

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB
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MINUTES OF MEETING 17th AUGUST 2020 7:30PM
(VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING HOSTED BY CLERK)

Present: Messrs. N. Friswell, M. Grubb, J. Milne, J. Olson, G. Sitton, G. Stanley and B. Travers
Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chairman)

District Councillors: Ms R. Fletcher, Mrs. F. Haigh and Dr. D. Skipp

County Councillors Mr. A. Baldwin and Dr. N. Dennis

Public: 0

Apologies DC Mr. P. Burgess

01.08.20 Minutes of Meeting held on 20th July 2020

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Friswell and seconded by Mr. Sitton.

02.08.20 Matters Arising

LCWIP Local Cycling and Walking Initiative Plan

The Document is now out for consultation. It was agreed that Mr. Grubb, Mr. Sitton Mr. Stanley, Mr. Milne and Mrs. Sumpter will meet to discuss and then respond to the document.

Resolved a virtual meeting will be arranged for 7.30 p.m. Thursday 20th August.

09.01.20 Highways

HDC Business and Corona Virus Newsletter confirmed that cyclists can continue to use East Street throughout the day.

A member of the public had raised a point with FNC about the installation of bollards at the entrance to East and Park Street and whether these are “fit for purpose”. Mr. Friswell suggested that, as the pedestrian arrangements are likely to be long-term, automatic bollards are installed. Mr. Travers has seen vehicle users remove bollards to gain access and park outside shops. DC Mrs. Fletcher commented that one option could be to install automatic number plate technology, but CC Dr. Dennis prefers a more light-handed approach. He suggests that a member of staff from one of the eateries becomes responsible for the bollards to be in place at the end of the evening session.

Resolve to refer discussion to CC Mrs. Millson

04.03.20 The Local Plan

Mrs. Sumpter represented FNC at a virtual meeting with the other 2 NC Chairs and HDC Ms. Susannah Shaw. The outcome is that HDC is “going slower” on The Local Plan. HDC is enquiring a whether a larger local CIL contribution can be awarded to the neighbourhood prior to the Neighbourhood Plan being adopted. HDC are considering that all the CIL contributions for each neighbourhood council will be amalgamated together to be spent for “Horsham Town”.

05.03.20 Noticeboard

Mr. Olson was thanked for the repairs he has carried out to the two current noticeboards. The need for further noticeboards was discussed and whilst not dismissing the opportunity to have a New Street Green Noticeboard, Mr. Olson believes there are areas that would have more impact, e.g. Station Road and Queen Street. One suggestion is to explore the possibility of using the noticeboard that belongs to The Bedford Arms. There are community noticeboards in Tesco Express Shops that may be accessible.

Resolved to actively look for other places to notify residents about this FNC meetings

03.05.20 The Forest Boys School

The Order to change the status of The Forest Boys School to co-educational, has been passed.

CC Mr. Baldwin updated this Neighbourhood Council about the Stage 1 Travel Plan. There had been controversy surrounding the removal of one Oak Tree to enable an additional bus lane. CC Baldwin was pleased to advise that this will no longer be necessary as DofE has now agreed that part of the school grounds can be incorporated into the scheme.

The downside is that, due to exceptional money restraints, the programme will not now commence until Summer 2021.

08.06.20 New Street Speed Application

The Horsham Cycle Forum has expressed an interest in re-introducing the 20 mph initiative in New Street and this Council agreed to pass on a copy of the questionnaire and the graph setting out the survey results that was carried out in 2019. Nothing else could be passed on (GDPR). Apart from The Cycle Forum, HDC Neighbourhood Wardens are also concerned about speed issues in New Street and Mr. Sitton as part of the Speedwatch initiative, has identified two areas where speed could be monitored. He is awaiting Police response to the proposal.

Resolved to ask all parties to keep FNC informed of any action that is being taken

08.06.20 Speed – Kingslea School

The intention is to discuss The School Travel Plan and how this can be used to improve pedestrian safety in Depot Road (Ayshe Court area). Mr. Olson will liaise with Kingslea School Headmaster when convenient.

08.06.20 Pedestrian Refuge in Comptons Lane near Pollards Drive

The Community Grants Scheme application has been submitted. WSCC Highways Manager, Mike Thomas has confirmed receipt and following his request, 6 residents close to the proposed area have been advised of the proposal. One resident would prefer the crossing to be sited elsewhere but this has already been dismissed as financially not feasible.

Resolved to pass on resident responses to WSCC and to also carry out a usage survey informally

03.07.20 Forest Neighbourhood Council Logo

Councillors are happy with the final design and this will now be adopted. Mr. Olson was thanked for his continuing involvement. It is hoped that the logo can now be incorporated into all paperwork, including Facebook and Twitter (the latter will shortly be activated). The Facebook page is continuing to attract “likes”, currently standing at 62 with 72 followers.

07.07.20 Bennetts Field

The Travelling Community left the Field relatively quickly although re-camped in another part of Horsham Town. There does not appear to have been any “fall-out” from this “visit”.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter and Mr. Grubb will visit the site to assess whether the Field can be made more secure.

03.08.20 District and County Councillor's Reports

CC Mr. Baldwin referred to the major financial impact of Covid-19. To date, there is no indication that Central Government will award any further grants. CC Dr. Dennis commented that Central Government may allow the Council Tax cap to be lifted without a referendum.

CC Dr. Dennis referred to the A24 task force which is currently making slow progress. He explained that priorities have been identified and these are the most likely to progress. There is to be better concentration on major bus stops and to also to link-up cycle routes.

