

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 19th JANUARY 2021 7.30 p.m.
(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: Mr. R. Cornell (left the meeting at 8.00 p.m., Ms. R. Fletcher, and

Dr D. Skipp,

County Councillors: Mr. A. Baldwin (left the Meeting at 8.30 p.m.) CC. Dr. N. Dennis (left the meeting at 8.30 p.m.)

Public: 0

Apologies DC Mrs. F. Haigh, CC Mrs. M. Millson

01.01.21 Minutes of Meeting held on 14th December 2020

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

02.01.21 Matters Arising

04.03.20 The Local Plan – Rookwood

There is a delay to the Local Plan publication due to a Regulation compliance issue. DC Dr. Skipp does not anticipate any decisions being taken within the next two months. Mr. Milne commented that despite Central Government reassessing the housing numbers, people may still be shocked at the substantial housing requirement.

Mrs. Sumpter advised that the 3 NC Chairmen have been invited to a virtual meeting on 21st January arranged by HDC to look at Proposal 4 for the Rookwood development. No paperwork is available at this time, but it is understood Proposal 4 does address some of the objection issues. Mrs. Sumpter commented that FNC continues to receive a steady stream of objection e mails.

Mrs. Sumpter has unsuccessfully asked HDC to circulate slides of the Proposal. Neighbourhood Councillors asked that their disappointment is formally registered, and this was agreed.

Resolved to press for a more open approach to the distribution of slides and paperwork associated with the proposed Rookwood development.

06.08.20 Friends of Chesworth Farm – Dog Bins

DC Dr. Skipp referred to management changes that have now taken place. He will speak to HDC Ben Golds to confirm that the dog bins will shortly be in situ.

04.12.20 Reports from District Councillors – Town representation

FNC Councillors are disappointed that HDC Cabinet does not see the need to appoint a specific Cabinet Councillor to represent Horsham Town.

FNC Councillors disagree that Horsham Town will receive adequate representation. Horsham Town does not have a Town Council (Neighbourhood Councils are non-statutory) and so cannot be compared to Parish Councils.

Mrs. Sumpter referred to current discussions about CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) and Section 106 monies that are taking place between the 3 NC chairs and HDC, specifically as, in the case of town allocation, HDC has the final decision.

Resolved that both the lack of Cabinet representation for Horsham Town and the level of Neighbourhood Council input into allocation of CIL and Section 106 monies must continue to be challenged.

04.12.20 Shelley Memorial

Mr. Milne will attend a Virtual Meeting of the Shelley Memorial Project Group. He explained that this Group is “very bullish” about raising funds but one contentious issue is the site. A preferred option is outside Horsham Railway Station and DC Mrs. Fletcher commented that from a political stance, this would be good for tourism as it is the natural start to the Shelley Trail. HDC has stated its preference as being sited in Horsham Park. One comment was made that Percy Bysshe Shelley’s life was “interesting” and for this reason, his literary prowess has not been celebrated in the past. The concern raised was that in future years, Shelley’s standards would again be considered unacceptable and could be used as a reason to remove the Memorial. (To put this into context, this coincides with current issues with statues that are now considered to be offensive).

10.12.20 Mr. W. Jones (Arboricultural Officer) Retirement

Mr. Jones’ commitment and knowledge about arboriculture matters have been appreciated and respected over many years. Neighbourhood Councillors are keen that his successor has the same qualifications and job description. (see further reference to tree matters under Planning).

Resolved to write to HDC Emma Parkes

03.01.21 County and District Councillor Reports

CC Dr. Dennis referred to hoardings that are still in place on the corner of New Street/Brighton Road. Local residents are annoyed at the length of time that the pavement has been blocked. CC Dr. Dennis has contacted the developers who state that a gas main has yet to be connected and British Gas has given this low priority. NC’s disagree and believe this is a safety issue. DC Dr. Skipp suggested the matter is now referred to WSCC Highways.

