

**HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL**  
**Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB**  
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**MINUTES OF MEETING 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 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:** Ms. R. Fletcher, Dr. D. Skipp and Ms. B. Waters

**County Councillors:** Dr. N. Dennis (arrived 8.00 p.m.), Mr. J. Milne (also attending in his County Councillor role)

**Public:** 2 including Mr. Puckle who was later co-opted as an NC

**Apologies** CC Mr. J. Mercer

Mrs. Sumpter opened the Meeting by congratulating Mr. Milne on his recent County Councillor election. Mr. Milne is happy to continue in his role as Neighbourhood Councillor and this was well received. Due to personal reasons, Mr. Mercer, newly appointed County Councillor, was unable to introduce himself at this Meeting.

Mrs. Sumpter welcomed Mr. Puckle to the Meeting. He expressed an interest in becoming a neighbourhood councillor and, after discussion, it was RESOLVED that Mr. Charles Puckle be co-opted onto Forest Neighbourhood Council.

To comply with GDPR Regulations, Neighbourhood Councillors, District and County Councillors present agreed that their personal details can be circulated within FNC. However, the website will continue to only list NC names (all correspondence will be directed through the Clerk's contact details).

**01.05.21 Minutes of Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

These were proposed by Mr. Friswell and seconded by Mr. Sitton. Please note that under correspondence, the proposal is to call the new Page Court Development – Turpitt Court.

**02.05.21 Matters Arising**

**04.03.20 The Local Plan**

Varying information is being received as to when The Local Plan will be released. The draft Plan has gone through the Planning Inspectorate's health check process and received much positive feedback plus a few helpful suggestions to strengthen the plan. It is understood that, currently, there is no agreement on the list of sites. In answer to many questions, Mr. Milne believes discussions are ongoing between the choice of Buck Barn and Adversane sites. About Mayfield (new settlement) there may be issues with land purchase. Ifield will probably go ahead but with reduced numbers as again not all the land has been purchased.

Rookwood – it is not known whether this is in The Local Plan. The difference between Rookwood and other sites is that Rookwood is owned by HDC and therefore its sale does generate capital.

Mr. Milne made the following comments:

- Currently HDC have to “accept” 150 houses per year from Crawley's target and this is scheduled to increase to 185 from 2022.

- In 2022 HDC will have to “accept” 15 houses per year. from the South Coast target
- The Local Plan has to provide a minimum of 1,200 houses per year

Mr. Milne continued by explaining that a “health check inspection” has been requested and this relates to affordability ratios (house prices v. local wages), If affordability improves, the housing target number should be reduced.

It was noted that the Appeal Hearing for New House Farm will take place w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

The Local Plan reference may include smaller development sites at Hornbrook Farm and Hilliers (although Hilliers land is not thought to be a desirable site for housing).

Whatever is decided within the Local Plan, any building is unlikely to commence within next 5 years.

### **03.01.21 Potholes**

One pothole has been fixed (outside Akash Restaurant) but the drain (outside The Job Centre) is still protruding.

**Resolved to again apply through WSCC pothole website.**

Mr. Travers again referred to the pavement hazards at the top of Queensway; the block pavements are now out of alignment.

**Resolved to continue to report through “Love West Sussex”**

Regarding the failing road surface in Orchard Road, Oakhill Road and Bethune Road) DC Dr. Skipp confirmed that this does not meet intervention levels, but this may change after emergency gas works are completed.

### **05.03.21 Neighbourhood Wardens**

Alison and Maria will be invited to join the June Zoom Meeting.

### **05.03.21 Cycle Forum**

Francis Vernon, Horsham Cycle Forum, will be invited to join the June Zoom Meeting.

**Resolved NC Mr. Sitton will attend any site visits for cycling proposals (Carfax) as this Council’s representative.**

### **05.03.21 Town Centre Public Realm Strategy and Design Guide**

A link to this document will be posted on FNC website. Neighbourhood Councillors again discussed the proposed removal of the Albion Way Subway. It is noted that at all stages, FNC has objected to this idea. The comment was made that if the wider pedestrian crossing is moved to give a clear line into Horsham Park, it will be close to the roundabout, adding to car queues.

In his report, DC Dr. Skipp referred to the Public Realm document explaining that it is aspirational and currently there is no money to carry out any of the proposals.

### **05.03.21 Bridleway off Arun Way (Friends of Chesworth Farm)**

The member of public believes that hedge cutting along the bridleway in the “triangle” has been postponed until Autumn 2021 and is being carried out under WSCC Works Schedule. FNC queried whether there was any need to cut back to the original line of bridleway as it had been like this for many years. .

**Wilder Horsham** –the Chairs of the 3 NCs are having a presentation by Helen Peacock (Environment Manager at HDC) and Richard Black (Landowner Adviser at the Sussex Wildlife Trust) on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July. The presentation will give an overview of the Wilder Horsham District project.

#### **03.04.21 WSCC Early Help Scheme**

FNC response has now been forwarded and Mr. Olson was thanked for comprehensively preparing and collating all Neighbourhood Councillors' comments. The response is available on all social media pages and will be forwarded to CC Mr. Mercer.

#### **07.04.21 Street Naming**

HDC has advised that street naming protocol is now being handled by HDC Ms. Jenny Smith. The recently received notification suggests that FNC is no longer a consultee in the naming process.

Further, the question will again be raised regarding the new development at Page Court being known as Turpitt Court.

