

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 16th March 2020
SALVATION ARMY HALL, 7:30PM

Present: Messrs. N. Friswell, J. Milne, J. Olson, G. Sitton, and
Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chairman)

District Councillors: 0

County Councillors 1 CC Mrs. M. Millson (arrived 8.30 p.m.)

Public: 0

Press: 0

Apologies Messrs. G. Stanley, B. Travers
CC Mr. A. Baldwin, Dr. N. Dennis, DC R. Fletcher, DC F. Haigh,
DC Dr. D. Skipp, DC Mr. G. Newman

The current exceptional circumstances (Coronavirus outbreak) is affecting all walks of Society and, it is understood that HDC and WSCC are cancelling most of their meetings for an indefinite period. This Meeting took place at Salvation Army Hall but in a different format. It was agreed that the monthly meetings at Salvation Army Hall will now cease until further notice. Neighbourhood Councillors will endeavour to set up Conference Calls and neighbourhood information will be posted on Facebook and Website pages.

01.03.20 Minutes of Meeting held on 17th February 2020

Clarifications were made to the paragraph about “20 is Plenty”.

Within the discussion at this meeting, Mr. Milne referred to another initiative that has been successfully trialled in various parts of the country and this restricts the whole area to local use only (low traffic zone). He believes this should be the way forward for New Street/Oakhill Road area. Bus and HGV routes could be incorporated into the scheme. FNC Mr. Olson would like the opportunity to discuss the general traffic issues in the area with CC Dr. Dennis.

02.03.20 Matters Arising

08.01.20 The Drill Hall

It is understood that HDC has undertaken to improve the information about hiring the Hall. Booking arrangements are becoming centralised. All information about The Drill Hall, its costs and level of use, is to become more transparent.

At the Unparished Meeting, the setting up of a “Friends of Drill Hall” was discussed. It is important to continue the public’s enthusiasm for this building and its future.

09.02.20 Newsletter

Mrs. Sumpter said that “one must trust the distributor” although it appears that there were areas within the neighbourhood that did not receive a copy. She said that in conjunction with the other 2 neighbourhood councils, 11,500 copies had been delivered covering the whole of the unparished area of Horsham. The distributor will be contacted for his comments.

Resolved to look at other distributors before arranging another delivery contract.

07.02.20 County Councillor’s Report

At the January Meeting, this Council suggested that Highways add yellow lines to part of the road opposite Lidl, Foundry Lane. The thought is that this will help traffic flow. Initially, CC Mr. Baldwin did not support this idea

because it would reduce the number of much-needed parking bays in the area. However, following a discussion with NC Mr. Milne, he is more receptive to the idea as the old BT car park is scheduled to be converted into a commuter car park.

08.02.20 Correspondence – Highways

Highways Chris Stark has advised that WSCC Highways, Transport and Planning has undertaken a restructure within Local Highway Operations and the decision has been made to move from 6 to 3 area teams. The impact for the Horsham District is that the Horsham team has merged with the Worthing/Adur team to create a new “central” team.

Routine inspections have been separated from the local teams and consolidated into a dedicated team with separate management. Responsibility for streetwork inspections has been transferred into the network management team. A dedicated resource is being employed to lead on supporting liaison with towns and parishes and the “Improving Local Places and Spaces”. The countryside and public rights of way team will be integrated into local operations.

Resolved a thank you letter will be written to Chris Stark for his past support. Mr. Mike Thomas, who has been appointed to the new team, will be asked to attend a meeting when feasible.

06.02.20 Blueprint

The Exhibition in Swan Walk took place over 4 days and, on most days, was well attended. There was misunderstanding in that most people thought it was connected to The Local Plan. It was noted that visitors had very strong feelings against the plan to build on Rookwood Golf Course. Blueprint has completed the first stage towards adoption. The comments would now be reviewed and, if necessary, amendments made to the Neighbourhood Plan. Once this has been done then the NP will be submitted in accordance with the procedure.

06.02.20 Unparished Area Meeting

Mrs. Sumpter attended the Meeting on 18th February and CEO Glen Chipp was in attendance. The Minutes have not yet been circulated.

HDC agreed to add an item about Neighbourhood Councils in the next HDC Magazine and has now prepared a draft paragraph.

Resolved Mr. Friswell agreed to look at this paragraph with a view to making the contents more in line with the Neighbourhood Council role. Currently it focuses on “community partnership”.

03.03.20 County Councillor’s Report

CC Mrs. Millson joined the Meeting at 8.30 p.m. (after County Local Committee Meeting). She confirmed that WSCC is not arranging meetings for the foreseeable future.

Potholes remain an issue and CC Mrs. Millson is reporting those in this area. She commented that unless potholes are reported, they will not be repaired (there are no automatic inspections).

WSCC has now altered its Highways Contract. In previous years WSCC has procured these services as one contract with a single supplier. Under the new arrangements, 6 separate lots are in place:

- Lot 1 Core Services - Balfour Beatty Living Places

- Lot 2 Drainage Cleansing – Drainline Southern Ltd.
- Lot 3 – Hedge Maintenance and Grass Cutting – Grasstex Ltd.

Lots 4 to 6, carriageway works, and infrastructure improvements are being let to contractors as framework agreements, with future mini competitions for capital works to highways.

