

**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 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022 7.30 p.m. in Salvation Army Hall**

**Present:** Messrs N. Friswell, J. Milne, J. Olson, C. Puckle, G. Stanley and B. Travers. Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chairman)  
**District Councillors:** Ms R. Fletcher  
**County Councillors:** CC Dr. N. Dennis (arrived at 8.30 p.m.)  
**Public:** 0  
**Apologies** FNC Mr. G. Sitton, CC Mr. J. Mercer, DC Mr. C. Mitchell

Mrs. Sumpter welcomed Councillors to the first Meeting in Salvation Army Hall since March 2020. She explained the difficulties associated with staging hybrid meetings but also said that there might be alternation (using Zoom) as the year progresses. Councillors appreciate that not everyone is comfortable in a “hall” environment.

Mr. Olson confirmed that Lib. Dem. Mr. Clive Trott has been elected as a District Councillor for District Council Ward of Denne, part of The Denne Ward falls within FNC.

**Resolved to invite Mr. Trott to attend future meetings and to ask HDC to formally advise election results to FNC where it affects this Council**

**01.04.22 Minutes of Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

After minor amendments including clarification on the size of potholes before intervention levels are met, the Minutes were proposed by Mr. Friswell and seconded by Mr. Stanley.

**02.04.22 Matters Arising**

**04.03.21 Blueprint**

Blueprint has been preparing the neighbourhood plan for many years and there is strong disappointment that it still has not reached the referendum stage. Mrs. Sumpter reminded councillors that In the initial stages, HDC insisted the NP included businesses as well as residential and this is the reason why other plans (e.g., Southwater) that did not have to include business, have recently already been adopted.

In the case of Blueprint, Barbara Childs, HDC has categorically stated that the delay is not political but is entirely a technical matter. This is due to the business part of the plan that must take into account the “water neutrality” issue. This also affects the adoption of The Local Plan but HDC believes Natural England is close to announcing its decision.

Relative to Blueprint are the topical discussions about green spaces. Mrs. Sumpter explained that Blueprint did list green spaces such as the green in McLeod Road. This does not mean that the green spaces cannot be developed but it does give a layer of protection from development.

**08.01.22 Inconsistent Regulatory Highways Weight Restriction Signage Relating to Wimblehurst Road, North Heath Lane, Foundry Lane, Parsonage Road, Brighton Road and Clarence Road**

Mr. Puckle presented his Review of A281 Low Bridge No. 358 Signage in Horsham. This concise document pinpoints several areas where signage is inconsistent, obscured or not illuminated. Councillors discussed this document in detail; historically, problems with lorry drivers who misunderstood signage and attempted to pass under the Bridge mostly from Brighton Road end rather than from Park Way.

Mr. Puckle was thanked for creating this informative document that should be a strong basis for detailed discussion with WSCC Highways.

**Resolved Neighbourhood Councillors will submit comments to Mr. Puckle and he will prepare a Summary of suggestions before the review is taken to the next level.**

#### **Clarence Road – road closure 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

Mr. Puckle pointed out that whilst the neighbourhood has been told that the road will be closed for two days due to essential repair work, there is no reference to a HGV diversion.

**Resolved this omission will be referred to CC Mr. Dennis for investigation**

#### **08.01.22 Horsham Green Spaces**

The SWOT's are now being analysed and incorporated into a Nature Mapping for Horsham. Mrs. Sumpter hopes to attend the Workshop in May. Mrs. Sumpter regrets that Horsham Green Space Forum was not in existence at the time when Blueprint was being prepared. There is concern amongst Horsham Town residents that developers are looking to purchase green spaces and this Council discussed the situation in Trafalgar NC, Collingwood Road, where a privately owned green space has been sold and an application has been submitted for three homes to be built there (on land that had been used by the community).

#### **06.02.22 SID – SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE**

There is no update relating to re-positioning the device to Kings Road.

#### **10.03.22 Behaviour Issues in and around New Street – Neighbourhood Wardens**

Maria and Charlie, our Neighbourhood Wardens, have been asked to show a presence in this area. Residents have not reported any further incidents.

Separately it is noted that E Bikes have now been purchased for the Wardens and FNC agrees that suitable locks for these bicycles should be purchased.

**Resolved to invite Maria and Charlie to attend a future meeting**

#### **11.03.22 Quarterly Meeting**

**Section 106 monies** Within Mrs. Sumpter's report, reference was made to Section 106 monies and the difficulty in understanding how this money is allocated. Mrs. Sumpter said that HDC has agreed to a meeting when this will be discussed in detail and at this time, she will ask the question about how Highways allocations are managed. Forest Neighbourhood Councillors would like to have an input and relating to this, Mr. Puckle has circulated a report for a safety measure in Brighton Road in the dip near Oaklands Close. Painting red strips across the road in the vicinity of Riverside Walk crossing, could alert drivers to a safety hazard and at a relatively low cost.

