

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF MEETING 16th SEPTEMBER 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: DC's Mrs. R. Fletcher and Mr. G. Newman

County Councillors 0

Public: 5 (including 3 representatives from Denne and Trafalgar NC)

Press: 0

Apologies Mr. P. Colombo, CCs Dr. N. Dennis, Mrs. M. Millson and Mr. A. Baldwin
DCs Mrs. F. Haigh, Dr. D. Skipp and DC Mr. P. Burgess

Mrs. Sumpter opened the Meeting by welcoming PC Erica Baxter, Sussex Police. She is part of Operation Crackdown, Community Speedwatch Scheme and will become the single point of contact for this area.

PC Baxter is wholly committed to this Scheme and totally believes that communities can tackle the speed problem. She has already identified roads within Horsham Town that are suitable for community speedwatch although explained there are criterion and these include whether roads have on street parking. The overall leader of the scheme is Stephen O'Connell (stephen.oconnell@sussex.pnn.police.uk erica.baxter@sussex.pnn.police.uk) and it is Stephen O'Connell who gives the go ahead for suitable roads.

Various statistics were given including the fact that where communities have regularly used speedwatch, a drop of 8% in average speed has been noted and also driver's behaviour is completely different. Where speed limits are exceeded, drivers are issued with a first letter (second and third letters can follow) but the statistic shows that 94% of drivers who receive the first letter do not exceed speed limits within the following six months.

PC Stephen O'Connell's system is well thought of and has now been adopted by four other Counties. Surrey is scheduled to join and as all data is shared, this will be particularly useful for Sussex. Data also includes anti-social behaviour although this rarely exceeds verbal abuse from a passing car. Recently a driver repeated his verbal abuse throughout a session and his details were passed to the Police who then cautioned the driver at his home. (Another County is trialling a programme where any anti-social behaviour is automatically documented and it triggers police action. If successful, the trial will be rolled out).

Community Speedwatch Schemes rely on:

- Sites
- Volunteers
- Equipment

After training, every volunteer is fully insured for liability and accident. Training is 6 x 10 minute online video sessions followed by formal training. Within a group there has to be two Co-ordinators and an optimum number of a group should be 10 people. PC Baxter asked Neighbourhood Councillors to actively encourage local residents to join groups within their local neighbourhood. She said volunteers tended to want to join local groups.

It is noted that the three Neighbourhood Councils already own a speed gun (not laser as these are being phased out) and that there is already a successful group in St. Leonard's Road. NC Graham Sitton offered to liaise with the newly formed Wimblehurst Group and

this was agreed. The use of a tablet is now being superseded by an app. and so the three NC's will no longer be contributing to this purchase although it is noted that the telephone app. may rely upon a high specification telephone.

To sum up, PC Baxter said that Operation Crackdown which is the umbrella for the Community Speedwatch Scheme is not a "light" scheme but is a vital role in helping to reduce anti-social driving and helping to prevent death and injury on the roads.

PC Baxter was thanked for the informative presentation and she, and the visiting NC's then left the meeting.

01.09.19 Public Forum

Two members of the public attended the meeting to discuss a planning application in proximity to their home, DC/19/1824. The members of public explained that this is a new build on an inappropriate and small plot of land. It will adversely affect all their amenities as well as being a road safety hazard because this small plot of land accesses on to a difficult and dangerous bend.

NC Planning Committee has already visited the site and did verbally comment on the size of the plot of land. The Committee also disputed the planning submission that this application is in line with two recent approved applications on brown fill sites in the town. FNC will submit its written comments to HDC Planning Portal in due course.

Mrs. Sumpter thanked the members of public for attending and suggested that they contact their District Councillors as well as encourage other local residents to submit comments. She suggested that they ask for this to be considered by the Planning Sub-Committee North and informed them of the procedures.

The members of public left the meeting.

02.09.19 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th August 2019

An amendment was made to page 5 DC/19/1974 and no neighbours had objected. The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Sitton, seconded by Mr. Travers and signed by Mrs. Sumpter.

03.09.19 Matters Arising

07.04.19 Town Walkabouts

Mr. Travers commented that whilst a repair had been made in Queen Street, it was not the work that was requested.

Resolved to write to Highways highlighting the deep hole within white concrete that has been filled with black tarmac

10.06.19 New Street Green

HDC Lynda Cheeseman has now submitted the quote for the proposed Noticeboard, 6 x A4 at a cost of £595 plus £45 delivery plus VAT. This is accepted.

