

**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> AUGUST 2021 7.30 p.m.**  
**(VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING HOSTED BY CLERK)**

**Present:** Messrs. N. Friswell, J. Milne, J. Olson, C. Puckle, G. Sitton, G. Stanley and B. Travers, Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chairman)

**District Councillors:** Ms. R. Fletcher

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

**Public:** 0

**Apologies** DC Dr. D. Skipp,

Owing to ill health, DC Mr. Godfrey Newman is retiring from his District Councillor role. This is after many years of committed service to residents in this Neighbourhood and everyone is hoping that his health will continue to improve. FNC wish to place on record its thanks for all his hard work and dedication during his time as a District Councillor. FNC will also send him a letter of thanks.

**01.08.21 Confirmation of Minutes held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Minor errors have been amended and the Minutes were proposed by Mr. Friswell and seconded by Mr. Stanley.

**02.08.21 Matters Arising**

**04.03.20 The Local Plan**

It is understood that this will now be decided by HDC around the end of November. Due to the possibility of a legal challenge, the July Meeting was cancelled. The reasons given are that The Local Plan now requires a 30-year vision and must include tree lined streets. This will involve adjusting figures, the housing mix and a plan for tree upkeep, something that WSCC is loath to be involved in. The site at Adversane may now be added to the equation alongside Buck Barn.

In the meantime, workshops on smaller sites are to be instigated and this should involve parish and neighbourhood councils; one of the reasons is the urgency to put in place a 5-year land supply. FNC Mr. Milne explained that without this provision, there is a strong possibility that appeals will be allowed. He explained that the Newhouse Farm appeal was dismissed only on the grounds that it is an area of outstanding beauty. He also referred to Sandy Lane, Henfield where the Developers have again appealed, citing the lack of a 5-year housing supply

As a point of interest, the Neighbourhood Plan for Henfield Parish has now been passed and as this includes sites, its land supply commitment is reduced to 3 years. Blueprint, Horsham Local Plan has yet gone to referendum and it is suggested that this could occur at the same time as a bi-election resulting from DC Mr. Newman's resignation. Blueprint does not have site allocations so a 3 year plan is not relevant.

**Resolved that Mrs. Sumpter will discuss dates with HDC Barbara Childs**

FNC Mr. Milne continued by referring to "vulnerable" sites in Forest Neighbourhood and this includes Hornbrook Farm and possibly Hilliers. In answer to one question, he confirmed that planning applications for around 6000 houses that have already

been approved in the district but not developed, does not count in the numbers. This is always a source of contention.

#### **05.03.21 Bridleway 1670 off Arun Way**

Several Neighbourhood Councillors attended the recent site meeting with WSCC Emily Delicata and the appointed Contractor. Mrs. Sumpter confirmed that WSCC is aware of all the perceived problems (including Oak Trees). The aim is to re-align the Bridleway as close as possible to its legal line. Drainage issues were acknowledged; "Wilder Horsham" may be approached.

Separately, Mrs. Sumpter commented that the Contractor had agreed to erect a dog bin if it is supplied.

**Resolved to contact HDC Adam Chalmers and Peter Crawford for this provision (at the same time referring to a separate request in Depot Road that has not been acknowledged).**

#### **07.04.21 Street Naming**

There is confusion as to what guidance is being followed by HDC.

**Resolved to ask HDC Adam Chalmers and HDC Brian Elliott for clarification.**

#### **09.05.21 Other Business**

DC/21/1370 "We Buy Any Car" application is not appearing on HDC Planning Portal, presumably because it has not been validated.

**Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will discuss this matter with HDC Barbara Childs**

#### **09.05.21 Bennetts Field**

FNC Mr. Stanley has identified an area that could be breached. Mrs. Sumpter is discussing this matter with Friends of Bennetts Field, Beverley Bell.

#### **09.06.21 Town Council**

There is some confusion as to whether The Horsham Society has set up a formal sub-committee to discuss the formation of a Town Council. This Neighbourhood Council believes that, from the outset, it should be involved.

**Resolved Mr. Sitton to ascertain more information**

#### **04.07.21 "20 is Plenty"**

**CC Mr. Dennis** thinks that, following recent WSCC committee appointments, there may be a "shift" in policy towards the introduction of 20 mph road speed limit and this might have a positive affect on a future application to introduce this speed limit in New Street (especially as this has strong resident backing).

