

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB
Tel: 01403 269265 E-Mail: fnchorsham@sky.com
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18th NOVEMBER 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 Dr. D. Skipp

County Councillors 2 CCs Mrs. M. Millson and Dr. N. Dennis (arr. 8.15 p.m.)

Public: 1

Press: 0

Apologies CC Mr. A. Baldwin and DC Mr. P. Burgess

01.11.19 Minutes of Meeting held on 21ST October 2019

"The Plume of Feathers" frontage has been spoilt rather than the board. The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Sitton and seconded by Mr. Friswell. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

02.11.19 Councillor Vacancies

Regrettably Mr. Colombo has resigned from his Councillor role due to increasing work commitments. Councillors discussed ways in which residents can be encouraged to become involved with this Neighbourhood Council and perhaps a newsletter that primarily deals with vacancies is the way forward? Also it is suggested that this NC contacts local organisations through Facebook pages to see whether joint initiatives could be beneficial. Mr. Stanley commented that FNC would benefit if a resident from New Street area joined..

Mrs. Sumpter suggested that the Newsletter ought to coincide with the publication of the draft Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan and also reference should be made to Novartis development issues.

NOVARTIS – During this general discussion, reference was again made to this development and although outline planning permission has been granted, strong objections are still being raised. WSCC has dismissed the idea of a bridge across the railway line because of cost but published WSCC income from the sale indicates that this should at least be considered. DC Dr. Skipp also confirmed that contrary to reports, Collyer's College is supportive of the proposal.

Resolved Mr. Milne will prepare a draft letter to be sent to WSCC CEO Mr. Paul Marshall asking that the railway bridge proposal is actively re-considered.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will liaise with Chairmen of Denne and Trafalgar with regard to finding new ways in which to recruit new Councillors. The aim is to produce a newsletter in the near future, possibly around the time that the draft Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan is out for Reg 14 consultation.

03.11.19 Matters Arising

Speedwatch

FNC contribution has now been forwarded. At this time, no further sites in Forest neighbourhood have been formally approved and therefore there is no urgency to prepare a Protocol or to look for additional volunteers.

04.07.19 Tesco ATM

FNC has submitted a further objection to the Tesco planning amendment that appears to only refer to the way shutters are to be placed over the machine when it is not operating. These times are close to the Tesco opening and closing hours and

for this reason, Councillors cannot understand why the ATM is not situated in the shop; also Tesco does operate a “cash back” system. Mrs. Sumpter commented that recently she noted the shop’s internal lights were still alight at Midnight. This could give the impression that it (and if an ATM had been installed) was open for business. The main issue is the adverse effect on neighbours’ amenities if more traffic is visiting the site at inappropriate times.

Resolved that residents in close proximity to the shop and who are concerned about increased traffic flow, are encouraged to respond to the amended plan.

05.08.19 Urban Grass Cutting

There was a further grass cut even though it was probably unnecessary. CC Mrs. Millson explained that the contract did specify dates including November and that a more flexible arrangement had been tried in the past but proved unworkable.

It is understood that, in the next round, this contract is to be broken down encouraging local businesses to apply for specific sections.

07.09.19 Section 106 monies

Mrs. Sumpter has now received clarification from HDC Suzanne Shaw. The HTCP Riverside Walk request has been increased to £14,709.60. Ms Shaw has confirmed that there is available money from the Open Space, Sport and Recreation and Community Facilities budgets and so the application is likely to be approved.

Resolved FNC will not object to this application

There are “pots” for Chesworth Farm and money towards Bennetts Field car parking improvements, an outdoor gym and ball court improvements.

Specifically relating to FNC, there is the sum of £338.07 available for the noticeboard at New Street Green and HDC has suggested that the balance is raised from neighbourhood funds.

Resolved that Mrs. Sumpter will firstly ask that the full sum is made available from Section 106 funds as was originally advised and proceed with the application.

Bennetts Field CCTV – this proposal is dismissed as without live monitoring, it will have little effectiveness.

04.11.19 Public Forum

The member of public referred to spikes that are protruding from the hedge along Station Road.

Resolved CC Mrs. Millson advised that, whilst not in her area, she will ensure that this health and safety issue is reported immediately.

