

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB
Tel: 01403 269265 E-Mail: fncchorsham@sky.com
MINUTES OF MEETING 15TH NOVEMBER 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, Mr. T. Hogben and Dr. D. Skipp (left at 8.00 p.m.)
County Councillors: Mr. Jay Mercer
Public: 0
Apologies CC Dr. N. Dennis

01.11.21 Minutes of Meeting held on 18th October 2021

These were proposed by Mr. Friswell and seconded by Mr. Travers.

02.11.21 Matters Arising

04.03.21 The Local Plan

Talks with Natural England are progressing and DC Mr. Hogben commented that Natural England's stance may be "softening". The matter is likely to be resolved in months. Natural England has commented it did not realise its actions would be so "catastrophic". Talks are continuing with Southern Water and HM Buildings Inspector. In the case of HM Buildings Inspectorate, this is to ensure that the current situation is not allowing developers to "win on appeal".

Developers who have full planning permission can continue their building programmes but, in the main, developers who have outline planning permission or reserved matters cannot proceed. Smaller applications, e.g. household extensions, can be approved.

04.03.20 Blueprint

It is still hoped that the Referendum will take place in February 2022.

09.06.21 Town Council

Horsham Society has printed the 3 NC's combined response to its Town Council editorial. This response only clarifies some points and is neither dismissing nor disagreeing with the Town Council idea. FNC is proposing that, following the Referendum, the matter is discussed in detail through the Neighbourhood Plan route (Blueprint).

05.03.21 Bridleway

No further comments or update on this work.

04.10.21 Station Road Planters

WSCC Mr. Steve Hill contacted FNC to work out a way in which these planters could be voluntarily managed and, if so, the technicalities that include public liability insurance. It is uncertain that FNC insurance will cover this work.

In the meantime, it is noted that a group of local volunteers have carried out the work and the result is excellent. FNC will contact the volunteers to discuss the upkeep of the planters.

Resolved

07.10.21 Defibrillators

The Clerk has not been able to find a detailed list showing where defibrillators are kept in this neighbourhood. It is important to note that if a person needs a defibrillator,

anyone ringing “999” will be told where to access a machine. Separately, it is suggested that Saxon Weald is approached to ensure that, as a matter of course, defibrillators are added to all new developments. This is probably Saxon Weald’s decision.

Resolved FNC Mr. Puckle will prepare a local list

09.10.21 Gatwick Expansion

CC Mr. Mercer said that WSCC Cabinet is to confirm its response on 16th November. This is likely to conclude that there are too many unanswered questions and insufficient detail for WSCC to positively respond to the proposal. This Council is not currently taking a stance.

11.10.21 Hornbrook Farm

HDC has acknowledged this Council’s request to be included in talks from the outset.

11.10.21 Mental Health

Whilst WSCC Steven Hillier acknowledged FNC letter stating that he had passed it to someone at a higher level but, to date, this has not been received.

Resolved to again write to WSCC

11.10.21 Communication - future of meetings

It is agreed that Zoom meetings will continue until the end of 2021 but this Council would prefer to return to normal meetings in 2022. If the Salvation Army Hall lettings is still not fully functional, FNC will look for alternative venues. NC Mr. Olson commented that it will be important to find a venue that will be able to take advantage of progressive technology.

Resolved the Clerk will contact Salvation Army Hall and Baptist Church

03.11.21 Reports from District and County Councillors

CC Mr. Jay Mercer referred to a decision that WSCC will probably take, and this is to close the 6 social day care centres that are run by Shaw Healthcare. The Consultation response was 80% against the closures – Mill River Lodge and Hillside are affected in Horsham.

Noted

DC Mr. Hogben said that, solely for personal reasons, HDC Leader Mr. Paul Clarke, has resigned.

In answer to a question, DC Mr. Hogben said that there are no empty shop units in Horsham and retail results are positive. The evening economy is thriving. Swan Walk car parking revenue is down by 15% and “dwell time” in the town is currently not as high as pre-pandemic. One thought is that peoples’ daily routines are changing; working from home means that the town is not as busy during the day. It may lead to changes in the parking time restrictions.

CC Mr. Milne was disappointed that Muggeridge Field has “fallen” into the WSCC surplus to requirement list before a business case could be presented.

Mr. Milne is still very concerned about increases to adult social care charges and that people using the services are very anxious.

Owing to Central Government grants and other factors, WSCC states that the expected £16-£17m deficit is now standing at a £2m deficit and this means no further immediate cuts to services.

Clinical Commissioning Groups – CC Mr. Milne explained that these are to be phased out and replaced by Integrated Care Services (a form of unification of all care groups). As a point of

interest, 67.7% of GP appointments were face-to-face and this statistic is higher than average. About treatment, there should not be a delay beyond 12 months.

DC Ms. Fletcher discussed plans for vehicle electric chargers. The work has been contracted to a third party who will be responsible for the capital cost and maintenance. This will mean that there will be no cost or risk for WSCC/HDC but the third party will retain future profit. It will also have a monopoly for this service. There are many reservations, including how it will affect parking bay provision.

Resolved to respond to HDC regarding electric chargers in this Neighbourhood.

