

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20th MAY 2019 SALVATION ARMY HALL, 7:30PM

Present: P. Colombo, N. Friswell (Acting Chairman) J. Milne, G. Sitton,
B. Travers
District Councillors: DC Dr. D. Skipp, DC Mrs. R. Fletcher, DC Mrs. B. Waters
County Councillors CC Mr. A. Baldwin (left at 8.15 p.m.) Dr. N. Dennis (arrived at 8.15
p.m.)
Public: 0
Press: 0
Apologies Mrs. D. Sumpter, Mr. G. Stanley, CC Mrs. Millson, CC Mrs. F. Haigh

Following Forest Neighbourhood Council Election, Neighbourhood Councillors were validly nominated and elected without contest. Mr. Worley did not stand for re-election.

District Councillor Mr. Peter Burgess attended the first part of this meeting and introduced himself as the newly appointed Cabinet Member for Horsham Town. He will regularly attend meetings and is keen to work with all interested parties. At this stage he is seeing how the role evolves and will be liaising with all groups including HTCP and Horsham Vision. This Council is particularly interested in The Iron Bridge and Brighton Road shops. Mr. Burgess then left the Meeting.

01.05.19 Minutes of Meeting held on 15th April 2019

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Milne, seconded by Mr. Colombo. Mr. Friswell then chaired the Meeting.

02.05.19 Matters Arising

01.03.19 Public Forum SID

The new machine is on order and the community grant money has been transferred to FNC Bank Account. This Council will pay the Invoice and, in theory, it presumably then takes ownership? Maintenance will have to be discussed. The machine has been insured for the sum of £3,570 through Zurich Insurance. The machine is to be shared between Trafalgar NC and Forest NC. Denne NC did not wish to be involved but Wimblehurst Resident's Association (in Denne NC area) has now expressed an interest in borrowing this machine. There will need to be some clarity about how this will be managed.

It is now understood that Trafalgar has purchased the speed gun through its account and FNC is to contribute. Presumably this means that, by default, Trafalgar take ownership and responsibility for maintenance?

With regard to training and insurance, Mr. Sitton confirmed that all volunteers are trained by the Police and are covered by the Police Insurance for Safer Sussex Partnership.

Resolved to document all aspects of these purchases

01.03.19 Phase 1 Forest Boys School – bus improvements

The majority of responses to FNC Newsletter are objecting to the removal of the ancient Oak Tree. In addition DC Mrs. Waters said that Horsham Facebook Page has a growing number of people posting objections. The point was made that this does not necessarily reflect the general feeling as residents in favour of the bus

improvement, will not be contacting WSCC, HDC or FNC. NC Mr. Colombo advised that Forest Boys Governing Body, whilst regretting the removal of the tree, is in favour of the proposal.

Forest Neighbourhood Council has already written to WSCC to seek its assurance that every avenue had been explored before this decision was taken and a confirmation letter has been received.

CC Mr. Baldwin explained that Phase 1 funding is coming through Section 106 monies and that financial restraints mean that it is not possible to position this bus layby within the school grounds which was the original intention. In addition any change to school grounds involves legislation and a Central Government Order. In the current climate this is unlikely to be granted. Phase 2 is reliant on Phase 1 being completed and at this stage DC Mrs. Fletcher asked for reassurance that Phase 1 will not impact on the cycling facilities planned for Phase 2.

Forest Neighbourhood Council accepts that Phase 1 (as it stands) is not the optimum solution but is a compromise.

2.01.19 Website and E Mail addresses

Changes to e mail addresses are being made. Mr. Colombo explained that a decision has to be taken about purchasing a security certificate. He recommends that this is purchased.

Resolved to contact DC Mr. Burgess (Cabinet Member for Horsham Town) to ask whether HDC will fund this Certificate

09.03.19 Twitten between Vincent Close and Orchard Road

Older and disabled people whose homes and gardens directly front this Twitten still feel vulnerable and DC Dr. Skipp is continuing to negotiate with Saxon Weald for a stopping-up order. He also said the Twitten may not actually be shown on the definitive map.

