

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19th AUGUST 2019 SALVATION ARMY HALL, 7:30PM

Present: Mr. N. Friswell (Acting Chairman), J. Milne, G. Sitton, G. Stanley and B. Travers
District Councillors: DC's Mrs. R. Fletcher, Mrs. F. Haigh, DC Mr. G. Newman and Dr. D. Skipp
County Councillors CC Mrs. M. Millson
Public: 2
Press: 0
Apologies Mrs. D. Sumpter, Mr. P. Colombo, Dr. N. Dennis. DC Mrs. B. Walters, CC Mr. A. Baldwin

CC Mr. Baldwin continues to be unwell and as there is an infection reoccurrence, is again in hospital. Everyone is disappointed at this latest situation and wishes CC Mr. Baldwin a quick recovery.

01.08.19 Minutes of Meeting held on 15th July 2019

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Sitton and seconded by Mr. Milne.

02.08.19 Matters Arising

01.03.19 Speed Gun

Denne Neighbourhood Council has confirmed that it will be participating in this project and is making the payment. *see AOB referring to future clothing requirements.

01.03.19 Phase 1 Forest Boys School – bus improvements

DC Mrs. Fletcher believes that whilst Phase 1 is on hold and very unlikely to be discussed until Autumn 2019, discussion is taking place about Phases 2 and 3. DC Mrs. Fletcher will be attending meetings and will inform this Neighbourhood Council of any outcome.

07.04.19 Town Walkabouts

Mr. Sitton represented this Council at the walkabout and confirmed he raised the listed points in Queen Street area. HDC has not yet issued Minutes.

It is understood that HDC Mr. Chalmers will be pursuing the health and safety matters at The Iron Bridge. DC Mrs. Fletcher confirmed her interest.

CC Mrs. Millson noted this Neighbourhood Council's concern about the poor standard of pavement repair at the top of Queensway and will now become involved.

09.06.19 Barbecues

Mr. Sitton understands that the HDC Community Safety Partnership will be arranging and paying for signs "no barbecues here" at Bennetts Field and Chesworth Farm.

10.06.19 New Street Green

This Council will support the installation of a noticeboard at this site.

Resolved to contact HDC

03.07.19 Twitten Vincent Close and Orchard Road

NC's Mr. Friswell and Mrs. Sumpter will visit the site in early September and will then recommend a decision.

04.07.19 Planning – Tesco ATM

Forest Neighbourhood Council has submitted its objections to the installation. Following the return of a questionnaire sent to local residents, DC Mrs. Fletcher was surprised at the level of objection to this proposal.

“HFNC objects to this proposal on the following grounds.

When the Planning Inspector dismissed the appeal for application DC/13/0705 he said that during opening hours parking and traffic using the ATM was unlikely to add sufficiently to cause harm. Since the inspector’s site visit, it should be noted that the car park is at best chaotic; often overflowing; causing traffic queues and is frequently inaccessible due to people’s parking behaviour. It is also dangerous for pedestrians as there is no clear access to the store’s entrance. It should also be noted that one person has lost their life on the road outside the store since it was opened, something we don’t want to happen again.

The addition of an ATM will draw in more cars with whistle-stop itineraries which will be parked as near to the ATM as possible, causing more problems for those trying to use the car park responsibly. It will also encourage users to park in St. Leonards Road a narrow thoroughway that has its own traffic issues.

HFNC also believes the disturbance to neighbouring residential properties is unacceptable. It is noted that the ATM will be inoperative between 11p.m. and 7 a.m. However, as the store’s lights are always on until well after 11.30 p.m., due to the store’s visible location on a main road into and out of Horsham, users will be attracted to the machine outside the store’s trading hours. This would cause additional noise, fumes and disturbance to the neighbours and cause local residents unacceptable harm.

HFNC have always maintained that if the ATM is only to be used during the store’s opening hours, then the ATM should be situated inside the store. Also as it is possible to cash cashback when spending as little as 10p. why is an ATM needed?