DC Ms Fletcher commented that Southwater PC has prepared an infrastructure document that gives development priorities.

District Councillors attending the Meeting said they also had difficulty in understanding how Section 106 monies and also CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) is raised (Individual Legal Agreements) and allocated and asked to be invited to the May Meeting.

**Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will ask whether there can be broader attendance at the meeting, ensuring there is more representation. Mr. Puckles' report relating to Brighton Road will be carried forward with the intention to present the proposal to Highways (using Section 106 monies).**

### **12.03.22 Queen's Green Canopy**

A resident has asked whether HDC will provide a tree for a local green space. Mrs. Sumpter explained that HDC has only invited parishes and neighbourhoods to nominate a space for a tree and in the case of FNC, this will be planted in Bennetts Field. Trees can only be planted on HDC land.

WSSC also has a tree planting programme "Donate a Tree". This is a scheme where residents can pay a sum of money and WSSC will arrange tree planting at cost.

**Noted**

### **12.03.22 Queensway**

It is noted that some of the yellow lines have been repainted and presumably will now enable parking supervision.

### **13.03.22 Mr. Roger Noel – Cabinet Minister for Culture and Leisure**

Mrs. Sumpter reported on her meeting (the notes had previously been circulated) with DC Mr. Roger Noel. The attendees were pleased that DC Mr. Roger Noel referred to his commitment to upgrading Horsham Capitol (changing seating plans in the theatre to enable more audience numbers), and ensuring the Museum continues in its present form and opens for 5 days each week. He confirmed there is an allocated space for Shelley Memorial in Horsham Park although this project is dependent upon fundraising.

Ms. Fletcher confirmed there will be a Management Plan for the three Town Cemeteries and reference was made to enhancing the Horsham Heritage Walk that will encourage visitors to the Denne Road Cemetery; the cemetery is included of Horsham Society's heritage guided walk.

### **03.04.22 District and County Councillors Reports**

DC Ms Fletcher again referred to Queens Street issues and the local What's App Group that has strong opinions about parking management. There is an idea to incorporate two loading bays on either side of the road.

At this point DC Mr. Milne referred to the fact that he is involved with the initial CPZ review that includes Queensway and so, including Public Realm, there are three separate groups that are looking at the problem. He is pressing for more joined-up thinking.

**Public Realm Document** -- again, DC Mr. Milne explained that this is a document to be referenced when grants are available. Queen Street is in the document, and everyone is pleased that this road is now recognised as an area that needs upgrading and that it is seen as an important route into the town centre.

Mr. Friswell asked that consideration is given to people with mobility problems especially when considering groundwork. DC Ms. Fletcher said that in the case of work to be carried out in The Forum, options were very limited due to groundwork underlay and so the tiles chosen are not in line with the Public Vision.

**Resolved DC Ms Fletcher will ascertain whether there is Disability Needs Representative at HDC. NC Mr. Friswell expressed his wish to become involved.**

**DC Ms. Fletcher** continued her report by referring to a Green that is adjacent to Oaklands Close (off Brighton Road) and the fact that a resident in this close has asked to purchase part of the land to ensure that it is not developed. DC Ms. Fletcher said that this forms part of The Riverside Walk and is land that is owned and managed by HDC. She is keen to protect this

green infrastructure route and is currently in discussion with HDC's lead on Wilder Horsham, Helen Peacock.

CC Mr. Milne referred to the "dire" OFSTED Report on WSCC Children's Services. WSCC has conducted remedial work to the extent that OFSTED has now agreed that it can retain control.

Bus Improvement Plan – £5m grant is enabling a fresh look at bus routes, audits on bus stops/shelters and consistent signage, especially information on frequency of service. This plan is trying to reverse the decline in bus usage that continues to be significantly lower than pre-pandemic. WSCC is considering several options including direct response transport that is currently being successfully trialled in Kent. At local level, Councillors felt that although there are more buses now, residents are choosing alternative transport because of the long-time lapses in current timetables. CC Mr. Milne reiterated that this £5m grant has specific guidelines and is not connected to subsidies or additional support for bus companies.

DC Mr. Olson is in conversation with CityFibre who are conducting the broadband rollout in Horsham. The concern is the disruption to verges although Mr. Olson said that the company is responsive and carrying out repairs.

DC Mr. Olson highlighted public meetings that are being announced by DC Mr. Jonathan Chowen, Leader of HDC advertised as The Big Conversation. The Horsham event will take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May in Park Suite, 6.00-7.30 p.m. It is important to register attendance.

CC Dr. Dennis referred to next year's school intake and the fact that Kingslea School has higher application numbers due to the number of new builds. There is however availability in other schools and at secondary school level, there is a "spare cushion".

Relating to the CPZ review, CC Dr. Dennis confirmed that he has been in contact with the resident in Ayshe Court Drive who has strong views on this matter.

