

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB
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**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18th FEBRUARY 2019 SALVATION ARMY HALL,
7:30PM**

Present: Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chairman), Messrs. P. Colombo, N. Friswell, J. Milne,
G. Sifton and R.Worley
District Councillors: DC Dr. D. Skipp
County Councillors CC Mr. A. Baldwin, CC Mrs. M. Millson and CC Dr. N. Dennis (arrived
at 8.30 p.m.)
Public: 0
Press: 0
Apologies: Messrs. B. Travers and G. Stanley

Neighbourhood Wardens, Alison Page and Lucy Hallett attended the meeting to give an update. They hope to come to our meeting once a year. Currently they are involved with the Winter Maintenance Plan that involves working with vulnerable and reduced mobility people and are compiling lists. They are keen for residents to contact them if they have any concerns about their neighbours and are actively promoting a district initiative, "Check on Your Neighbour".

Statistics of recent activity within the unparished area of Horsham are:

- 176 cyclist issues
- 82 drivers involving discussions about safer driving and parking
- 32 parking alerts and 2 yellow warnings
- 72 logged instances of drug abuse that have been passed to the Police and this includes 15 intelligence reports

Particular Case Studies in Forest Neighbourhood:

Community drop-in – making contact with a "hoarder" and engaging with this person to look at a way forward; the resident finally agreed to a fire risk assessment and an urgent boiler repair

Bennetts Field – social behaviour issues and identifying the need to clear and reduce shrubbery that had become a "hidden meeting point". Bennetts Field is regularly patrolled and letters about anti-social behaviour are being sent. Alison and Lucy are keen to encourage reporting of any incidences (DC Dr. Skipp later commented that there is stealing issues at Tesco Express where users are taking and re-selling items to fund their habit. Tesco Express is not really in a position to do anything about this problem)

Specific areas in this neighbourhood where residents have reported drug activity is being monitored by Police, Saxon Weald and HDC Community Safety Team.

Case Studies in Unparished area:

Trafalgar – drug dealing in the vicinity of Victory Road. The area has been identified as a "hot spot" and since carrying out regular patrols, there has been a reduction in drug use.

Denne – ensuring that homeless people are aware of the help that is on hand and alerting Street Link. Alison and Lucy are working towards a good relationship with the street community and have also interacted with the Salvation Army

DRUG AWARENESS WEEK – this campaign involves street briefing and Collyers students have produced a film to run alongside the initiative

BUSKING – Alison and Lucy are conscious of the need to find a right balance between this street entertainment and incursion into shop life. They have the option to issue protective orders

BUTTERFLY PROJECT – this community project is aimed at people with learning difficulties who welcome extra support. Those shops that have had training will now display a “Butterfly Sticker”. At times when Horsham Town has special events, a stall will be erected to give extra support and people have the option to wear special lanyards stating they may need additional help

There are now 10 Neighbourhood Wardens across the District and HDC is currently interviewing for a Supervisor.

Forest Neighbourhood Councillors thanked Alison and Lucy for attending the meeting and congratulated them on their professionalism and enthusiasm which is really appreciated.

01.02.19 Minutes of Meeting held on 21st January 2019

The Minutes were approved by Mr. Friswell, seconded by Mr. Milne and signed by the Chairman.

02.02.19 Matters Arising

Public Forum

SID is currently disconnected as Highways has affixed strips along the road to obtain average speed data. Interestingly, members of the public have contacted authorities to say that SID is not operating.

FNC Councillors again discussed applying for a grant through HDC Community Highways to purchase a speed gun and CC Mr. Baldwin confirmed that insurance is not an issue as the speed gun comes under Police insurance. Mrs. Sumpter continues to be concerned about ownership. Before a decision is made, it is agreed that a second person should be trained as a Coordinator. Already a number of people are trained to operate the speed gun.

02.01.19 Website

The Clerk will purchase a caller ID telephone system rather than a dedicated FNC mobile number. Mrs. Sumpter and Mr. Colombo will liaise regarding e mail addresses.

06.11.18 Section 106 monies

Mrs. Sumpter is waiting to hear from HDC Anna Chapman to continue discussions about a Section 106 application to install CCTV at Bennetts Field. It is believed that S106 has been made available for Adult Exercise equipment there. Mrs. Sumpter confirmed that FNC is consulted on all Section 106 applications in this neighbourhood.

03.01.19 New Street Noticeboard

DC Dr Skipp is taking this further and the question was raised as to whether there will be any Section 106 money due if the Page Court proposal goes ahead.

06.01.19 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Carfax Noticeboard

It is agreed that this Noticeboard will be controlled by Denne NC and FNC will ask for a general notice to be added.

Resolved to forward the Notice and also to add this information to all other Noticeboards in the neighbourhood

Fatality in Brighton Road

There is no further information.

Newsletter

Denne NC is intending to take a "spread" in Horsham Pages. It is decided that FNC will not take up the option to have a half page. Mr. Milne and Mrs. Vinall will start to prepare a general Newsletter for circulation in early Spring.

Fletchers Close

CC Dr. Dennis has asked that Fletchers Close, as well as Arun Way, Elm Grove, Athelstan Way and Kennedy Road, be discussed in the next CPZ round. CC Mrs. Millson cautioned that Highways is intending to carry out a Road Space Audit and this is a lengthy process.

In the meantime our Neighbourhood Wardens confirmed that they regularly patrol the roads and are aware of the particular issues in Fletchers Close.

