

**HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL**  
**Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB**  
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**MINUTES OF MEETING 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 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, B. Waters, F. Haigh, D. Skipp, G. Newman

**County Councillors:** Mrs. M. Millson, Dr. N. Dennis (left the Meeting at 8.00 p.m.), Mr. A. Baldwin (left the Meeting at 8.30 p.m.)

**Public:** 1

**Apologies** 0

Mrs. Sumpter advised that due to unforeseen work commitments, Mr. Beale is unfortunately not able to continue his Neighbourhood Councillor role.

**01.11.20 Minutes of Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Grubb and seconded by Mr. Friswell. The Planning Presentation was well received, and a letter of thanks has been sent to HDC Emma Parkes and HDC Guy Everest.

**02.11.20 CC Dr. Dennis Report**

Dr. Dennis explained that during this unprecedented time, there is little to report about County Council affairs other than all indications lead to WSCC having to cut or reduce many services (this was reiterated later in the meeting). In answer to a question about Community Highway Schemes, Dr. Dennis explained that Trafalgar NC may ask Forest NC's help when applying for Rushams Road funding. If, as CC Mrs. Millson believes, this community scheme will be axed, Dr. Dennis suggest going down the route of asking for leftover small pockets of Highways Section 106 monies to be allocated to such initiatives.

**Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will look at Highways "balances" in Forest area with a view to resurrecting the New Street application (that WSCC refused in a 2018/19 Community Highways Scheme application).**

**03.11.20 Matters Arising from Minutes, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Planning Matters – Central Government White Paper, Planning for Future**

Mr. Friswell was thanked for preparing a detailed response and this was delivered within the 30<sup>th</sup> October deadline.

**Resolved to now write to MP Mr. Jeremy Quin, specifically relating to Horsham's building requirement. Forest Neighbourhood Council considers this is unrealistic and will lead to extensive building in the countryside and the uncontrolled spread of settlements outside present boundaries**

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

The latest draft that will be presented to HDC Cabinet for adoption. DC Mrs. Fletcher was asked for her opinion and she explained that it is a "good start" but lacks any planning for town centre linkage. CC Mrs. Millson agreed that, if this is to work, there must be a route through the town centre.

CC Mrs. Fletcher continued by saying that there is no timetable, action plan or "smart" objectives and for LCWIP to have value, these additions are essential. One point to note is that an adopted LCWIP may short track funding applications when funding does become available.

Neighbourhood Councillors suggested that one route, Forest Boys School route, is not feasible. There is also concern that LCWIP is not being discussed in tandem with the recent Public Realm Strategy. HDC has used Consultants for both reports.

**Resolved Mr. Grubb will respond to this LCWIP draft, referring to the comments made by Councillors and reiterating its suggestion that any funding that is available, should be channelled to one specific cycle route. (please refer to Minute 08.08.20 Pedlars Way).**

#### **Covid-19 Pop Up Cycle Lane in Albion Way**

WSCC has confirmed that this controversial Cycle Lane will shortly be removed. DC Mrs. Fletcher acknowledged that this Lane was flawed but she is disappointed.

#### **04.03.20 The Local Plan**

**Rookwood Development** – FNC response to this suggestion, has been forwarded and acknowledged. In recent days, this area has been flooded, specifically around Boldings Brook but HDC continues to refer to the Environment Agency Document 2016. NC Councillors commented that this Plan is four years out of date and is now allowing for global warming. HDC Brian Elliott, Head of Property and Services, is suggesting that “the scheme will present an opportunity to improve the existing drainage and may provide a reduction in flood risk to the site and more importantly to existing properties adjacent to and downstream of the site. This would also provide ecological and environmental benefits within the area as part of the development”.

\*Further reference was made to LCWIP and the fact that the Rookwood Development proposal refers to the way in which future residents can walk or cycle into town. There is no reference to this Statement in LCWIP.

The Local Plan is to be presented on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and decided on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021. All the indications, although not in writing, are that Rookwood development will be in this Plan.

#### **07.07.20 Bennetts Field**

This is still pending. NC Mr. Stanley commented that contractors have recently been on site. It was confirmed that this was for tree work rather than installation of posts.

#### **06.08.20 Friends of Chesworth Farm / Dog Bins**

DC Dr. Skipp was thanked for his intervention and for advising that HDC John McArthur will install two new bins, one at Arun Way and one at the Subway Entrance from New Street end.

