

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2017
at HORSHAM SALVATION ARMY HALL, 7:30PM

Present: Mrs D Sumpter (Chairman) and Miss J Dumbrell
Messrs, N Friswell, G Sitton, G Stanley, B Travers,
District Councillors: Mr G Newman and Dr D Skipp
County Councillors: Mr A Baldwin, Mrs M Millson, Dr N Dennis (part time)
Public: 19
Press: 0
Apologies: Mrs M Vinall (Clerk), Messrs. J. Batchelor and R Worley

In opening the Meeting, the Chairman said that the order of Agenda items would be changed to deal with the Public Forum matters after confirming the Minutes of the October meeting.

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th October 2017

Corrections & amendments.

page 6, Minute 08.564.17: correct 'FMC' to 'FNC'

page 7, Minute 09.564.17 second para: add at end of para 'subsequent to meeting with County Councillor Dr N Dennis'.

Adoption of the minutes was Proposed by Mr Sitton and Seconded by Mr Stanley.

2. Public Forum

2.1 Planning application for 20/18b Comptons Lane

[Note: There were two aspects of concern; the details of the Application and the manner in which HDC Planning Dept were dealing with it.]

2.1.1 Mr N Rogers spoke regarding this application and tabled a summary of events which are appended to these Minutes. He said that the residents were still getting confusing messages about the planning progress. A previous planning officer had said that the application would be rejected but then the case officer was changed and the replacement said it would be approved in spite of residents' objections.

2.1.2 The residents measured up and found the submitted plans to be wrong with serious discrepancies in measurements resulting in a completely wrong impression.

2.1.3 Dr Chris Lyons of HDC has said that HDC was "Not mindful to approve; no decision had been made yet." Mrs Sumpter suggested that the residents attend the planning committee meeting and three of them seek permission to speak (not all saying the same thing).

2.2 New Street Gardens

2.2.1 There is public concern about a suggestion in HDC's recent consultation draft: *Horsham Town Centre Vision*. On pp 70-71 it is suggested that the Royal & Sun Alliance car park to the west of the houses in New Street might be suitable for redevelopment. The present access to the car park is via Victoria Street with an emergency exit road adjacent to New Street Gardens. The *Vision* document says that ". . . development would not be practicable in the absence of this separate access." The plan on p71 shows the whole of New Street Gardens given over to this access.

2.2.2 Residents are concerned about the loss of New Street Garden and the implication of additional turning traffic on New Street which is already dangerously

overloaded. The residents would like this suggestion removed from the *Vision*. Cllr Dr Skipp said that the *Vision* document would be considered by the HDC 'cabinet'. The car park will be developed eventually but the residents should make their views known now. Individual letters were much more effective than the 2000-signature petition which the residents were assembling.

2.2.3 Residents also enquired about the traffic movements in the New Street area. The Chairman said that neighbourhood councillors would be meeting with CC Nigel Dennis to discuss. Following that there would be a letter drop in New Street and surrounding roads to ask for residents views. The Chairman took 2 residents details so that FNC could discuss with them the proposals before the letter drop.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th October 2017

3.1 Bus shelter, Melksham Close (03.533.16)

Dr Skipp told the meeting that the bus shelter had been agreed and s106 funding would cover the cost and HDC had agreed on-going maintenance. Once this was installed FNC could consider the siting of a bus shelter in the Depot Road area.

3.2 Litter (06.533.17)

It appears that there is no street cleaning under the Iron Bridge.

3.3 Car Parking (07.563.17)

Mr Hough had circulated to FNC Members details of failures of machines at various town centre car parks and the apparent lack of commitment by the car park attendants. Such failures are particularly problematic for mobility-impaired users. It was **AGREED** that HDC officer Ben Golds be asked to attend the FNC Meeting in January.

Action: Clerk

3.4 No Right turn; North Street to Station Road (08.562.17)

FNC is concerned that the No Right Turn road markings have not been repainted. Motorists (including a police car on a non-urgent mission) have been seen making this illegal turn. **AGREED** to defer this matter to the December meeting.

Action: Clerk to note for next meeting

3.5 Piries Place Development (09.563.17 third item)

The proposals to rebuild the car park were discussed. Even enlarged it will be dwarfed by the hotel. There were concerns about where displaced users would park particularly if it was closed before the New Year. It had been suggested that the public might use the HDC/WSCC Madeira Road car park but that had been designed for easy access to the Parkside building and it would be difficult to arrange easy public access on foot, particularly to the lower level. This also brought security problems. The 3 Neighbourhood Councils had been invited to a meeting at HDC to discuss the plans for the car park on 29th November and Mr. Friswell will represent FNC.

