

# HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 SALVATION ARMY HALL, 7:30PM

**Present:** Mrs D Sumpter (Chairman) Messrs, N Friswell, G Stanley,  
B Travers, R. Worley  
**District Councillor:** Dr D Skipp  
**County Councillors:** Mr A Baldwin, Mrs M Millson, Dr N Dennis (arrived at 8.30 p.m.)  
**Public:** Ben Golds (HDC)  
**Press:** 0  
**Apologies:** Mr. G Sitton and DC G Newman

HDC Mr. Ben Golds attended this meeting to discuss various car parking issues. He gave an outline of his Department where there are 21 members of staff and agreed to send a flow sheet that will show where these staff are deployed.

For reference, there are 39 car parks under his jurisdiction and 4,629 parking spaces including on-street and off-street spaces. This generates an annual income of £4.2 million of which £2.7 million is "profit" and passed to HDC for general expenditure. Enforcement generates £250,000 which is one half of the outlay. Mr. Golds explained that the work description of civil enforcement officers is strictly controlled by the Government Act. He also said that there are observation times before tickets are issued, approximately 10 minutes for "pay and display" and 20 minutes for "loading and unloading". The newly proposed Town Warden project will be separate and an independent post but Mr. Golds foresees informal sharing of information. In answer to a question about pavement parking, driving onto the pavement is illegal and this is a police matter as is parking on corners and double parking.

Mr. Golds said that his role includes "forward thinking" and he also explained that the new machines are capable of producing graphs and information about how car parks are used and this technology will continue to improve. He gave the example that in busy periods, the time allocated for finding parking bays can be adjusted and in the case of Swan Walk Car Park, this is in the "Wi Fi cloud" and so it is possible to react quickly to situations (for example he referred to "parking angels" an informal name given to staff who take over when any machine malfunctions). As another example of technology, recipients of the Living Allowance will have automatic number recognition.

Mr. Golds is also involved with the Town Centre Improvement Plan and will be looking at projected car parking needs as Horsham Town expands.

Currently he is involved with two main projects, The Pavilions Hurst Road where a further 40 spaces are being added; Parking Services are aware that parents drop off their children to visit the swimming centre and again time is allocated before number plate recognition/parking charges commence.

The second project is the Piries Place Car Park and in the short term this will have a major negative impact on parking space numbers in the town. However, he is optimistic that the new car park will provide good parking provision.

*It is noted that on behalf of FNC, Mr. Friswell prepared a response to what is being proposed.*

*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.*

Mr. Golds said that this Council has applied for a Government Grant (one of the few Councils in this country to do so) but there is an elementary question to be answered regarding who will pay for the electricity? This needs to be resolved.

Following Mr. Gold's Presentation, he answered questions that had previously been set. He agreed that there are problems at the Hospital Car Park. This is managed but not owned by HDC and so Parking Services can only advise rather than instigate improvements. Enforcement Officers are well aware of all the issues and act accordingly. Mr. Gold understands that Horsham Hospital may install barriers.

The introduction of parking charges at rural car parks has been less problematical than anticipated. However, this is not the case with Roffey Car Park and Mr. Golds is currently discussing the matter with North Horsham Parish Council. There is likely to be change.

Mr. Golds was asked why there was less free car parking at Swan Walk Car Park during the busy Christmas period? He explained that this was not requested by Swan Walk Management. He again referred to new technology that can analyse how car parks are being used and how this might lead to discussion about how to encourage shoppers at quieter times.

Mrs. Sumpter thanked Mr. Golds for this very useful and extensive Presentation and she felt that it enables this Neighbourhood Council to understand more about Mr. Gold's Department.

Mr. Golds left the Meeting at 8.15 p.m.

#### **01.01.18 Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

Two amendments – CC Mr. Baldwin referred to permits and not parking permits at re-cycling centres. Horsham Gates is in this neighbourhood.

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Hough and seconded by Mr. Stanley.

#### **02.01.18 Matters Arising**

##### **2.1 Public Forum 20/18b Comptons Lane**

There is no official information but it is understood that a meeting is to be scheduled with Mr. Guy Everest.

##### **3.4 No Right Turn – North Street/Station Road**

The current situation needs to be ascertained.

##### **3.7 Sandeman Way Footpath**

There is a barrier and whilst this could be improved, it is unlikely that this will happen. Mrs. Sumpter has liaised with Mr. David Searle, HTCP and also on the Riverside Walk Committee and Mrs Sumpter asked whether this Council will pay for a sign stating "Beware Main Road Ahead" (white wood with red writing). Mr. Friswell suggested that Highways should affix a "Pedestrian Aware" sign on the road but CC Mrs. Millson said that it is highly unlikely to be considered – due to financial restraints..

**Resolved that FNC will pay for the sign and we will ask HTCP to arrange for the sign to be made and erected**

**4.12.2017 Town Wardens**

**This Council agrees to the introduction of Town Wardens on a trial basis.**

The sum of £50,000 has been set aside from the Special Charge.

**Drill Hall** – the cost of maintaining the Drill Hall is no longer shown in the Special Charge and whilst no details are known, it is understood funding is coming from other HDC's resources. This Council will vehemently object to any change in the Drill Hall's current status as a community asset.