Resolved NC Mr. Friswell will liaise with DC Dr. Skipp

03.04.19 District Councillors' Reports – changes to planning system

As has already been reported to Neighbourhood Councillors, there will be no change to the current planning system with the exception that District Councillors wishing to sit on the Planning Committee, must be trained. There was strong resistance to this proposal from most Parish Councils. Forest Neighbourhood Council submitted letters of objection to DC Mr. R. Dawe and CEO Mr. Chipp.

07.04.19 Correspondence

Bennetts Field Family Fun Day 15th June – it is confirmed that FNC will not take part.

Blueprint – NEW STREET GARDENS

A resident has contacted FNC to ask for assurance that New Street Gardens is included in Blueprint under "Open Spaces".

DC Dr. Skipp gave some background to this concern. In recent years there has been an HDC initiative to look at the future of Horsham Town. DC Dr. Skipp is involved with this Group as is CEO Glen Chipp. About 18 months ago a suggestion was put forward to build houses on the old Sun Alliance Car Park and to build an access road through New Street Gardens. At the time Dr. Skipp pointed out that any additional traffic on to New Street should be avoided and he also did not support the

idea for new housing on the site. Dr. Skipp said that the suggestion has never been discussed again and he does not think it will be considered again.

Resolved to ensure that Blueprint does include Open Spaces in its submission and New Street Gardens will be identified

Section 106 Monies

CC Dr. Dennis confirmed that the introduction of 20 mph speed limit in New Street is being carried forward for consideration in the 2019/2020 round and this Council need not take any further action.

Town Walkabout

HDC Mr. Greg Charman has not responded to the request to reinstate the town walkabout.

Resolved to contact DC Mr. Burgess

Newsletter

The delivery cost was far higher than previous years but this was due to the time schedule. Part of the newsletter delivery had to be "one offs". The response to this newsletter has been excellent. Residents are interested in SID, Phase 1 Forest Boys School and Bennetts Field.

Neighbourhood Councillors thanked everyone involved in the newspaper editorial.

03.05.19 County and District Councillors' Reports

DC Dr. Skipp explained that the Annual Council Meeting will take place on 22nd May after which Council "business" will resume.

DC's Mrs. Fletcher and Mrs. Waters introduced themselves as new District Councillors for Denne Ward. DC Mrs. Haigh is the third Councillor. Denne Ward covers a considerable part of Forest Neighbourhood, basically the south side of Brighton Road from Hornbrook Pub (but not Hilliers) down to the new Highwood development. Forest Neighbourhood stops at The Iron Bridge.

CC Mr. Baldwin is extremely concerned that WSCC Children's Social Care has received a very poor Ofsted Report and he is ashamed to admit that WSCC has failed to care for the most vulnerable children in this County. He understands that Government Commissioners will now be brought in to manage the service.

CC Mr. Baldwin personally hoped that a recent election process would result in change of leadership but Ms. Louise Goldsmith was re-appointed. Mr. Baldwin added that following the election, he has been de-selected from two committees and at this time, he feels very disillusioned.

CC Dr. Dennis said that he has been involved with plans for Century House involving long term and temporary access and impact on on-street parking. It might be that on a temporary basis, access will be through Salvation Army Car Park.

04.05.19 Planning

Mr. Travers submitted 17 applications: *see next page*
Planning applications – May 2019

