

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB
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**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10th DECEMBER 2018 SALVATION ARMY HALL,
7:30PM**

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

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

County Councillors Dr. N. Dennis (arr 8.30 p.m.), CC Mrs. M. Millson (arrived 8.30 p.m.)

Public: 2

Press: 0

Apologies: Mr. R. Worley, CC Mr. A. Baldwin

Mrs. Sumpter opened the Meeting by welcoming Dr. David Holmes and Philip Ayerst, Horsham Society Members, who attended the Meeting to present the document, Good By Design.

Mr. Ayerst explained that Good By Design is a document that has been prepared by both current and retired professionals who collectively have wide ranging architectural knowledge. The aim is to cover good design, good transport routes and good planning decisions, i.e does a planning application look right? It is hoped that it will become a design brief and will be adopted and/or referred to when looking at planning applications. Mr. Ayerst explained that it is being presented to HDC, District Councillors and Neighbourhood Councils and that so far, HDC response has been positive. Ideally the document should be referred to by future developers and designers.

Horsham has some very good design examples and photographs and images are evidenced in the document together with good examples from other towns. The photographs highlight traditional and modern buildings and also harmonious designs that complement existing buildings. The point is made that good design cannot be easily defined or prescribed but most people can agree quite quickly on what is poor design.

The Horsham Society does not want to be seen as a group that always objects but as a group that is proactive in its aim to achieve good design for this town. It would like to be involved at the early stages of any development applications (and this is the case with this Neighbourhood Council).

Mrs. Sumpter thanked both Dr. Holmes and Mr. Ayerst for the Presentation and Mrs. Sumpter commented that many points mirror the 2005 Horsham Town Neighbourhood Appraisal that included this Neighbourhood Council's Character Assessment of its area.

Dr. Holmes left the Meeting.

Mrs. Sumpter then introduced the member of public who maintains Forest Neighbourhood Council's website. In view of Data Protection laws, this Council is looking at ways in which to ensure that not only is this Council conforming to the law to the best of its knowledge but also Councillor's information is secure. It is decided that a list of Councillors' names will be added to the website and that each Councillor will be given a dedicated e mail address. The telephone contact will be a dedicated number that is only used for FNC business. In order that there is a paper contact, the Clerk's home address will continue to be used.

This Council was pleased to note the level of “hits” to the website and again thanked the member of public for the extremely high standard that is always maintained.

Resolved FNC Mr. Colombo will liaise to issue all Councillors with an FNC dedicated e mail address; The Clerk will arrange the purchase of a mobile telephone

01.12.18 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th November 2018

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Friswell, seconded by Mr. Hough and signed by Mrs. Sumpter.

02.12.18 Matters Arising

02.11.18 Public Forum – Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The temporary SID has now been erected in St. Leonard’s Road and Councillors commented that it is already making them more aware of the speed at which they are travelling.

The Resident Group’s aim is to have a permanent SID. The possibility is that this will be purchased through a CLC grant and it might be a joint NC application.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter is to discuss this with NC Chairman

The speed gun and pad is likely to cost around £1,000 and it is understood that this might be purchased through the HDC Community Safety Scheme.

Resolved to contact HDC Sharon Cadman

03.09.18 Arun Way

Following extensive research and correspondence, WSCC Legal Services has advised that the bridleway consists of the hardened centre track and the two verges either side and that the bridleway occupies the whole width between boundaries. There was a similar incident in 1992 with another resident. The Landowner has been informed and it is understood that the fence line has now been moved back to its original position.

Resolved

03.11.18 District Councillors’ Reports

It is noted that the planning application for Glen Arun Nursing Home was approved at HDC Committee level.

06.11.18 Correspondence – Section 106 monies

Friends of Bennetts Field have not been approached regarding the CCTV installation but are not averse to the idea.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will liaise with the Group

06.11.18 Blueprint

There is to be a further meeting on 13th December. There are still misgivings about whether this Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan will be effective and whether the future costing/expense is merited.

03.12.18 District Councillors’ Reports

DC Dr. Skipp referred to a planning application for Antix Shop, Queen Street (this was referred to under Planning).

There is to be a mid-term financial strategy meeting on 13th December. DC Dr. Skipp commented that HDC appears to have general funds of around £12m (£6m safety net). He suggests that this is the right time to put forward minor financial requests. HDC budget will be announced in February 2019.

