

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB
Tel: 01403 269265 E-Mail: fncorsham@sky.com

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21st May 2018 SALVATION ARMY HALL, 7:30PM

Present: Mrs D Sumpter (Chairman) Messrs N. Friswell, M. Hough, G. Sitton, G Stanley, B. Travers and R. Worley

District Councillor: DC Dr. D. Skipp and Mr. G. Newman

County Councillors: CCs Mr. A. Baldwin, Dr. N. Dennis (arrived at 8.20 p.m.)

Public: 2

Press: 0

Apologies:

01.05.18 Minutes of Meeting held on 16th April 2018

After two minor amendments the Minutes were proposed by Mr. Sitton, seconded by Mr. Hough and signed by Mrs. Sumpter, Chairman.

02.05.18 Matters Arising

09.12.17 Brighton Road repairs

There is great dismay at the way in which the potholes in Brighton Road have been “repaired” and far from gradually improving after initial temporary work, it is worsening. The comment was made that the developers of Smugglers Walk should accept some responsibility – they have actually repaired the footpath.

Dr. Skipp said that he was very concerned about a pothole in the middle of Brighton Road; it is a health hazard particularly if a cyclists swerves to avoid the area.

Resolved to urgently refer this to CC Mrs. Millson

Refuse Collection

The new system of collection is now in place but as the lorries are longer in length, there are many roads where the drivers have to reverse. An example is refuse collection in South Grove where the lorry has to reverse into Kennedy Road and minor roads where reversing is taking place directly on to Brighton Road.

There is also concern that with the two collections – recycling and garden – on the same day, the paths are becoming blocked and are not accessible by pedestrians – particularly parents with pushchairs. This is exacerbated when house owners are not always able to return their bins to their properties until the end of the day.

These comments will be passed to HDC Department. It will be suggested that access by refuse lorries should be part of the planning process for all new developments.

Resolved to write to HDC

03.05.18 Public Forum

Two members of public attended this meeting to discuss road safety issues in St. Leonard’s Road. They explained that this has become an issue for residents, especially those with children who have to cross this road en route to school. Following an excellent and supportive response to a letter drop, there is now a strong working party. A Facebook page has been set up and the online petition now has 230 signatures. Everyone agrees that cars drive too quickly along St. Leonard’s Road. The official figures show that in the last five years there have been 7 accidents in St. Leonard’s Road, two of which have been serious although the working party believe that it is an unspoken factor that because none of the accidents resulted in a fatality, the situation is not given the priority that it deserves.

Mrs. Sumpter explained the purpose of neighbourhood councils and said that for many years this Council has been raising safety issues in the area but without success.

CC Mr. Andrew Baldwin is liaising with this working party and is already in contact with WSCC Highways. One of the two meetings was on site and he explained the following:

- The ideal solution would be a pelican crossing but in reality this is too costly – between £50,000-£100,000.
- A mini island refuge could be feasible and together with the Highways Engineer, he has measured the road in various sections. A refuge needs a road width of 8 metres there seems to be only one area that is feasible. (*it was pointed out that the refuge in Brighton Road in the vicinity of New Street is unlikely to be 8 metres*). He also said that the Cycle Forum could object although it was pointed out that the side white lines on this road were not painted as cyclist routes but an attempt to slow down traffic
- A speed reduction to 20 mph
- The appointment of a second “Lollipop Lady” although there is already one vacancy and this is proving very difficult to fill

It is now realised that Heron Way Primary School does have a travel plan and this existence will add to the “points system” that WSCC will use before seriously considering any request. The Head teacher will be asked to update the Plan so that it reflects the current pupil numbers and their routes to school.

(At this point, concern was again raised about the way in which parents park cars in and around Heron Way to drop their children at school.. It is understood that parents are now being encouraged to park in roads further away from the entrance and this is raising its own issues).

DC Godfrey Newman agreed to be part of a “SID” initiative that will monitor the speed of cars on this road over periods of time. In addition it is suggested that there should be “light indicators” that light when the speed limit is being exceeded – an example outside Kingslea School. (another example is in Guildford Road, before Tanbridge House School).

Resolved this Council will fully support any initiative to improve pedestrian safety.

The members of the public then left the meeting.

04.05.18 District Councillors and County Councillors’ Reports

DC Mr. Newman said that the Annual Meeting will take place w/c 28th May.

YOUTH PROVISION

DC Mr. Newman (who is now a Neighbourhood Councillor at Denne NC) attended this meeting as the NC representative.