Bus 65

The last two evening buses will no longer receive subsidies although it is hoped the bus companies will see these times as financially viable.

03.02.19 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

CC Mrs. Millson confirmed that the budget has now been set. She commented that the Leader announced a central government transitional grant for homeless charities. Perhaps this will improve the funding situation for Horsham Matters?

At this stage there was a discussion about the future of youth coverage in Horsham as Horsham Matters is no longer able to support this project. Mr. Friswell will attend future meetings. CC Mrs. Millson explained that she is involved with "4 the Youth" and this is actively involved in youth matters in this neighbourhood. It is likely that both "4 the Youth" and "Sussex Clubs for Young People" will become the umbrella groups.

CC Mrs. Millson is disappointed that the funding for the Fire Break Course (mainly directed towards young people) is finishing but there is an initiative to crowd fund for future reinstatement.

There is a "pot" of additional money for repainting white lines and CC Mrs. Millson asked for suggestions in this neighbourhood. The white lines in Comptons Lane are due to be repainted. Additional central funding has been made available to immediately fill potholes but this Council agreed that the timing is not ideal and also this money should have been added to the main budget. Mrs. Sumpter referred to a large pothole that is again appearing in Queen Street and CC Mrs. Millson will refer this to Highways.

CC Dr. Dennis confirmed that contra flow cycling in Park Terrace East is at the consultation stage but Barrington Road scheme is "on hold" due to the number of objections

There will shortly be a road closure in the vicinity of Standings Court that will affect the subway access as a new access is being laid to the Winterton Court development. The comment was made that the Subway "Gorilla Garden" has recently been concreted and pebbled although it is not known who made this decision. In the past this was voluntarily maintained as an attractive shrubbery area.

CC Dr. Dennis referred to pedestrian crossing issues at Horsham Railway Station (bordering on this neighbourhood). It is not feasible to add another pedestrian crossing where logically it is needed due to the close proximity of the roundabout. It might be that the road layout could change following future Hurst Road developments.

DC Mr. Baldwin has recently had a very successful meeting with Headteacher and Chairman of Governors at Forest Boys School.

DC Dr. Skipp confirmed that the HDC budget has been approved.

04.02.19 Planning

18/2338	62 Grebe Crescent	Erect first floor side extn over garage	No objection This council responded to this in November 2018.
19/0128	31 Depot Road	Single storey rear extn/ loft conversion with roof lights front & rear	No objection NB. Applicant is appealing against refusal of a previous application for a larger loft conversion with huge dormer
19/0153	Land at Bennetts Road	Demolish six dwellings & erect 18 flats & 3 houses	No objection but consideration should be given to the road layout
19/0134	Unit 5, Horsham Trade Park	Continues use with external alterations	No objection
19/0167	Portreeve, Kentwyns Drive	Single storey rear & first floor side extns	No objection
19/0206	12 Highlands Road	Erection of a single storey side extension	No objection
19/0216	2 Chesworth Gardens	Erect porch/ single storey rear extn/ convert garage and loft into habitable space with dormers	No objection
19/0187	136 Brighton Road	Drop kerb across full width of property	No objection
19/0226	55 Kingslea	2 storey front extension	HFNC objects to this proposal as it is forward of the building line and will shade the next door neighbour's property
19/0145	22 Barrington Road	Replace single storey rear extn & install bay window & porch to front	No objection
19/0248	12 Danehurst Cresc	Reposition garage & erect 2 storey rear extn	No objection
19/0230	31 Brighton Road	Erect first floor extn to bungalow & porch canopy	No objection
18/2663	8 Coolhurst Lane	Two storey side extn & gazebo	No objection

05.02.19 Treasurer's Report

No report was submitted for this month.

06.02.19 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Quarterly HDC/NC Meeting Notes have been circulated. Ideas about the future of The Capitol Theatre were discussed and the official report should shortly be published.

The Chesworth Farm Management Plan has been circulated for consultation. Mr. Sitton suggested that a solar farm area is added and Mrs. Sumpter agreed to pass on this idea.

Mrs. Sumpter advised that Blueprint were interviewing consultants to move forward with the neighbourhood plan and it is looking positive. Blueprint will again be applying for funding from Locality.

07.02.19 Correspondence

Former Wealden Works – the applicants have now appealed directly to Central Government following WSCC refusal. Please note that WSCC has decided **not** to submit its reasons for refusal again excepting the environmental reasons. It is assumed that the development north of Horsham will fall between North Horsham and/or Rusper Parish Council.

Friends of Horsham Park – the newsletter outlines a number of initiatives.

New developments in our area – HDC has apologised for not including FNC in recent naming decisions. 70 Queen Street has been re-named “The Plume of Feathers”

Hedge opposite Station Road – despite assurances in November that this hedge would be cut back, this has not happened.

Denne Minutes

18b-20 Comptons Lane – the appeal was dismissed.

HALC Minutes

Crime JAG – we were asked if we had any issues for this HDC Committee. It should be that any issues are highlighted by the Neighbourhood Wardens

Hall hire dates – the December Meeting of FNC will be on the third Monday

Phone Box removal – bizarrely, a phone box in this area has been removed and CC Mrs. Millson commented that, whilst the removal was carried out efficiently, there was no indication as to who was carrying out the work. This Council has unsuccessfully contacted both WSCC and British Telecom for the removal of two boxes

Forest Boys Phase 1 Works – Councillors raised concern about the removal of the Oak Tree – in general terms, there is no objection to the scheme.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.