Neighbourhood Councillors were very pleased to note that that £12-15m has been earmarked for housing development under an HDC Housing Company and by setting up this company; it will mean that houses cannot subsequently be sold – i.e. for affordable renting only. It is thought that the temporary accommodation in Guildford Road will come under the Housing Company umbrella and this is welcomed.

DC Dr. Skipp is concerned about a change that is being proposed for the HDC Planning Committee and the subsequent democratic effect on the process. DC Dr. Skipp understands that this proposal is likely to be implemented very quickly and it is important that this Council is aware of the matter .

Resolved this Council will respond to any information that is formally received

TWITTEN ORCHARD ROAD/VINCENT CLOSE – this is a twitten, approximately 150 yards in length and, in the past, was used as a short cut. Some years ago a gate was installed at this site because there was anti-social behaviour along the twitten that was of great concern to older residents in Gerald Court. In recent weeks WSCC Rights of Way Department has advised that this is illegal and the gate should be removed. CC Dr. Skipp is concerned that this will cause unnecessary anguish to homes that adjoin the twitten.

Resolved FNC will look at this matter. This could be an exception to this Council's definitive view that all twittens should remain open

TOWN GREEN STATUS – DC Dr. Skipp referred to the fact that the newly installed Green at the bottom of New Street was not granted “town green status”. Following locality input, it is understood that two residents objected on the grounds that it did not want ball games in the area. To receive “town green status” there has to be 100% agreement. It is possible that the two residents did not realise that the reason behind the application was to stop any building on the land in perpetuity. Other Horsham Town Green status applications have been successful.

Resolved FNC will arrange a letter drop in January

04.12.18 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £5,503.96, Reserve Account £1,224.00 – again nominal interest has been added. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for December together with the account for updating the e mail system. There will be a small contribution, £30, towards the FNC December Meeting. It is unanimously agreed that a £100 contribution to Green Gym is made to acknowledge the voluntary work that is carried out for the maintenance of the website.

05.12.18 County Councillors' Reports

CC Dr. Dennis advised that there has been a very good response to the Bus User Survey and he hopes that this will mean that some routes are retained.

CC Mrs. Millson said that in WSCC budget cuts there has been the proposal to reduce the Fire Rescue Service Grant by £600,000 although (reason not known) this paper was withdrawn from discussion at the last meeting. She believes that the service reduction might include the FireBreak scheme aimed at young people that, in the past, has been extremely well received and Safer Driving. If these cut backs do materialise, she is hoping that “safer driving” will be something that is picked up by insurance companies – although no company has come forward as yet.

A flooding issue in Brighton Road in vicinity of Hornbrook Copse has been rectified and tarmac repairs carried out.

There is likely to be further road disruption as BT carry out their gigabit program for high speed broadband.

06.12.18 Planning

Mr. Travers referred to an amended planning application for The Queen's Head, Brighton Road, altering the business category and re-configuring the ground floor into two apartments. This new application also includes a small bungalow in one corner that will have minimal natural light.

This Council will object to this amendment on the grounds that it is over development of the site and there is insufficient parking space. It is noted that whilst the plan appears to show sufficient parking spaces, in reality one parking space will be impossible to manoeuvre.

Antix 13-15 Queen Street – this planning application shows that the building is to be pulled down and the front of the new building will be exactly the same as at present – therefore fitting into the street scene with the Dutch gables. Providing that the façade of the new building is identical to what is there at present, this Council will not object.

Mr. Travers commented on the increasing numbers of applications for large extensions, especially in Smithbarn and Queensway. Whilst this might change the original street scene, these properties do have larger than average back gardens.