DC Dr. Skipp advised that the next Council Meeting has been cancelled as there is no business to be discussed. As with WSCC, Covid-19 has had a major negative effect on finances. Future housing developments in Horsham District is a major discussion point.

Dr. Skipp will contact HDC regarding the second fallen tree in Ayshe Court Lakes – citing health and safety issues.

DC Mrs. Haigh referred to Central Government White Paper on Planning and, if this is passed, it will influence Horsham District.

Resolved to ask a member of Planning Department to join the September Virtual Meeting to give an outline of the contents of this White Paper

DC Mrs. Haigh commented that the future of district councils is being raised and if unitary councils are introduced, this will again raise the question of whether there should be a Horsham Town Council.

Some residents have had problems with the automatic barriers in Swan Walk Car Park and non-recognition of their number plates. There is the possibility that these number plates are slightly different in shape and size.

DC Mrs. Fletcher referred to the Covid-19 emergency cycle schemes, one of which is scheduled in Horsham Town. DC Mrs. Fletcher is extremely disappointed that WSCC is refusing to consult about the latest decision to take the west bound route out of the scheme and she wonders how this will affect the summing-up at the end of the initiative.

LCWIP – residents in Barrington Road are confused about the proposal which is to set up a contra-flow; their concern is loss of car parking spaces. This is not the case and Mrs. Fletcher believes there needs to be better resident communication.

04.08.20 Planning

20/0966	7 Comptons Lane	Rebuild extension	No Objection
20/1346	Enterprise House, Foundry Lane	Change of use & installation of roller shutter	n/o
20/1305	The Coach House, 1 Hernbrook Drive	Erect 2 Storey front Extn	n/o
20/0970	9 Little Comptons	Erect garden office	n/o
20/0981	Kerves Ridge	Amendment to original plan	n/o

19/2583 Mill Farm, Hammerpond Road Amendment to previous application
FNC would refer to our previous objections submitted 7/2/20 which still exist as they are Highways objections. These concern the volume of traffic and the size of the vehicles using Hammerpond Road, which will endanger other road users such as cyclists, pedestrians and equestrians.

Mr. Travers referred to Tesco Express application to have 24-hour refuelling at the site in Redkirk Way.

Residents at Buchan Court, Brighton Road are seeking permission to install a metal fence around the apartments due to intrusion by members of the public. There will be no objection to this application.

Mr. Travers referred to 35 Brambling Road where an application for a two-storey house within the grounds was refused. An application has now been submitted for a two-storey extension and wrap-around building works.

05.08.20 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £7,382.07, Reserve Account £1,286.12. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for August. Mr. Travers explained that he has paid the Website name and domain costs from his personal Bank Account and will reimburse himself once the online banking is in place. Currently this set-up is causing issues (on the Bank side).

06.08.20 Meetings attended by Councillors

Friends of Chesworth Farm – there is an issue with dog litter in Arun Way and this is a place where a bin is requested. Mrs. Sumpter explained that, in the past, HDC has refused the request as the road is too narrow for its lorries to turn. However, it is suggested that the dog bin is situated on the made-up part of Arun Way.

06.08.20 Correspondence

WSSC Getting West Sussex Economy Reset Plan proposed for adoption in October 2020 (this is an informative memo and does not need input).

Public Realm – FNC acknowledgement and HDC Clive Burley's response to our comments have been added before forwarding to Agency.

4TheYouth – Dean Sweet has responded to say that there was no "take up" when The Snack Wagon was situated in Bennetts Field but there are children from our neighbourhood who have signed up to the Lodge Hill Activity Week.

HDC funding for community groups including food redistribution of the stock for people who were in self-isolation (excess food stock has been sent to food banks).

HALC Minutes and Presentation

WSSC Highways Newsletter stating that the feedback from the new Highways Contract (started 27th July) is positive.

HDNC Minutes

WSSC Corona Virus Survey Results

WSSC Newsletters about "Keeping West Sussex Safe". This outlines initiatives that are being taken by WSSC and how it is reacting to local outbreaks.

July Neighbourhood Warden's Report

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Bulletin explaining a new household initiative.

08.08.20 Any Other Business

Document Layout

Mr. Friswell suggests that HDC documents that ask for comments, are presented in a user-friendly way i.e. by referring to page and paragraph numbers. It is agreed that the current layout for consultation documents is poorly designed.

Resolved DC Mrs. Haigh will now raise the matter with HDC CEO Glen Chipp

Pedlars Way Fencing

In general terms, people are still disappointed with the fencing that has been erected by a resident although it is known that this is not illegal. CC Mrs. Fletcher is concerned that the fencing will impede the way in which the public footpath can be maintained due to weeds coming through the fence line.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will follow up this comment.

North Street Subway

Mr. Olson had a site meeting with residents who are concerned about the harsh appearance of North Street Subway. In the past a "gorilla gardener" maintained an area but recently, Network Rail concreted over this area. The residents would like to see some form of planter boxes.

Mr. Olson said that he too is concerned about the appearance of this important route into town but Mrs. Sumpter explained that, as usual, the question of ownership of sections of the subway is a continuing stumbling block. The North Street Subway does come under the auspices of two Neighbourhood Councils but both councils are keen to get improvements carried out here.

Resolved Mr. Olson will speak to Denne Neighbourhood Council. It was suggested that the appearance of North Street Subway is included in the Public Realm Document. It should also be considered within LCWIP (under walking initiative). FNC will be supportive of any issues to improve the appearance.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.