#### **04.04.22 Planning**

22/0498	15 Nightingale Close	Convert garage to living space	No objection
22/0445	3 Chesworth Crescent	Amendment to 21/1980	No objection
22/0451	17 Queen Street	Loft conversion to habitable space	No objection

#### **PLANNING APPLICATION DC/21/2766 WE BUY ANY CAR KIOSK**

Forest Neighbourhood Council continues **to object** to this application. There is no request for change of use to used car sales operation.

WBAC is proposing to provide an employment cabin apparently with no welfare facilities. Residents have objected on the grounds of "men using the fence".

The cabin is being described as a secure box that is not connected to utilities.

Under the HSW 1974 an employer under Section 2(2)(e) must provide and maintain a working environment that is, so far as is reasonably practicable, safe, without risks to health and adequate regarding facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work. Regulation 20 of the Workplace Regulations states, "suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences shall be provided at readily accessible places". FNC wonder If We Buy Any Car is complying with the above in its provision for the employees?

#### **05.04.22 Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer reported the balances as £5,615.41 current account £1,286.32 reserve account. Although FNC is sponsoring the Riverside Walk, as in previous years, no invoice had been received from The Scouts. Mrs. Sumpter will chase.

Mr. Travers reported that at the end of the 2021/2022 financial year, there was £1,200 income over expenditure. The accounts will be audited before the May AGM. Zurich Insurance has been renewed. Mr. Travers proposed and it was

**RESOLVED** to increase the Clerk's honorarium to £340 per month

#### **06.04.22 20's Plenty For Us**

As discussed at the March meeting, Mr. Olson would like FNC to pass a resolution supporting 20's Plenty Horsham and 20's Plenty for West Sussex. Mr. Friswell registered his objection on the grounds that 30 mph was originally set and if there was better enforcement, would cover safe motoring capabilities. Councillors discussed initially asking for enforcing 20 mph speed limits around schools, but Mr. Olson "argued" that it was equally important to enforce 20 mph limits on all school routes. It was

**RESOLVED** to agree to support 20's Plenty Horsham and 20's Plenty West Sussex.

#### **07.04.22 Doomsday Lane**

Various comments have been received relating to road safety.

**Resolved that to fully understand the issues along this road, Councillors will make a site visit and submit reports before May Meeting**

#### **08.04.22 Correspondence**

**Mr. Sittons' Reports** – relating to Community Speedwatch, Doomsday Lane, Neighbourhood Wardens, Road Works including information that an accident that will not be recorded as no ambulance was called.

#### **Neighbourhood Warden Reports.**

WSCC Highways Budget – WSCC has announced that it is investing £32m and setting aside £21m for programmed works.

HDC Horsham Hospitality Boost for new business. Separately HDC has been nominated for a major reward.

WSCC Updates – Covid, Ukraine (HDC has also issued updates on initiatives for Ukrainian refugees).

Highway Code – it is now illegal in any circumstance to use a mobile phone whilst driving.

Horsham Matters – details about household budget support.

#### **Riverside Walk and jamboree**

The walk will start at Horsham Rugby Club at 10am and this year's circular route is 12 miles. Based on the number of walkers and expected age profile some modifications were made to the signed route. The latest route map for the event is at this link

[www.horshamscouts.com/events/horsham-riverside-walk-jamboree-on-the-trail-may-2022](http://www.horshamscouts.com/events/horsham-riverside-walk-jamboree-on-the-trail-may-2022).

ERTA Voluntary Support – updates about re-opening rail tracks

Trafalgar NC Minutes

**56 Comptons Lane** – the pothole has now been repaired

**A message from the Chief Fire Officer of West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, Sabrina Cohen-Hatton:**

I am delighted to inform you that the Community Risk Management Plan of West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service has five strategic priorities:

1. Preventing fires and emergencies from happening
2. Protecting people, firefighters and property by making buildings as safe from fire as they can be
3. Responding to fires and emergencies quickly and effectively
4. Have a safe and valued workforce
5. Making best use of resources

You can view online, our CRMP document, which sets out the service's strategic priorities and our key objectives to help deliver on this work.

Britannia Crest – Notice from The Environment Agency

**09.04.22 Any Other Business**

**Friends of Chesworth AGM** will be held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April, YMCA Gorings Mead, 7.30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and there are no parking restrictions.

**Hedgerows** – Mrs. Sumpter referred to a hawthorn bush that is now overhanging the pavement in Brighton Road between Athelstan Way and Arun Way and is a health and safety issue. She asked that all Councillors analyse their walking routes and to submit any hedgerow problems to the Clerk. This will enable a detailed list to be forwarded to WSCC Highways. She suggested that an article is put in the FNC newsletter about cutting back hedges.

**Forest Neighbourhood Council AGM** - this will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30 p.m. in Salvation Army Hall.

**Newsletter** – Mr. Olson will begin preparing the next Newsletter and asked for editorial to be submitted to him.

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