

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 14th DECEMBER 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: Mrs. M. Millson and Mr. A. Baldwin (left the Meeting at 8.30 p.m.)
Public: 0
Apologies County Councillor Dr. N. Dennis

01.12.20 Minutes of Meeting held on 16th November 2020

The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Friswell, seconded by Mr. Grubb and signed by Mrs. Sumpter.

02.12.20 Matters Arising

03.11.20 Planning Matters

Jeremy Quin, MP has now responded to FNC letter relating to the Government White Paper "Planning for the Future". He personally approves "a lot of the proposals in the White Paper" but says "the development numbers remain the subject of intense debate". He comments that he is in detailed discussions with HDC.

Resolved to write to our MP again asking for a reply to the questions about Rookwood. FNC will again refer to other White Papers listing the importance of green space and recreational land. As requested, a copy of FNC response to White Paper will be sent.

04.03.20 The Local Plan – Rookwood

Although FNC has not seen a copy of Proposal 3, it understands that this includes a Primary School on the Warnham Nature Reserve side of the land. The housing number has not been reduced and the bus route still runs through the football pitch.

HDC will be asked to forward a copy of Proposal 3 as a matter of urgency.

Neighbourhood Councillors expressed their surprise about the land choice for a Primary School especially as access will involve crossing the already busy Warnham Road. FNC continue to strongly object to losing the green space in Redford Avenue even though it is understood provision will be incorporated in the school playing fields.

Resolved FNC will now ask for Rookwood to be withdrawn from the Local Plan options so that its future can be discussed without any time pressure. It continues to be the case that Forest Neighbourhood Councillors consider Rookwood as a "prized possession for the residents of Horsham".

If HDC goes ahead with the sale/development of Rookwood, the question was asked as to how the proceeds will be spent. It was suggested that as Local Authority funding has been centrally cut, it could be incorporated into the budget. The comment was made that this was believed to be illegal.

Resolved to raise the matter of the Local Authority grant reduction with MP Jeremy Quin

06.08.20 Friends of Chesworth Farm/Dog Bins

The extra dog bins are still not in situ. DC Dr. David Skipp is aware of this situation and added that this may be due to HDC management changes. He will check.

07.09.20 Communications

David J. has sent a letter of thanks following receipt of cheque that he will donate to St. Catherine's Hospice. The Chairman has spoken to David J. who is happy to continue managing the website, but he does suggest that there should be a forward thinking plan. An ideal solution would be the co-option of a Councillor with specific IT skills and/or enlist someone for this role from within the Neighbourhood.

03.12.20 Public Forum

There were no members of public at this Meeting.

04.12.20 Reports from District Councillors

DC Dr. Skipp confirmed that DC Mr. Peter Burgess has resigned from his Cabinet Post as the Horsham Town Representative. DC Mrs. Haigh suggested that HDC Jonathan Chowen might informally take over the role.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will discuss town representation with Trafalgar and Denne NC Chairmen to see whether each Neighbourhood Council would respond to HDC on this or whether it should be collectively.

DC Dr. Skipp said that the majority of HDC meetings are connected to strategic site discussions and the draft Local Plan is due to be published in February 2021.

DC Ms. Fletcher advised that, posthumously, Mr. Leonard Crosbie has been made an Alderman. This news was well received.

A new website has been created for The Drill Hall.

For information – the proposed development on the vacated Smith and Western Site in Warnham Road, has been rejected.

Covid-19 restrictions has had a massive negative effect on The Capital Theatre's viability and one outcome might be that it is closed between shows.

DC Mrs. Haigh commented about an increase in the bio-diversity requirement (possibly 10%) on new developments. She explained this is likely to be contentious as if a developer is unable to fulfil this percentage, he can "sell it on".

SHELLEY MEMORIAL – to celebrate Shelley's bi-centenary, a local group is aiming to raise funds for a permanent memorial. Several sites have been identified (HDC has already rejected one proposal in Causeway) one option is at Horsham Railway Station as this would link in with the Shelley Trail. Another option is a site in Horsham Park.

Resolved FNC will ask to be included in the correspondence list.

05.12.20 Reports from County Councillors

CC Mr. Baldwin advised that Central Government will be announcing its Council funding, and this will then enable the council tax figure to be set.

There is the possibility that 2 of the 11 refuse centres will be closed, possibly the Billingshurst and Midhurst sites. CC Mr. Baldwin is not in favour of this proposal saying that as well as being bad for the environment, it will lead to increased fly tipping. WSCC is responsible for the refuse centres but fly tipping and its removal and cost is HDC's responsibility.

CC Mrs. Millson advised that she will be formally standing down from her County Councillor role on 6th May. She is fully supporting Mr. John Milne who will be standing at the County Council election. Mrs. Millson has represented Forest Neighbourhood for more than 20 years and she was thanked for her dedication and continuous support for this area.

