

**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 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 7.30 p.m.**  
**(VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING HOSTED BY CLERK)**

**Present:** Messrs. N. Friswell, J. Milne, J. Olson, G. Sitton, G. Stanley and B. Travers. Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chairman)  
**District Councillors:** Mrs. F Haigh and Dr D. Skipp,  
**County Councillors:** CCs Dr. N. Dennis and Mrs. M. Millson  
**Public:** 2 (observers)  
**Apologies** CC Mr. A. Baldwin, DC Mrs. R. Fletcher

**01.03.20 Minutes of Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**  
The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Friswell and seconded by Mr. Stanley.

**02.03.20 Matters Arising**

**04.03.20 The Local Plan – Rookwood**

West Sussex County Times intends to publish a Rookwood letter that has been prepared by the three Neighbourhood Councils together with comments from town organisations. This letter has been circulated and approved by all Forest Neighbourhood Councillors and explains the position that all three NC's are adopting.

**Resolved that following WSCT confirmation, the NC letter will be posted to the FNC Facebook page \* please refer to Jon Olson's report about recent viewing figures.**

Separately, Mrs. Sumpter referred to Open Zoom Meetings that Mr. Martin Bruton, (Horsham Older Person's Forum) is intending to host. Up to 100 participants can be invited at each meeting. The dates were in March and 8<sup>th</sup> April. DC Jonathan Chowen and Friends of Horsham Park Chairman, Sally Sanderson had confirmed their attendance although there is now uncertainty about DC Jonathan Chowen's attendance and so the dates are not yet confirmed. One reason for an Open Zoom Meeting is for "all sides of the argument" to be discussed and without HDC participation, this is not possible.

It is understood that the Rookwood proposal is scheduled to be discussed by HDC Cabinet end of May/early June.

**04.12.20 Reports from District Councillors – Town Representation**

DC Dr. Skipp is collating ideas and is keen for further involvement in this discussion.

**05.12.20 Friends of Chesworth Farm – dog bins**

Whilst there is no update on the dog bin issue, it is understood the Arun Way entrance that is referred to, will shortly be re-surfaced up to the bottom gate. WSCC has also looked at the state of the fencing but will not be intervening. \*Later in the meeting, DC Dr. Skipp referred to waste bins (specifically Depot Road) that have been overflowing; he is extremely disappointed that dog owners are inappropriately depositing plastic bags.

**04.12.20 The Shelley Memorial**

The Committee is still pursuing the idea to place this Memorial in the vicinity of Horsham Railway Station – HDC are putting forward a site in Horsham Park.

Currently the main discussion centres on maintenance as HDC is not wanting to take on the responsibility.

#### **03.01.21 Potholes**

Neighbourhood Councillors have expressed their disappointment at the recent poor level of work carried out in repairing the potholes in St. Leonard's Road. From WSCC point of view, it knows that if it does not act quickly after receiving information, it can lead to motor claims. Therefore, the work is not always carried out in good weather and this leads to quick disintegration. However, this is a contracted service and it appears that work is being carried out without any meaningful supervision.

**Resolved to contact WSCC Ms. Eleanor Harries, WSCC Highways Steward and Customer Support Manager (copying Mr. Mike Thomas, Central Area Highway Manager)**

Reference will also be made to the large pothole in Queen Street that is never satisfactorily repaired.

#### **03.03.21 Public Forum**

There were no questions; the two members of public attended as observers.

#### **04.03.21 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports**

CC Dr. Dennis referred to a recent CLC Meeting discussion about Victoria Street/Trinity Square. This section of the road was not included when the original CPZ limits were set, and this means there are no waiting restrictions here. Service vehicles have been blocked from entering Trinity Square but residents are strongly resisting changes to the current set up (a poll was 6-1 against). There may be a compromise with, say, single yellow lines on one side.

Dr. Dennis has followed up DC Dr. Skipp's concern about vehicles using New Street as a "rat run". DC Dr. Skipp was approached by a resident who had recently moved into the area and was not aware of the history (traffic surveys, questionnaires etc.) and that there was extensive lobbying for the introduction of a 20-mph speed restriction using Community Highways Scheme funding, but this did not meet the criteria.