**Resolved to consult HDC Adam Chalmers and HDC Barbara Childs about both matters.**

#### **03.05.21 Public Forum**

The member of public expressed her interest in neighbourhood matters. She referred to the Company, "We Buy Any Car" using the YMCA building as a business venue and residents' concerns about the increased traffic and problems with the car carrier accessing the site. The Chair reported that FNC had already asked the Planning Compliance Team at HDC to investigate.

Neighbourhood Wardens are patrolling Gorings Mead. The HDC Compliance number for investigation is. EN/21/0222.

New Street – the car carrier (associated with We Buy Any Car) has been seen turning into New Street and this has caused consternation. Whilst not the recommended lorry route, both CC Dr. Dennis and DC Dr. Skipp questioned whether it is illegal. Separately Dr. Skipp is contacting HDC Compliance about the hoardings at the bottom of New Street that, by now, should have been removed.

#### **04.05.21 Reports from District and County Councillors**

DC Dr. Skipp previously referred to the Public Realm Document. He also explained that controversy around The Local Plan is the dominating factor at HDC.

DC Walters referred to the small appliances and textile re-cycling trial that is due to begin on 25<sup>th</sup> May. Neighbourhood Councillors expressed surprise as this has not been advertised. The food waste collection programme has yet to be announced although DC Walters explained that the Arun 1-2-3 trail has been successful and is likely to be rolled out throughout the County. This will change the collection schedule as by separating food waste, it will not be necessary to have a two weekly general refuse collection (becoming 3 in 1-2-3).

DC Walters referred to the Public Space Protection Order that has been extended to stop unacceptable group behaviour in Causeway and Memorial Gardens. Her comment was that this group may look for other local venues to congregate and this might be Bennetts Field.

**Bennetts Field** – DC Walters referred to work that has been carried out at The Needles to stop access on to the fields. She understands that within this monetary grant, there is funding to “stop up” possible access routes into Bennetts Field.

**CC Dr. Dennis** understands that potholes have been repaired in Harwood Road but it was advised there are still potholes in Corunna Drive.

There will be temporary traffic lights from Century House, North Street over the railway bridge to the junction with Hurst Road from 3-9<sup>th</sup> June.

Surface dressing is taking place from Clarence Road to Sedgwick Lane from 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

The County Local Committee will hold a “talk with us” session on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

CC Dr. Dennis advised that WSCC has not received our Community Scheme application. (this was sent and acknowledged by WSCC Mike Thomas on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020).

#### **05.05.21 Treasurer’s Report**

Current Account £10,692.56, Reserve Account £1,286.21. Clerk’s honorarium and expenses have been paid for May, Contribution to Riverside Walk has been paid. HDC Precept of £6,800 has been received and this represents a 9% increase.

#### **06.05.21 Planning**

#### **07.05.21 Youth Contract**

Forest Neighbourhood Councillors unanimously agreed that this Contract (using funding from Special Charge) should continue.

#### **08.05.21 Reports from Neighbourhood Councillors**

Mr. Olson has circulated the latest social media report and FNC is delighted with the increasing interest in this way of communication.

Mr. Sitton referred to Speedwatch and during the past month, there has been no activity.

#### **09.05.21 Correspondence**

SHELLEY MEMORIAL PROJECT – Meetings have taken place and the project has progressed to fundraising discussions.

FOREST BOYS SCHOOL – We have been sent details of a footpath proposal at Forest Boys (not involving the trees or connected to the major proposal).

NEIGHBOURHOOD ALERTS – these are regular e mails

TRAVELLING COMMUNITY – updated paperwork if unauthorised sites are accessed.

CHESWORTH FARM AGM – this took place on April. Please note that Chesworth Farm has been awarded the Local Wildlife Park accolade.

DENNE AND TRAFALGAR MINUTES

HTCP MINUTES

HDC and WSCC Newsletters relating to Covid-19 including how to access Sussex Crisis Fund.

HDC PARKING ISSUES – concerted joint effort to alleviate issues in Kingslea School vicinity.

WSSC SUZI HELP - notification that an application has been put forward for a phone mast near Pets At Home. This falls within Denne's neighbourhood.

DRILL HALL

**ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT VARIATION** – this is a lengthy document referring to refuse and recycling site and asking for more flexibility.

**LUNCH DATES** - a newly formed group that has been organising lunches for elderly people in private homes at times during the Covid-19 crisis. The Lunch Club wishes to make this a permanent event now. We will be promoting their Notices. [www.tapestrylunchclub.co.uk](http://www.tapestrylunchclub.co.uk)

#### **10.05.21 Any Other Business**

**Ayshe Court Lakes** – a new resident in Lyons Court has joined the Ayshe Court Lakes Working Party and has explained that he has previously been involved in a similar exercise where ownership is uncertain. He suggests that Section 106 monies should be applied for to carry out more extensive work. The problems with Ayshe Court Lakes are legendary, and it is uncertain whether Section 106 monies can be accessed for work on an area that is Crown Property.

**Resolved to invite the member of public to join a future meeting.**

**Newsletter** – Mr. Olson agreed to liaise with Mrs. Sumpter regarding the proposed publication of an FNC Newsletter.

**Horsham Green Spaces Forum** – Mrs. Sumpter will ascertain whether this Forum would like a formal representative from Forest Neighbourhood Council.

**The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.**