**Resolved to re-apply through community highways scheme at the appropriate time.**

#### **07.07.21 Speedwatch**

FNC Mr. Sitton reported that he has proposed 2 sites in Kerves Lane for Police approval. (FNC Councillors consider that Garden House site is the best option).

Volunteers for the Speedwatch campaign are still needed. Mr. Sitton will shortly train volunteers in Trafalgar area.

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

**County Councillor Mr. J. Milne** has been approached by a resident whose family require adult social care support and is anxious about a significant rise in charges. Mr. Milne confirmed that this is the case, and he believes the rise is because no increases have been

made for a number of years; however, he is aware that this is causing distress to families and will be following up this issue.

**Development of surplus land by WSCC/Muggeridge Field** – Mr. Milne is continuing to lobby Cabinet Members to ensure that before any decisions are taken about surplus WSCC land, there is at least a 6-month stakeholder consultation looking at whether land should be considered for social/community/environmental use. WSCC has joined forces in a long term joint venture with The Morgan Sindall Group a new property development company to develop surplus County Council land into new homes and commercial premises. It is believed that, if there is no consultation process in place, any land that is identified as surplus, will be developed.

**Resolved Mr. Milne will try to obtain a full list of surplus land that has been passed to The Morgan Sindall Group. He believes that each land parcel will be discussed on an individual basis.**

There is to be a GP Survey and this will include appointment times. At this stage it is uncertain as to whether this Survey will include members of public. Neighbourhood Councillors will be disappointed if this is not the case as there is disquiet about appointment time delays and/or telephone consultations in Horsham.

**CC Dr. Dennis referred to contra flow cycling in Barrington Road.** He has discussed this with Francis Vernon, Horsham Cycling Forum and this Group is keen for this to be introduced as it will link a cycle route. CC Dr. Dennis is inclined to take a neutral view but during discussions there were several Councillors with positive views, one of which is that this is not a busy road. The introduction will require a legal order whether it is carried out on a trial or permanent basis. One concern is that due to car parking on either side of the road, there is lack of vision, but this could also be positive as it results in a narrow road that reduces speed.

**Resolved that Neighbourhood Councillors will make a site visit and individual comments will be collated before preparing a FNC response.**

**CC Dr. Dennis** is currently corresponding with a resident concerning blocked lateral drains in New Street. WSCC Highways has now visited the site and has advised that the problem is not at an intervention level. However, there was a positive outcome to an overflowing drain alongside a Brighton Road bus stop. At this point FNC Nigel Friswell expressed his disappointment at the way in which part of Brighton Road has had surface work carried out.

**County Local Committees** have been disbanded and are being replaced by County Forums/Talk With Us. FNC and CC Dr. Dennis lobbied against this change.

#### **04.08.21 Planning**

Mr. Travers referred to recent e mail communications relating to 111 Depot Road, DC/21/1085 which is an application to add a storey to a bungalow. There are no planning reasons to object although some Councillors are disappointed that bungalow stock continues to be reduced.

Mr. Travers referred to the significant increase in planning applications this month. The Planning Committee deal with the majority but do refer controversial applications to the full Neighbourhood Council.

Planning Applications – July 2021 (2):

21/1237	136 Brighton Road	Amendment to 21/1415	Withdrawn
21/0921	Appleyards, 72 Brighton Rd.	Consent for advertising	No Objection
21/1058	Horsham Rugby Club	Single storey extn to changing room	No Objection
21/1074	64 Comptons Lane	Single storey front & rear extns & loft conversion with front & rear dormers	N/O
21/1329	82 Station Road	Two rear dormers & 2 rooflights to front	N/O
21/1315	1 Chesworth Crescent	Erect single storey rear extn	N/O
21/1261	18 Cambridge Road	Single storey rear extn	N/O
21/1579	94 Bennetts Road	Single storey rear extn	N/O
21/1386	88 Clarence Road	Single storey side/rear extn	N/O
21/0927	Appleyards, 72 Brighton Rd	Allow extended opening hours	N/O
21/1085	111 Depot Road	Convert Bungalow into 2 storey property	N/O