05.11.19 District Councillor’s Report

DC Dr. Skipp referred to the long term town vision/public realm strategy that is looking at re-designing the town centre. Councillors commented that, in the past, there have been other such “visions” that were probably costly but achieved no real results. DC Dr. Skipp commented that a recent initiative related to Hurst Road but this has now been scrapped.

HDC Cabinet has proposed a partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust. HDC is interested in and supportive of a wildlife centre.

DC Dr. Skipp again referred to proposed housing developments around Horsham District and highlighted Buck Barn crossroads/Copsale boundary site where between 3-4000 houses might be built.

The comment was made that some of the proposals are the most likely to be agreed and this includes the Ifield development. There seems some uncertainty about the proposal for the new Mayfield Town.

PAGE COURT – The application will go to Committee on 3rd December. DC Dr. Skipp encouraged FNC to speak at this meeting.

06.11.19 County Councillors' Reports

CC Mrs. Millson confirmed that she has acted on the reports of flooding that had been made to her. She will be meeting with FNC Mr. Travers so that she can pinpoint the exact areas in Brighton Road that recently flooded. The holes in St. Leonard's Road were fixed on 7th November. CC Mrs. Millson was reminded that the collapsing state of the drain holes alongside the road could be a safety issue for cyclists.

It is disappointing that the previously planned Road Space Parking Audit is unlikely to start before the New Year. FNC Councillors referred to Fletchers Close where ongoing parking issues have meant that the refuse lorries cannot always gain access.

Mrs. Sumpter also highlighted Athelstan Way when there are occasions when the road is partially blocked because of parked cars and Services could not be able to gain access to Glen Arun Nursing Home and they park their vehicles partly on the pavement/road on a road junction

Resolved CC Mrs. Millson said that because of safety reasons, these issues can be reported now rather than waiting for the audit

There was a minor accident when a member of Brighton Road Baptist Church tried to exit its car park. Her sight line was impeded due to the current parking bay set-up in New Street. CC Mrs. Millson explained that the solution may be for one car parking space to the north of the car park entrance to be removed and the Church Warden has no objection. She has also asked that a sign, "please exit with great caution" is fitted to the car park entrance.

CC Dr. Dennis was disappointed that Community Highway Schemes were not discussed at the last County Local Committee Meeting and so there will be no further information about the New Street proposal until at least 16th March 2020.

CC Mr. Dennis has been approached by members of the public asking for a "refuge" in Comptons Lane/Padwick Road area. (A similar request was received in vicinity of Brambling Road although at the time this was dismissed because of road width). CC Dr. Dennis said that if these requests are to proceed, it will have to be through the Community Highway Scheme and any application will have to be evidence based.

Before the next round of Community Highway Scheme applications in July 2020, FNC Mr. Sitton agreed to canvass residents for their views as any applications needed to be evidence based.

CC Dr. Dennis has been approached by members of the public regarding cars that park across the entrance to apartments in Oakhill Road. This will be referred to in the next round of CPZ's (controlled parking zones). He also referred to residents who are not happy with the "no parking 8-10 a.m." times in Station Road. Originally these times were allocated to stop commuters using the parking bays but residents say that working patterns have now changed and the bays are regularly occupied for the remainder of the day. CC Dr. Dennis explained that "parking times" have to be staggered to enable monitoring but the complaint has been noted.

07.11.19 Planning

19/1939	35 Smithbarn	Amendment to 18/2452	No Objection
19/2070	78 Heron Way	Front & rear single storey extn	N/O
19/2055	173 New Street	Single storey rear extn & flat roof	N/O
19/2085	9 Bens Acre	Single storey rear extn & convert garage to living space	N/O
19/2094	Abbey House, Foundry Lane	Change of use – Taxi office to residential	HFNC OBJECTS to the creation of small, cramped living spaces in totally unsuitable locations.
19/1965	31 Depot Road	Retrospective for loft conversion & dormer and 2 nd floor window	N/O
19/2174	60 Grebe Crescent	Demolish front wall and erect new one	N/O
19/1135	Unit 2, 55A park Terrace East	Amendment - non illuminated signs	N/O
19/1465	17A Patching	Amendment – 2 storey side extn	N/O
19/1945	35 Brambling Road	Reserved matters following Outline approval	N/O
19/2256	35 Highlands Avenue	Single storey rear extns & side dormer	N/O

DC/19/2094 Abbey House, Foundry Lane – Mr. Travers referred to the fact that the Taxi Office was not in the original plan and it is an extremely small area. It is noted that concerns have already been raised with regard to the living standards in this permitted development.

