

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017**  
**SALVATION ARMY HALL, 7:30PM**

**Present:** Mrs D Sumpter (Chairman) and Miss J Dumbrell  
Messrs, N Friswell, G Sitton, G Stanley, B Travers  
**District Councillor:** Dr D Skipp  
**County Councillors:** Mr A Baldwin, Mrs M Millson, Dr N Dennis (from 8.15 p.m.)  
**Public:** 1  
**Press:** 0  
**Apologies:** Mr R. Worley

**1.12.2017 Minutes of Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Mr. Friswell was thanked for the excellent Minutes that he produced and these were confirmed by Mr. Hough and seconded by Mr. Stanley. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

**2.12.2017 Matters Arising**

**2 Public Forum – 20/18b Comptons Lane**

HDC has not confirmed when this application will be discussed at Committee level. This Council is aware of the correspondence that is currently passing between HDC Planning and the local neighbourhood.

**Resolved that Mr. Sitton will continue to be available to speak at the official Meeting**

**2.2. New Street Gardens**

In answer to residents' concerns, HDC has confirmed that the idea to use this Garden as an entrance to the RSA car park is only a "Vision" and in any event any proposal is unlikely to be considered for many years. However, it is good that HDC is aware of residents' objections at this early stage. Ms. Dumbrell commented that there was no response to New Street residents' suggestion that in order to alleviate New Street traffic issues when Winterton Court is completed, a route is installed via the back of the site leading into RSA car park. Residents were extremely disappointed that this was never given consideration.

**3.1 Bus Shelter at Melksham Close**

There is a hold-up due to the fact that Chris Stark, Highways has yet to visit the site. DC Dr. Skipp advised that he will be discussing the matter again with Mr. Crowley to try to "get things moving" as the money is now available for this installation.

**3.4 No Right Turn sign North Street-Station Road**

There has been no response from Highways. CC Mrs. Millson said that she would follow up this matter on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**3.5 Piries Place Development**

Mr. Friswell attended a short meeting and distributed his notes. He made the following suggestions and it is agreed that these will be forwarded as FNC official response:

*A. If the proposed scheme succeeds in its aims, the use of Piries Place car park will be much increased, particularly by short stay parkers. The bay widths should, therefore, be increased to 2.5 metres in accordance with the recommendations of the Institution of Structural Engineers.*

*B. Some scheme should be devised so that during the day, when the hotel would require fewer spaces, they are available for short stay users.*

*This might be managed by the way in which tickets are issued or access allowed rather than having marked-off dedicated spaces.*

*C. More and faster chargers need to be installed at an early stage in the use of the car park. This will need early liaison with the electricity network operator. Government grants are available from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles.*

*D. Consideration should be given to the use of vegetation to soften the structure of the car park.*

### **3.6 Parking outside Schools**

CC Mr. Baldwin confirmed that this is an ongoing matter.

### **3.7 Sandeman Way footpath**

WSCC has advised that it is the responsibility of HTCP to arrange a specification. This Council discussed the dangerous situation where this footpath directly accesses Brighton Road and if some form of barrier is not feasible, suggest that privately an “aware sign” is placed close to the exit. It would also be sensible to cut back some of the hedgerow at this position.

**Resolved that FNC will contact HTCP to try to move this matter forward as quickly as possible**

### **Pedestrian Crossing in vicinity of Harwood Road/Comptons Lane**

CC Mr. Baldwin commented that he has been approached about the lack of a pedestrian crossing for school children at this site. CC Mrs. Millson said there was a “natural crossing area” although added the comment that some children are reluctant to actually cross over in Comptons Lane beforehand.

CC Mr. Baldwin has accessed traffic accident figures for the general area and, whilst these have yet to be analysed, they have been circulated. Discussions about the pedestrian crossing issue will not be dismissed without careful consideration

### **8.5 Special Charge**

The meeting has been postponed (see item under Town Wardens).

### **3.12.2017 Public Forum**

There were no questions.

### **4.12.2017 Town Wardens**

Firstly it is suggested that these are described as “unparished wardens” as their remit should cover more than the town centre. The proposal is that two wardens are appointed to be paid from the Special Charge and an HDC grant. Currently HDC Greg Charman is preparing a job description and this Council would like the focus to be on enforcement – commenting on cycling in pedestrian areas – and also litter.