If the LPA is mindful to approve the application, HFNC asks the following conditions are attached;

- The hours of use must be restricted to store opening hours only;*
- The ATM’s must have a removable bezel cover installed over its fascia at all times the store is closed.*
- There must be clear signage to say the hours the ATM is operational.*
- The standard light over the ATM must be switched off after trading hours*
- The location of the proposed CCTV systems must be agreed by HDC’s planners*
- As there has been a substantial increase in traffic both vehicular and pedestrian since the opening of the store, a further traffic survey should be carried out before the ATM is installed*

04.07.19 Novartis

Mrs. Sumpter attended the Development Committee Meeting and was able to submit her report. However shortly afterwards the Meeting was curtailed. Mrs. B. Childs referred to the fact that “if permission is likely to be turned down when HDC could lose on legal grounds and a large sum of money involved, it must be discussed at full Council level”.

A date has not been set but everyone is entitled to return to submit their comments again. The main objections appear to relate to transport and traffic.

03.08.19 Public Forum

Mr. Friswell welcomed the two member of public both of whom had attended as observers. One member of public commented on the Lidl store and wondered whether any consideration had been given to the pollution aspect following the opening of this popular shop. Further discussions highlighted the increasing levels of traffic after the Novartis and North of Horsham sites are developed.

CC Mrs. Millson said that County does have pollution monitoring equipment and there is machinery at Cowfold and Storrington.

Resolved to bring this concern to the attention of DC Mr. Cornell and HDC Environmental Health

04.08.19 District Councillor's Reports

DC Mrs. Haigh referred to anti-social behaviour in Horsham Town specifically at the top of Carfax and at the Remembrance Gardens. Constructive efforts are being made to stop this but DC Mrs. Haigh cautioned that the groups of people could decide to congregate elsewhere (Bennetts Field?) and that everyone should be vigilant.

DC Mrs. Fletcher is very involved in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). HDC is now at stages 2, 3 And 4 that meaning that initial suggestions/ideas have been produced in house. Consultants, WSP UK Ltd. has now been appointed (using the Business Rates Grant). Neighbourhood Councils should be invited to the three stakeholder workshops. Mrs. Fletcher encouraged all Councillors to put forward ideas.

Resolved to ensure that, as a listed stakeholder, this Council is involved in workshops. The HDC Projects Engineer is Nigel Weston

DC Mr. Newman once again referred to the very poor state of the telephone kiosk in Brighton Road/Elm Grove. The history is that a request to remove this kiosk was blocked by a District Councillor. It is hoped that a future request will go ahead without objection.

05.08.19 County Councillor's Report

CC Mrs. Millson explained that this is a quiet period for WSCC. However, she has received a response to this Neighbourhood Council's concern at the very poor standard of work carried out under the grass cutting programme. Whilst WSCC is sorry to hear that this Council is dissatisfied, it cannot fault the work. This Council is extremely disappointed with this response and cannot agree that the haphazard and poor way that grass cutting was carried out should be considered acceptable.

*under AOB it was suggested that HDC take over the urban grass cutting programme. Mrs. Millson said that this idea should not be quickly dismissed as there are Counties who have handed over the contract to district councils although this has never happened in West Sussex. The issue would always be funding and the only way funding could be raised would be through the Special Charge.

Resolved this Council will pursue the idea

CC Mrs. Millson further stated that there is to be a change in the way weeds along the roadside are treated and these will no longer be routinely treated but will only be carried out in problem areas. Cc Mrs. Millson believes that this action is for a short term saving as long term, it will affect the side road surfaces.

CC Mrs. Millson explained that WSCC is increasing its expenditure to the Children's Services Plan and has added £5m to this year's budget and there will be a base budget of £7-8m in the future. WSCC Children's Services was rated inadequate in an inspection.

The same situation has occurred with the Fire and Rescue service that was rated inadequate and the comment was made that WSCC is the only Council to have been rated "inadequate" for its staff relationships.

Resolved CC Mrs. Millson will ask that this Neighbourhood Council can submit direct comments to WSCC Highways rather than through the public network or via a County Councillor

06.08.19 Planning

19/1374	32 Eversfield Road	Single storey rear extn	No Objection
19/1433	205 St Leonards Road	Part 2 storey part single storey extn	N/O
19/1444	33 Queen Street	Pack & Post illuminated signs	HFNC objects to the illumination of the fascia sign.
19/1300	10 Arthur Road	Convert front garden to parking space	N/O
19/0515	Denne View, Kerves Lane	Amendments to original	N/O
19/1006	32 Kennedy Road	Amendments to original	N/O
19/1459	1A Clarence Road	Increase to 6 flats from original plan	HFNC Object to this increase in number of units as it will create even more parking problems.
19/1469	Turnfield, Chesworth Close	Take up paving and replace with decking	N/O
19/1506	6 Pollards Drive	2 storey side extn & single storey side & rear	N/O
19/1474	10 Hernbrook Drive	Loft extn with glass Juliet balcony	N/O but see below
19/1528	53 Queensway	Part single part 2 storey side & rear extns	N/O

DC/19/1474 This comment was made following the fact that no neighbours had objected at that time. Following later neighbourhood concerns, FNC sent the following e mail:

“Following a site visit, this is Forest Neighbourhood Council's second response to this application, please mark our first one as superseded.