Mr. Hough represents FNC on youth provision matters and always enthusiastically carries out this role. He is concerned at the poor turnout for the last meeting and commented that Horsham Matters now has a new general manager.

His main concern is that there is not a District Councillor who is a “champion for youth provision” and he is anxious that the future is uncertain. He is always impressed by the way in which the youth team deliver the service.. Originally the team had a 3 year contract (paid from Special Fund) but this now seems to be a rolling annual contract.

The comment was made that it was a retrograde move when youth centres ceased.

CC Mr. Baldwin said that he had no knowledge about this youth provision service and would like to become involved.

DC Mr. Newman said that whilst he attended the last meeting as a Neighbourhood Councillor, he will be happy to attend future meetings in a District Councillor role.

Planning matters – DC Mr. Newman referred to a number of local planning matters, mostly in Comptons Lane all of which are being monitored by this Planning Committee.

With regard to the proposal for Glen Arun Home, he felt that the proposals will see even more traffic turning into and out of Athelstan Way and this is already increasing as drivers use the road for parking during working hours and to walk into town.

DC Mr. Newman commented about issues in Brighton Road. He sympathised with residents about the length of time being taken to “develop” 124 Brighton Road.

DC Dr. Skipp said that the Elm Grove bus shelter is now in place. (after many years of pressure, this will be extremely well received by local residents and thank you to all involved with this installation).

There is now a fence at the bottom of Depot Road and further fencing is scheduled for the Ayshe Court Lakes area that will be carried out after the bird nesting season. There will be work, on health and safety grounds, to Kingslea Lake. Children no longer use this lake for pond dipping studies as unfortunately the platform was deemed dangerous and in any event the position of the Lake in proximity to Harwood Road is also a concern.

Dr. Skipp was again thanked for his achievements at Ayshe Court Lakes which is greatly appreciated – after many years!

The stretch of path between Fletchers Close and Elm Grove is overgrown and a request has been sent – although it is unsure where responsibility lies. The red telephone box has been vandalised but has now been made good; BT is supposed to carry out scheduled checks.

TOWN VISION – DC Dr. Skipp referred to this Vision that now has 10 themes, one of which is definitely Queen Street area. There is to be further consultation to which Horsham Society and NC’s will be invited.

CC Mr. Baldwin is delighted that £1.34m is being spent on the Forest School site and work should start at the end of this Summer Term.

County Highways has an issue with the new contract that has been awarded to Ringway. Balfour Beatty is questioning the way in which tenders were submitted and subsequently awarded although WSCC is confident that all the correct procedures took place.

Whilst this dispute/process is being discussed, there is the possibility that there will have to be a contingency plan for this Winter.

CC Dr. Dennis advised that St. John Ambulance is now intending to repair the roof of its premises – rather than find alternative accommodation – as this would appear to be the most cost effective way forward.

Dr. Dennis will be attending the Cycle Route (contra flow) Meeting on 26th June and Mr. Sitton will represent this Council. The issue with Barrington Road is the area that is of most relevance to this neighbourhood.

At this stage NC Mr. Hough referred to cycling in West Street; this is a complicated issue as there may be a flaw in the regulations. There is correspondence with Denne NC.

05.05.18 New Street Questionnaire

Firstly thank you to NC Mr. Stanley and Mr. Sitton for distributing the questionnaires and this is really appreciated.

Mrs. Sumpter said that there has been a very good response with 47 written replies and 53 online responses.

This Council is aware of privacy laws and will not use the names and addresses without written consent.

The overriding approval is given to a 20 mph speed limit and the next stage will be to complete the Community Highways form. This will need to be delivered before the end of June 2018.

In general terms the other questions were answered by stating that “problems could create problems elsewhere”.

Mrs. Sumpter is preparing a spreadsheet which will be circulated.

Resolved to complete the form to pursue the introduction of 20 mph speed limit in New Street

06.05.18 Data Protection Act

In many respects this Neighbourhood Council is formed in a similar way to voluntary groups and it may not therefore be necessary to prepare a Policy or appoint a Data Protection Officer.

In the meantime the Clerk confirmed that she is removing any personal e mail addresses from the contact list and understands that she can only refer to the specific topic in e mail correspondence. If a member of public e mails this Council, the Clerk will ask permission to forward this e mail to a relevant member of the District and County Councils.

Resolved to ask HDC Ms. Beverley Bell for further guidance

07.05.18 Planning

Mrs. Sumpter declared an interest in the Glen Arun Nursing Home planning application.

Mr. Travers highlighted an application at 13b Station Road and this is to erect a one bedroom bungalow in place of an existing storage building. There will be no road access to this bungalow and it is agreed that this Council will object.

