

**HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL**  
**Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB**  
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**MINUTES OF MEETING 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 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 and Mr. T. Hogben  
**County Councillors:** 1 Dr. N. Dennis  
**Public:** 0  
**Apologies** DC Dr. D. Skipp, CC J. Mercer

**01.10.21 Minutes of Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

06.09.21 The Riverside Walk contribution was £180; £350 was the cost for the bridge plaque. The Minutes were proposed by Mr. Friswell and seconded by Mr. Travers.

**02.10.21 Matters Arising**

**04.03.20 The Local Plan**

In her e mail dated 10<sup>th</sup> October, HDC Emma Parkes advised that Natural England has issued a position statement about the impact of new development on water abstraction and the effect this is having on protected habitats. As this has potential to impact development proposals in this district, HDC is seeking legal advice and is pausing the local plan and some planning application decision making until it knows the full implications of Natural England's Position Statement. This could lead to a backlog at HDC Planning Department as, apart from validation, planning applications must demonstrate that they are water neutral and/or that they do not result in a significant effect. HDC Councillors will meet on 26<sup>th</sup> October for an update.

In answer to a question as to whether developers will use the appeal process, it was pointed out that Natural England is a legal body and therefore Inspectors must also adhere to its statements.

Water neutrality can be achieved by developers building significant water efficiency measures into new development and by providing offsetting measures to reduce water consumption from existing development to keep the level of water abstraction the same or lower.

The Position Statement is a new material consideration and the consequence of this is that Horsham District Council is unable to determine current planning applications positively unless it can be demonstrated they are 'water neutral' and/or that they do not result in a significant effect

**04.03.20 Blueprint**

HDC had suggested an early January date for the Referendum, but Blueprint will be asking for a deferral until February when it believes it will have more local interest. It is understood that the current Blueprint committee is considering Blueprint's position after the Referendum result.

**05.03.21 Bridleway 1870 off Arun Way**

Mrs. Sumpter and Mr. Milne will arrange a site visit as there is some concern about the standard of work. Mr. Olson has consistently monitored the work programme and said that his photographs show multiple layers under the surface including gravel and a chalky surface and suggests looking at this project with an open mind.

**Dog Bin** – a dog bin has been positioned close to Depot Road, Ayshe Court Lakes entrance on a trial basis.

**Muggeridge Field** – CC Mr. John Milne's motion relating to how WSCC is managing its joint land appraisal with The Morgan Sendall Group, is to be discussed at WSCC Council October Meeting. It is widely known that Muggeridge Field is one of ten sites on speculation but in Mr. Milne's opinion, there is lack of meaningful consultation with interested stakeholders and this includes Forest Neighbourhood Council. Whilst any proposal would eventually have to be submitted to HDC Planning and there would be consultation at that stage, he is debating the need for a formal consultation process from the outset.

#### **09.06.21 Town Council**

The Horsham Society has carried out an investigation into the possibility of a Town Council for Horsham Town. It circulated its report in September after which it published an article in its October Newsletter. Mrs. Sumpter explained that whilst this has not been discussed by the 3 Neighbourhood Councils, there were points in the article that needed to be articulated and the three chairs had submitted a letter in time for Horsham Society's November deadline date.

If the Horsham Neighbourhood Plan is adopted, it is considered that Blueprint will be the best route for fuller discussion.

**Resolved Neighbourhood Councillors will assess the Report and consider arranging for a speaker from a recently formed Town Council to address a meeting so that it is as much information as possible is obtained.**

#### **03.10.21 Public Forum**

There were no members of the public.

**Resolved to re-assess the procedure for members of the public to join meetings and this will be a November Agenda item. Members of the public were always welcome to attend Meetings at Salvation Army Hall but have needed an invitation to join Zoom Meetings.**

#### **04.10.21 County and District Councillors Reports**

**CC Dr. Dennis** referred to a local voluntary initiative to improve Station Road flower beds and problems that have been encountered with WSCC Health and Safety rules. Mrs. Sumpter said that volunteers may be covered by the Horsham in Bloom public liability insurance but this would need to be checked.

There is overgrown vegetation along the footpath between Salvation Army and Depot Road. CC Dr. Dennis will approach Salvation Army.

