

**HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL**  
**Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB**  
**Tel: 01403 269265 E-Mail: [fnchorsham@sky.com](mailto:fnchorsham@sky.com)**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020 7:30PM**  
**(VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING HOSTED BY CLERK)**

**Present:** Messrs. J. Milne, J. Olson, G. Sitton, G. Stanley and B. Travers  
Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chairman)

**District Councillors:** 0

**County Councillors** 1 CC Mr. A. Baldwin (left 8.30 p.m.)

**Public:** 1 Mr. M. Grubb (by invitation as a prospective Councillor)

**Press:** 0

**Apologies** Ms. R. Fletcher, F. Haigh, DC Mr. G. Newman, CC Dr. N. Dennis and  
Mrs. M. Milson (due to technical issues),  
Mr. N. Friswell (joined the meeting for a short period but was unable to  
continue due to technical issues)

Mrs. Sumpter opened this Meeting by inviting Mr. Grubb to become a co-opted Neighbourhood Councillor. He confirmed his continuing interest and the paperwork will now be passed to Horsham District Council.

**01.06.20 Minutes of Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The Minutes were approved by Mr. Stanley and seconded by Mr. B. Travers.

**02.06.20 Matters Arising**

Referring to legality of virtual Neighbourhood Council Meetings, HDC Legal Department is not able to confirm these are approved under The Coronavirus Bill receiving Royal Assent on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020. It had been suggested that contact is made with Ms. B. Bell, Horsham Association of Local Councils (HALC) for advice.

**09.01.20 Highways**

Neighbourhood Councillors are disappointed with the standard of work carried out by Contractors when filling potholes in St. Leonard's Road. CC Mr. Baldwin visited the site and has discussed the matter with Highways who had confirmed that the pothole filling had been carried out to the required standard in the contract specification.

Mr. Stanley said that he has visited all local roads and that St. Leonard's Road surface is in the worst condition both for pedestrians and cyclists. Neighbourhood Councillors described the recent work as "appalling and shoddy".

CC Mr. Baldwin referred to the recent WSCC Announcement from WSCC John Hammond stating that it has received £9.8m Government funding to repair potholes and/or resurface roads.

**Resolved CC Mr. Baldwin will continue to discuss repairing/resurfacing St. Leonard's Road as a priority with WSCC Highways, using part of £9.8m funds.**

**04.03.20 The Local Plan**

The importance of continuing to submit objections and/or comments to HDC was stressed even though the closing date for submissions has now passed. This is particularly relevant to residents who have strong opinions about loss of green lungs within Horsham Town. There is now a Petition organised by Keep Rookwood Green Alliance and The Ecology Report has been circulated. Forest Neighbourhood Council is fully supportive of the local initiatives but must remain neutral. The Open Spaces Survey has been uploaded on the Facebook page.

HDC Planning Mrs. Carol Algar has asked all Neighbourhood Councils to “feedback” on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan Update and Settlement Sustainability Review by 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 (e mail circulated on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020).

#### **06.03.20 Facebook**

Mr. Olson (as Communication Officer) will liaise with Mr. Jessop who is managing the website. A Protocol will be set in place and it is agreed that FNC will encourage user engagement with social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter). Mr. Olson said that the Facebook Page now has 58 followers and 48 likes. Discussion took place regarding an updated logo. A school competition may be arranged to produce a logo that represents this neighbourhood and at the same time, Mr. Olson will ascertain costs for a professional commission.

#### **Noticeboards**

Both Noticeboards (New Street and at entrance to North Street Subway) are in extremely poor condition. Mr. Olson will look to see if these can be refurbished as the alternative will mean asking HDC and Saxon Weald permission to install new boards.

**It is agreed that all costs will be met from FNC Account.**

Mrs. Sumpter will arrange for future notices to be added to Bennetts Field Noticeboard. The proposed New Street Green Noticeboard is another option.

The comment was made that the noticeboards are not evenly spread around the Forest neighbourhood and Councillors are asked to look for other possible sites.

#### **03.05.20 Forest Boys School**

It is now public knowledge that Forest Boys School Governors are proposing to allow girls to join Y7 from 2021. The initial Consultation ends on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and, at this stage, FNC has no comment.

CC Mr. Baldwin agreed to ensure that FNC is a consultee at future stages.

#### **03.05.20 Pop Up Cycle Routes**

Mr. Milne confirmed that WSCC is submitting a plan for a pop-up cycle route between Bishopric and John Lewis roundabout. The route will use one lane of the dual carriageway. Mr. Milne explained that whilst this is not a major addition to cycle routes, it is important to be successful at Stage 1 as this will lead to Stage 2 central funding.

Mr. Milne continued by stating that the LCWIP commissioned report is due to be released and this will show potential plans for cycle routes in Horsham Town. He added that this area has one of the lowest cycle provision rates in this country and that during the pandemic crisis, there has been a notable upturn in residents using bicycles. This should be encouraged to continue and increase. CC Mr. Baldwin commented that following the proposed Phase 1 improvements at Forest Boys (lay by), the next proposal is a cycle route between Forest Boys and Millais but there are no firm details at this time.

**Resolved to invite HDC DC Mr. Peter Burgess to join the July Meeting to update this Council on all cycling issues.**

#### **03.05.20 Highways work in Blackhorse Way**

Following on from the concern that no-one was aware that these works were to be carried out, it has now been ascertained that this was HDC led and involved some

form of work to a local building. The work has now been completed and the temporary traffic lights have been removed.

