

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2018
SALVATION ARMY HALL, 7:30PM

Present: Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chairman), Messrs. P. Colombo, N. Friswell, M. Hough, J. Milne, G. Sitton, R. Worley

District Councillors: DC Dr. D. Skipp, DC Mr. G. Newman

County Councillors: CC Mr. A. Baldwin, CC Mrs. M. Millson, Dr. N. Dennis

Public: 1

Press: 0

Apologies: Mr. B. Travers, Mr. G. Stanley

NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Mrs. Sumpter introduced Alison Page and Lucy Hallett who are our recently appointed Neighbourhood Wardens. Alison and Lucy attended the Meeting to outline their range of duties and how they see their roles evolving in the future. Their aim is to build up relationships with the community; as an example and within our Neighbourhood, they have engaged with youths acting anti socially in Bennetts Field and they are looking at ways to intervene with the current drug problems at this site. A dense hedge area within the Field has been identified as a "hot spot" and is to be cut back and also there is to be a letter/leaflet drop to local residents. It is noted that there is no CCTV in Bennetts Field which could be a factor for the drug dealing and possession in this area. Alison and Lucy have also acted as intermediaries in a neighbour dispute and believe this avoided an escalation of the issue.

Whilst not traffic wardens, they are able to issue parking alert tickets and be a presence at parking hotspots, e.g. schools at the start and close of the school day. They are developing links with other agencies and attending monthly police briefings.

More general community issues such as an awareness of vulnerable people, rubbish removal also come within their remit.

Before leaving the meeting, Alison and Lucy were thanked for their report and it is agreed that they will attend this Neighbourhood Meeting on a half yearly basis.

This Council is delighted with the introduction of this new role and believe it is already having a positive effect. One Councillor commented that HDC has provided a uniform that is totally apt for the role.

01.09.18 Minutes of Meeting held on 20th August 2018

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Sitton, seconded by Mrs. Sumpter and signed by the Chairman.

02.09.18 Matters Arising

09.12.17 Brighton Road repairs

There is continuing concern that the repairs are not being carried out as promised. CC Mrs. Millson will now contact Highways.

04.05.17 Ayshe Court Lakes

DC Dr. Skipp has contacted HDC Evan Giles who has passed the matter to HDC Greg Charman. It must be pointed out that if and when warning signs are erected, these will be generalised and not mention HDC (HDC is not the owner of these Lakes and will erect the signs on health and safety grounds).

04.05.18 Town Vision – Queen Street

Mr. Sitton distributed the notes following the recent walkabout and he will attend the next date, 9th October at 9.15 a.m. He confirmed that the Queen Street area will be included in any future walkabout.

Separately, DC Dr. Skipp said that he will be visiting the area in the company of HDC CEO Glen Chipp in the near future and at that time will again point out the derelict property.

Resolved to advise Dr. Skipp of the number of times that this Council has written to Planning Enforcement about this matter

09.05.18 Greenways Nursing Home

This has been renamed “Aspen Place” and one illuminated sign is now in place. Its impact on the street scene will be more evident in the winter months and will be monitored.

03.07.18 St. Leonard’s Road

CC Mr. Andrew Baldwin believes that WSCC has now found funding for the “SID” machine without using the “crowd funding” route.

07.07.18 Redundant BT Boxes

CC Mrs. Millson has not been able to take this matter further at this stage. However, she intends to contact the appropriate department for the purpose of forcing BT to remove the redundant boxes.

03.08.18 Correspondence – Friends of Horsham Park

Mrs. Sumpter will be attending the Infrastructure Group Meeting on Tuesday 2nd October. There is a Usage Focus Group Meeting on 24th September.

Horsham in Bloom – there has been question marks about the future of this Group but it is understood that the current leader has recruited more volunteers and this is welcomed. It is still not decided how to proceed with the NC Presentation.

03.09.18 Public Forum

The member of public is interested in the way in which this Council operates. He raised the issue of unemptied dog bins in the neighbourhood and asked whether more could be provided.