Planning apps – NovDec 2018

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| 18/2452 | 35 Smithbarn | Demolition existing single storey detached garage, erect two storey side/rear, single storey front extn. | OBJECT. Too big an increase. Coming forward of the building line; building up to side boundary with No. 33, so over-bearing and reducing light. |
| 18/2470 | 29 Queensway | Erect 2 storey side extn inc integral garage conversion, single storey rear extn, first floor extn over porch on the south elevation | No objection but shame garage lost and not replaced. |
| 18/2492 | 34 Oakhill Road | Erection of a single storey side extn. | N/O |
| 18/2473 | Stable Mews 94A Brighton Road | Variation, condition 1 of previously approved application DC/18/1475 (Reconstruction part-demolished store building to form new residential dwelling together with associated works) relating to the erection of a side extn. | N/O |
| 18/2504 | 18 Weald Close | Erection, part 1st floor front extn over existing and erection of a single storey front extn | N/O |

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| 18/2499 | 28 Comptons Lane | Demolition of existing garage and single storey rear extn and erection of a single storey side and rear extn. | N/O |
| 18/2507 | Unit 1A, Foundry Lane | Change of use from B1 offices to B8 storage, etc. | N/O |
| 18/2508 | Unit 1A Foundry Lane | Installation, non-illuminated fascia sign to front elevation | N/O |
| 18/2394 | 31 Depot Road | Single storey rear extn & convert loft into habitable space – 2 more bedrooms | N/O |
| 18/2566 | 5 Comptons Lane | Single storey rear extn | N/O |
| 18/2516 | 40 Oakhill Road | Loft conversion with rear dormer | N/O |
| 18/2591 | 20 Smithbarn | First floor side extn & replace conservatory with extn | N/O |
| 18/2513 | 24 Queensway | Full width GF extn & part width first floor extn | N/O |
| 18/2582 | The New House, Chesworth Lane | Single storey rear extn | N/O |
| 18/2583 | 3 Patchings | 2 storey front extn & single & first floor extns at rear | N/O |
| 18/2557 | 13-15 Queens Street | Demolish exstg bldg. rebuild with 1&2 storey extn to form 3 dwg units & 2 retail units | N/O |
| 18/2603 | 51 Smithbarn | First floor extension over exstg ground floor extn | N/O |

18/2490 – 11 Weald Close – erect single storey side extn

FNC objected to the proposal to erect a fence on this site (DC/17/1512) and feel that the erection of an extension all the way up to the fence line will be even worse. The fence and extension would be overly dominant and change the open character of the current street scene contrary to Policy 33 of the HDPF. Part of the approval for the fence allowed for a soft landscape border inside the fence line, but this current proposal leaves no room for such a border.

The Chairman declared an interest in this application and made no comment

18/2370 Queens Head, Brighton Road – Change of use, convert pub to 2 x 2 bed flats & erect 2 bed bungalow in yard outside

HFNC OBJECTS to this application on the grounds of over-development and over-intensification. We are quite happy with the pub being converted to two units, but this takes the total number of units in this scheme to eleven. The addition of a small bungalow in the back corner of this scheme is neither necessary nor desirable and provides inferior accommodation to no benefit. The land would be better used to provide additional parking units or even some outside amenity land for use by all the other units.

07.12.18 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Mr. Stanley did attend the last HALC Meeting and had anticipated that official Minutes would have been circulated. As this is not the case, he will prepare notes.

Mr. Sitton commented that at the last Old People's Forum, Mr. Jeremy Quin MP attended and intends to do so once each year.

Mrs. Sumpter will be attending the Blueprint Meeting and HDC Special Charge Meeting.

Mr. Milne attended the recent Cycling Forum Meeting to present his proposal for a cycleway and advised this was well received.

08.12.18 Correspondence

CLC Minutes - noted

TRO – Traffic Regulation Order for New Street – confirmation that the application has not been totally dismissed but will be discussed at the next round. FNC has written to Highways to reassert the fact that this is a request that has been made on behalf of residents and following a survey.

Friends of Horsham Park update - noted

Gatwick Airport Master Plan – continuing paperwork - noted

Neighbourhood Warden – advice that Alison Page has had an accident whilst on duty

Downs Link User Survey

NOVARTIS – additional comments have been submitted and the ambitious cycling project has been forwarded to HDC Barbara Childs who is discussing the proposal with WSCC

Railtrack Bridge 358 – maintenance work at the Iron Bridge is needed but it is proving very difficult to find out who to communicate with and the latest suggestion from Network Rail is Network Rail Community Relations

Trafalgar NC Minutes

Bridleway Entrance in Kerves Lane – there is correspondence regarding parking issues at this site

SHEELA Draft Report – Confidential paperwork

09.12.18 Any Other Business

HTCP – in answer to a question concerning this Partnership, work continues on the River Walk. HTCP is actively involved in mobility scooter training and these sessions are well attended.