**Resolved that the approval will be confirmed in writing. This Council will ask for a job description**

**5.12.2017 Ayshe Court Lakes**

DC Dr. Skipp confirmed that HDC is planning to add fencing, improve areas of the footpath that are sloping and carry out tree works around the lakes. HDC is carrying out these works on health and safety grounds; they are not taking over ownership. It is unlikely that the current ownership of these lakes will ever be ascertained.

**9.12.2017 Brighton Road repairs**

"Improvements to the repairs" have been carried out but it is hoped these "improvements" continue to be temporary and final repairs will be "fit for purpose".

**9.12.2017 Future of Neighbourhood Councils**

Mrs. Sumpter has approached Denne and Trafalgar Councillors and she understands that this is to be brought up at their next meetings.

**03.01.18 District and County Councillors' Reports**

DC Dr. Skipp referred to the new recycling programme that is on a roll-out basis and the fact that larger bins can be requested via HDC website. CC Mrs. Millson said that County is currently looking at specific problems with food waste and nappy type products – her figure for nappy type products that are being placed in re-cycling bins was "mind boggling".

DC Dr. Skipp is optimistic about the new CEO appointment, Mr. Glen Chipp.

CC Mrs. Millson visited the Boxall Walk footpath with WSCC representative who did not classify its state as needing immediate and, possibly, long term intervention. The earliest that it could be added to the list is 2019 (and there may be other paths that take precedence). CC Mrs. Millson knew that this would be a disappointing outcome. However, she did say she would look at the background to see whether the developer should be held for any responsibility.

There is a suggestion that repairs could be privately funded but, for insurance reasons, this is not sensible.

CC Mr. Baldwin advised that the installation of a cycle rack at The Forest School is progressing.

CC Dr. Dennis (towards the end of this Meeting) referred to the School Admissions Consultation Document. He has responded by opposing the proposals as he foresees numerous problems (an example is that in theory a child from Warnham Parish could take preference for a place at Tanbridge House School to a child living in Merryfield Drive because the alternative school is closer in distance). Dr. Dennis does not understand why there is a Consultation because the current procedure appears to be working relatively well.

CC Dr. Dennis also referred to the Horsham Town Cycle Contra Flow documentation, circulated by Peter Bradley. Barrington Road proposal needs to be discussed. The

deadline for comments is the end of January. The Clerk will circular the document, collate any comments and reply to WSCC before the deadline.

#### **04.01.18 Public Rights of Way**

It is agreed that Mr. Friswell's draft response to the Management Plan Public Rights of Way Consultation is forwarded immediately.

#### **05.01.18 Homeless in Horsham**

Robert Jarvis, Head of Housing sent a detailed response about the increasing number of homeless people in Horsham and it was extremely encouraging to read about the liaison between HDC and Horsham Churches Together. It is not necessary to consider using The Drill Hall as currently there is capacity for everyone who wishes to use the venues. The comment was made that loneliness is something that needs to also be addressed.

The website, <https://www.streetlink.org.uk> is easy to navigate and is a way for any concerned residents to report issues. A dedicated Officer will attempt to make contact with the homeless person.

**Resolved DC Dr. Skipp will ascertain whether HDC has made any progress in setting up a separate company to manage affordable/social housing schemes**

#### **06.01.18 Planning**

Mr. Travers referred to the recently circulated "Brown Field Register" and commented that all the sites in this neighbourhood have already been developed!

Mr. Travers referred to 1a Clarence Road where the appeal for a block of apartments was dismissed. He made the comment that the Inspector did not see parking as a problem.

A member of public has contacted this Council to discuss a retrospective application for a fence. Following a site visit, it was agreed that this Council cannot object as it is unlikely this application would be refused if it went to appeal.

124 Brighton Road – this appeal was permitted

#### **Further planning decision below**

#### **07.01.18 Treasurer's Report**

Current Account £4,626.46, Reserve Account £1,281.33. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid. It is agreed that a charitable donation will be offered to the person who manages the website – if this is the wish.

#### **08.01.18 Correspondence**

New Street road works – these roadworks has meant that a temporary one way system has been introduced. Mrs. Sumpter suggested that residents are asked their opinion about how this has affected their travel arrangements. CC Dr.Dennis confirmed that he will be visiting the area shortly with NC representatives and this Council will then prepare a "letter drop".

#### **09.01.18 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Mr. Stanley and Mrs. Vinall attended a Planning Training Seminar and the paperwork will be distributed. There is conflicting information about how CIL will be distributed.

Mr. Stanley attended the recent HALC Meeting and has distributed his notes prior to receiving formal Minutes.

**Planning decisions (continued)**

17/1562	19 Potters Croft	Amendments to prior approval	HFNC continues to object to this proposal in whatever form it takes due to the disturbance to neighbouring properties
17/2873	52 Comptons Lane	Two storey side & single storey front & rear extensions & convert roof space with dormer at rear	HFNC is concerned about the increase in floor space and ask that a CIL form be submitted. We are also concerned about the size of the 2 storey extension being squeezed in between the boundary with No. 52A, and also overlooking from the rear dormer to the garden of No. 50.
18/0029	17 Pollards Drive	Single storey rear extension with mansard roof	No objection
18/0007	14A New Street	Erect rear conservatory	N/O
18/0047	58 Grebe Crescent	Single storey rear extn	N/O
18/0038	10 Ghyll Crescent	Single storey rear extn & single storey over existing garage	N/O
17/2822	112 Brighton Road	Removal of code for sustainable homes	Not qualified enough to comment on this
17/2754	68 Queen Street	Addition of rear balcony	N/O

The Meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.