

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB
Tel: 01403 269265 E-Mail: fncorsham@sky.com

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17th JULY 2018 SALVATION ARMY HALL, 7:30PM

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

District Councillor: DC Dr. D. Skipp

County Councillors: CCs Mr. A. Baldwin, CC Dr. N. Dennis (arrived 8.30 p.m.)

Public: 3

Press: 0

Apologies: R. Worley, DC Mr. Newman

01.07.18 Minutes of Meeting held on 18th June 2018

The Minutes were proposed by Nigel Friswell, seconded by Guy Stanley and signed by the Chairman, Diane Sumpter.

02.07.18 Matters Arising

09.12.17 Brighton Road Repairs

Repairs have been carried out to the road although already a hole is already re-appearing and this could be dangerous for cyclists.

Resolved that CC Andrew Baldwin will contact Highways to report this issue and to again ask for clarification as to who is responsible for repair costs when the work has been carried out by developers to enable the addition of utilities to their new properties

04.05.18 Ayshe Court Lakes

The Environment Agency (ref 1631339) responded quickly to a request to visit Ayshe Court Lakes in areas where blue/green algae is covering the water. It has advised that this algae is not dangerous and is related to the current hot weather. There are no health and safety issues.

Separately DC Dr. Skipp said that he will again visit the site with HDC Evan Giles and will consider whether there needs to be warning signs regarding swimming in the lakes.

04.05.18 Town Vision – Queen Street

No work has been carried out to the derelict property in Queen Street. DC Dr. Skipp advised that he will be “walking the area” with HDC CEO Glen Chipp and will highlight this building.

Resolved to refer the matter again to Planning Enforcement

09.05.18 Greenways Nursing Homes

A disappointing letter was received from HDC Emma Parkes, Head of Development Control stating that Planning Policies were referred to when making the decision to allow an illuminated sign at this Nursing Home.

Resolved FNC Mrs. Sumpter will discuss this response with HDC CEO Glen Chip, specifically referring to the role of neighbourhood councils

03.06.18 County Councillor’s Report – grass cutting

It seems ridiculous that grass cutting is continuing despite the fact that grass is not growing during this hot Summer weather. CC Mr. Baldwin referred to the grass cutting programme and assumes that this is being carried out to conform with the schedule. He also referred to the issues with the contract and the contract changeover. This Council would like to see some form of adaptation to allow contractors to be assigned to other works.

DOOMSDAY LANE – Separately this Council wrote to WSCC Bob Lanzer about the poor sight line. The reply was that whilst the sight line into Brighton Road is restricted, it should be okay for careful drivers. This is not considered to be an acceptable response and CC Mr. Baldwin said he would follow this up.

Resolved FNC will also reply to Mr. Lanzer's e mail

07.06.18 Ice Rink

DC Dr. Skipp said that as landowners of Horsham Park, HDC is unlikely to give permission for an ice rink to be installed in future years.

03.07.18 Public Forum

One member of the public explained that she attended this Meeting to talk about the current state of Horsham Town and she is sad that standards have dropped. She is concerned that HDC is not "making good" the Carfax area after weekend market trading and that there are black tyre marks left on the paving, some of which are also broken. She feels that there is a general feeling of less pride in this market town.

She is also concerned about the state of the paths around the Bus Station and the condition of the public toilets. In addition there continues, after rainfall, to be drainage problems in The Forum.

Resolved DC Dr. Skipp will ask for these sites to be visited during the general "walkabout" with HDC officers on 17th July.

(at this stage, the comment was made that FNC has again not been advised about this "walkabout" and a further letter will be sent)

Station Road – a member of the public is concerned about illegal parking along Station Road close to One Stop Shop. This is a safety issue.

Resolved to write to Ben Golds, Parking Services

FOREST SCHOOL

A member of the public attended this meeting to discuss a recent child accident that happened at The Forest School. His son was hurt (although not seriously) and the ambulance that was initially called, was cancelled – at the request of his son. There was some discussion as to whether his 11 year's old son should have been given this option and also whether this means that the incident will not be officially reported as an accident. The Forest School has discussed safety issues with the pupils but do not necessarily have any responsibility as the pupils are off-site.

The member of public has been disappointed at the response and attitude of some drivers who say that pupils should be aware of traffic and take responsibility for their own safety.

There needs to be a review of the speed limit.

Mrs. Sumpter said that this Council is supportive and that the member of public should refer the matter to The School Governors and also to ask The Forest School for a copy of its "Safer Routes to School Policy".

Dr. Skipp will informally discuss the matter with some School Governors.

CC Mr. Baldwin said that there will be a change to the way that school buses park. In due course, buses will be parking within the school grounds (this is engineering works and whilst approved, the change to the exit and entrance route will take time; he is hoping this will be in place by Summer 2019).

It is hoped that the newly appointed Neighbourhood Wardens will have an active presence in the area at school opening and closing times and, whilst the Wardens will not be able to

issue tickets, it may act as a deterrent. Ben Golds, Parking, will also be asked to timetable more regular visits.

St Leonard's Road – CC Mr. Baldwin continues to be in discussion with the Action Group regarding ways to slow down speed in Comptons Lane/St Leonard's Road. He said that the road is not wide enough for a pedestrian crossing and so this option is dismissed. However, he is trying to raise funds to install a "slow down sign" and it is hoped to shortly carry out a SID project. FNC Mr. Sitton volunteered to be involved.