The road closure sign in Bedford Road Car Park has been “repatriated”.

Dr. Dennis commented that several residents have contacted him about the pressures of on street parking during lockdown. Whilst there is less commuter car parking, cars are being less used, and this affects the general flow of parking spaces. Neighbourhood Councillors have not been contacted about this issue.

Relating to elections, whilst there are rumours that the May Elections, including those for County Councillors, will be delayed, there is no official information. CC Mr. Baldwin believes the elections will be put back to September.

DC Dr. Skipp has again contacted HDC Compliance about the poor state of the Antix Building in Brighton Road and that despite the owner's assurances, the building has become more derelict and unsightly. The comment was made that a local artist, Tony Eady, has been in contact with HDC Nick Jenkins asking permission to artistically paint the hoarding.

Resolved DC Dr. Skipp will explore this idea

CC Mr. Baldwin highlighted a possible proposal to close most of the Family Centres; for example, in Horsham Town, only The Needles Centre would remain open. WSCC's thought process is that their employees will carry out best practice by visiting families in a home environment. He urges Neighbourhood Councils to look carefully at the proposal when it is published as he is uneasy about this suggestion. The comment was made that Family Centres envelop Services other than those offered by WSCC and, if removed, these positive interactions will be lost.

DC Ruth Fletcher referred to trial electrical and textile recycling that is due to take place. She did comment that under "electrical" this would not include laptops as these contain lithium.

04.01.21 Planning

Neighbourhood Councillors discussed the application DC/20/2440, property close to the listed St. Leonard's House. After a vote, it was agreed that no objection would be registered although some Councillors felt the design would be out of place in this area.

20/2461	Century House	Creation of home office	Withdrawn
20/2437	20 Orchard Road	Replace conservatory	No Objection
20/2372	50 Grebe Crescent	Amendment – add roof lights	Already approved
20/2462	Denne View	Side extension	N/O
20/2510	88 Clarence Road	Single storey rear extn	N/O
20/1952	54 Smithbarn	Amendment	N/O
20/2312	26 Pollards Drive	Amendment	Withdrawn
20/2118	11 Depot Road	Amendment	Could not ascertain what amendment was

20/2598	65 Smithbarn	New office / bike store	N/O
20/2440	Marringdan, St Leonards Park	Renew fascia & instal swimming pool at rear	N/O
20/0324	9 Bens Acre	Amendment	Could not ascertain what amendment was
20/2587	Westhope Place	Erection of outbuilding	N/O
20/2597	3 The Gorings	Side extension	N/O
21/0031	21 Woodgates Close	Replacement conservatory	N/O

Mrs. Sumpter raised an issue relating to trees – she is concerned that there does not seem to be a mechanism in place to ensure that conditions in planning approvals for tree works, such as tree replacements, are actually carried out. It is agreed that if permission is granted for a tree to be felled, FNC will maintain its own register to ensure that all conditions are fulfilled. Within HDC this should be a compliance issue.

Relating to this, the comment was made that tree surgeons at Aspen Court may be trimming back trees and this was work that was specified in the planning approval.

05.01.21 Treasurer's Report

Current Account, £5,640.47, Reserve Account £1,286.17. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid.

06.01.21 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Mr. Milne attended the first Novartis Liaison Meeting and will distribute the Notes. Primarily, this meeting was arranged to set up the liaison group and NC Mr. Milne believes that, going forward, this will be useful. He commented that from an original 8, there are now 3 potential development partners and the final choice will be made in March. Relating to the business side of the development, it seems that 80% has been earmarked and one local company may be planning to move there to expand its business.

The trees are protected, and any infills will be chosen from appropriate species. However, there is no news on the cycle route to the station and the railway bridge idea has been dismissed.

Mrs. Sumpter referred to CIL money and said that its distribution needs to be carefully discussed as, although Novartis is in North Horsham Parish Council's area and they could decide how it is spent, the Novartis development will impact all of the town.