Resolved to confirm approval and ask how to access Section 106 monies for payment

03.07.19 Twitten Vincent Close and Orchard Road

Following site visits by Mr. Friswell and Mrs. Sumpter, Mrs. Sumpter proposed that a stopping-up order is requested.

Mr. Friswell and Mr. Sitton abstained from any vote or contribution towards the discussion.

Firstly it is now established that this is not a Twitten but a Highway and therefore comes under WSCC responsibility. In addition until very recently there had been a

gate erected for some 5 years that stopped members of public from using the route. It is assumed that Highways removed the gate to carry out some form of pavement work although whatever was repaired, is very haphazard. There is no doubt that the old people who reside alongside the route are feeling intimidated by people using the route and they would like it to be closed. The route does not really have any benefit to walkers by shortening any distances between two points. Saxon Weald has no objection.

DC Mrs. Fletcher did make the point that there are Saxon Weald semi-detached houses running alongside the Orchard Road entrance and if, in the future, Saxon Weald decides to pull these down and replace them with blocks of flats, there might be a way in which the highway could be extended in width and/or be of value to pedestrians.

Four Neighbourhood Councillors agreed to the procedure for a stopping-up order and this is a quorum.

Resolved to forward paperwork to DC Dr. Skipp

04.07.19 Planning Tesco ATM

There is no information about when this application is to be heard. There is considerable objection to the proposal, including from this Neighbourhood Council.

Resolved DC Mr. Newman will ascertain the current situation and whether the determination dates are within the timescale

04.07.19 Novartis

The whole application has been deferred whilst one part of the road safety aspect is being re-assessed. It will be up to WSCC to submit new paperwork.

The general feeling is that whilst there is considerable opposition to what is being proposed, HDC will encourage its approval on the grounds that WSCC would appeal against a refusal and the site could end up being wholly residential with more intense housing.

DC Mr. Newman said it was worth thinking about the idea that perhaps Horsham residents are not accepting the urban concept and that what is considered unacceptable levels of traffic (probably only at specific times of the day) would not necessarily be viewed in the same light in other larger urban areas.

There was a discussion about the traffic delays at key times in Broadbridge Heath and the dislike about the new route. It is most unlikely that the decision will be reversed. Again in larger urban areas, the traffic delays would probably be acceptable to drivers.

05.08.19 Urban Grass Cutting

Following on from CC Mrs. Millson's statement at the last meeting, Neighbourhood Councillors continue to be concerned at the way in which the contract is being carried out and are especially concerned at the weeds that are being allowed to grow along the roadside. Horsham Town is beginning to look very unkempt.

DC Mr. Newman's comments instigated a discussion about whether HDC should become involved even though this is a WSCC paid-for contract.

Resolved to write directly to HDC CEO Glenn Chipp proposing that, exceptionally, HDC should fund a weed killing programme.

09.08.18 Horsham in Bloom

The Neighbourhood Cup is to be awarded to nos. 1, 2 and 3 Standings Court and Mrs. Sumpter will attend the Ceremony on 27th September. Three £10 vouchers will be given to the occupants. Horsham in Bloom Committee had also identified these front gardens and so are very pleased with FNC decision.

03.09.19 District Councillors' Reports

DC Mr. Newman is attending a number of significant meetings during the coming weeks including a meeting on 27th September relating to Page Court. His initial reaction is that the architect's design is uninspiring.

DC Mr. Newman has also been invited to tour the area looking at potential sites for 1,000 homes or more. He commented that Christ's Hospital has also invited Councillors to visit and he assumes this is to introduce them to a possible planning application. He also said that Berkeley Homes is proposing a new building development on land west of Southwater.

DC Mrs. Fletcher attended a recent PDAG Meeting (Policy Development Advisory Group). She described the meeting as being "loose" but she did say that gateways into the town were discussed and this included Queen Street. She believes the new owners of the hardware store will be active in trying to aesthetically improve the area and it is possible that Queen Street will apply for a BID grant.

The next meetings will focus on:

November	business
January	crime
Spring	cycling, cars and public transport

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Horsham

Neighbourhood Councillors also attended this stakeholder workshop on Friday 13th September.

DC Mrs. Fletcher explained the background which is for HDC to develop a 10 year strategic development plan. In order to be eligible for future Government funding, a draft plan has to be submitted by the end of November. HDC has appointed WSP Transport Consultants and at the meeting WSP presented highlighted Horsham plans with some initial ideas and observations based on provisional analysis. WSP is now asking stakeholders for their input and then "through discussion", WSP will define barriers and funnels for active travel movement, explore ideas and opportunities to enhance existing provision and determine where new primary routes would benefit walking and cycling activity the most.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter has asked for a copy of the presentation by WSP containing initial plans be forwarded so that these can be circulated.

