

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
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**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21st OCTOBER 2019 SALVATION ARMY HALL,
7:30PM**

Present: Mrs. D. Sumpter, P. Colombo, N. Friswell, J. Milne, G. Sitton,
G. Stanley and B. Travers
District Councillors: DC's Mrs. F. Haigh and Mr. G. Newman
County Councillors 2 CC Mr. A. Baldwin and Mrs. M. Millson
Public: 1
Press: 0
Apologies CC's Dr. N. Dennis and DC Dr. D. Skipp

01.10.19 Minutes of Meeting held on 16th September 2019

03.07/19 Vincent Close Twitten - gate was removed as it blocked the "Highway". Houses are built on brown field sites (not brown fill). The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Friswell and seconded by Mr. Sitton. Mrs. Sumpter signed the Minutes.

02.10.19 Matters Arising

Paragraph 1 – Speedwatch

Denne NC is not currently contributing to the project but is to be asked to contribute one third of outstanding amount for the purchase of the speed gun and this is approximately £20.

Resolved FNC will pay its contribution towards the shortfall

Mrs. Sumpter advised that a document is being drafted to set out the protocol for using the speed gun. There could be confidentiality issues if a diary system is posted on a dedicated website. At this time Mr. Sitton is recording system users and is acting as one of the two liaison officers. The speed gun is returned to him after each session. Two sites are currently identified and these are Wimblehurst Road and St. Leonard's Road. There are sufficient high visibility jackets although NC's may have to purchase further stock in the future.

It is agreed that if and when further sites are approved; a newsletter be distributed and will include an item asking for speedwatch volunteers.

01.09.19 Public Forum

Mrs. Sumpter advised that she has now visited the residents who are concerned about a planning application and that FNC has submitted an objection. DC Mr. Newman has also visited the residents.

03.09.19 Town Walkabouts

Under this heading, Councillors discussed the Highway Steward's negative response to what this Council considers is a very poor standard of pavement repair in Queen Street. Mr. Travers added that the pavement close to Jubilee Court is easily flooding.

CC Mrs. Millson said that she recently visited the area and was also appalled at the state of the pavement and will be referring the matter to Highways.

FNC Mr. Travers is disappointed that "The Plume of Feathers" frontage has been spoilt as this is a visual reminder of the historical fact that this public house was at that site.

Resolved to refer the pavement situation to DC Mr. P. Burgess and to ask that this is added to a Town Walkabout Agenda.

04.09.19 New Street Green - noticeboard

It is agreed that this Council will apply for Section 106 monies for a noticeboard.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will liaise with HDC

03.07.19 Twitten Vincent Close and Orchard Road

FNC is not objecting to the “stopping-up” application as it is agreed that this twitten is not a shorter pedestrian route and serves no real purpose. For information, WSCC only recently asked Saxon Weald to remove the gate as the twitten is a “Highway”.

Resolved to ask CC Dr. Skipp if this Council needs to take any further action

04.07.19 Tesco ATM in St. Leonard’s Road

This application was submitted in May but, disturbingly, there is no indication as to when Planning will decide the outcome. FNC objects to this application.

04.07.19 Novartis

Outline planning permission has been given despite strong objections and these included Highways issues. The comment was made that because this will be a mixed office and residential site and will take some years to develop, the impact of additional traffic will be gradual. DC Mrs. Haigh believes there are still opportunities for design amendments.

05.08.19 Urban Grass Cutting

HDC CEO Mr. Glen Chipp responded to FNC letter dismissing the idea that HDC paid for a weed killing programme. However, he did state that HDC has also written to WSCC asking for the contract to be re-visited.

With regard to Neighbourhood Councils not having a dedicated “line” to contact WSCC Highways, CC Mrs. Millson is raising this matter with the WSCC Cabinet Member for Communities. In the meantime she accepts that FNC will contact her with any issues and she will then raise these through CC’s dedicated line.

The comment was made that “Love West Sussex” website is not a satisfactory way in which to report Highways issues as it would appear that once an issue is logged and acknowledged, it is automatically deleted without knowing any complaint outcome.

Resolved to await CC Mrs Millson’s comments

09.08.19 Horsham in Bloom

Mrs. Sumpter attended the award ceremony. The FNC recipients of the Cup were delighted to receive the award. Horsham in Bloom Committee also highlighted the area around Standings Court.

03.09.19 District Councillors’ Reports

Forest Neighbourhood Council is also disappointed at the proposed design for Page Court and agrees it is uninspiring. The comment was made that the design does not incorporate solar panels and that solar panel installation is not being promoted to the same degree by Central Government. One plausible reason is that the materials used to make solar panels have environmental issues. District Councillors confirmed that Saxon Weald will ensure that Page Court is built to a high standard.