In order to balance the Special Charge Spreadsheet the Special Charge contribution has been taken out of The Drill Hall allocation. Some Councillors expressed their concern that although this is currently an account-balancing and theoretical action, it does focus attention on The Drill Hall which they described as a Town Asset. Separately the comment was made that it does seem to be under-used. There is a meeting later in December at which time the above point will be raised.

### **5.12.2017 District and County Councillors' Reports**

DC Dr. Skipp and HDC Mr. Evan Giles have recently visited Ayshe Court Lakes and Kingslea Pond. They were disappointed that Kingslea Pond has fallen into disrepair and is no longer able to be used as a “pond dipping” area by school children. There is the possibility that some funding will be available for this to be repaired.

With regard to Ayshe Court Ponds, whilst ownership is always the issue, in reality this has passed to the Crown which is very unlikely to have any interest in any aspects of the area. On the grounds of health and safety, it is likely that HDC will replace the fencing around the Pond and carry out essential tree works. Subject to funding, benches could also be placed to make it more aesthetically pleasing.

HDC has appointed Honorary Aldermen and this Council is pleased that one Alderman is Dr. David Holmes – previously a long standing District Councillor in this neighbourhood. Other Aldermen are Roger Pattison, Danny Hilliard and Sheila Matthews.

Interviews have gone well for HDC's new CEO and an appointment is imminent.

CC Mrs. Millson referred to the high possibility that the WSCC February Budget will include further cuts and if this is the case it will affect already under-funded school budgets (including the removal of apprentice levies). Altogether the effect of a reduced budget in this County should be a cause for anxiety.

CC Mr. Baldwin referred to discussions about future use of re-cycling centres in West Sussex and whether these can only be accessed by local residents who have downloaded a permit. Whilst some local Counties are choosing this option, he does not think this will be the case in West Sussex (at this time) although there may be further thought about van and trailer user permits. One perceived problem is that if other local Councils outside of West Sussex issue permits, some users will choose to use West Sussex sites.

CC Mr. Baldwin believes that the Harwood Road footbridge will imminently be re-surfaced and possibly this work will be carried out over the Christmas period.

CC Dr. Dennis referred to a consultation document relating to school admission arrangements and this relates to the way in which places are allocated to secondary school children in Horsham – Tanbridge House, Forest Boy's School and Millais Girl's School. The proposal is that road boundary restrictions are replaced by open applications. Dr. Dennis is not convinced that this is a good move as he believes there will be over subscription for certain schools and all the past documented issues will re-surface.

Dr. Dennis has been contacted by a resident at Horsham Gates site who has asked for a pedestrian crossing within vicinity of Horsham Railway Station. For all the reasons that have been identified in the past, this is unlikely to happen but will not be dismissed without consideration. He commented that residents in Horsham Gates area have the option to walk down Station Road to the station back entrance and this is likely to be the official Highways response.

## 6.12.2017 Planning

Recent comments have now been forwarded to Highways:

17/2488	14 Athelstan Way	Surgery to oak and conifers	No objection
17/2513	19 Danehurst Crescent	Erection of two storey side extension	No objection
17/2548	27 The Hornets	Erection of single storey front extension to existing garage with part first floor side extension over and associated internal alterations	No objection
17/2580	25 St Leonards Road	Variation of Condition 1 to previously approved application DC/17/1325 (Replacement detached garage/studio). Minor-material amendments to approved plans to facilitate provision of loggia on south elevation and double-hinged garage doors to north elevation.	HFNC still objects to the building of additional accommodation at the end of the garden.
17/2588	47 Patchings	Erection of a two storey rear and side extension and integral garage conversion.	No objection, but another case of loss of garage
17/2644	5 St Leonards Park House, St Leonards Park	Partial removal of internal wall and creation of wider opening in wall to dining area (both walls are not historical fabric). Creation of new recess to chimney breast. (Listed Building Consent)	No objection
17/2637	30 Comptons Lane	Variation of condition 1 to previously approved DC/17/0262 (Construction of a pair of 3 bed semi-detached dwellings, with associated carport and access roadway. Minor material amendment to facilitate addition of single storey rear garden room extension to plot 2.	n/o, but not sure how much outdoor space will be left
17/2640	15 Little Comptons	First floor side extn above garage	No objection
17/2641	Greenways Nursing Home, Comptons Lane	Illuminated advertising signs	See below*:

\*Greenways Nursing Home - HFNC OBJECTS to this proposal for an illuminated sign. It would be out of keeping with the surrounding residential area and be a distraction for motorists and also set a precedent. Should planning permission be granted, HFNC would insist on a condition that there would be a restriction on the time that the sign is lit up, only during daylight hours for example.

Mr. Travers commented on two recent Inspector judgements where appeals at 55 Smithbarn and 64 Comptons Lane were dismissed. The appeal for a detached garage to become an office at land adjoining Old Park, Kerves Lane, has been granted.

### **7.12.2017 Treasurer's Report**

Current Account £4,906.46, £1,281.28 with 4p interest. The Clerk's honorariums and expenses have been paid for November and December.

### **8.12.2017 Reports from representatives on outside bodies**

Mr. Sitton has attended a recent Cycle Forum and noted that currently HDC is looking at 15 possible new routes and a local cycling/walking plan (not yet in public domain). The Cycle Forum is interested in promoting routes for the proposed Horsham District Year of Culture and these may involve Shelley and Downs Link routes and new routes for mobility bicycles.

Mr. Sitton referred to the possibility that a "Bus Gate" could be installed in Kings Road. Finally The Cycle Forum commented that it would like to see more positive interaction between themselves and Neighbourhood Councils.

**New Friends of Horsham Park** – Ms Dumbrill attended the inaugural meeting that was well attended. Mrs. Mitchell, Denne, attended and it is noted that Denne NC has a Memo Of Understanding regarding the upkeep and use of Horsham Park.

Mrs. Sumpter has distributed the draft Minutes following the Unparished Area Meeting with HDC.

Mrs. Vinall attended a recent Highways Meeting at which Mr. Stark explained various aspects of Highways responsibilities. She commented that national guideline pothole dimensions are: **40mm deep and 150 mm wide** and as WSCC adhere to these measurements and have successfully won a recent High Court case; there is no point in referring any pothole to Highways that falls short of these dimensions.

Hedges have to obstruct 33% of a footway or be at least 1m wide before action will be taken

Bollards will definitely not be installed in grass verges or replaced in the future

### **9.12.2017 Any Other Business**

Councillors deplore the state of repairs in Brighton Road. It has been advised that these repairs are only temporary and further work should be carried out in New Year. However CC Mrs. Millson said she would take up this matter beforehand.

Mr. Hough referred to Christmas Trading and that there will be 2 late nights with free parking. There continues to be disappointment that there are no other "free parking" offers, especially as yet another shop has closed in Swan Walk – Sony.

Ice Rink – the comment was made that this has not been as big a draw as was envisaged although current reports are that visitor numbers are improving. It is felt that Horsham residents liked the overall concept of last year's Christmas Market at Hilliers site that was very well attended.

HDC Mr. Ben Golds (car parking and charging) will attend January Meeting. Please let the Clerk know of any specific questions.

Regrettably Ms Dumbrell has tendered her resignation as a Neighbourhood Councillor. This prompted a general discussion about the way forward for Neighbourhood Councils and whether the formation of a Town Council should be re-visited particularly as FNC numbers are down.

At this stage the Chair was asked to contact the other 2 Neighbourhood Councils and have a discussion with them about whether the 3 Neighbourhood Councils amalgamate.

**AOB (cont.)**

DC Dr. Skipp said that he will continue to raise the Town Council question with Tom Crowley (HDC CEO) although the question of cost will always be a prominent issue in any discussion. The Chair will ask for this to be put on the next quarterly meeting agenda. She would also raise this with Blueprint in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan.

It is agreed that the future of neighbourhood councils will be added to future Agendas.

Ms Dumbrell will hopefully continue to be involved with the Depot Road/New Street issues and therefore it will be possible to arrange the "letter drop".

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.