

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB
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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16th December 2019
SALVATION ARMY HALL, 7:30PM

Present: Mrs. D. Sumpter (chair), Messrs. N. Friswell, J. Milne, G. Sitton, G. Stanley and B. Travers
District Councillors: 2 DC Dr. D. Skipp DC Mrs. R. Fletcher
County Councillors 1 CC Mr. A. Baldwin
Public: 0
Press: 0
Apologies CC Mrs M. Millson, Dr. N. Dennis, DC Mr. G. Newman,
Mrs. F. Haigh, Mrs. B. Walters, DC Mr. P. Burgess

Mr. J. Olson has recently shown an interest in Forest Neighbourhood Council and at this meeting he introduced himself following which he was invited to become a co-opted member. After acceptance, Mrs. Sumpter explained how this Council operated, including the fact that whilst it is not a statutory council, its aim is to highlight neighbourhood concerns. HDC will be advised of this appointment.

Mrs. Sumpter referred to the recent HDC/Unparished Council Meeting when Neighbourhood Councillor Vacancies were discussed. Mr. Adam Chalmers, Director of Community Services, implied that he was not averse to an article in the next free HDC Magazine. Mr. Olson suggested that this Council extends its social media standing and this includes developing a Facebook page.

Resolved to discuss this at January Meeting. The address list will be updated and circulated internally.

01.12.19 Minutes of Meeting held on 18th November 2019

These were proposed by Mr. Friswell, seconded by Mr. Sitton and signed by the Chairman.

02.12.19 Matters Arising

02.11.19 Neighbourhood Council Vacancies - Newsletter

Following on from the first paragraph, Mrs. Sumpter referred to the Neighbourhood Plan that she is hoping to refer to in the next newsletter. The Neighbourhood Plan (Blueprint) draft is having further amendments and will then be re-presented to Steering Group on 7th January.

02.11.19 Novartis

It is extremely unlikely that the "bridge" proposal will be an option within the context of this development although it was pointed out that funds raised through Section 106 will be considerable.

There is an allocated funding stream looking at traffic flow and DC Mrs. Fletcher said that this could be "the next best thing" as it will look at ways in which to reduce motor vehicle traffic. She gave an example that one-way streets (Wimblehurst Road?) could be introduced to encourage motorists to use the bypass. It is understood that Ms. Clair Vickers, HDC Cabinet Member for Planning and Development, is currently preparing a model local transport plan. It is also understood that the LCWIP draft plan will set out proposed priority routes.

Resolved FNC will continue to prepare a letter to WSCC CEO about the long term advantages of having a bridge and a letter to Ms Claire Vickers asking that FNC has input into the Model Local Transport Plan.

03.11.19 Speedwatch

Mr. Sitton has now been involved with 11 sessions. There is no change to the current sites, 1 in Forest, 1 in Denne and 5 in Trafalgar neighbourhood..

03.11.19 Tesco ATM

There is no further information.

07.09.19 Section 106 Monies

Mrs. Sumpter has now received the paperwork that will enable FNC to apply for the noticeboard in New Street Green.

05.11.19 District Councillor's Report – Paige Court

HDC Planning Committee passed the Saxon Weald application at its December Meeting. DC Dr. Skipp was disappointed that the Planning Committee accepted the design in its entirety although he is hoping there may be a change to the design of the skyline. There is one stipulation which is future Paige Court residents will not be able to apply for on-road parking permits. There will be 58 parking spaces for 48 apartments.

Separately FNC Councillors again referred to its concerns about “permitted developments” (conversions of buildings into apartments without the need to apply for planning approval). Central Government introduced this option as a way to increase housing stock but this Neighbourhood Council believes that many of the permitted development schemes provides accommodation that is not fit for purpose and is also allowing development in predominantly industrial areas..

Resolved to raise the concerns with MP Mr. Jeremy Quin

10.11.19 Neighbourhood Wardens

A Supervisor has been appointed to commence on 14th January.. Mr. Darren Worsfold will take up the position following his retirement from Sussex Police after 30 years' service. In the meantime, current Warden Reports have been circulated.

9.11.19 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Mrs. Sumpter referred to her tour of Queen Street and Brighton Road and was disappointed that there has been no solution or outcome to the issues that she raised with DC Mr. Burgess. Lack of funding is given as the reason why works cannot be carried on the road and pavement surfaces. Reference was made to the public realm improvement initiative, details of which should have been presented by the appointed Consultants. Neighbourhood Councillors urged that there should be some joined-up thinking and the comment was also made that following changes to the upper management level at WSCC, new strategies could be introduced..

Regrettably DC Mr. Burgess has not been able to report any progress on The Iron Bridge issues and has not been able to make any contact with a Network Rail representative.

Resolved to write to MP Jeremy Quin to alert him to issues in Queen Street and Brighton Road including the issues with The Iron Bridge

09.11.19 4 the Youth

Meetings are now being arranged for the New Year.

11.11.19 Any Other Business – Community Asset

DC Mrs. Haigh has advised that any application has to be made by a Community Group.

Resolved to ask Friends of Horsham Park how to start this process for the Chesworth Farm Volunteer Centre

03.12.19 Public Forum

There were no members of public present.

04.12.19 County Councillor's Report

CC Mr. Baldwin referred to his recent correspondence relating to flooding at Horsham Gates. There is an issue here that needs to be addressed and he is hoping that changes to WSCC upper management will be positive when looking at this level of problem. Under this new WSCC management structure, CC Mr. Baldwin has been re-invited to join the Children and Young People Select Committee where he hopes he can make an impact.