04.11.21 Planning

21/1618	39 Oakhill Road	dropped kerb.	No objection
WSCC047/21	Forest School	New Artificial grass pitch	n/o
21/2418	32 Highlands Road	1st floor rear extension.	n/o
21/2431	16 Heron Way	works to front & side projections and erect side & rear extension.	n/o – see note below
21/2453	Denne View, Kerves Lane	Remove front & rear projections and side garage, roof alterations, associated works to form a two-storey dwelling.	n/o
21/2372	49 Oakhill Road	Replace flat roof with pitched roof	n/o
21/2518	18 Cambridge Road	Single storey side and rear extension	n/o

21/2431 Neighbour objections should be taken into consideration.

21/2453 Previous similar extension (DC/21/0947) already approved

The Forest School Application No. WSCC/047/21 Proposal to create a 3G Artificial Grass Pitch with perimeter fencing, floodlighting, macadam hardstanding, storage container, timber acoustic barrier fence and macadam access pathway

NC Mr. Puckle agreed to look at this application, specifically whether floodlighting will affect the neighbouring properties and if there should be an evening time restriction. FNC will then respond to this application.

05.11.21 Treasurer's Report

Current Account £8079.06, Reserve Account £1,286.27. The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for November.

06.11.21 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Speedwatch – Mr. Sitton advised that New Street and Kerves Lane are now "live" but more volunteers are needed.

Mr. Sitton attended a Zoom Meeting that included police representation and he explained that the police are now becoming more engaged with Speedwatch. At local level this will be our

PCSO. There is also more joined-up reporting between counties and Mr. Sitton believes there will be a reduction in the motor speed that triggers “speedwatch”. Body cams may also be approved.

Mr. Sitton was thanked for his continuing involvement in this initiative.

Quarterly Meeting 3 NC Chairmen and HDC representatives – Mrs Sumpter has now circulated Notes from this Meeting. She commented that HDC Finance Officer should shortly be sending the draft Special Charge as figures have to be ready by mid-December.

Neighbourhood Wardens – there is currently a candidate who may prove suitable for the Horsham vacancy. The interview process will take place in accordance with the e mail sent by HDC Carol Boniface, who is HDC Neighbourhood Warden Supervisor. Beforehand, the intention is that Neighbourhood Council representatives will informally meet this candidate.

Mr. Sitton commented that the NC representatives had discussed the possibility of employing a third Warden for the Town, initially with HDC Nick Jenkins. Financially this is not viable for the next year and would have to be discussed in detail with the 3 Neighbourhood Councils if the idea is to progress. The reasons behind employing a third warden is to allow more time in Trafalgar and Forest neighbourhoods and to overcome difficulties with lone working.

Mr. Sitton was thanked for his continuing involvement in this initiative and for attending meetings on behalf of Forest Neighbourhood Councillors.

20’s PLENTY FOR US – NC Mr. Olson explained that there is now a motion to alter how WSCC receive requests for speed reductions. The local group is affiliated to “20’s Plenty for Us” and Mr. Olson believes there is a positive change in the way everyone is accepting 20 mph speed limits. He quoted the facts below and said that West Sussex is way behind with the trend.

- Most of the UK's larger cities have adopted 20mph for their residential streets
- Wales is about to implement a [20mph national default for residential roads](#).

04.11.21 Newsletter

The draft has now been circulated and Mr. Olson and Mr. Milne were thanked for preparing this Newsletter that is both informative and eye catching. The introduction of colour is welcomed.

Discussion took place regarding printing options. The decision will be made by the Communications Group so that the Newsletter is printed and distributed as quickly as possible.

05.11.21 Code of Conduct

HDC Standards has asked Neighbourhood Councils to adopt the Code of Conduct. In the past this was not required. Mrs. Sumpter believes that there should be one adopted Code of Conduct for the 3 Neighbourhood Councils. One initial comment was the “privacy paragraph” and Trafalgar NC has pointed out that “achieving targets” should be an “aim”.

Resolved to discuss at January Meeting.

06.11.21 Correspondence

Chesworth Allotment Society's application for community asset status – FNC supports this application.

Fletchers Close – continuing parking issues.

HALC - Notification of the next meeting.

County Local Forum – remote meeting held on 11th November to meet local Councillors.
MP Question Time – 5th November. FNC has not received any feedback.

Contra Flo – WSCC Peter Bradley has confirmed receipt of FNC comments and accepts that the proposal is not ideal.

HDC Voluntary Support – this e mail dated 26th October refers to a Diamond Jubilee initiative that is giving away trees for community spaces (Woodland Trust). There is a new peer support group for new Mums but this is directed towards ethnic groups.

WSCC Newsletter relating to “Wilding” verges to tackle biodiversity.

Harwood Road Traffic Order – NC Mr. Puckle has been corresponding with WSCC Highways as there are issues with the management plan.

Trafalgar NC Minutes

Neighbourhood Warden Report

HDC Notification that HDC CEO Mr. Glen Chipp is to retire. HDC Leader Mr. Paul Clarke has resigned.

HDC Climate Change Newsletter

SSD Enquiries – Britaniacrest revised permit request

Pay and Display – machines will be replaced after 10 year cycle; money is available

Conservation Area Appraisals

There was no further business. The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.