3.6 Parking outside Schools (05.564.17)

Mr Baldwin reported that WSCC are anxious to improve safely, particularly outside primary schools. A questionnaire about parking and zig-zag lines has gone to primary schools but very few have replied.

3.7 Sandeman Way footpath (07.564.17)

Concern continues about the safety of people exiting the footpath onto Brighton Road. Mrs Millson would like copies of correspondence about this so that she can press for work to be done.

3.8 Depot Road (09.564.17 first item)

Mr Sitton reported some yellow no-parking lines have been repainted in the area but not the school zig-zags.

4 District Councillors' Reports

4.1 Dr Skipp reported that HDC's medium term financial strategy will be coming up for consideration

4.2 With the resignation of Tom Crowley, interviews for the replacement HDC CEO will be held on 19th December 2017.

5 County Councillors' Reports

5.1 Mr Baldwin reported that, regarding 20 Comptons Lane (see minute of Public Forum above), the Highways Dept WSCC had no objection on planning grounds. He had tried to get a visit by a WSCC strategic planner but this suggestion had been refused.

5.2 Mrs Millson reported that the Local Government Association has said that, by 2018-19, 56% of all Council tax collected will be spent on social care and only 5% on highways maintenance. Mr Hough questioned parking on grass verges (siting St Leonards Road). Only in London are there Bye-Laws regarding parking on verges. In Horsham it is not an offence unless obstruction is caused and that is a Police matter.

5.3 Dr Dennis said that the Controlled Parking Zones were to be extended to include Park Terrace East and Livingstone Road. There would also be additional cycle routes. FNC Members complained that recent road works traffic signals caused disruption in Brighton Road even though there the road works had apparently been completed.

6 Planning

6.1 Mr Travers said that FNC would not object to an application at 20 Ghyll Crescent unless residents objected. Revised plans had been submitted for 46 Comptons Lane. At present very few applications were being seen.

6.2 There will be a planning training day on 19th December. It was **AGREED** that Mr Stanley and Mrs Vinall will attend. **Action: Mr Stanley & Mrs Vinall**

6.3 Cllr Mr Newman reported that alterations to *Amberley* in Chesworth Close had been approved in spite of his objection that the proposals were not 'minor' as the applicant claimed. He also said that the applications for 25 St Leonards Road (backing onto Bennetts Field) involved putting a front door into the garage and would not be allowed.

7 Treasurer's Report

Current A/c: £5186.46 Reserve A/c: £1281.24
The Clerk's honorarium has been paid.

8 Correspondence, etc

8.1 Details had been circulated by E-mail about a scheme for Neighbourhood wardens which might be of interest to Parishes which levied their own precept but were of less use to Neighbourhood Councils because HDC was limited by what it could spend. FNC has no objection in principle but was concerned about the possible effect on the Special Charge.

8.2 HDC was designating 2019 as a 'Year of Culture' to bring smaller arts-type groups together. Dr Skipp said that some funding had been found, including from the Arts Council.

8.3 The 5th/10th Scout Group (with HQ on Bennetts Field) had suggested a defibrillator be put there and had asked if FNC could give them a grant for it. Although FNC supported the idea in principle, this would set a precedent. The defibrillator must be in a public area.

8.4 HDC were instituting surveys of Chesworth and Horsham Park. Mrs Sumpter asked Councillors to respond by the deadline of 30th November.

8.5 Mrs Sumpter reported that she would be attending a meeting about the Town Centre Special Charge on 5th December. **Action: Mrs. Sumpter**

8.6 There is a meeting for the 3 Neighbourhood Council Chairs on 30th November with Adams Chalmers and Jonathan Chowynn (HDC). Mrs. Sumpter will attend.

Action: Mrs. Sumpter

9 Councillors' attendances at meetings

The only report was from Mr Stanley who had circulated notes of his attendance at the *Horsham Visitor Economy Strategy* meeting and the *Horsham District Tourism Forum*, both at South Lodge on 17th November 2017.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Mr Sitton reported that he had written to the relevant authorities regarding the cost of attending road traffic accidents *vis-a-vis* the cost of providing safer crossings for schoolchildren. He has had no response. It was **AGREED** to ask FNC Clerk to follow this up. **Action: Clerk**

10.2 Miss Dumbrell said that a new fence had been erected on the Gorings Mead footpath but that access was still very restricted particularly for prams and wheelchairs.