The LCWIP (cycling) meeting has been postponed to 31st October. Mr. Milne and Mr. Sitton will attend.

07.09.19 SECTION 106 MONIES – RIVERSIDE WALK IMPROVEMENTS

Horsham District Council has asked FNC to formally support Horsham Town Community Partnership's application for £10,000 to improve the Riverside Walk in the vicinity of Grebe Crescent.

Currently there are five known ideas for Section 106 projects:

Riverside Walk	£10,000 (it is informally thought that this might cost £12,000)
Chesworth Farm	
Adult PE equipment in Bennetts Field	
CCTV for Bennetts Field	
New Street Green Noticeboard	£1,000

The exact figures are not known for these proposals and also there is uncertainty about how much money is available. There is also confusion as to whether CIL money can be used.

Relating to Bennetts Field, Mrs. Sumpter advised that the Scout Group and Allotment Society are fitting CCTV around their sites and work is to commence on 4th January 2020.. Owing to the increased reported anti-social behaviour in Bennetts Field, a number of parties are keen to install full coverage CCTV.

Resolved to contact HDC stating that this Council is not objecting to the HTCP application but would like to have full details as to whether sufficient money is available for all projects.

Resolved to write to DC Mr. Peter Burgess to ask him to explore whether there are other financial avenues to fund CCTV in Bennetts Field

03.10.19 Public Forum

The member of public attended as an observer.

04.10.19 District Councillors' Reports

DC Mrs. Haigh referred to digital signage that has been installed in rural areas and, exceptionally, at The Forum Car Park. This has been an EU initiative to support rural districts but hopefully there will be funding for further signage in urban areas. DC Mrs. Haigh suggested that digital signage could be a platform to raise Neighbourhood Council profiles.

District Councillors, including DC Mr. Newman, have toured the district looking at potential sites for 1,000 homes or more. He stated that the district's population will be increased by 40% within 15 years and immediately Councillors were concerned about the lack of infrastructure. Likely proposals are on Horsham/Crawley border and a new town in Henfield referred to as Mayfield.

DC Mr. Newman and FNC Mr. Milne (who attended the tour in his DC capacity) explained that Central Government is enforcing the numbers on this area and one of the reasons is that places such as Brighton and London have no further development land capacity. The specific problem in this area is that the majority of the green space land is not covered by any laws barring it from development and are also privately owned. Another issue is that developers have purchased plots of land for development but have chosen not to start building work. This pre-agreed housing stock is not allowed to be taken into account as part of the current figure allocation.

District Councillors explained that HDC is finding it extremely difficult to challenge any figures.

05.10.19 County Councillors' Reports

CC Mrs. Millson has reported a number of areas that flooded during the recent heavy rainfall.

There are staffing changes at WSCC including a new Leader of Council and new Cabinet.

Mrs. Millson is a Director of "For the Youth" and in this role is attending a meeting at Forest Boys School and meeting the Chairman of Governors to discuss toilet upgrading in the youth building. WSCC has transferred ownership to the school.

BUS LAYBY AT FOREST BOYS

CC Mr. Andrew Baldwin updated FNC on the bus layby proposals. He understood the reason why FNC objected to the original application which was the removal of the Oak.

Options are now to be discussed on 4th November with input from DfE

- Layby that means the tree has to be removed
- 2-bus layby that limits the success of the proposal but will retain the tree
- Using school grounds (*this had been dismissed in the past as out of the question but there does appear to be some avenues for discussion now*)

CC Mr. Baldwin is liaising with WSCC Ian Patrick and will be meeting with MP Mr. Jeremy Quin, Forest Boys Headteacher and Chairman of Governors. The overriding issue is financial. Mr. Baldwin commented that the Premises Officer's House is no longer needed for its original purpose and will probably be sold. This money could be added to the "pot" although he believes that Forest Boys School would like to take ownership of the building for use as a base for children with social issues.

CC Mr. Baldwin will continue to keep this Council informed of developments.

06.10.19 Planning

Mr. Travers commented on recent planning matters:

1a Clarence Road – increase in apartment numbers was approved

Station Studio, Station Road – this application was refused

Gardener's Cottage, Hammerpond Road – the appeal for a detached outbuilding was dismissed

35 Oakhill Road – it is noted that HDC Planning has now rejected both the pre and retrospective planning applications for this single storey extension.

The following comments on recent applications have been submitted to HDC Planning:

DC/19/1603 – Page Court redevelopment

FNC note from the application that it says it consulted with this Council. This did not happen. FNC was disappointed that it was not invited to attend the public exhibition attended by residents and district councillors, despite asking to be kept informed of developments.