19/0153	Land at Bennetts Road Horsham West Sussex RH13 5LA	Demolition of 6.no dwellings and erection of 18.no flats and 3.no houses with associated car parking and external works	Cannot see what has changed, remain very concerned for elderly residents nearby (Fletchers Close) who will be badly overlooked.
19/0945	23 Heron Way	Loft conversion, installation of rear dormer, raised ridge and front windows and erection of a ground floor rear extn	No objection
19/0913	5 Parsonage Road	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2.No s/d dwellings with associated parking and creation of new access onto Parsonage Road	N/O
19/0973	20 Gorings Mead	Removal of existing covered loggia and garage, erection of a single storey rear and side extension	N/O
19/0965	5 Sandeman Way	Erection detached car port and single storey side extension. Creation of new highway access onto Sandeman Way and additional hardstanding 5 Sandeman Way	N/O
19/0966	18a Moons Lane	Erection of a single storey rear extension	N/O
19/0993	25 Highlands Road	Erection of a boundary fence	N/O
19/0937	150 New Street	Creation of a dropped kerb	N/O
19/0496	104 Comptons Way	Erection of a part single, part two storey side, rear and front extensions	N/O
19/0896	LIDL	Installation of fascia signs and poster display unit	N/O
19/0503	73 Eversfield Road	Amendment	Cannot see what has changed
19/0791	6 St Leonards Park House	Replace Exstg windows	N/O
19/0820	22 Arthur Road	Single storey extn to rear	N/O
19/0977	142 Brighton Road	Erect single storey side extn & change window	N/O
19/1006	32 Kennedy Road	Single storey rear/side extn	N/O
19/0859	10 Arthur Road	Single storey rear extn	N/O
19/0940	Turnfield, Chesworth Close	Replace paving with decking at rear	N/O

Mr. Travers commented that the appeal for extending opening hours at The Kebab Shop, 25 Queen Street has been refused.

05.05.19 Treasurer's Report

Current Account is £11,481.74 and this includes the figure of £3,676 for SID purchase and the 2019/2020 HDC Grant. Reserve Account is £1,283.31. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid.

Mr. Travers again commented on the fact that the newsletter delivery cost had more than doubled. The Accounts for printing and delivery have been settled.

06.05.19 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies Neighbourhood Wardens

Mr. Sitton commented on the latest report that has not yet been circulated. The Neighbourhood Wardens continue to have a strong presence in our neighbourhood and are involved in a number of issues including dog fouling and trying to find a way to identify dog bins by trialling QR codes, parking issues in Tanbridge Court that has meant lorries have been unable to collect refuse, cycling in North Street Subway and fly tipping in Hampers Court.

The Neighbourhood Wardens have successfully made contact with The Strawford Centre and have advised that The Butterfly Project has been very well received, especially in the town over the Easter period.

07.05.19 Correspondence

Further newsletter responses – overgrown hedges

The question of overgrown hedges affecting pedestrians and sight lines has been raised again. Two Neighbourhood Councillors visited the area around Bethune Road and advised that whilst one particular hedge has been cut back, it is high and is impeding the sight line. It is not thought there is any legal recourse to get the height reduced.

Riverside Walk Programme – the draft programme is approved

West Sussex Adult Social Care Vision and Strategy Agenda – 6th June, 2.00 Crawley
Quarterly Meeting Notes

08.05.19 Any Other Business

Parks and Countryside News and Events

This brochure gives the first impression that barbecues are allowed and encouraged in all parks and countryside areas. This is particularly alarming to Friends of Chesworth Farm who are concerned about fire hazards.

Resolved to write to Horsham Parks and Leisure

The Iron Bridge

Again there is a build-up of "pigeon poo".

Resolved FNC will write to Network Rail

New Traffic System at Broadbridge Heath

Whilst not in Forest Neighbourhood area, the new traffic system is causing alarm and annoyance to residents. Five years ago, the new road layout which is effectively closing the BBH dual carriage route to A281, was "put out" for consultation and at that time there was very little objection. WSCC will not change the major works now and so there is little point in submitting an objection. The downgrading and reducing the width of the dual carriageway is likely to lead to further development in that vicinity. It is also understood that the new traffic layout has not yet been completed as a number of traffic lights are to be installed.

Robin Hood Lane – again, whilst not in our area, an NC Councillor pointed out that recent re-tarmac laying has had a very negative impact on the road surface plus rubble has been left along the carriageway.

Resolved CC Dr. Dennis will follow up this matter

Recent District Councillor Elections

This Neighbourhood Council congratulated all new District Councillors on their election results and it was pointed out that NC John Milne is now a District Councillor for Roffey South.

COMPTONS LANE/POLLARDS DRIVE

Mr. Sitton suggests there should be an Island at this part of the road due to the fact that a number of people are crossing here. Other Neighbourhood Councillors confirmed this statement and the comment was made that this part of Comptons Lane is wide enough to take the installation.

Resolved CC Dr. Dennis will raise this point

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.