Following a general discussion about funding streams, one suggestion is to approach WSCC Highways, Mr. Mike Thomas, to see if the proposal can be carried out using Highways Section 106 monies (with a connection to New Street).

**Resolved DC Mrs. Haigh will liaise with Mrs. Sumpter to establish what Section 106 funding is available following which figures will be passed to WSCC Mr. Mike Thomas.**

DC Dr. Skipp commented there are very few members of staff working in HDC offices and this has its own communication problems. Councillors continue to be heavily involved in The Local Plan.

DC Mrs. Haigh referred to Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan and Mrs. Sumpter also highlighted the importance of this moving forward to the referendum stage. Mrs. Sumpter commented that the Referendum process is being hampered by Covid-19. She also said that as a business neighbourhood plan, businesses would be having a separate referendum and at the current time it was difficult to contact businesses. It is very doubtful that the referendum will take place at the same time as the forthcoming local elections at the beginning of May.

DC Mrs. Haigh commented that there are less businesses than what is assumed, and she wished to highlight the fact that businesses can apply for local grants (in fact applications will be welcomed by HDC who have available funding). "Businesses" can also include people who do not operate from a business environment, e.g. yoga teacher, beauty therapist.

Summing up, DC Mrs. Haigh said that HDC is keen to receive ideas to re-invigorate the town and local economy.

#### **05.03.21 Planning**

Mr. Travers commented on the general reduction in planning application numbers. There are no objections to February/March applications.

20/2381	130 Brighton Road	single storey rear extension with 2 roof lights to rear.	n/o
21/0120	74 Depot Road	Replacement block drive with tarmac and create crossing for two vehicles.	n/o
20/2462	Denne View, Kerves Lane	Demolition to create side extn, etc. to provide additional first floor accommodation.	Amendment. n/o
21/0267	21 Cambridge Road	Erect single storey extn.	n/o
21/0284	26 Pollards Drive	Erection - front extn, rear extn, side extn. Instal flue to side elevation, pitched roof to existing garage and front porch canopy.	n/o

#### **06.03.21 Treasurer's Report**

Current Account £4,966.09, Reserve Account £1,286.19. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for March 2021. There will be a considerable carried forward balance. Costs associated with the Neighbourhood Plan Newsletter have been delayed and should have been met from 2020/2021 budget.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** – this will be scheduled for May 2021.

#### **07.03.21 Healthy Homes Act**

This campaign, promoted by Town and Country Planning Assoc., is gaining momentum and is calling for a new piece of legislation, Healthy Homes Bill. During recent years, Forest Neighbourhood Council has written letters to both HDC and MP Jeremy Quin expressing its concern about some development designs, especially those passed through permitted development route. It is noted that standards set in 1919 Housing and Town Planning Act (space, design, energy, transport and green space) survived until 1980 when all mandatory standards were abolished.

One outcome from Covid-19 is the likelihood that more office developments in town centres will be converted into accommodation and locally, this could mean some developments will be even less acceptable than ones that are already deemed "disappointing".

At this stage, **the draft LOCAL PLAN**, was discussed. Unfortunately, the controversy surrounding the inclusion of Rookwood has detracted from acknowledging important local policies that are being written into the document and, if not adopted, could adversely affect building standards.

**BLUEPRINT** Neighbourhood Plan - referring again to this document, it is important that residents do respond to the referendum and the adoption procedure as this will add credence to the local policies that aim to raise standards.

**Resolved NC Mr. Friswell and NC Mr. Milne will liaise to prepare draft documentation to add to the Healthy Homes Act campaign.**

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

**Speedwatch** – the initiative continues with success, currently operating in Rushams Road. Mr. Sitton is training another volunteer and Kings Road will shortly be monitored.