Horsham Forest Neighbourhood Council OBJECTS to this proposal as it is totally out of character with neighbouring properties, will be overly dominant and overbearing, and an intrusion of privacy by overlooking all neighbouring properties. The proposed balcony in particular will give a grandstand view of all surrounding properties and gardens, even as far as St Leonards Road”.

Mr. Travers commented on recent applications. He referred to 13b Station Road where the applicant is proposing to convert an outdoor garden building into a one bedroom apartment. This is a similar to a previous application and this Council objected on the grounds that it is an overdevelopment of a site.

Mr. Travers referred to an application for a fence to be erected alongside 25 Highlands Road that HDC has refused. This Council did not object at the time of the application as this new building does not have a defined boundary.

07.08.19 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £7,015.54, Reserve Account £1,283.96. The Clerk's Honorarium and expenses have been paid for the month of August.

08.08.19 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies.

Mr. Sitton referred to the Warden Steering Group Reports that have been circulated.

09.08.18 Correspondence received late July/August 2019

Bethune Road – following an Enforcement Notice 3007660, the hedge has been satisfactorily cut back

New Street – an enforcement notice for a hedge 3008156 has been issued (it is understood this work has now been carried out)

Station Road – hedge has been cut back

Friends of Horsham Park Newsletter

Piries Place Car Parking Charges – Mr. Milne was at a meeting when these charges were discussed and explained the thoughts behind the way in which charges were set.

- The car park has been closed for a long period of time and so previous usage cannot be compared, especially evening charges
- The agreement is on a 6 month trial

A Councillor concern is that the Piries Place car parking charges do not mirror those at Swan Walk car park, particularly the evening charges.

Resolved to discuss the charges again after the 6 month trial period

HORSHAM IN BLOOM – two excellent displays at Standings Court were highlighted.

Resolved Mr. Travers will ascertain the name and address of the person who is maintaining these perennial beds and it is agreed that, together with the Neighbourhood Cup, there will also be a £20 gift voucher

WSCC Town and Council News

TRO Comptons Lane – pot holes to be filled in on 9th September

HD CIVIC SERVICE – Mr. Sitton will represent this Council on 6th October.

Horsham Weekly Bulletins

Passenger Benefit Fund – we submitted our comments by completing online questionnaire and sent a copy to Lynda Spain, HDC Economic Development Officer

- Additional platform seating
- Wider access at the entrance/exit into Station Road (to enable travellers with buggies etc. to use this route)
- Onward journey information including buses, taxis, walking routes
- Water refill points

Riverside Walk – 320 people joined the walk this year.

DESIGNATED FOOTPATHS

It is understood that stretches of the Riverside Walk footpaths are not designated (on the County Council's Definitive Map) and Mr. Friswell explained that he has been asked to set in motion the procedure for these to come "under the umbrella".

Following a Government directive, all twittens/footpaths that are not formally designated by 2026 could be closed off by the landowners if they are not on the Definitive Map. Mr. Friswell is undertaking the task to ensure this does not happen but in order to progress, he needs to have written evidence from members of the public stating that the footpaths are regularly used.

Resolved this Neighbourhood Council will assist with advertising the requirement, especially in Riverside Walk vicinity

10.08.19 Any Other Business

Mr. Sitton highlighted a County Times article relating to the future operation of the Horsham District Community Lottery Fund. Residents involved with SID and Speedwatch initiative have asked whether the Fund is a means of purchasing further equipment for those involved (high viz. jackets).

After discussion it was generally felt that as HDC Community Safety Partnership had contributed towards the purchase of the speed gun, it is unlikely the Lottery Fund would consider the application.

No-one objected to residents independently applying for lottery money.

Urban Grass Cutting – see under County Councillor's Report

The Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.