

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15th APRIL 2019 SALVATION ARMY HALL, 7:30PM

Present: Mrs D. Sumpter, N. Friswell J. Milne, G. Sitton, G. Stanley, B. Travers
District Councillors: DC Mr. G. Newman
County Councillors CC Dr. N. Dennis (arrived at 8.15 p.m. but did not present a report)
Public:
Press: 0
Apologies Mr. P. Colombo, Mr. R. Worley, DC Dr. D. Skipp, CC Mr. A. Baldwin,

01.04.19 Minutes of Meeting held on 18th March 2019

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Sitton, seconded by Mr. Stanley and signed by the Chairman.

02.04.19 Matters Arising

01.03.19 Public Forum

Funding is now in FNC Bank Account and SID has been ordered. This payment is coming from a WSCC umbrella/pot but in order to access this fund, the purchase has had to be made by a third party. In this instance the paperwork will show that this is Forest Neighbourhood Council.

Forest Neighbourhood Council needs to establish who officially owns this device, whether it is insured and who is responsible for maintenance and ongoing costs.

Resolved to contact CC Mr. Baldwin

Initially SID is to be positioned in St. Leonard's Road but it is important to note that this is a moveable object and Trafalgar can ask for it to be placed in its area.

Speed Gun and Tablet

It is **resolved** that we are contributing £250 towards the purchase of a speed gun and tablet (as is Trafalgar NC and the balance is from HDC Community Safety Partnership). However, this is a totally separate matter to the SID purchase and FNC needs to establish who is the owner and who pays the ongoing costs.

01.03.19 Phase 1 Forest Boys School – bus improvements

Forest Neighbourhood Council is disappointed that an established Oak Tree is to be removed in order to install bus lay-bys. WSCC has again explained there is absolutely no other option and so, reluctantly, Forest Neighbourhood Council is agreeing to this removal on the grounds that children's safety must come first. The next stage is a public consultation at which time residents can put forward their views.

03.03.19 Neighbourhood Wardens

Car stickers highlighting inappropriate parking are now being used by Alison and Lucy and Mr. Stanley confirmed have been placed on cars that parked too close to the junction at Fletchers Close. The Neighbourhood Wardens have asked for photographs to be passed to them so they can then follow up individual parking issues. Mrs Sumpter pointed out problems in and around Athelstan Way and the fact that road access to the Nursing Home is being impeded.

02.01.19 Website and e mail addresses

Mr. Colombo has forwarded cost implications for buying a security certificate. Before proceeding, Councillors would like further clarification about SSL's. It is hoped that Mr. Colombo will help Councillors to change e mail addresses.

07.02.19 Wealden Works – appeal

Forest Neighbourhood Council is not able to contribute towards appeal costs. Its original letter of objection will be forwarded to the Appeal Panel.

05.03.19 Planning – Barrington House

Councillors are still unable to fully understand the plans. FNC is objecting on specific grounds.

09.03.19 Twitten between Vincent Close and Orchard Road

FNC Mr. Milne and Mr. Stanley have now visited the site, both of whom confirm that the Twitten is being maintained to a high standard and on one occasion had been salted when frost was predicted. In view of these factors and a reluctance to set a precedent, this Council will not support an application to close this Twitten.

Resolved to confirm this to DC Dr. Skipp

Horsham in Bloom

HIB Committee understands the reasons why this Council is unhappy about contributing towards a planter outside the Forest area. Ideally FNC would like a planter in Queen Street but this is apparently not feasible. Perhaps a planter can be installed in New Street close to the new Pocket Park?

03.04.19 District Councillor's Report

DC Mr. Newman explained he has little to report due to the "run up" to Council elections. The District Council ward areas have been changed and in his case, his ward incorporates part of Denne. There will inevitably be confusion because there are three different ward layouts – county, district and neighbourhood.

DC Mr. Newman explained that the most important current issue is the proposed changes to the planning procedure that is to be approved/refused at a full Council Meeting on 24th April. Councillors discussed each point as it was raised:

ONE COMMITTEE INSTEAD OF TWO (NORTH AND SOUTH)

This is designed to reduce inconsistencies between the two current committees, improve professionalism and reduce costs. However, FNC will object as it undermines a key principle of democratic representation. The majority of Councillors will no longer be able to directly represent their wards.

One reason given is that there are major differences between the outcomes of the committees. However, with training becoming compulsory, this argument should be negated

FNC will ask how HDC intends to ensure that all Planning Committee Councillors are fully trained and attend ongoing training throughout their period of office.

REDUCED COMMITTEES

The proposal to reduce the Committee number from 48 to 18 is a leading objection. This will result in the 18 selected wards being unfairly over-represented in comparison to the excluded 30. If selected on a proportionate political basis, it could lead to a politicisation of the whole process.

PUBLIC CALL IN LIMITATIONS

Raising the bar for a public call-in from 8 to 15 households takes no account of particular circumstances. Concerned residents may assume that this requirement is designed to dissuade any form of objection, i.e. this is not a genuine democratic process.

SUMMING-UP

Forest Neighbourhood Council does not consider what is being proposed to uphold democracy.