There was discussion about dog owners who choose to leave “plastic bags” in inappropriate places. In every way this is unacceptable, particularly environmentally.

**Resolved to refer to this issue in January Newsletter**

#### **08.08.20 Pedlars Way Fencing**

Although Southwater Parish Clerk has acknowledged FNC e mails about the fencing height and encroachment onto the Public Bridleway, there has been no further communication.

Councillors discussed the idea to enlist support from Sussex Wildlife and West Sussex Rights of Way Team. Separately there is the possibility that Pedlars Way is being considered as a Southwater Cycle Route, especially as there is no reference to a cycle route in the West Sussex A24 corridor project.

**Resolved to raise this matter within the LCWIP response and investigate whether there are grounds to involve Sussex Wildlife and West Sussex Rights of Way Team regarding the Pedlars Way fencing issue and encroachment on to the public right of way**

#### **07.09.20 Reports from Neighbourhood Councillors**

##### **FNC COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

Mr. Olson was again thanked for his input into our Facebook Page which is steadily increasing public awareness of this Council. FNC does not currently have a strong presence on Twitter although our demographic seems to prefer Facebook posts.

Mr. Olson referred to recent FNC responses to the issues, The Local Plan/Rookwood, Public Realm and LCWIP. Neighbourhood Councillors agreed, on a trial basis, to Mr. Olson's suggestion that these should be posted on the website and referenced on our Facebook page. This might be a way in which to raise awareness about the scope of discussion at monthly meetings.

Continuing thanks are extended to David J. who manages our website. Mr. J. will be asked to arrange for a security certificate and any costs will be refunded. Regarding email account names, Councillors prefer to retain their own e mail addresses rather than a dedicated FNC account.

#### **04.11.20 Public Forum**

The member of public was welcomed to the meeting. She explained that she was an interested resident and was enjoying listening to the wide range of topics discussed at this meeting. She is involved with Friends of Chesworth Farm.

#### **05.11.20 Reports from County Councillors**

CC Andrew Baldwin and CC Morwen Millson once again referred to the shortfall in WSCC budgets going forward. CC Andrew Baldwin explained that there in 2021/2022 budget there is a gap of £43.6M. WSCC has £20.2M savings which leaves a "black hole" of £23.4M. CC Mrs. Millson explained that there will be many disappointed people, but she believes emphasis will be placed on maintaining basic services – older and younger people services.

In answer to a question, CC Mrs. Millson confirmed that there will not be a Horsham Satellite Station when the Fire and Rescue Service is revamped. She assumes that risk assessments have been carried out.

#### **06.11.20 Reports from District Councillors**

**DC Dr. Skipp** believes that the Gren Flag recently awarded to Horsham Park is an award that should be fully celebrated. DC Mr. Newman said he was fortunate to live in close vicinity and enjoys easy access to this well-loved area. Neighbourhood Councillors also acknowledged all the hard work by HDC employees and volunteers.

Dr. Skipp said that most of HDC business is currently connected to the Development Plan and build up to its publication.

**DC Mrs. Fletcher** referred to the "Wilder Horsham Project" in association with Sussex Wildlife Trust. She believes that emphasis is being placed on those green areas that are not subject to any development possibilities. This might be excluding some Horsham Green Spaces.

### 07.11.20 Planning

Mr. Travers specifically referred to DC/20/2194 13b Station Road. FNC is again strongly objecting to this proposal which is for a single storey one bedroom in the garden. All the previous objections are relevant.

It is noted that the application for a detached 2 storey dwelling in grounds of 35 Brambling Road has been withdrawn but the application for a wrap around extension to 35 Brambling Road has been approved.

HDC Planning has refused permission for DC/20/1599 on the grounds that “by reason of their scale, form and design, would appear unduly dominant and visually intrusive additions to the dwelling which would be out of keeping with the prevailing character and appearance of the site and wider surroundings, with the rear extension resulting in an overbearing, oppressive and un-neighbourly addition, to the detriment to the neighbouring occupier”.

The Appeal Officer has dismissed the Appeal for a new bungalow in front grounds of 17/19 Hernbrook Drive but only on the grounds of the effect on street scene.