It is now common knowledge that WSCC has had a "damning report" about how it ran its children's services to the extent that this service may be forced to become a Trust. However, the East Sussex CEO has temporarily been appointed to run both Councils and this may avoid this scenario.

The Forest School – The Meeting scheduled for 4th November is now re-scheduled for beginning of January at which time the following will be discussed as the way to improve the bus parking facilities:

- Using part of the school grounds
- Removing an Oak Tree to provide a lay by

The issue will be money. Using part of the school grounds would have to be funded from the "education purse" whereas there is Section 106 money for Option 2 despite its unpopularity.

05.12.19 District Councillors' Reports

DC Mrs. Fletcher referred to a recent meeting where the medium term financial strategy for next 2 years was discussed. There is a lot of uncertainty although relative to other Councils in England, Horsham District Council is financially in a good position and it also has reserves. However, the forecast is that income will not balance outcome and therefore there is likely to be increases in the garden waste scheme (£2 per household), 2% Council Tax increase and parking charges increase.

Mrs. Fletcher commented that currently Council Tax rises are capped to 2% by Central Government and it is not anticipated that this will change.

Conference on County Lines and Knife Crime

DC Mrs. Fletcher painted a disturbing picture about what is happening in West Sussex. The Conference leaders explained that some of the London gangs are extending their territories and moving into the Home Counties.. No-one must be complacent and there are no safe areas. Anything that is vaguely suspicious should be reported immediately and it should be noted that there has already been a conviction in this district. The way in which gangs infiltrate is that young adults befriend young children (as young as 10 years) and although these children are often vulnerable, this should not be taken as always the case. After a period the young child is asked to do a favour as a form of returning the friendship and he/she then becomes an unwitting "drug mule".

DC Dr. Skipp referred to a partnership with the Sussex Wildlife Trust that was approved at a recent Council Meeting. The sum of £571,000 has been set aside and there is also seed funding of £40,000 p.a. for groups who put forward ideas for carbon reduction, climate change etc. DC Mrs. Fletcher commented that one idea being considered is the formation of a Citizen's Assembly.

Resolved FNC will ask HDC Jonathan Chowen, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture to include this Council in any initiative such as a Citizen's Assembly

06.12.19 Planning

FNC Mr. Travers referred to the recent Holbrook (North of Horsham) Presentation. There may be issues that affect Neighbourhood residents, e.g.

- No reference was made to an historical report that said the current Water Treatment Works may not be able to manage the increased housing numbers
- No reference to a bridge across the by pass
- No reference to community facilities close to the future Bohunt School

Resolved Mr. Friswell and Mr. Milne will scrutinise the proposal and provide future feedback

Planning Applications Dec 2019

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|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 19/1742 | Hornbrook House, Hornbrook Farm | Erection of a two storey rear extension – amendment | No Objection |
| 19/2342 | 137 New Street Horsham | Removal of 2x windows to gd floor rear, removal of 1x single door to ground floor side elevation. Erection of 2nd floor extension and installation of two rear dormers etc. | N/O |
| 19/2032 | Salvation Army Hall | Erection of a single storey external store to be used as a food bank | N/O |
| 19/2421 | 3 Macleod Road | Demolition of existing outbuildings and replacement with a single storey side/rear extension | N/O |
| 19/2431 | 29 The Hornets | Partial conversion of garage into habitable living space. Erection of a single storey side extension and first floor extension over existing garage. Creation of habitable living space within the roof and the installation of 2x roof lights to the West elevation. | N/O |
| 19/2285 | 44 Heron Way | First floor side extension | N/O |

DC/19/2484 1 Sandeman Way, single and two storey rear extension/1st floor extension/convert garage to living area/erect detached garage to the front. – A site visit is to be made before this Neighbourhood Council submits its comments.

07.12.18 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £5,298.94, Reserve Account £1,284.81. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for December. £100 donation to Green Gym and a contribution towards the Clerk's computer repair have been paid.

With reference to next year's budget, it is understood that there will be a 2% percentage rise although Mr. Travers pointed out that this may not be a sufficient sum if this Council choses to increase the number of newsletters each year.

08.12.19 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Blueprint – the AGM was well supported and as previously stated, the draft report is slightly behind schedule.

Unparished Area Meeting – Mrs. Sumpter attended this meeting and the draft notes will be circulated. Details of the 2020/2021 Special Charge were distributed and any comment has to be made before the end of December 2019.

HALC – Mrs. Sumpter and Mr. Stanley attended the Extraordinary Meeting that looked at the proposed housing developments. Both Councillors agreed that it was a good Presentation although there are likely to be many issues and objections when what is proposed for adoption is made known on 23rd January 2020.

09.12.19 Any Other Business

Mr. Sitton advised that when there is rain, there is always flooding in Brighton Road, close to Hornbrook Inn and he is concerned that the water depth is a danger to drivers. There is a very long standing history of flooding in this area.

Resolved to refer the matter to CC Mrs. Millson suggesting that there needs to be some form of gully on the side of the road

Mr. Sitton asked whether the Chairmen at the unparished meeting discussed "joining-up" or whether there was any suggestion to consider the formation of a Town Council. Mrs. Sumpter confirmed this was not discussed although she did say that encouraging residents to become Neighbourhood Councillors is difficult in all parts of the town and that some Councillors are intending to retire.

Christmas lighting – the feedback about this year's Christmas lighting and the lighting display at Bills, (Old Town Hall) is all positive.

Resolved to write a letter of thanks to HDC Mr. J. Chowen.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m. -