Mrs. Sumpter is discussing current Section 106 and CIL balances with HDC. She strongly believes that the way forward is for decisions to be taken at a group level, e.g. representation from Neighbourhood and District Councillors and local residents.

Current Wish List is:

Bennetts Field – bollards, adult exercise equipment and playground upgrading. The play area facilities are well used but are ageing in both design and appearance. Also, the current playground activities are not user friendly to all age groups, particularly the younger children.

In recent years, a Noticeboard in New Street Green has been suggested. Mr. Olson believe this should no longer be considered as there is already a New Street Noticeboard that is in a better position and has a far higher percentage footfall.

07.01.21 Correspondence

JEREMY QUIN 16th December – the second letter was acknowledged but, to date, no response has been received.

Ramblers Association – this Group is aiming to register all rights of way. Urban registrations have already been carried out by Mr. Friswell and latterly, The Horsham Society.

HDC Winter Wonderland results

Sussex PCC Policing Priority Survey

HDC Homeless Prevention Officer, Kendra Barrington has advised that a double decker bus has been gifted

HALC Minutes Denne NC Minutes/Trafalgar Minutes

Public Protection Orders (Horsham Town)

Youth – Dan Fairchild is covering Candice Coveney's Maternity Leave

Southern Water Message – posted to our website.

District Magazine Article about 3 Neighbourhood Councils

Drill Hall – update on HDC's recent e mails about this property

Census 2021 information

WSCC Highways

- negative response to pothole repair request in Orchard Road
- immediate response to requests to "make good" broken pavement in Arun Way and broken traffic signing in Brighton Road
- Warnham Road pedestrian refuge
- Kerves Lane to be closed on 4th February 2021

CORONA VIRUS – HDC and WSCC regularly update us with news, statistics and ways in which they can help – including grants, business initiatives and local problems.

WSCC Letter dated 14th January precisely and easily sets out "SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES"

HDC Neighbourhood Wardens - Lucy and Alison are keen to interact with anyone who is lonely, concerned or anxious during this latest lockdown. WSCC has announced that bus passes can be used at any time to attend a vaccination appointment.

Lifesaving Defibrillator (applying for £200 grant)

Passenger Benefit Fund – notification that work is being carried out under this scheme at Horsham Railway Station (toilet upgrading and new seating)

08.01.21 Any Other Business

NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Sadly, Lucy Hallett is resigning from her position. Alison and Lucy have formed a strong and effective partnership and their duty of care has been exceptional – especially during the recent months.

Resolved to ask that the Neighbourhood Councils are represented on the Interview Panel and suggest that Alison is involved during the selection process.

Newsletter

Mrs. Sumpter is currently receiving quotes for the distribution and this is likely to be in the region of £900. NC Mr. Olson suggested there should be some form of online survey and he also proposed that Forest NC considers the option of incorporating a QR Code. This form of connection is becoming increasingly popular and as it is easy, may encourage more interaction.

Quarterly meeting with HDC Adam Chalmers and HDC Jonathan Chowen

The meeting will take place on 26th January. Mrs. Sumpter asked if NC had any agendas items to let her know.

Harwood Road Trees

WSCC is in the process of replacing trees in Harwood Road. To balance the planting, two further trees are needed on the opposite side of the school, alongside Stirling Way. Mr. Sitton asked whether FNC would be prepared to pay for these trees, approximately £300. There would be no further involvement as WSCC purchases, plants and carries out the initial after care.

Whilst FNC is happy to support the initiative, it believes that a precedent would be set and, funding-wise, it would be impossible to sustain future similar applications. It is suggested the matter is referred to Horsham in Bloom.

Highways – Brighton Road/Jubilee Court

At this junction, the pavement is damaged and easily floods. This may be because of the recent development. Mrs. Sumpter had raised this previously with Peter Burgess and whilst he sympathised, he said there was no money to carry out repairs.

Resolved to refer the matter to WSCC Highways “Love West Sussex”

The Meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.