

**HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL**  
**Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB**  
**Tel: 01403 269265 E-Mail: [fnchorsham@sky.com](mailto:fnchorsham@sky.com)**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 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:** Mrs. R. Fletcher, Mrs. F. Haigh, Dr. D. Skipp and Mr. P. Burgess  
**County Councillors** Mr. A. Baldwin and Mrs. M. Millson  
**Public:** 1  
**Apologies** CC Dr. N. Dennis

**01.09.20 Minutes of Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

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

**02.09.20 Matters Arising**

**02.08.20 LCWIP Local Cycling and Walking Initiative Plan**

Forest Neighbourhood Council has now submitted a detailed response to this document. It is understood that the final edition will be presented to Cabinet in November and then to the full HDC Council in December. DC Mrs. Fletcher believes that stakeholders will be shown the paperwork between 12-26<sup>th</sup> October, but this is not confirmed.

DC Mr. P. Burgess referred to the Covid-19 Pop Up Cycle Lane that has been positioned in Albion Way; it is not the original plan that involved both sides of the dual carriageway. DC Mr. Burgess is concerned about the poor signage and will be discussing the scheme with WSCC Mr. Roger Elkins on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. There is already considerable public opposition to the scheme most of which refers to the fact that the road is often "gridlocked". DC Mrs. Fletcher said that she has not seen this problem but does believe that this trial is welcomed.

Pop Up Cycle Lanes have been introduced by Central Government as a reaction to the way in which the public embraced walking and cycling during the National Lockdown. This is seen as a positive lifestyle change and it is probable that the Lanes will stay in place for a period to assess their usage and future potential.

**04.03.20 The Local Plan**

On two occasions during this meeting, DC Mr. Burgess referred to The Local Plan and the importance of having this document in place. If not, Central Government is able to impose its own target of over 1,700 homes per year. With a Local Plan, this figure could be closer to 1,200 homes.

DC Mr. Burgess said that HDC has not made any decision about which sites will go forward. However, at 6.00 p.m. on 21<sup>st</sup> September, HDC issued a News Release that refers to a possible revised plan for Rookwood. DC Mr. Burgess explained that this option will use half the land for housing and the other half will be "greened-up" to compliment Warnham Nature Reserve.

\*later in the meeting, the broad outline of this revised plan, was discussed and it was noted that this option reduces the number of homes from 1,100 to between 750-870 homes but on half the land area.

**Resolved that, whilst Rookwood is not in this neighbourhood, this Council will submit a response to this new proposal**

### **05.03.20 Noticeboards**

There is no noticeboard at Lidl Store, but Mr. Olson is continuing to look for other places where our notices can be displayed.

### **08.06.20 Speed Kingslea School**

Mr. Olson has discussed speed issues with The Headteacher, Mr. Conway, Kingslea School. Whilst Mr. Conway is happy to be involved in safety issues, his opinion is that the original School Travel Plan was convoluted, and he would not be keen for it to be resurrected and then updated. Mr. Conway explained that until 3 years ago, there was a Lollipop Lady in Depot Road but following her retirement (and apparently a WSCC survey) she was not replaced. Mr. Conway is happy to now survey parents for their opinion. CC Mrs. Millson referred to past requests for some form of crossing in Depot Road but without success.

Mr. Sitton (in his Speedwatch role) explained that the results of a recent speed watch exercise in Kings Road, showed that of 200 vehicles using the road, only 3 vehicles were driven within the speed limit that is 20 mph at school opening and ending times. This analysis could also be brought to the attention of Mr. Conway.

**Resolved Mr. Olson intends to set up a Working Group to engage neighbourhood discussion about a potential low traffic area around Depot Road**

### **03.07.20 Forest Neighbourhood Logo**

Mr. Olson is now in receipt of the new logo and is happy with its style. Payment has been made. He is now liaising with David Jessop who manages FNC website and the logo will be incorporated into other FNC papers.