DC Dr. Skipp agreed to follow up this matter and it was pointed out that any dog matter can now be disposed of in litter and household bins, provided it is appropriately bagged.

Resolved to contact HDC John McArthur and also Neighbourhood Wardens

04.09.18 County Councillor and District Councillors’ Reports

CC Mrs. Millson commented on the “tightness” of next year’s budget and the fact that WSCC no longer has a reserve. This will inevitably have a negative effect on services especially as the social services bill continues to rise and WSCC has a statutory duty to cover these costs.

The fact is that in 1985 the breakdown was 55% public expenditure and 45% NHS social care and services

Currently 75% of income is spent on NHS social care and services which means that there is 25% less available for all other public expenditure. There are many reasons for this increase that include increasingly higher staff costs. In part, this is due to recruitment difficulties.

CC Mrs. Millson intimated that there is discussion concerning the future of all three Women Refuges in the County and if there was reduced funding; would it mean a reduction in accommodation? Following receipt of further details, it is suggested that if Councillors or members of the public feel strongly about this matter, they should write to MP Jeremy Quin.

The Forest School

CC Mr. Baldwin explained the current situation regarding “safety improvements” to The Forest School frontage. He said that originally he had been very encouraged by the WSCC Officer’s agreement to three strategies, two of which have been implemented. However, the proposal to place a layby within the grounds has stalled. In part this is due to surface and drainage issues that had not been foreseen. Apparently the proposal is scheduled to be completed in 2020 and he said that Highways Ian Straw and Cliff Purvis have confirmed their support to Forest School.

DC Dr. Skipp said that he had visited the school at the end of the day and this enforced the already aired concerns about children’s’ safety.

Greenways (Aspen Place) Nursing Home

CC Dr. Dennis advised that path drainage works should be taking place outside this Nursing Home. This is not yet confirmed.

North Horsham

DC Dr. Skipp said that HDC and WSCC are to hold a cabinet meeting to deal with traffic issues that will arise when the North Horsham development commences.

04.09.18 Planning – see attached

18/1637	Victoria House, Victoria Street	Installation of heat recovery pump	No objection
18/1632	41 Clarence Road	Single storey side extension	N/O
18/1720	13 Danehurst Crescent	Two storey rear extension	N/O
18/1729	14 Devonshire Road	Non material amendment to 18/1143	N/O
18/1705	24 Patchings	Two storey side extension	N/O
18/1875	45 Devonshire Road	Single storey rear extension	N/O

05.09.18 Treasurer’s Report

This was not presented due to the Treasurer’s absence.

06.09.18 Reports from Representatives on outside bodies

Volunteer's Barbecue – Mrs. Sumpter attended this event in her role as Chesworth Farm Committee Member. She was able to discuss drug issues in the neighbourhood and the importance of informing the police if any suspect packages (empty or otherwise) were found on the ground. The idea for a fixed camera in Bennetts Field was also discussed.

Blueprint – the AGM took place and at this time, there is no Chairman. She is proposing to discuss the matter with the 3 NC Chairman to see if there is a way forward although she did say that the Plan has progressed.

The 3 NC Chairman will meet with HDC at the beginning of October.

HTCP – a meeting will take place in November.

Cycle Forum – Mr. Sitton was asked if it was possible to obtain a copy of the current cycle routes in the district.

07.09.18 Correspondence

Police Intelligence Reporting Form – this is a form that is for organisations such as ourselves but not for the general public. This is an amendment to a previous scheme that has worked well

Crowd Funding – this is a WSCC initiative

Neighbourhood Planning Conference 26th September at Billingshurst Village Hall

Youth Work Quarterly Report

HALC Agenda - Town Warden Reports - Town Walkabout Report

Silent Silhouettes – noted - Eye Services Survey

HDNC Minutes - Trafalgar Minutes

Update on Velo South - noted

08.09.18 Any Other Business

There was no further business and the Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.