DC/17/1607 - SUMMARY OF EVENTS CONCERNING THIS APPLICATION**Project: Demolition of existing bungalow. Erection of 3x detached two storey four bedroom dwellings with double carport, associated parking, hardstanding and landscaping | 18B - 20 Comptons Lane Horsham**

1. First application, DC/16/2514, for 2 semis and 2 detached houses refused 16/1/2017 on (i) overdevelopment, (ii) loss of amenity to adjacent neighbours and (iii) out of character with local area (particularly the long thin house to replace the bungalow).
2. Very similar plan, DC/17/1597, submitted and designated APPRET (Application Returned). No details are on the portal.
3. DC/17/1607 received 17/1/2017 with 2 detached backland houses but with same long thin narrow house to replace bungalow.
4. Developer made false personal statements in a summary document. After legal threat statements redacted.
5. Accuracy of other statements questioned by neighbours including street scene for development taken outside different properties and comparison made with housing estate in 1998 in Croydon.
6. Objections submitted by 7 residents/affected neighbours, similar to first application. The long thin replacement house for bungalow is out of character with the locality.
7. Noted that plot 20 had been subdivided to build property at 18b to finance building of bungalow in 1950-1960's.
8. Decision deadline 19 September 2017.
9. Two affected neighbours phoned Ms Aimee Richardson WB 25 September 2017. Told that deadline had been extended to 31 October 2017 at request of developer with caveat that a modified site plan would be submitted to allay concerns of neighbours. Ms Richardson also stated separately to the 2 neighbours that the Planning department were mindful to refuse on very similar grounds to that of the first application.
10. Ms Richardson replaced as case officer by Mr Guy Everest on 1 November 2017 and that he was mindful to approve the application. Case would be put to Planning Committee on 5 December 2017. Impossible to contact Mr Everest.
11. Several phone calls made to clarify issues with Mr Everest since 1 November 2017 have been fraught with difficulty.
12. Margaret Hills (Norman Rogers' partner) in phone call was told by Ms Dalrymple –Smith that Guy Everest was unavailable and he was mindful to approve the application to be put to the Planning Committee on 5 December 2017. She was told a letter was now in the post to all the affected neighbours – nothing received as yet!
13. Three of the affected neighbours, Norman Rogers (NHR), Mr Phil Mockett and Dr Mike Pearson (MJP) have written separate letters of complaint to Dr Chris Lyons, Director of Planning and both Norman Rogers and Mike Pearson have also written to Mr Tom Crowley, Chief Executive of HDC.
14. NHR has received a detailed letter from Dr Lyons addressing his points and now stating that no such decision has been made by Mr Everest, who will contact me to meet and clarify issues. In addition Dr Lyons states: *"A report is currently being drafted and is intended to be sent to the North Planning committee on 5 December 2017 but Mr Everest is still considering the application so this may change."* Precisely what this means is unclear, but can be interpreted that they could now be mindful to refuse. So why submit a report to the Planning Committee if no decision has been made and it may not be submitted after all? In which case why could this decision not have been made on 19 September 2017?
15. Further Dr Lyons states that no modified plan has been submitted as requested and the application will now be considered as it exists. Surely a decision could have been made on 19 September 2017 in that case?

16. NHR and MJP measure width of plot of #20 which is 10.71. Mr Everest conveyed by Ms. Dalrymple-Smith after refusing to speak to NHR that the plot width is 23.4 metres and the total plot of 20 and 18b is 35.8 metres wide. These dimensions are totally incorrect.
17. According to Dr Lyons' letter, Mr Everest will now visit the site to check the measurements and review the location. *{This should have already been done}*
18. NHR has approached a Planning Consultant who has highlighted various issues.
 - (i) An extremely cramped backland development even with one less house;*
 - (ii) Contravenes the Fire Regulations with no ability for a fire tender to turn round at the rear in the narrow access drive*
 - (iii) He doubts a family car could turn round in the space of the Swept Diagram and this omits the parking spaces at the rear properties in the plan;*
 - (iv) Finally it is the worst "skinniest" house to replace the bungalow he has ever seen in his entire career and is totally out of character with Comptons Lane at this locality. The Case Officer must consider the street scene and whether the project is in keeping with the area. As part of his remit.*
19. One final point is the width from the wall of my property to my west boundary fence with number 20 is 1.13 metres NOT 500mm as depicted on the applicants' site plan!
20. I have received an email from Guy Everest to meet in his office this week to clarify various issues on the application. The email had been delivered to my spam folder and, hence, inadvertently missed.

N H Rogers
20.11.17