Following referral to the Planning Compliance Officer, the fence erected at the front of a house in Brighton Road, was removed.

18/0892	5 Ghyll Crescent	New dormer & side window	No objection
18/0794	Glen Arun 9 Athelstan Way	Demolition of existing single storey accommodation and erection of two storey southern addition	Separate comments below.
18/0818	30 Gorings Mead	Erection of first floor rear extn and alterations to fenestration on North and East elevations	N/O

18/0724	Unit 2 55A Park Terrace East	Change of use from B1 (light industrial - manufacture of signs) to D1 (non residential institution - health clinic).	N/O
18/0758	31 Highlands Road	Erection of single store extension	N/O
18/0770	25 Depot Road	Replace existing conservatory with rear extension	N/O
18/0897	27 Pollards Drive	Front 2 storey & 1 st floor side extension & loft conversion	Big, bold expansion, N/O
18/0627	Station studios, 13b Station Road	Demolish exstg storage bldg. & erect new 1-bed bungalow	Separate comments below.

18/0794 Glen Arun - Demolition of existing single storey accommodation and erection of two storey southern addition.

This is not a clear-cut decision. As neighbours have said, there may be further impact on their environment and lifestyle. Certainly there is a continuing need for further accommodation for elderly people, although it should be remembered that in this case, the residents are largely bed-bound. Careful attention seems to be being paid to the area, trees, outlook etc. Parking and traffic issues remain however, and due regard should be made, perhaps including double lines if not already in place.

18/0627 13B Station Road – HFNC objects to this proposal on the grounds of overdevelopment and over intensification of a very small site. The substantive property – number 15 – has already been split into two properties, with separate front doors. These properties must be very small as the original properties are only small terraced cottages to begin with. This proposal would remove any outdoor space entirely and create a very cramped arrangement. We also object with regard to the lack of parking provision. This development, creating a third unit out of one, is putting increasing pressure on the on-street parking in an area of the Parking Zone that is oversubscribed already.

08.05.18 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £2,008.24, Reserve £1,281.55. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for May and also the cost of producing the New Street Questionnaire. Mr. Travers has not received this year's grant and is in contact with HDC.

08.05.18 Reports from representatives on outside bodies TOWN WARDENS

Mr. Sitton has been attending these meetings as this Neighbourhood Council representative. This Council is keen to ensure that Town Wardens cover the entire neighbourhood.

It is important to note that Town Wardens are not replacing PCSO's in any way.

Mr. Sitton advised that the interview date is 11th June. Town Wardens will be working alternate weekends and will be using electric bicycles to facilitate travel around the entire neighbourhood. Initially there was the idea that any funds not used in this financial year (due to the timing of the appointment) would be re-allocated to The Drill Hall. However, it is unlikely that this will happen as the excess money will probably be used to buy uniform and equipment.

In the notes that Mr. Sitton had been passed following the last meeting, it refers to the sale of The Drill Hall but it is thought that this is incorrect word usage.

CYCLING FORUM

Mr. Sitton is attending meetings. He is concerned that if no decisions are taken, the money that is allocated to this district will be re-allocated to Crawley Town.

CHESWORTH FARM

Mrs. Sumpter attended the Annual Meeting and said that there will be no change to the way in which this Committee is operating. She did hope that when the Town Wardens are appointed, they will be able to monitor the car park to the Farm entrance.

FRIENDS OF BENNETTS FIELD

Signatories were changed at this meeting. Mrs. Sumpter commented on the poor condition of the playground in Bennetts Field and this will be followed up.

Friends of Bennetts Field are intending to apply for Section 106 monies to install adult exercise equipment. This NC will support this application.

09.05.18 Any Other Business

Temporary Closures – Mrs. Sumpter suggested that there is insufficient warning. However, it is difficult to analyse closures because of emergency issues.

Greenways Nursing Home – the two entrances have now been marked out and there is an Open Day on Saturday 26th May.

There are to be illuminated signs that has been approved by HDC.

Resolved to ascertain what procedure was taken for this approval and also the conditions for when these signs can be illuminated

Remembrance Garden – whilst not in this Council's area, Mr. Friswell said that work has been delayed due to inclement weather but is now proceeding. The old paddling pool has been cleared of waste matter which has been recycled.

The HDC Civic Service is on 17th June.

Year of Culture – this NC has not been asked to attend the next planned meeting but this is perhaps due to the fact that no application has been submitted; it is believed that there is a very high number of projects for consideration and very strong interest in the Year.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.