### **07.07.20 Bennetts Field**

Mrs. Sumpter, Mr. Grubb and Mr. Stanley visited Bennetts Field to assess its security. Two areas could be improved, the padlock system to the main gate that could easily be broken again and an area around the Scout Hut where more bollards could avoid any illegal entrance to the Field. It was confirmed that these additional bollards would not compromise access to the Scout Hut.

**Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will now speak to HDC to ask that Section 106 monies is allocated to pay for these upgrades**

### **06.08.20 Friends of Chesworth Farm**

Under this heading, Councillors again discussed the need for an additional dog bin to be placed at the end of Arun Way, before the allotments. Following a site visit, it was confirmed that it should be accessible by the HDC lorry.

**Resolved to write to Mr. John McArthur (Head of Waste at HDC)**

### **08.,08.20 Pedlars Way Fencing**

Whilst falling outside Chesworth Farm and the FNC area, FNC discussed the fencing up Pedlars Way. A number of residents from the FNC area had raised concerns about the height and intrusive nature of the new fencing. Mrs. Sumpter also said that she understood that the owner of the land in question, had spoken to HDC about installing bollards further up Pedlars Way as he had bought a cottage up there.

**Resolved to advise Southwater Parish Council that this Neighbourhood Council is unhappy about the fence etc. along Pedlars Way and ask them to look into this and seek their opinion.**

### **08.08.20 Document Layout**

DC Mrs. Haigh will again speak to CEO Mr. Glen Chipp.

### **03.09.20 Public Forum**

The member of public raised the issue of dog litter and the need for an additional dog bin.  
**Resolved DC Dr. Skipp will also contact Mr. McArthur (Head of Waste HDC).**

### **04.09.20 District and County Councillors' Reports**

**DC Mr. Burgess** advised that confidential negotiations are taking place relating to a commercial interest for **The Drill Hall**. An area in Dukes Square has been identified for the new homes that were intended to be built on The Drill Hall site.

Financially, HDC has been seriously affected by the Pandemic and much of its income streams have ceased. It has drawn on its reserves for this year but there could be a deficit of up to £2m in the next financial year.

**CC Mr. Baldwin** also referred to WSCC Budget and foresees dire proposals and possibilities for the next year.

**CC Mrs. Millson** referred to a recent attack on a young woman in Boxall Walk/Gorings Mead footpath and she has asked Highways to install more lighting.

**DC Dr. Skipp** attended a Scrutiny Committee relating to refuse and waste carbon neutrality; he was impressed with the positivity and aspiration to reduce usage by 2030.

DC Dr. Skipp referred to planning application DC/20/1509 35 Brambling Road. FNC understood that this application referred to a two-storey wrap-around extension but DC Dr. Skipp said that the applicant has included a further application for a house in the grounds (this was previously refused). Dr. Skipp believes this new proposal will have serious safety implications due to limited access on the corner of Brambling Road/Heron Way and it is an over development of the site. Forest Neighbourhood Council will again look at this application.

There was a general discussion about who is advised when HDC accept a planning application. It is not a requirement that a notice must be placed within the vicinity and it seems that neighbours are not automatically advised in letter form. DC Dr. Skipp has asked Planning Department to ensure that affected neighbours are individually notified and are also told how to access HDC Planning Portal. HDC should not rely on local press coverage.

**DC Mrs Fletcher** referred to a Public Space Protection Order that, in her opinion, is a grey area and needs to be re-visited. *For information, Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) propose to deal with a particular nuisance in a particular area that is having a detrimental effect on the quality of life for those in the local community. It can prohibit certain things or require specific things to be done.*

**DC Mrs Haigh** drew attention to Planning Application DC/20/1696 Sussex House which although outside FNC's area, is the first application that is using new legislation to build two storeys on the top of the current building. Now, there are very few reasons why such an application can be refused although any work will have to conform to building regulations. *(Victorian houses or houses built pre-war may be excluded from the new legislation)*. FNC will seek clarification and is asking for a Planning Officer from HDC to join the next virtual meeting.