**Neighbourhood Wardens** – the interview process has taken place although the outcome is not known (15.03.21).

**Cycle Forum** – Mr. Sitton said this Group continues to discuss the LCWIP proposal to use Brighton Road as a route to and from The Forest School. It is objecting and believes the safer route for cyclists is along New Street.

**HTCP** – It is hoped that The Riverside Walk will take place in Summer 2021 and in the meantime, Section 106 monies are being used to extend the board walk in Heron Way vicinity of Leechpool Woods.

**Friends of Chesworth Farm** – Mrs. Sumpter reported that The Arun and Roth Rivers Trust (ARRT) had undertaken a River Arun flow study at Chesworth Farm and given a presentation to the Friends Group. She will keep FNC updated on progress. HDC is also looking at bringing forward (from 2025) its commitment for local nature reserves and this may be a positive step for securing Chesworth Farm's future.

**“Wilder Horsham”** – the 3 Neighbourhood Chairmen have had little or no input into this scheme and are pressing an HDC Meeting. This is a 5-year partnership between Sussex Wildlife Trust and HDC.

#### **06.03.21 Correspondence**

West of Ifield Update – NC Mr. Milne will represent FNC at this webinar.

HDC removes the rights of communities to make statements (correspondence thread).

QE11 School Planning Application – FNC will respond suggesting that solar panels are incorporated into this design.

HDC Councillors Code of Conduct.

WSCC notification that Covid 19 symptom-free testing is available.

Soft Sand Review.

Horsham Weekly News

Horsham Enterprise Park – Muse Developments is the appointed partner. It is understood there is strong interest in the business development, one of which is a company that is intending to expand.

Development Plan Management Update

No Incinerator 4 Horsham update

HACL AGM Agenda

28 Brighton Road (e mail thread)

50 Comptons Lane (CC Morwen Millson's update on hedge)

Neighbourhood Warden February Report

Denne and Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council Minutes

WSSC Climate Change Reduction notes

HDC Economic Development End of Year Report 2020

### **WSSC Early Help Scheme**

CC Mr. Baldwin alerted FNC to this proposal that will introduce major changes to the way in which early years are supported. One major concern is that the majority of Family Centres will close and in Horsham, only The Needles Family Centre will be retained.

Neighbourhood Councillors do not agree that early help schemes will be more effective if carried out on a one-to-one basis. Family Centres provide a meeting point, a place where information is accessible and, by default, highlight families that would probably be missed by what is now being proposed.

**Resolved Mr. Olson will prepare a draft response that will be submitted before 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

### **Horsham Waste Recycling Plant Update**

Residents continue to be extremely disappointed with the waste recycling facilities including the latest proposal to introduce a booking system that allows one visit each week – this last proposal has received a high negative response level. Specifically relating to Horsham site, the Winter opening hours led to serious traffic jams and affected the smooth running of the Park and Ride facility.

Several comments are being circulated, including the inevitable increase in fly-tipping and the fact that this becomes an HDC problem (WSSC is responsible for recycling plants).

In the past, the Plant was open for 7 days each week. Now the population has increased by 25,000 which means the waste recycling facility amenity is reduced by 30%. These figures suggest that the facility should be extended.

Again, referring to the latest proposal, this is a trial. Summer working hours are being introduced plus the site will be open for an additional day. The booking procedure has been successfully trialled in Suffolk and Hampshire.

**Resolved to write to Deborah Urquhart and Steve Reed relating comments and asking for confirmation that this is a trial and can be reversed without any issues.**

### **07.03.21 Any Other Business**

**New House Farm** – Neighbourhood Councillors are concerned that this Appeal will be allowed due to issues surrounding the possible lack of "5 Year Land Supply".

**Rookwood** – Mr. Olson referred to his report that shows high level response to the social media posting. It is agreed that once confirmation is received that WSCT will print the Neighbourhood Councils' letter, it will be posted on FNC Facebook page.

It is also agreed that FNC will look at its responses to matters of greater interest with a view to posting these on social media.

The member of public was welcomed to the Meeting and explained his interest in local affairs. He will be invited to attend future Zoom Meetings.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.