#### **04.05.20 Blueprint**

The Meeting took place on 19<sup>th</sup> May and was attended by Mrs. Sumpter on behalf of this Council. She confirmed that the application for re-designation has been submitted and the Neighbourhood Plan is with HDC. Once it has been approved, it will be passed to the Inspector. The Neighbourhood Plan should have an impact on future developments and will also allow this Neighbourhood to have a higher percentage of CIL payments.

#### **03.06.20 District Councillor's Report**

Cc Mr. Baldwin again confirmed that there is extra central money for Highways works. He added that the pandemic has had a major financial effect on WSCC and that to date, Central Government has only reimbursed one half of the costs.

#### **04.06.20 Planning**

20/0903	174 New Street	Single storey side + rear extn.	No Objection
20/0904	174 New Street	Roof extn. amend	N/O
20/0979	17 Chesworth Cresc.	Single storey rear + loft extn.	N/O, but bold + out of line with others.
20/0981	Kerves Ridge, Kerves Lane	Dem. garage, single storey side + rear extn., new garage	N/O
20/0975	45 Patchings	2 storey rear extn.	N/O
20/1036	13 Coolhurst Lane	Single storey side + rear extn.	N/O

Councillors discussed HDC Planning Committee Meetings. FNC is invited to attend when an application in this neighbourhood is to be discussed. FNC comments will have previously been circulated to Committee members. It is agreed that a protocol will be laid out for letting residents know through Facebook when there are Committee Meetings relevant to this area. Through HDC Planning Portal, residents can always access all FNC planning responses.

#### **05.06.20 Treasurer's Report**

Current Account £8,051.86; Reserve Account £1,286.10. The clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for June. Money is available for Noticeboard work and an annual subscription has been taken out for Zoom at a cost of £86.33.

It is agreed that the balance of hall hire that has been paid to Salvation Army should be donated towards funds for Horsham Salvation Army Foodbank.

Mr. Travers has personally visited Nat. West Bank and a member of staff confirmed that online paperwork was received and was approved. Nat. West Horsham is now contacting the Department to expedite the application.

#### **06.06.20 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

The Unparished Meeting Notes have been circulated.

Mr. Stanley commented that the Saxon Weald building site at Elm Grove has now been cordoned off and work should shortly commence. He is surprised that the building timeline is 70 weeks.

## **07.06.20 Correspondence**

Iron Bridge – Clive Burley (HDC) has confirmed to Trudie Mitchell that Network Rail intends to make some improvements to this Bridge.

QE11 – Andrew Baldwin has ascertained that the proposed extension is only at the feasibility stage. He has asked WSCC to include FNC in the planning round.

Land North Side of Bartholomew Way – whilst not in our area, we have been alerted to this green space being developed.

Friends of Horsham Park – weekly sheets are being received with interesting facts about trees in Horsham Park.

Ayshe Court Lakes – a resident has approached FNC to say the water level is exceptionally low. Sussex Wildlife and Environment Agency have been contacted.

Operation Watershed – money from the 2019/2020 round has now been allocated. There are no projects in this district.

HDC Nick Jenkins oversees HDC response to the corona virus.

WSCC Sue Furlong is the contact for corona virus issues at WSCC and there have been numerous press releases. Residents have been asked to complete a questionnaire about how they have been affected by the pandemic. Also, residents have been asked to write down their thoughts for a memory box.

WSCC Council Meetings will officially continue to take place virtually until July 2020.

WSCC Fire and Rescue Scrutiny Meeting.

Katrina Plum (virtual WSCC contact) has sent updates about registration services, refuse collections and school opening arrangements.

Neighbourhood Warden Report – at the beginning of this virus, Lucy and Alison were mostly deployed to help the extremely vulnerable. As the pandemic is decreasing, they are returning to normal duties.

Local Transport Plan – this is looking at A24 corridor (Worthing to Horsham) and possible upgrading.

Legal and General Strategic Land and major projects – this is an update saying that Legal and Geeral is concentrating its efforts on building the Bohunt School.

Salt Audit

WSCC Community Flood Prevention initiatives – there is £87,000 available

Warnham Road Pedestrian Refuge

Small EU fund for High Street regeneration

## **08.06.20 Any Other Business**

**Keep Rookwood Green Alliance** – this was again discussed, and Mr. Milne referred to recent Open Spaces Surveys. Travel restrictions during this pandemic has had the “knock on” effect of people using and appreciating local areas. It has also highlighted the importance of maintaining logs on natural habitats and recording where wild flowers are growing.

**Travellers** – it is noted that a group of travellers have now settled in The Needles and may also be accessing Horsham Park. Mr. Stanley is concerned that there are still access points to Bennetts Field, especially near the path area.

**Resolved to bring this to contact HDC**

**New Street Speed Application** – Mr. Olson referred to a time schedule for Highways applications. His main interest is to put forward a proposal for a pedestrian crossing in Depot Road, in the Ayshe Court vicinity. Many parents walking their children to Kingslea School find it difficult to safely cross this road. The comment was made that there used to be a School Lollipop Lady in this road.

**Resolved to bring this issue to County Councillor attention and also to explore alternative financial avenues for such work to be carried out.**

**The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.**