkiln Way

CC Mr. Baldwin said that this area is within his boundary and he is well aware of traffic problems at this site. One idea that can be explored is to add a “yellow box” around the roundabout but this will not necessarily be a satisfactory solution. He also said that he has noted the broken manhole covers in Redkiln Way; this was caused by a heavy lorry pulling up on to the verge in order to visit Tesco Express.

CC Mr. Baldwin and Highways Management will be visiting the area in the near future.

Kingslea School

DC Mr. Baldwin is aware that there is no 20 mph speed restriction in Kings Road at the beginning and end of the school day and he believes that this should be instigated.

Millais School hedge removal Comptons Lane

This Council will write to Millais Headteacher expressing that, although it didn’t object to the hedge being removed, it had concerns about the timing as birds were nesting.

02.558.17 Public Forum

Mrs. Sumpter welcomed the members of public. One member of public expressed his interest in this Neighbourhood Council.

Again the question of litter was raised. CC Mr. Baldwin explained the long drawn out case against Pret A Manger and over full skips in Blackhorse Way. This did have a successful outcome and this Council recorded its thanks to CC Mr. Baldwin for pursuing this matter. CC

Mr. Baldwin reiterated the difficulty in enforcing litter penalties. For information he referred to a proposed change in the law regarding litter being thrown from cars. Currently it is not the car owner who is responsible but the actual person who throws the litter through the window. This, therefore, makes law enforcement even harder.

This Neighbourhood Council also regrets the fact that there are fewer PCSO's. Owing to the area that our designated Police Community Support Officer now has to cover, it is virtually impossible for him to regularly patrol this neighbourhood or have any rapport with this Council.

03.558.17 District and County Councillors' Reports

DC Mr. Newman said that he will be attending two important meetings this week – North of Horsham Planning and a full Council Meeting at which the new Chairman, Mr. Roger Clarke will preside.

DC Mr. Newman recently visited Lavinia House to attend a talk "Action for Deafness" and he commented that there will now be an Audiologist attending Lavinia House and with GP referral, it will be possible to have hearing tests at this venue.

CC Dr. Dennis referred to the fact that Highways has stated its intention to include pavement repairs to Depot Road along to One Stop Shop in its ongoing maintenance programme.

04.558.17 Planning

17/0859	70 Comptons Lane	Replace exstg conservatory with s/storey rear extn & remove bay window @ front & make new porch	N/O
17/0850	16 South Grove	Erection of 2 storey side extn	N/O
17/0817	32 Orchard Road	Demolish exstg & replace with 2 storey rear extn	N/O
17/0783	Dairy Cottage, St Leonards Park	Single storey side & rear extns	N/O
17/0854	172 New Street	Single storey side extn	N/O
17/0896	41 Brighton Road	Change of use – retail to residential	N/O
17/0879	31 Depot Road	Two storey side & rear extns	N/O
17/0547 Amend't	1 Bens Acre	Two storey extn to side	HFNC objects to this application on the grounds that the size and bulk of this extension is too overbearing for a corner plot

DC/17/0684 – St Marks Court – change of use to convert offices to 203 apartments - HFNC OBJECTS to this proposal as the site is not suitable for conversion into accommodation. No thought has been given to transport access; parking or even cycle parking. It is no more than a ruse to try to increase the valuation of Sun Alliance’s assets and should be discarded as such.

DC/17/0872 – 100 Station Road, Century House – Change of use office to 37 apartments – HFNC would OBJECT to this proposal, if it could, on the grounds that this development does not provide suitable accommodation within this district. Some of the Studios are less than 300 square feet (the size of a decent lounge in a house in the area) yet need to fit in kitchen; bathroom; WC; and bed-space. We do not feel that this sort of development enhances the area, nor is even necessary given the number of similar proposals that have already been approved.

This Council generally discussed the way in which offices are being converted into apartments, the impact on the town and also the size of the apartments that are being built. Under Government ruling “Permitted Development”, office blocks can be converted into apartments without planning permission or Section 106 contributions. Valid objections can only be on Highways grounds.

Resolved – whilst this Council accepts the fact that previous office conversions in the town have sold (mostly at the planning stage) it regrets that the Government ruling does not take into account the way in which towns will evolve in the future or what is considered acceptable as family accommodation. A letter will be written to MP Mr. Jeremy Quin to stating these reservations.

Mr. Travers commented that the application for conversion of building at 50 Barrington Road has been refused.

05.558.17 Treasurer’s Report

Current Account £5,891.94, Reserve Account £1,281.18. The Clerk’s honorarium and expenses have been paid for May. Last year’s Accounts have been audited and will be up for approval at the AGM.

06.558.17 Correspondence

Mr. Sumpter advised that she will be attending:

HDC Annual Reception

Meeting with Mr. Norman Kwan regarding the way ahead for Blueprint

Meeting with Mrs. N. Brahma-Pearl (Councillors should advise Mrs. Sumpter of any issues that need to be raised)

Meeting with Dr. C. Lyons relating to Planning Matters. Mr. Friswell and Mr. Travers will also attend this Meeting.

Reference was made to the new short term housing block that is being built in The Bishopric.

07.558.17 Any Other Business

Parking Charges – Mr. Hough referred to recent newspaper articles relating to the introduction of parking charges and in particular to the effect that this is having on trade in North Roffey. HDC comment is that it has not received many complaints but this introduction is definitely having an impact on local residents who cannot easily access Horsham Town, residents who live in the vicinity who now find that cars are parking in their roads and finally, viability of the local shops.

Pound Coins – the new coins are not always accepted in car parks but HDC again states that it has not received many complaints.

Horsham Park – the number of rats seen in Horsham Park is increasing.

Lights in East Street – it is regretted that there is not a properly designed scheme for lighting along East Street, especially so as attractive lighting was prioritised in 1997. As these lights have failed, they have been removed and never replaced. *Councillors, who are concerned about this matter, can raise the issue at the Horsham Vision Meeting.*

Horsham Vision – Neighbourhood Councillors are invited to a private viewing of “Horsham Vision” on 18th May from 5.00-6.30 p.m. (following which the “vision” will be presented at The Library and open to the general public).

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.