With regard to the development of the site FNC has no objection to this and is pleased that the development will be solely social housing as there is a need for this. However in relation to this specific application, FNC objects to what is proposed on the following grounds;-

- *The proposed 4 storeys are out of keeping with the surrounding area; there are no other buildings of a similar height nearby. FNC do not agree that a 4 storey should be added "to turn the corners".*
- *The appearance of the building is very box like and is out of keeping with the surrounding properties particularly the Victorian dwellings.*
- *The applicant implies that the site is level but this is not the case and this will have an impact on the street scene. Please can the elevations be amended to show the correct levels?*

- *There is insufficient parking on site. FNC understands that the allocation falls short of West Sussex County Council's parking demand calculator and asks that sufficient parking is available. If not then any excess parking will be on street where there are already high demands.*
- *There is no provision for visitors' car parking.*
- *The balconies facing the street will overlook the Livingstone property which is detrimental to the occupants.*
- *There is no water saving measures including PV panels.*
- *There does not appear to be provision to harvest rainwater to support WC flushing.*
- *It is unclear from the application whether the existing trees are to remain on site.*
- *It is stated that the refuse collection will be kerbside. With this number of dwellings, this will make the number of bins placed on the pavements considerable and cause obstruction and be problematic for pedestrians.*

If the application is approved FNC ask that there are steps in place to ensure that only residents park on site. There is a large demand for commuter parking and it is tempting for commuters to park for free; thus displacing residents who will need to park on site.

19/0277	Horsham Rugby Club, Hammerpond Road	Approval of details reserved by conditions 6, 7, 8 and 9 on DC/17/0560	No Objection
19/1841	23 Heron Way	Retrospective application for the removal of an overgrown boundary hedge to be replaced with a rail fence with gates followed by planting of a new hedge.	N/O
19/1945	35 Brambling Road	Reserved matters application, part demolition of existing garage, erection of a two storey detached dwelling with associated works and access onto Brambling Road following approval of outline application DC/19/0046. Relating to layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping	N/O
19/1965	31 Depot Road	Retrospective application for the conversion of loft into habitable living space with the installation of a rear dormer	N/O
19/1963	6 Stirling Way	Erection of a first floor side extension over existing garage, mono pitched roof over remaining garage and single storey rear extension	N/O
19/1979	44 Oakhill Road	Proposed loft conversion and extension	N/O
19/1968	41 Heron Way	Erection of a single storey rear extension, changes to the side bay detail and installation of a roof window to the front elevation.	N/O
19/2000	57 Oakhill Road	Demolition of existing garage. Erection of a single storey side and rear extension.	N/O

07.10.19 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £6,185.00, Reserve Account £1,284.39. The Clerk's Honorarium and expenses have been paid. Petty Cash has been reimbursed and HIB vouchers purchased.

08.10.19 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Mr. Sitton attended the Friends of Horsham Park AGM. The important point is that this group is applying to list Horsham Park as a community asset. It is hoped that the Park remains a Park for perpetuity. Blueprint has been asked to support this application. The Friends will receive £800 from Horsham Lottery but will need other income streams to cover costs. HDC is to spend £395,000 on the BMX/Skate Park and £78,000 on the play area.

Mr. Friswell asked that Friends of Horsham Park is formally congratulated for the way in which it has evolved and its impact. This was agreed.

Blueprint – the first draft of Neighbourhood Plan has been received.

09.10.19 Correspondence

Planning – From 1st November, HDC will no longer provide hard copies of planning applications.

TNC Minutes/HDC Minutes/WSCC Newsletter/HDC Bulletin Alerts

HALC Minutes. The next meeting is on 14th November and is a joint HALC/HDC Meeting.

North Horsham Local Committee 4th November

Horsham Incinerator Appeal is to be heard on 29th October at Horsham Cricket Club

Review of Polling Districts (HDC Lesley Morgan) this is an opportunity to put forward any issues and/or suggestions for alternative venues.

Iron Bridge – Mr. Sitton has been able to make contact with John Eccles, Community Relations Executive.

Steining Community Neighbourhood Plan - to comply with the rule 14, FNC has been sent a copy. This has been acknowledged.

HDC BREXIT preparation – HDC Notes

Lateral Drain outside Queens Head – CC Mr. Dennis is dealing with this matter.

Brambling Road Twitten/Bridleway – Jonathan Perks' correspondence regarding Bridleway ownership has been circulated. WSCC do not own the land. Mr. Sitton will discuss the overhanging tree branches with the resident. It is understood that the tree is in very poor condition but has a TPO.

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – approved by HDC on 26th September.

10.10.19 Any Other Business

Queen Street – the wooden seat has been removed (in vicinity of Pizza House)

Resolved to ask for this to be replaced.

The comment was made that whilst Horsham Antix Shop is now boarded up, building work has not commenced.

The Meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.