Despite being a planning consultee, this Neighbourhood Council has not directly received any information and has not been asked for its comments. A letter will be sent to all Town District Councillors outlining all FNC concerns. There is every indication that HDC is intending to conclude the matter on 24th April even though some Councillors will either be stepping down or will not be re-appointed.

Forest Neighbourhood Council will ask that the vote is deferred until after the election.

04.04.19 PLANNING

This has been an exceptionally busy period for planning applications. Forest Neighbourhood Council has now responded to the following:

Planning applications – April 2019 - 1

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| 19/0444 | 218 St Leonards Road | | No Objection |
| 19/0496 | 104 Comptons Lane | | No Objection |
| 19/0471 | 34 Oakhill Road | | No Objection |
| 19/0503 | 73 Eversfield Road | | No Objection |
| 19/0515 | Denne View, Kerves Lane | | No Objection |
| 19/0475 | 38 Dickens Way | | No Objection |
| 19/0502 | Gardeners Cottage, St Leonards Park | | No Objection |
| 19/0593 | 6 Plovers Road | | No Objection |
| 19/0360 | 2 Aimiesmill Cotts., Kerves Lane | | No Objection |

19/0551 25 Queen Street Removal of Condition 2 re opening times

HFNC OBJECTS to this proposal as it has done before. In 2010 an application was made to extend the opening hours, and when HDC turned this down the applicant went to appeal. The appeal was dismissed with the Inspector noting “the unacceptable harm to the living conditions of nearby residents from noise and disturbance”. On that occasion, the proposal was to open until 1.00 am.

A further proposal in 2016 was refused by HDC on the grounds that “the proposal would be detrimental to the amenities of nearby residential occupiers and, as a result of the later opening hours, would result in an undesirable environmental impact by reason of general disturbance at or near the premises, contrary to the aims of Policy 33 of the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015)”. The only change since that time is the increase in residential units in the near vicinity. There are two blocks of flats either side of the top of Queensway; the recently finished Jubilee Court is almost exactly opposite the Kebab Shop; the almost complete Harrington House on 4 Brighton Road (behind the City Business Centre); and the conversion of the Queens Head site which will create another 12 dwellings.

This proposal is to open until 2.30 am on two nights of the week and would therefore create disturbance for much longer and later periods of time. We see no justification for this request and strongly object.

19/0430 23 Forestfield – First floor extension and loft conversion

HFNC OBJECTS to this proposal on various grounds. The proposed roof line is higher than the existing one and therefore this changes the street scene and is detrimental to the visual amenities and will also set a precedent that will be difficult to resist in the future. It is an over development of the site being overpowering and dominant. It will create overshadowing of neighbours and be overbearing. There are a number of windows in the proposed extension which will create a loss of privacy and overlooking from such a raised position.

05.04.19 Treasurer’s Report

Current Account £3,356.16, SID money £3,676.00 totalling £7,032.16. Reserve Account £1,283.08. The Clerk’s honorarium and expenses have been paid for the month of April. Zurich Insurance and contribution towards Riverside Walk invoices have been paid.

Mr. Travers referred to the Income and Expenditure Report for year ended 31st March 2019. Due to the fact that the money for SID purchase was transferred before 31st March but the invoice was not received during that financial year, the figures are distorted.

It was agreed that the Clerk’s Honorarium and Expenses would be increased by 10% as this was the first increase for four years. The new figures are: Honorarium £3,300 pa and Expenses £420 pa, both effective from 1st April 2019.

Mr. Travers was formally thanked for all the work that is involved in preparing and maintaining these accounts.

06.04.19 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

BLUEPRINT – Mrs. Sumpter attended the latest meeting at which a Consultant was selected. However, the matter cannot proceed at this time due to the fact that the Government Locality Grant has not been approved.

HALC – Mr. Stanley attended the last meeting at which the Chairman stood down; it is not known who will be taking over. Minutes and Notes have been circulated.

07.04.19 Correspondence

Youth Provision – it is suggested that the 2018/2019 balance will not be carried forward. FNC has strongly objected to this possibility – especially taking into account that the majority of this money came from the Special Charge.

BENNETTS FIELD FAMILY FUN DAY 15TH JUNE – FNC will not have a stand at this event.

SECTION 106 MONIES – Mrs. Sumpter commented that there are considerable Highways credit balances in the funds.

Resolved this Council will ask that this money is directed towards New Street 20 mph introduction scheme

JAG Cancellation – this meeting was cancelled. FNC has been advised that its application to discuss unsocial behaviour at Bennetts Field, will be carried forward.

Operation Watershed – details of next funding round

County Local Committee date – 17th June 2019

Bus Cancellation – Metrobus is reducing its 65 service but CC Dr. Dennis said that there is little point in challenging this decision due to funding reductions.

HDNC Minutes

CHESWORTH FARM MANAGEMENT PLAN – this has now been approved. The Annual Meeting is on Thursday 25th April, 7.00 p.m. Drill Hall.

08.04.19 Any Other Business

NEWSLETTER

The draft is now prepared and is being passed to Councillors for comments. It is intended that this Newsletter is printed before 17th April so that it can be distributed with April Horsham Pages. *Subsequently the Clerk confirmed that this will be the time thread*

TOWN WALKABOUT

Mr. Sitton is disappointed that FNC has received no details about future town walkabouts.

Resolved to bring this to the attention of HDC Greg Charman

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.