DC/21/1042 22 Hernbrook Drive

Forest Neighbourhood Council strongly objects to this application on the following grounds:

- The proposal will be detrimental to the biodiversity of the area. The site and surrounding locality have many mature trees and bushes. Indeed the applicant states that trees on site will be felled. This will have an impact on the established wildlife and also a knock-on effect for the surrounding area.
- The application does not address how the surface water or sewage will be dealt with. The area in question is at a low point and often gets waterlogged.
- The proposal will be an adverse impact on the setting of the listed building 53 Brighton Road and its adjacent garden.
- The proposed subdivision of the site and erection of a detached dwelling would create a backland plot which would appear at odds to the prevailing pattern of surrounding development. The subdivision of the site would have a detrimental impact on the setting of the host property, with the scale, form and design of the dwelling crowding the area and appearing an incongruous and unnecessary addition to the locality.
- The proposal, by reason of its siting, scale and design, would result in a harmful loss of amenity for occupants of adjoining properties, particularly through a loss of privacy to currently secluded gardens.
- The proposal is contrary to policies 32, 33 and 34 of the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015).

DC/21/1191 5 Bens Acre

Forest Neighbourhood wish to object to this application on the following grounds:-

The scale of the proposed extension is such that there will be overlooking of neighbours leading to loss of privacy and even, given its size, the possibility of overshadowing. The scale of this proposal is such that a 5 metre extension will require the removal of an enormous amount of soil given the steep slope that exists at the rear of the property. The application does not provide how this will be dealt with. We are concerned about the facilities during construction and what proposals there are for utilities when the extension is complete.

#### **05.08.21 Treasurer's Report**

Current Account £9,618.68, Reserve Account £1,286.24. The Clerk's Honorarium for August has been paid.

#### **06.08.21 Correspondence**

**AYSHE COURT LAKES** – Photographs of work carried out during the last volunteer group session, have been received. A dog bin in Depot Road has been requested.

**HAVE YOUR SAY ON TRANSPORT PLANS** – this continues to be well advertised.

**WSCC DECISION NOTICE FOREST SCHOOL** – this is for the 3m wide path along southern parameter of main school building and is approved. Separately the hard weather court proposal is going ahead.

**ORCHARD ROAD** – Highway repairs have been carried out.

**PCSO Chris McCavish** apologises for not being able to join July Zoom Meeting due to pressure of work. Separately (if read correctly) our Neighbourhood is to be allocated a designated Police Officer.

**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH** – many initiatives are being taken by WSCC.

**ST. MARK'S COURT** – for information, an application has been received to convert this building to residential.

**HDC CHANGES** – Greg Charman and Darren Worsfold have now left HDC employment. Andy Flack has returned from retirement on a short-term contract.

#### **HDNC MINUTES**

##### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN REPORT**

**CYCLING** – Francis Vernon is requesting feedback to his presentation regarding cycling changes (Carfax) and proposal for joint discussions about New Street.

**Resolved as Carfax is in Denne Neighbourhood, Diane Sumpter will discuss response with Denne Chairman before responding. CC Dr. Dennis will confirm whether there is a policy change/shift re. 20 mph speed limits at WSCC.**

#### **07.08.21 Any Other Business**

##### **COMMUNICATIONS REPORT**

Mr. Olson advised that Neighbourhood social platform followers are increasing. He is now proposing that this Neighbourhood Council becomes part of a local "Next Door" group as he sees this as a good communication tool that can also be used to carry out surveys.

**Resolved to research this social media tool.**

**Phone Booth** – Mr. Olson would like to use the non-functional phone booth alongside the New Street butchers for some form of community use – defibrillator or library? BT will transfer ownership for £1.

**Resolved that in theory FNC is interested in supporting this idea and Mr. Olson will now look at legalities/liabilities.**

**Notice Boards** – it is agreed that the New Street noticeboard needs to be replaced and FNC will look at how the costs are to be met and this includes applying for Section 106 monies.

**Resolved FNC Mr. Olson will carry out research.**

**Cycle Parking** – DC Ms. Fletcher would like input into where there should be additional cycle parking; Bennetts Field is one proposal as there is no provision there.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.