Mrs. Millson confirmed that the Harwood Road Pelican Crossing has now been repaired.

Referring to WSCC Children's Services, CC Mrs. Millson advised that the latest Inspection has indicated reasonable progress in providing a higher level of care and so the Trust route will be delayed for another year. There is also an improved report relating to the Fire and Rescue Service.

06.12.20 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £5,950.47, Reserve Account £1,286.16. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid and Mr. Travers confirmed that online banking is now active.

07.12.20 Planning

Mr. Travers advised that the Century House developer has now submitted an amended plan application showing changed layouts to 9 out of the 49 units to incorporate a home office. Considering the unit measurements, Mr. Travers is surprised there is space. He added that there is no option to object to amended applications.

20/2268	94 Bennetts Road	Single storey rear extn	N/O
20/1909	Flat 4, 55 Kings Road	Installation of double glazing	N/O
20/2246	Chapeau Brewing, Unit 8 Redkiln Way	Change of opening hours	N/O
20/1848	33 Highlands Road	Amendment to loft conversion	N/O
20/2310	3 Lanark Close	Single storey front and rear extns	N/O
20/2220	61 Smithbarn	Two storey rear & single storey front extn	N/O
20/1858	25 Depot Road	Change of use, grass verge to residential land & s/s side extn & storage shed & dropped kerb	N/O
20/2314	28 Depot Road	Single storey rear extn	N/O
20/2391	Unit B Blatchford Road	Construction of storage building	Paperwork unavailable
20/2362	71 Heron Way	S/s rear extn & 2 storey side extn	N/O
20/2381	130 Brighton Road	Single storey rear extn with rooflights	N/O

08.12.20 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

SPEEDWATCH – Mr. Sitton has now trained a further 8 people, 3 of whom are in Forest Neighbourhood. Risk assessments have been approved and will no longer have to be submitted on a regular basis (unless this area is placed in Covid-19 Tier 3). Mr. Sitton is taking on the voluntary role as Administrator for Sussex Police.

Mr. Sitton was formally thanked for his input into this initiative which is being very well received.

Gatwick Airport Airspace and Noise Management Board Public Meeting

This Meeting was virtually attended by Mr. Sitton and the slides and accompanying Meeting Notes have been circulated. Whilst the Presentation was primarily concerned with noise management, it does refer to the current situation at Gatwick Airport where passenger numbers are down by 85%. Investment projects are on hold. New revenues are being explored including the introduction of a forecourt drop off charge.

SPECIAL CHARGE

Draft details of 2021 Special Charge are now available and will be circulated. Mrs. Sumpter explained that the 3 Chairs are hoping to arrange a virtual meeting with HDC Dominic Bradley. The Special Charge is linked in with Council Tax and so the figures may change. *please see question in “Any other Business”.

09.12.20 Correspondence

Essential Work at Horsham Enterprise Park – North Horsham Parish Council will be holding regular Zoom Meetings commencing January 2021 and have invited FNC to join.

Iron Bridge – Repairs to the structure have been carried out.

Neighbourhood Warden’s Report November.

County Local Committee Meetings – these are postponed. However, WSCC is asking for input into its proposed traffic regulation orders. CC Nigel Dennis has confirmed that he is supporting a request for Victoria Street.

Christmas Lights – an issue with electricity supply in East Street delayed the switch on.

WSCC Press Releases including Covid 19 updates and Town and Parish News. (as at 9.12.20 there were 539 reported Covid-19 cases - 62.4 per 100,000 pop.)

WSCC Works –major works are being carried out to two roundabouts in Crawley.

Denne and Trafalgar Minutes

SCAMNESTY – anyone who receives Scam Mail during December (only) is encouraged to forward it to Friends Against Scams organisation..

Horsham Town Walk will take place on 15th December with reduced attendance. FNC will receive the report.

Local Transport Plan Survey

Census March 2021

Gypies and Travellers – frequently asked questions. Document prepared by HDC Community Safety.

10.12.20 Any Other Business

Mr. Will Jones, HDC's Senior Arboricultural Officer, has announced that after 22 years in this role, he will be retiring at the end of January. Mr. Jones' knowledge and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. There has been no announcement about his successor.

Resolved to formally thank Mr. Jones and to formally ask HDC for this role to be continued.

Christmas Tree – NC Mr. Olson asked why Horsham Town does not have a Christmas Tree. It was explained that Christmas lighting is paid from the Special Charge. Because of insufficient funding, it was considered that the tree could be deleted from the decoration listing. DC Mrs. Haigh commented that if BID (business initiative development) goes ahead, this may be an item that can be funded through this source.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will raise this matter within the Special Charge discussions.

The Meeting closed at 9.00 p.m. Mrs. Sumpter thanked all Councillors for their continuing involvement and enthusiasm for Forest Neighbourhood. Zoom Meetings will continue for the foreseeable future although it is hoped that in due course, meetings can resume at The Salvation Army Hall.