North Street/Lidl - road markings are to be replaced.

Victoria Street single line markings - there has been no local opposition and so a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will now proceed.

CC Dr. Dennis has now forwarded FNC comments relating to Barrington Road contra cycling to Peter Bradley. Although not unanimous FNC does support the experiment but with reservations.

**Harwood Road** – In answer to a request and when they are reinstated, CC Dr. Dennis will look into wildflower sowing on the Comptons Lane roundabout and adjacent grass verges.

CC Mr. Milne, in a general statement, reported that the survey relating to changes in re-cycling waste arrangements, was positive and so the booking system will continue (there will be no

change to the sites that are currently not involved, e.g. Billingshurst). The negative comments included not being able to book a same-day slot but this is a WiF issue that will hopefully be addressed.

WSCC is looking at a full review of controlled parking zones in Horsham Town and this may address some “eccentricities”. Later in the Meeting reference was made to road parking meters that do not accept card payment (e.g. Bishopric). WSCC is responsible as it owns these meters. DC Tony Hogben explained that updates cost around £1,600 per meter and that meters have a 10-year shelf life.

CC Mr. Milne continues to be concerned about the huge jump in prices for adult social care and how this is affecting recipients. He will take up any local concerns. His next aim is to have a motion review to ensure that there is a cap on any increase per year. It should be noted that WSCC has not raised its prices for a number of years preceding this current rise.

DC Ms. Fletcher referring back to CC Dr. Dennis’ comments about Station Road, added she is involved with an HDC urban greening project and this is an opportunity for areas to be put forward for discussion.

A number of her recent projects have been outside this Neighbourhood Council but she referred to the re-opening of Horsham Museum, and referred to the new Hub at Warnham Nature Reserve that she described as “fabulous”. HDC Conservation Areas are being reviewed.

WSCC is now looking at Ash Trees, specifically relating to Ash dieback disease and how best to deal with this issue.

DC Mr. Hogben announced that DC Mr. Roy Cornell had died and there will be a further by-election. Following DC Mr. Newman’s resignation, there will be a by-election for the Forest Ward on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

Referring to town footfall, DC Mr. Hogben said that this had been really good in August and September, particularly the night-time economy. Footfall in Swan Walk continues to be lower than previous years but in general terms, Horsham Town is faring better than other towns, especially as it has less empty shops.

Horsham Park has been awarded another Green Flag and is to be congratulated.

DC Mr. Hogben is currently involved with a market review and is also looking at how and if HDC will support the Shelley Memorial project.

### **05.10.21 Planning**

FNC Mr. Travers referred to an application from Horsham Rugby Club for a building to house 4 Padel Courts. This is a large building, estimated 57 yards by 26 yards and 30 feet high. FNC will be objecting on the grounds that this structure is not in keeping with the rural location and will lead to loss of valuable trees. There is no compensatory tree planting in the application.

WSCC Application for resurfacing of Forest School temporary car park – FNC Mr. Puckle has raised several concerns relating to surface water draining into existing surface water drains and lack of information as to whether there is an installation of a new soakaway at the corner of an existing building.

These comments will be forwarded to WSCC and circulated to local County and District Councillors.

21/027	6 Redkiln Close	Erection of extn to Unit 6	n/o
21/2182	76 Station Road	Single storey rear extension	n/o
21/2160	Buchan Court	Retrospective for timber fence	n/o
21/1807	Ventura House, 15 St Leonards Road	Convert 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> floors into flats	n/o
21/2170	26 Brambling Close	Replace porch with extn	n/o
21/2302	101 Clarence Road	Single storey side and rear extn	n/o
21/2266	14 Highlands Road	Replace garage	n/o
21/2320	13 Burford Road	Single storey rear extn	n/o
21/2298	16 Millais	Erect 2 storey side extn	n/o

21/2251 Horsham Rugby Club

Erection of two new buildings. One building to house 4 Padel Courts

Forest Neighbourhood Council is strongly opposed to this application on the grounds of size and location. It is enormous by any measurement being 50 yards long and 34 feet high. It is claimed the structure would be open sided, yet the rules of Padel allow you to play the ball off the side walls, thereby making this unsuitable. As for location, it is outside of the built up boundary, into St Leonards Forest and possibly in an AONB.