Councillors discussed the way in which permitted developments (office accommodation becoming residential apartments without the need for planning permission) is often producing accommodation that is way below the recommended living space. Town and Country Planning Organisation has pinpointed a recent change of use where a single person studio is 13 sq.m which is one third of the 37 square metres required under the nationally described housing space standard.

Resolved to write to Horsham MP (after the election) to list this Council's objections to the way in which the permitted development schemes are and continue to adversely impact on future standards of living.

Mr. Travers referred to an application for 144 solar panels at Enterprise House that has been refused because the solar panels cover the entire roof.

8.11.19 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £5,853.28, Reserve Account £1,284.61. The speedwatch contribution and clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for November.

9.11.19 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Mr. Stanley attended the recent HDC/HALC AGM that had an improved format. HDC expressed its intention to have a better working relationship with Parish Councils.. Official Minutes will follow in due course.

Mr. Sitton attended the CLC Meeting and Cycle Forum. Formal Minutes will be circulated. Reference was made to the unconfirmed report that Network Rail is moving more of its train cleaning operation to the Horsham yards. This might increase the number of level crossing

closures at Parsonage Road and Littlehaven. It is also understood that Parsonage Road level crossing may become double barriers.

BLUEPRINT – Mrs. Sumpter advised that the AGM is on Thursday 28th November at Rehoboth Church, New Street. The Consultant now has open spaces Information to add to the draft Neighbourhood Plan. It is hoped that the Regulation 14 consultation will be achieved shortly. There has been an issue with accessing official maps via HDC..

Walkabout – DC Mr. P. Burgess and Mrs. Sumpter recently visited Brighton Road/Queen Street and DC Mr. Burgess has now circulated his comments. DC Mr. Burgess is pursuing the problems at The Iron Bridge.

4 THE YOUTH – Mr. Friswell commented that he has not been invited to attend any meetings.

Resolved to ask HDC for an update

Tourism – Mr. Milne has an interest in creating a new tourist visitor website. He is very happy with the work so far and hopes this will be launched in January 2020.

10.11.19 Correspondence

WARDEN AND SUPERVISOR UPDATES – the recently appointed Warden Supervisor has resigned due to ill health. There are slight changes to the format for the bi-monthly meetings. Warden Reports have been circulated.

DISPERSAL ORDER – The Police have been granted this Order which follows on from reported anti-social behaviour. FNC Graham Sitton will attend a “Knife Conference” on 3rd December.

QUEEN STREET – WSCC Highways has confirmed that the acco drains are blocked around New Street area and these are being cleared.

WINTER SERVICE NETWORK UPDATES; in answer to a question regarding any surplus funds at the end of the year, CC Mrs. Millson advised that it is extremely unlikely these will be carried forward.

COTSWOLD COURT – an Enforcement Notice has been issued to cut down a hedge in this area.

HDNC NOTES

CONCESSIONARY RAIL TRAVEL FOR OLDER PEOPLE – this is a proposal to withdraw the option to request a Senior Citizens Rail Card rather than a bus pass. The comment was made that bus passes are cheaper and also that this choice was never widely publicised.

Joint Action Group Meeting - there were no submissions from this Neighbourhood on this occasion

HORSHAM INCINERATOR – no feedback as at 19th November 2019.

LCWIP ROUTE AUDITS

Mr. Milne explained that this looked at the whole town relative to walking and cycling routes. The aim is to produce a sensible network that can, opportunistically, be referred to when developer money is available.

11.11.19 Any Other Business

Mrs. Sumpter referred to the fact that at a recent meeting of Friends of Chesworth Farm, it was learned that Sussex Wildlife Trust is not going to take the Volunteer Centre lease.

Resolved to ask DC Frances Haigh whether this building could be considered for a Community Asset application.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.