04.09.19 Planning

19/1742	Hornbrook House, Hornbrook Farm	Erection - two storey rear extn, installation of entrance canopy to front elevation.	No Objection
19/1748	200 St Leonards Rd.	Variation - Amendments to proposed materials	HFNC believes this has been withdrawn
19/1728	84 Depot Rd.	Ground floor extension, porch	N/O
19/1179	88 Clarence Road	2 storey side extension above existing store buildings + single storey rear extension	N/O
19/1655	60 Grebe Crescent	Demolition of existing garage and erection of ancillary outbuilding. Erection of new masonry garden wall.	N/O
19/1616	13 Ghyll Crescent	Conversion - roof over garage into habitable living space with the installation of a front dormer and first floor window to side elevation	N/O
19/1607	2 Grebe Crescent	Erection of a two storey side extension and creation of a new porch canopy.	N/O
19/1546	108 Bennetts Road	Demolition of existing conservatory and existing sheds with the erection of a part two storey/single storey rear extension.	N/O
19/1584	18 Heron Way	Erection of a single storey side and a two storey rear extension.	N/O
19/1262	65 Comptons Lane	Outline application for the erection of a semi-detached two storey dwelling with associated access, all matters reserved except for access.	HFNC has already objected to this application.
19/1745	19 Ghyll Crescent	Amendment – addition of French doors	N/O
19/1835	55 Bethune Road	Two storey side extn	N/O
19/1843	Buchan Court	Timber panel to side of front gate	N/O

The Planning Committee has prepared a draft response to DC/19/1824 19 Hornbrook Drive and this will be further discussed.

It is noted that HDC Planning has refused two recent applications, one in Heron Way and another in Comptons Lane. FNC objected to the proposal to build new houses on a brown fill site in Heron Way and raised the concerns of residents to the proposal in Comptons Lane.

05.09.19 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £6,705.54, Reserve Account £1,284.17. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid. Approval is given for three £10 vouchers to be purchased for Horsham in Bloom Presentation.

06.09.19 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

HALC – Mr. Stanley attended the last meeting at which there were four speakers. He referred to the input about the HDC Framework and commented that Horsham is taking on some housing quotas from other areas including Crawley under the “duty to cooperate” wording. This means that 1,340 new houses per annum need to be built in this district and that within 15 years there will be a 40% increase in the population.

There is some confusion as to whether FNC should receive the full Minutes.

Resolved to ask that these are circulated to all FNC Councillors.

Mr. Sitton confirmed that he will circulate all Neighbourhood Warden reports including the Steering Group. **Bennetts Field** – Mr. Sitton has visited Bennetts Field at different times during the day but has not seen any illegal activity. There is a real concern that illegal drug dealing is taking place and targeting younger teenagers. **Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will discuss the matter with Friends of Bennetts Field and will also raise the possibility of installing CCTV.**

Mr. Sitton has been approached by a resident about dangerous overhanging branches along the footpath, Brambling Road to Hammerpond Road. **Resolved to refer this to WSCC Jonathan Perks**

Mr. Sitton again confirmed that he is happy to liaise with Wimblehurst Road residents about using the speed gun. This was agreed.

Mrs. Sumpter advised that Alison Eardley has been appointed to write the Blueprint first draft although considerable work to still needed on the green spaces section. The AGM is on Saturday 12th October, 10-12 p.m. at Rehoboth Church, New Street.

The Horsham Town Community Partnership AGM is on Thursday 10th October, 7.30 p.m. North Horsham Parish Hall.

Mrs. Sumpter referred to issues in Chesworth Farm relating to fencing being erected by a landowner whose land is on the opposite side of the Arun but whose boundaries border the bridleway. Mr. Friswell commented that it could be illegal if ancient hedgerows are being removed.

The Unparished Area Meeting is being held on 18th September.

Mr. Friswell has volunteered to be involved with WSCC initiative for on-street charging of electric cars. He understood there was urgency about these discussions but has not yet received any notification about a meeting date.

07.09.19 Correspondence

Riverside Walk Improvements – Mrs. Sumpter declared an interest. Forest Neighbourhood Council has been asked to formally support a Section 106 application for £10,000 to improve the Riverside Walk in vicinity of Grebe Crescent. At the same time it is understood that Friends of Chesworth Farm is submitting a Section 106 application.

Resolved to ascertain how much funding is currently available before supporting any application

The Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m