

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18th MARCH 2019 SALVATION ARMY HALL, 7:30PM

Present: Messrs. P. Colombo, N. Friswell (Acting Chairman), G. Sitton,
G. Stanley, B. Travers

District Councillors: DC Mr. G. Newman

County Councillors CC Mr. A. Baldwin (left at 8.30 p.m.), CC Mrs. M. Millson and CC Dr.
N. Dennis (arrived at 8.15 p.m.)

Public: 4

Press: 0

Apologies: Mrs. D. Sumpter, Mr. J. Milne, Mr. R. Worley, DC Dr. D. Skipp

01.03.19 Public Forum

Speedwatch

CC Mr. Baldwin advised that CLC, through the Community Safety Partnership, has allocated £500 towards the purchase of the equipment, including the tablet. The Police are actively encouraging "Speedwatch" initiatives. The application was made through the FNC umbrella and CC Mr. Baldwin and FNC Treasurer will liaise regarding purchase and reimbursement including £250 from Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council. It is confirmed that FNC will also contribute £250. Following payment, the device should be received within 6 weeks.

Responsibility for the machine will be taken by current volunteer Co-ordinators including the arrangements for sharing the equipment with Trafalgar NC. In St. Leonard's Road, the equipment will continue to be sited on the bus stop instead of installing a new high metal post machine can be swivelled round to capture vehicles both ways. For various reasons, the new machine will continue to be operated by batteries but of a higher standard.

The Trafalgar NC representative who attended this Meeting was happy with all the arrangements and said that within his neighbourhood, there are volunteers who are trained and keen to become involved with SID.

CC Mr. Baldwin referred to a recent one week WSCC traffic survey that monitored speeds along St. Leonard's Road. This was carried out when SID was disabled and he was surprised the results indicated that, for the most part, speeds were in the 30 mph range. It was interesting to note that a number of car users highlighted the fact that SID was not working during that week.

Phase 1 Forest Boys School – Phase 1 Bus Improvements

A member of the public, who lives in the vicinity, attended this meeting to express his concern that the phase 1 improvement involves removing an attractive and established Oak tree. Countering the argument that the improvements will destroy the tree root system, the member of public believes the tree may not die and therefore should be retained. It is generally accepted that the removal of the tree to another site is not feasible.

At this stage, CC Mr. Baldwin reiterated the history and reasons for the need for bus improvements to improve road safety for the schoolchildren adding that if Phase 1 does not proceed, it jeopardises Phase 2 and 3 going ahead.

Mr. Friswell thanked the member of public for explaining his reasons for the objection and said that this would be discussed again later in the meeting.

The members of public left the meeting.

02.03.19 Minutes of Meeting held on 18th February 2019

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Sitton, seconded by Mr. Stanley and signed by the Acting Chairman, Mr. Friswell.

03.03.19 Matters Arising

Neighbourhood Wardens

Mr. Sitton advised that the Supervisor has now been appointed and should commence the role on 1st April. In answer to a question about who attends Joint Action Group Meetings, Mr. Sitton explained that the Neighbourhood Wardens are only invited when an item is relevant to their role.

Forest Neighbourhood Council is asked for agenda items and if there are issues, this will trigger an invitation to our Neighbourhood Wardens.

Referring to February Minutes, Mr. Friswell was surprised that Tesco Express did not follow up known theft issues at the St. Leonard's Road Store (this is probably due to cost issues).

02.01.19 Website and E Mail addresses

Mr. Colombo is in the process of setting up dedicated addresses and was thanked for his work on behalf of FNC Councillors. Long term this Council will need to find a solution if there is a subject access request and also will need to purchase a security certificate for the website. These are expenses that were never envisaged and it may be that HDC should be asked for specific additional funding.

Resolved to liaise with Denne NC who are also looking at these technical issues

03.02.19 County Councillor Report

The pothole iQueen Street has now been fixed.

Pedestrian Crossing in vicinity of Horsham Railway Station

It is agreed that the current position of the pedestrian crossing is wrong and that the natural route from the railway station exit is crossing opposite The Station Hotel.