FNC also deplores the proposed loss of 22 mature trees with no plan for replacement. Not that any new trees would be sufficient to provide similar carbon absorption or biodiversity for many years to come.

#### **06.10.21 Treasurer's Report**

£8,389.96 current account, £1,286.26 reserve account. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for October. The invoice for plaque engraving on a Riverside Walk Bridge has been settled.

#### **07.10.21 Defibrillator**

It is agreed that FNC will obtain a list where there are accessible defibrillators in this neighbourhood. This will not be a definitive list or circulated. A call to 999 will alert a first aider to the nearest point and the Officer will continue with guidance. Mr. Olson suggests that FNC social media will raise the question, "do you know where there are defibrillators?"

**Resolved the Clerk will obtain and circulate this list to Neighbourhood Councillors**

#### **08.10.21 Potholes**

This is an agenda item following what is considered a poor repair/resurfacing in Brighton Road. FNC supports NC Mr. Puckle's e mail to WSCC where he pointed out that the resurface has left a dip in the centre of the road where water is ponding. The water will also permeate into the road surface.

FNC Mr. Puckle has now received a response advising that WSCC Highways has instructed the Contractor to return to the site.

Reference is made to 04.09.21 September Minutes where, for future reference, WSCC James White, Principal Engineer Carriageways and Footways, stated the surface dressing requirements.

**Resolved this will be monitored and further action taken if necessary**

#### **09.10.21 Gatwick Expansion**

Mr. Puckle again declared his interest in this Agenda item.

Gatwick Airport is applying to modify the standby runway so that, always, there will be one take off and one landing runway. In its statement it refers to reduced queueing which will have a positive effect on the environment.

There is considerable opposition to the plan from neighbouring Counties including a split reaction from HDC Councillors. The additional strain on all resources resulting from increased traffic and staffing levels is cited. Earlier in the Meeting, DC Mr. Hogben commented that the Gatwick expansion plan makes no reference to infrastructure costs and as indications are that this application will be favourably met by higher authorities, his opinion is that HDC should now be pressing for the best financial outcome.

**Resolved FNC will take no further action**

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

**Speedwatch** – FNC Mr. Sitton said that volunteers are needed in this neighbourhood as many of the original residents have now moved away. In answer to a question about a speedwatch initiative in Kerves Lane, Mr. Sitton advised that this is now with the Police Authorities who will ultimately make the decision. In the meantime, he has been asked to accompany police on speedwatch training exercises in a voluntary capacity.

Mrs. Sumpter has attended the AGM's for both Blueprint and HTCP. She has been reappointed Treasurer for both. The AGM minutes will be sent round when approved. She will be attending the quarterly meeting with Barbara Childs (HDC's Director of Place) and Adam Chalmers (HDC's Director of Community Services) and the 3 NC Chairmen on 19<sup>th</sup> October and invited questions for this Agenda.

NC Mr. Friswell attended the HDC Civic Service at Horsham St. Mary's Church on 17<sup>th</sup> October and this was well attended.

#### **11.10.21 Correspondence**

**Mental Health** – CC Mr. Mercer, WSCC member for Children and Young People's Services and Scrutiny Committee has updated FNC on recent initiatives and this includes additional £1.3m funding into several areas.

**Resolved to write to Councillor Steven Hillier, CYPSSC to ask how best to get all services to work together more effectively to support children's mental health.**

**Neighbourhood Wardens** – Alison Page is transferring to the Storrington area and this means there will be a vacancy in Horsham Town. Alison's contribution to this role has been exceptional and she will be missed.

**Resolved to ask that Neighbourhood Councils are involved with interview rounds.**

**Hornbrook Farm** – HDC correspondence thread has been circulated. FNC is very keen to make early contact with the proposed developer of this site (although there are no confirmed details).

**Resolved to try to ascertain the name of developers**

**Communication** – it is agreed that the “Streetsafe Online Tool” will be posted to FNC social media as it is not involving people.

Mr. Olson would like to join Next Door Trafalgar social media page and will need an address within the neighbourhood.

**Resolved to discuss at November Meeting.**

**Future Meetings** – The Clerk will enquire about returning to Salvation Army Hall for meetings.

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