DC Mr. Burgess and Cc Mr. Baldwin left the meeting at this stage.

### **05.09.20 Planning**

Mr. Travers referred to an application at 5 Parsonage Road that includes the installation of two front dormer windows. A site visit will be made to ascertain whether this will fit into the street scene.

177 Comptons Lane – an illuminated sign has been fitted. FNC will ascertain whether permission has been given for this installation.

Mr. Olson asked whether FNC had sight of all planning applications. He said that he had submitted in a planning application which had now been approved. He declared an interest in this application but had noted there were no comments from FNC on HDC's Planning Portal. It was confirmed that FNC is a formal consultee and should always receive direct information. It also receives a copy of the formal list that is distributed on a weekly basis and this includes appeal applications and results as well as HDC permissions and refusals. In theory, therefore, FNC is responding to every application, even if it is N/O – no objection. It is difficult to know what other steps can be taken to ensure that a planning application is not missed.

#### **06.09.20 Treasurer's Report**

Current Account £6,958.71, Reserve Account £1,286.13. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid. Logo costs have been reimbursed to Mr. Olson.

#### **07.09.20 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Speedwatch – Mr. Sitton reported that roads are being monitored and that Mr. Stanley and his wife have now been trained and added to the volunteer list. There have been blips when drivers exceeding speed limits have not received formal letters, but this should now have been resolved. Mr. Sitton will distribute a list of roads (solely for FNC information and not to be made public) that have now been approved for Speedwatch.

**Facebook** – Mr. Olson is happy with the neighbourhood response to the Facebook page and reported that FNC social media presence is quickly increasing.

#### **08.09.20 Correspondence**

Press Release headed "Tory Heartlands in Revolt" – this refers to the fact that Tory Ministers are questioning the way in which the housing numbers are being calculated. This relates to Local Plans.

Neighbourhood Warden's Report

Gatwick Strategy for the Future – Mr. Sitton will join the Zoom Meeting with Gatwick Community Team on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30 a.m. This will mostly be a question and answer session about Gatwick Airport's future.

**HDNC Minutes dated 20<sup>th</sup> August** – FNC will contact Denne Chairman regarding paragraph about nominating a specific road for additional expenditure. FNC considers that Comptons Lane could be nominated.

**Great British September Clean** – 11<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**East Street Bollards** – Denne has advised that the planned temporary works will be completed shortly.

**Candice Coveney, HDC Youth Provision Officer** has sent an e mail thanking the Youth Team for the Summer initiatives which, she states, were well attended.

**WSSC Newsletters** have been received throughout the month updating on Covid-19 related matters. There were newsletters on the latest library opening hours and pop-up cycle routes.

**Highway Code** – Comments can be made on proposed changes to the Highway Code. The main alterations to the **code** being proposed are: introducing a hierarchy of road users which ensures that those road users who can do the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others.

**Website Accessibility Standards** – Appropriate changes are being made.

**WSSC Concessionary Travel** – train concessionary passes are being withdrawn.

**Public Rights of Way** – a scheduled visit to our area is taking place.

**County Local Committees** are being cancelled until further notice. **Resolved** FNC are questioning why virtual meetings cannot take place.

#### **10.09.20 Any Other Business**

It is with sadness that FNC Councillors were informed of the death of DC Mr. Leonard Crosbie.

HDC Press Office – DC Dr. Skipp agreed to follow up FNC concerns about the way in which Press Releases are distributed. FNC would like a wider audience.

At the end of this Meeting, Mr. Andrew Beale introduced himself and explained his interest in becoming a Neighbourhood Councillor. He is employed as a Health and Safety Officer for Special Educational Needs Services and he lives locally.

The Chairman, Mrs. Sumpter proposed that, with immediate effect, Mr. Beale is co-opted to Forest Neighbourhood Council and this was seconded by Mr. Travers. The paperwork will now be forwarded to HDC Legal Department.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 a.m.