The general feeling is that this new system will raise standards.

04.03.20 The Local Plan

Mrs. Sumpter will collate all the Neighbourhood Councillor comments and send a response to HDC. Although, at this stage, HDC is asking for online responses only, Mrs. Sumpter is concerned that the online pages are difficult to follow, and this is stopping residents from responding.

Forest Neighbourhood Council will **not** restrict its comments to developments in Forest Neighbourhood as other developments will impact on this community. Within this neighbourhood, there are two proposals, and these are Hornbrook Farm for housing and Hilliers for additional office space. Compared to other proposals, these seem relatively minor developments although will have an impact on the area.

Further afield, NC Mr. Milne commented on the West of Ifield development which could be huge (10,000 homes) and if this is the case, this will affect the Horsham/Crawley divide. The Buck Barn proposal is also immense and will affect the Forest Neighbourhood Border with Nuthurst/Mannings Heath. Reference was also made to the proposal to build on Rookwood Golf Course primarily because it will be loss of a “green lung” that makes Horsham a pleasant place to live and work.

Neighbourhood Councillors discussed the need for affordable housing. Part of the issue is that developers can currently use loopholes and excuses to get out of this obligation.

It is understood that HDC and Mr. Jeremy Quin, MP are challenging the high building numbers allocated to Horsham District although it seems highly unlikely that these will be reduced.

Resolved that Neighbourhood Councillors will submit their comments and Mrs. Sumpter will collate the response on behalf of Forest Neighbourhood Council

05.03.20 Coronavirus – Way Ahead

It is agreed that FNC Meetings at Salvation Army Hall will cease until Central Government announces that it is safe to return to a “normal routine”. Mr. Olson suggested that FNC continues with Conference Calls set up through “GoToMeeting”.

We will endeavour to trial GoToMeeting: <https://www.gotomeeting.com/en-gb> for our next meeting scheduled for Monday, 20 April at 7:30 pm.

GoToMeeting is an online tool which sets up both a conference call number and online meeting or webinar.

06.03.20 Facebook

Mr. Olson was thanked for setting this up and already there is interest, including streaming about North Street Underpass. This highlights the need to have a protocol in place and Mr. Olson suggested that a Communications Committee is formed. He understands this is how Denne NC is managing its Facebook page.

Resolved to discuss this at April meeting.

07.03.20 Correspondence

Horsham Local Plan – Public Consultation. An online petition is now available objecting to building on Rookwood Park Golf Course, mainly on the grounds that this is another open space.

Friends of Horsham Park – e mail urging everyone to respond to Local Plan, sign the Petition that is circulating and attend an organised March on Saturday 21st March to show objection to building on Open Spaces.

HDC Emma Parkes distributed new reports on planning matters.

Housing Numbers – several e mails suggesting that the local housing number is challenged.

QE11 School – we were alerted to the fact that WSCC has submitted a planning application but FNC is not on the list of consultees.

Town Centre Walkabout

HALC

JAG Submission – FNC alerted JAG to a car damage issue in Depot Road and this was acknowledged.

Community Partnerships Review – Policy Document prepared by HDC Nick Jenkins, Community Development Manager

Planning and the Built Environment – Extinction Rebellion organised a meeting on 11th March 2020 in Horsham Town.

Horsham Weekly Bulletin

S106 and CIL

Highways North Street 3014897 – Andrew Baldwin has written to WSCC to request sight of the Contract regarding how long Contractors have to complete requested work. No change to flooding problem in North Street yet.

Planning Compliance Inspection Report response

08.03.20 Any Other Business

QE11 School – It is disappointing that apart from FNC not being part of the planning consultation process, WSCC has not responded to its request to be included from now onwards.

Resolved to contact WSCC Head of Planning.

Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Annual Report – the CC election is likely to be postponed.

Vulnerable People – Neighbourhood Wardens, Alison and Lucy have asked FNC to notify them of any vulnerable person within our neighbourhood.

The Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

See next page for comments on Planning Applications

20/0135	2 Boxall Walk	Retrospective loft insulation & velux windows	No objection
20/0273	Abbey House, Foundry Lane	Prior approval for change of use	HFNC still objects to dwellings on an industrial estate
20/0280	46 Highlands Road	Single storey rear extn	No objection
20/0314	South Grove House	Internal repairs – listed building	No objection
20/0252	2 Redkiln Close	Portakabin to be used as offices	No objection
20/0324	9 Bens Acre	Amendment to 19/2085 re roofing materials	No objection
20/0334	111 Depot Road	Demolish out buildings and construct office/windows to exstg garage/roof alterations	No objection
20/0357	Iona, Moons Lane	Demolition of existing conservatory and existing sheds with the erection of a part two storey/single storey rear extension.	No objection
20/0062	Barnaby Ridge, Copperfields	Erection of a detached summerhouse/studio in back garden	No objection
20/0382	8 South Grove	Erect single storey rear extn & single storey front extn	No objection
20/0403	6 Weald Close	Single storey front extn	No objection
20/0404	214 St Leonards Road	Erect 2 storey rear extn/convert garage to entrance hallway	No objection
20/0315	Amberley, Chesworth Close	Erect 2 storey rear extn/ loft conversion to habitable space	No objection
20/0423	60 Highlands Road	2 storey side/rear extn & front porch	No objection