Mr. Friswell commented that the pedestrian crossing just before Harwood Road roundabout is positioned close to the Station Road exit and could be used as an example for moving the pedestrian crossing closer to the railway station exit. CC Millson confirmed that the siting is a problem but there are other issues to be considered, including access to Nightingale Road and the Railway Station Forecourt.

Later in the Meeting, CC Dr. Dennis added that any suggestion to change Nightingale Road to a one way system would adversely affect traffic in Gladstone Road and therefore strongly resisted. He believes that Section 106 monies following Hurst Road developments will enable a radical re-think of the traffic system in the Railway Station vicinity.

07.02.19 Correspondence – Former Wealden BrickWorks

There is a strong opposition campaign to the applicant's appeal. Forest Neighbourhood Council did forward an objection letter to WSCC, the contents of which will be passed to the Government Inspectors. The fact that WSCC has now withdrawn five out of six of its original reasons for refusal is disconcerting, especially as the reason given is that the five objections could not be sufficiently argued at the Appeal. This Council is not submitting a further response as it cannot add any further information to its original objections. Later in the Meeting, CC Dr. Dennis said that County Local Committee has declined to put in an objection but that members could put in their individual comments.

Forest Boys Phase 1 Works

Following on from the presentation by the member of the public who argued the case for not removing the Oak Tree, the matter was again fully discussed. The overriding factor for this Council's decision is improving safety for the school children. It is acknowledged that there will be considerable opposition to the removal of this tree and FNC again wrote to WSCC asking for their assurance that every possible avenue has been explored to avoid this outcome. WSCC has responded stating that it has investigated all other options and has had extensive discussions with HDC and its own tree specialists before making the decision; the root protection area extends as far as 14m from the trunk and the tree roots would have to be cut in order to allow for the lay-by construction. With regard to leaving the Oak Tree in situ to see whether it "survived or died" was discussed but if the tree did die, this would be a hazard in its own right. The five replacement trees are expected to have the same carbon capture capacity as the doomed oak.

In due course, there is to be a wider consultation with the school community and residents immediately affected by the proposed improvement.

04.03.19 District and County Councillor Reports

CC Mrs. Millson said that County business is between "cycles" and there is no update on possible cuts to the fire and rescue services. Climate Change Emergency is to be discussed at the next meeting at which time there is likely to be another protest outside County Hall.

DC Mr. Newman explained that "there is not a lot happening at HDC" at this time although the important issue had been to approve the budget. DC Mr. Newman has attended a meeting relating to affordable housing and whilst he is pleased that a company is to be set up using an accumulated fund, he is disappointed that HDC is not adding some of its reserves to the project. FNC Mr. Friswell is disappointed that it will not be a public company as this could avoid any possible future Government Policy that would force local authorities to sell this stock.

DC Mr. Newman commented that there had been considerable social media activity following the receipt of council tax notices and this related to the special charge. Many residents did not understand why this amount was added and he suggested that an explanatory paragraph is added to a future newsletter.

05.03.19 Planning

19/0366	8 Devonshire Road	Demolition of existing storey extension and the construction of a new side a rear single storey extension with parapet wall. The application also include for a loft conversion and new L-shape dormer.	No objection
19/0345	61 Bennetts Road	Erection of a single storey rear extension.	N/O
19/0362 19/0363	8 Queen Street	Installation of a replacement shopfront. Erection of an internally illuminated fascia sign and internally illuminated projection sign replacing the existing	N/O
18/2663	8 Coolhurst Lane	Extension of a two storey side extension, erection of a summerhouse and gazebo	N/O
19/0355	50 Grebe Crescent	Erection of a part two storey side extension/part first floor side extension over existing, single storey rear extension, canopy to front and new fenestration and external finishes.	N/O
19/0402	11 Weald Close	Single storey side extension	See below
19/0379	Barrington House	Split existing dwelling and storage space into two dwellings	See below
19/0401	51 Gorings Mead	Erection of front, side and rear single storey extension	N/O
19/0364	40 - 44 Brighton Road, Horsham	Variation of conditions 7 & 10 on previously approved DC/15/1545 (Demolition of existing buildings and the construction of 14 residential units) Relating to development above slab level	N/O
19/0409	32 Bennetts Road	Removal of existing conservatory and erection of flat roof rear extension.	N/O

19/0379 Barrington House Plans are far from clear. It is not obvious if new Barrington House has a bathroom. It is assumed that new Barrington House also has passage through alley on Barrington Cottage for movement of bins, etc. Further clarification needed before we could support.