20/1983	60 Highlands Road	Increase width of rear of side extn.	n/o
20/1690	Oak Tree, Chesworth Close	Erection of single storey rear extn. Erection of a 1st floor balcony extn over proposed rear extn with addl internal alterations.	n/o, following changes
20/2127	30 Grebe Crescent	Erection of a single storey side and rear extension and alteration to existing front canopy	n/o
20/1744	187 St. Leonards Road	Erection of first floor rear extn with pitched roof	n/o
20/2194	Station Studio, 13B Station Road	Demolition existg storage bldg & erection of sngl storey 1no. bedroom dwelling with assoc. wks	FNC OBJECTS. See below
20/2118	11 Depot Road	Erection of single storey rear & side extension. Installn of 3 rooflights to rear elevation & 2 rooflights to side elevation.	n/o
20/2186	201 St Leonards Road	Single storey rear extn, flat roof & addl. lantern. 1st floor side extension over existing grd floor	n/o
20/2109	48 Barrington Road	Convert grd flr retail unit to 2 bed flat	n/o
20/1971	34 Oakhill Road	Single storey rear extn	n/o

**DC/20/2194 – 13B Station Road** – HFNC strongly objects to this proposal, which is a repeat of 19/1494 and 18/0627, on the grounds of overdevelopment and over intensification of a very small site. The substantive property – number 15 – has already been split into two properties, with separate front doors. These properties must be very small as the original properties are only small, terraced cottages to begin with. This proposal would remove any outdoor space entirely and create a very cramped arrangement. By virtue of access arrangements, limited room sizes and inadequate natural light and outlook, this proposal would create accommodation below the standard which the Council would reasonably expect, to the detriment of amenity for future occupants.

#### **08.11.20 Treasurer's Report**

Current Account £6360.47, Reserve Account £1,286.15. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid using Bank Transfer. £21.76 has been reimbursed from Speedwatch Fund. It is agreed to thank our Website Manager by donating to his Charity.

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

**Speedwatch** – Mr. Sitton said there has been a hold-up due to a new requirement to complete a higher-level risk assessment. He will be training four new volunteers, and this involves live deployment. He has been liaising with Trafalgar NC at sites in that neighbourhood.

**Chairs of Three Neighbourhoods** – Mrs. Sumpter joined a Zoom Meeting with the Consultants who are looking at Community Asset Management (this includes The Drill Hall and its usage). The Consultants are speaking to the three neighbourhoods and North Horsham Parish Council. Mrs. Sumpter commented that there are insufficient community spaces in Forest neighbourhood.

**HDC Standards Committee** - Mr. Friswell has applied to join the Standards Committee.

#### **10.11.20 Correspondence**

**Covid-19 Cycle Route** – information that this is being removed.

**West Sussex Hospital Survey** regarding the proposed merger which will mean that five hospitals in the care of 1.8 million people in Sussex will come under a single Trust.

**WSSC/NHS correspondence** updating on flu. vaccination programme and also updates on Covid-19 and the case numbers.

**HDC Voluntary Support Newsletters** (including ways in which HDC is supporting local businesses)

**HDC Compliance Team** – update from Madeleine Hartley, Planning Compliance Team Leader, about staff deployment.

#### **HTNC AND HDNC Minutes**

**Public Realm Strategy** – our comments were submitted

**Rookwood** – our comments were submitted; we have been copied into various responses.

**Youth Meeting Notes** – these included an update on the working condition of The Snack Wagon. FNC has written to HDC to suggest that any small pots of Section 106 money are allocated to the vehicle maintenance. The Snack Wagon is being scheduled to regularly visit Bennetts Field.

#### **HALC Minutes**

#### **Strategic Planning – Adopted Statement of Community Involvement**

#### **Tree Preservation Order TPO 1541 202 St. Leonard’s Road, Horsham**

#### **Local Transport Plan – WSCC Highways and Transport**

#### **Neighbourhood Warden Report**

#### **Gatwick DD Community –**

#### **WSCC Town and Parish News**

#### **11.11.20 Any Other Business**

Mrs. Sumpter referred to a Tree Survey (Horsham Green Forum) that will involve this neighbourhood. She has already spoken to Mr. Fensom who will become involved although is anxious not to repeat previous initiatives that have not evolved. The member of public explained that she is involved in this Survey and it is more related to having a definitive list to avoid any overlapping and to enable sharing of information.

As soon as further details are known, Councillors will be asked to look at trees in their close neighbourhoods.

Mr. Sitton commented that, as a member of public, he has approached WSCC Sue Furlong about the way in which drains are being rodded and unblocked.

The comment was made that if Councillors note blocked drains, especially those that are causing flooding, WSCC should be notified through its page “Love West Sussex”.

The next meeting will be held on the second Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> December.

This Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