Following on from this discussion, FNC discussed whether it can contribute to the "Slow down" initiative and will contact CC Mr. Baldwin to see whether a contribution will "open up" other funding avenues.

04.07.18 County Councillor's Report

Parking Zone A – CC Dr. Dennis said that there are issues with the way in which HDC has issued resident parking permits; the problem is that permits have inadvertently been issued to residents in gated communities but that this has now been rectified. Those residents are extremely upset about this change and will be making considerable protests. It is likely to affect this Council as some Zone A roads are within this neighbourhood – around Park Terrace East, Livingston Road.

Contra Flow Cycling Meeting – At this meeting, WSCC referred to parts of the country where this idea has been successfully introduced and with little objection. Barrington Road is the most controversial route within this neighbourhood. A member of the public who lives in this road explained that parking and the width of the road will cause major problems if this proposal is introduced. CC Dr. Dennis said that any objection must be solely on highway grounds and not an opinion or prejudice.

Resolved to contact the member of public when further information is circulated

05.07.18 Planning

Mr. Travers advised that the application for a bungalow in the grounds of 78 Brighton Road (old Tanners Arms) has been approved. He will ascertain whether there is a condition for double yellow lines opposite the access to this property as this Council pointed out that if cars are parked in the narrow road, it will be impossible to exit and access the bungalow grounds.

53 Brighton Road – an application to erect a property in the garden has been refused.

18/1239	Lidl, Foundry Lane	Erection of new retail store	No objection
18/1256	26 Burford Road	Single/two storey extn and front porch	N/O
18/1235	2 South Grove	Erect boundary fence and new gate	N/O
18/1209	70/72 Bedford Rd.	Replacement cladding to front and cantilever porch canopies	N/O
18/1273	110 Brighton Road	Two single storey rear extns, 3 front roof lights, and new dropped kerb	N/O
18/1261	19 Ghyll Crescent	Two storey rear extn	N/O
18/1305	3 Highlands Av.	Rear single storey extn, request for lawful development	N/O
8/1100	94 Brighton Road	Retrospective permission for erecting front gate and fence panel	HFNC OBJECTS to the height of both the fence and the gate. There have been similar issues recently further along Brighton Road with the height of fences and we would not like to see a precedent set. Brighton Road is an important entrance to Horsham and is in the design statement as such. Whilst appreciating the owners desire for privacy we do not think a solid 6 foot high fence is the answer.

FNC Mr. Hough is not entirely sure that the objection to the fence at 94 Brighton Road is valid as he felt that, in this instance, it improved the area.

05.07.18 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £7,384.94, reserve account £1,281.65. The clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for the month of July.

06.07.18 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies Neighbourhood Wardens

FNC Mrs. Sumpter and Mr. Sitton have now met the two wardens – Alison Page and Lucy Hallett - and are positive about these new appointments. The wardens will be issued with bicycles (hopefully battery operated) which means that they should be able to easily access all parts of the neighbourhood. This initiative, funded from the Town Charge, is on a 2 year trial basis. It is unclear what is meant by HDC DC Christine Costin's co-ordinating role.

Mr. Sitton will act as this Council's liaison officer. He confirmed that he will be reporting potholes – which is part of the Neighbourhood Warden remit.

Mrs. Sumpter discussed the role of neighbourhood wardens at a recent NC combined meeting with the new HDC CEO, Glen Chipp. The new CEO is currently looking at all areas

and aspects of this district. In answer to Mr. Hough's question, Mrs. Sumpter advised that the current vacancy for Director of Planning is to be filled by a "Director of Place", extending the job description. There have been 6 applications and interviews will shortly take place. DC Dr. Skipp advised that he will shortly be visiting our neighbourhood with CEO Glen Chipp.

Horsham Remembrance Garden – whilst not in this neighbourhood, Mr. Friswell said that he has been involved in the improvements to the garden and these are nearing completion and he is very pleased with the outcome. He is uncertain whether there is to be a formal opening.

07.07.18 Any Other Business

Section 106 funding – this Council will approve the application for continuing interior building works at Horsham Rugby Club.

Separately Mrs. Sumpter said that Friends of Bennetts Field would like Section 106 monies for play area improvement, additional equipment for the older generation (as in Horsham Park), noticeboard and improvements to drainage at the allotments.

DC Dr. Skipp is shortly to visit Bennetts Field with HDC Evan Giles and will discuss the suggestions – he will support additional equipment.

65 Bus Route – it is agreed that FNC will apply for a TRO to add double yellow lines at the turning from St. Leonard's Road into Comptons Lane (opposite junction to Sandeman Way).

Boxall Walk – the footpath has been resurfaced and has been well received.

Closure of Piries Place car park – Mr. Travers is concerned that some of the signs directing drivers to Swan Walk car park are misleading.

New Street – Community Highways Project has advised that the introduction of 20 mph speed limit is too expensive to be considered under the scheme. This Council will contact WSCC Chris Stark to arrange a site meeting with a view to moving this proposal forward.

Brighton Road – Mr. Hough advised that signs have been erected close to the Sandeman Way right of way advising "pedestrians crossing the road". It has been established that these were erected during the Horsham Riverside Walk Day but it is a pity that they cannot be permanently placed at this site.

Queen Street - Mr. Travers regrets that the hanging baskets in Queen Street have not been "filled" this year. This is due to the fact that these are considered too high for ongoing maintenance and the decision has been made to leave these unfilled.

BT boxes – there are two redundant boxes in Depot Road and Oakhill Road. Attempts will be made to have these removed.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.