19/0402 11 Weald Close Plans for a boundary fence were submitted, 17/1512, but it appears that these plans may not have been implemented.

Plans were submitted under 18/2490, for a single storey extension, to which HFNC raised concerns, stating "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". There are several letters of support from adjacent neighbours, one against. Comments have been made that fence and soft landscaping will be implemented, which should be made a condition, if approved.

FNC Mr. Travers referred to a new house proposal in Kerves Lane. This replaces a bungalow with a 5 bedroom house although Mr. Travers explained that the bungalow sits between similar sized houses.

25 Queen Street – this is a new application asking for the removal of Condition 2. - presumably relating to licensing hours. This will be discussed at Committee level.

TPO Request Brambling Road – FNC has now received a detailed report from HDC Will Jones stating that the trees are in poor condition.

Appeal – DC/18/2394 31 Depot Road – the applicants have appealed against the refusal to allow extensions and alterations to the house

06.03.19 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £4,195.34, Deposit Account £1,282.88. The clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for February/March. The hall hire has been paid (NB there will be two hall hire payments in this financial year due to timing). Mr. Travers asked Councillors to submit expense claims before the end of this financial year. Zurich Insurance will be renewed when the renewal payment is known. A new telephone system has been purchased for the Clerk's use.

07.03.19 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Old People's Forum – Mr. Stanley attended this Meeting and there were interesting speakers. Minutes will be distributed when received. The Community Link Services Guide was distributed.

08.03.19 Chesworth Farm Management Plan

This is carried over to April Meeting.

09.03.19 Correspondence

Rights of Way – a resident has contacted FNC concerning the poor state of the footpath in vicinity of Sunoak Farm which he considers is waterlogged because of poor drainage. WSCC Rights of Way Officer, Becky Lawton, has logged this complaint, Issue Nos. 24448 and 24451.

Horsham Alert Bulletins

Neighbourhood Warden Steering Group Reports

Street Naming – FNC will again have input

Health and Wellbeing Update – 14th March Meeting

Winterton Court – the official opening is 1st May 2019

Riverside Walk – this is to be held on Saturday 6th July. This Council will contribute £180 towards the day with the proviso that this is not to be automatically considered an annual donation. (originally the figure of £100 was discussed and subsequently the figure of £180 was agreed).

Contra Flow Cycling – correspondence has suggested that some cyclists are disappointed that FNC has not wholeheartedly endorsed the Park Terrace East contra flow proposal. FNC has not objected in the same way as the proposal in Barrington Road. CC Dr. Dennis said that the Police have raised an objection.

North Street Subway – Mr. Sitton has circulated an e mail outlining the improvement plans

HDNC Minutes

CLC Committee Minutes

HALC Minutes – Mr. Stanley attends these meetings as our representative although Neighbourhood Councillors are not members

TWITTEN between Vincent Close and Orchard Road

DC Dr. Skipp asked Forest Neighbourhood Council to look at this Twitten and to see whether there is a case for this to be closed. The Twitten is alongside homes of older residents in Gerald Court who are becoming anxious about safety issues. Mr. Stanley has visited the path and can understand the issues being raised. CC Mrs. Millson said that basically it is used by schoolchildren even though it is not a shorter route. Whilst on principle, the closure of footpaths should never be taken lightly; this might be an exceptional case.

Resolved to respond to DC Dr. Skipp

FOOTPATH GHYLL CRESCENT/DICKENS WAY – this is part of the rights of way project and FNC will send its approval

HORSHAM IN BLOOM

FNC will contribute towards a planting providing it is positioned in the neighbourhood and preferably in Queen Street.

10.03.19 Any Other Business

Mr. Stanley referred to car parking issues on the corner of Fletchers Close and how it affects the sight lines when exiting the road. Mr. Stanley will again contact the Neighbourhood Wardens. One possible issue is that there are yellow lines on the corners of some roads but this is not always the case. This leads to car owners assuming that it is not illegal. There is also some confusion as to how much of an exit needs to be left clear.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.