

HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL
Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB
Tel: 01403 269265 E-Mail: fncorsham@sky.com
MINUTES OF MEETING 18th JULY 2022 7.30 p.m. by Zoom
(minutes taken from Cloud transcript)

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

District Councillors: Ms. R. Fletcher

County Councillors: Dr. N. Dennis

Public:

Apologies The Clerk, DC Mr. C. Mitchell and Dr. D. Skipp, CC Mr. J. Mercer

01.07.22 Minutes of Meeting held on 20th June 2022

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

02.07.22 Matters Arising

02.06.22 Mr. Peter Crawford's Presentation

There has been no response to FNC letter regarding mini-management plans.

Resolved to again ask for Bennetts Field and Oakland Close to be included.

Arun Way – The HDC Policy has been received; the issue appears to be land ownership and possibly distance from road to the dog bin placement. Mr. Puckle believes that from the made-up road to the proposed site might be as much as 100 metres and this would definitely rule out the area.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will continue to research ownership. Details of the HDC Policy will be passed to Friends of Chesworth Farm.

04.03.21 Blueprint

HDC Legal Department Claire Hawkin has advised that, timewise, HDC is working towards early 2023 to allow the referendum to be included for voting in May 2023 election. Some Councillors at the meeting suggested that this is a change to what they had understood to be the timeline. Blueprint is not necessarily being delayed because of water neutrality and Covid related problems and it could just be a procedural matter. Mr. Puckle suggested that the matter should be referred to MP Mr. J. Quinn because of the timeline. Another concern is that if the Referendum is voted at the same time as The Local Plan, residents may well not know the difference between the 2 plans and this could cause problems at the voting stage. .

Resolved to await further information from Blueprint Chairman, Mr. Andrew Cooke who is again speaking to HDC about the delay.

06.02.22 Speed Indicator Device

NC Mr. Milne explained in more detail the way in which Rudgwick has used CIL money to drill holes in the pavement where removable poles can be placed and this means that a) SID is not attached to lamp posts and b) is used more effectively in more areas around the village. Then, referring to the impact of the speed indicator along A281 in Rudgwick, both NC Mr. Olson and DC Ms. Fletcher said it was powerful. NC Mr. Olson commented that in the case of one back street (Lynwick Street) the device highlighted that there is a 30 mph speed limit rather than the national speed level which motorists probably assume.

Resolved there was unanimous agreement that this method should be used in Forest Neighbourhood and that Section 106 monies should be applied for. NC Mr. Milne will carry out further research.

03.05.22 5G Mast Brighton Road/Tanyard Close(DC/22/0883)

HDC Planning refused this application stating the applicant had not considered sufficient locations and the position chosen was an eyesore.

Resolved to await the formal HDC Policy on masts that (it is understood) is in preparation. This will be important so that it can be referred to as new applications are received.

04.05.22 The Forest School

FNC submitted its response to the amendment within timescale. There is very little change to the operating hours and no change to the position. Residents continue to lobby WSCC because of the perceived impact on their amenities.

06.05.22 St. Leonard's Road/Comptons Lane; potholes and road surface

No update at this time although a person who recently cycled along St. Leonard's Road confirmed that the surface is in an appalling state.

Resolved to contact CC Mr. Mercer again.

06.05.22 Doomsday Lane

Mr. Sitton will forward an update on the road signs. There has been no formal response to the letter sent to HDC Mr. Adam Bazley.

06.05.22 We Buy Any Car

HDC Enforcement has confirmed that notices have been sent but as at 18th July, We Buy Any Car is still trading in the Station Car Park. As a side comment, CC Dr. Dennis commented that We Buy Any Car is also using a part of Haywards Heath Station Car Park.

07.06.22 Riverside Walk

Mr. Friswell is disappointed that Horsham Scouting has not contacted FNC (or the other sponsors) with an update on this event nor thanked FNC for its monetary contribution. Mr. Friswell said he will be raising this at the next Scout Executive Meeting.

07.06.22 Newsletter

Mr. Olson referred to the Newsletter and said that if the Blueprint Q & A Section is not included within this publication, there is space for more editorial.

Resolved to aim for this to be a Summer Newsletter and circulated in August.

07.06.22 Jubilee Tree Planting

HDC is not able to be involved with tree planting in Bennetts Field on weekend dates. After discussion about the degree of community involvement, Mrs. Sumpter agreed to talk to the Scouts. The likelihood is that FNC will plant the tree and use this is a photo shoot.

03.07.22 District and County Councillors' Reports

CC Dr. Dennis advised that an Assistant Highways Manager has been appointed – Mr. Adrian Strachan.

HDC are reviewing their car parking charges.

CPZ – Tanyard Close is currently being consulted about its possible inclusion in the CPZ but it is confirmed that no further roads will be considered. *see under CC John Milne's Report.

Kingslea School has received a "Good" Inspection Report with aspects that are excellent.

DC Mr. Olson confirmed that The Lakeside Volunteers have removed bamboo that was restricting the No Cycling signs. There is an Ash Tree in Depot Road that has die back but ownership is not yet known. Currently HDC say the diseased tree it is not causing imminent danger.

DC Mr. Olson followed up on his comments about HDC Climate Change Action Plan and has received assurances that local groups will be involved.

DC Mr. Olson referred to the recent third-party review of Horsham Markets that concluded they were thriving. However, the Consultants are putting forward further ideas.

CC Mr. Milne commented that residents in Athelstan Way are keen for that street to be considered in the current CPZ review but this will not happen. One idea suggested is to establish another Zone. Mrs. Sumpter wondered if the yellow lines could be extended.

There was a general discussion about parking, poor parking and parking on double yellow lines within the neighbourhood and the fact that no action seems to be taken. It is confirmed that the Police are not involved unless a resident cannot access the road from the driveway/garage (not the other way around). There is a shortage of parking officers within Horsham District and Neighbourhood Wardens do not currently have enforcement authority.

DC Ms. Fletcher said that she would like the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to assess parking enforcement.

Mr. Sitton has suggested that money should be made available for a third Neighbourhood Warden. Mrs. Sumpter explained that currently Neighbourhood Wardens are paid from Special Charge and for an additional appointment, another facility would have to be dropped. This is not what FNC would advocate.

However, it might be that HDC could save money if it appointed a third Neighbourhood Warden and amended the NW job description to give parking enforcement authority. This will be especially relevant as Horsham Town expands.

04.07.22 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Mr. Sitton asked whether FNC is happy for the Neighbourhood Wardens to patrol outside of the 3 neighbourhoods, e.g. around Bohunt School. A current analysis will be made of time spent from NW reports.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will raise this at the NC's Chairmen Meeting.

05.07.22 Correspondence

WSSC Youth Justice Inspection Report – outcome is “good”

WSSC Notification about electric vehicle charging points.

HDC NEWS RELEASES & INFORMATION

Appointment of Paul Anderson as Director of Communities (previously worked for Elmbridge Borough Council)

HDC News Alerts

East Street, more pedestrian-only hours

A-Boards Policy to be adopted

HDC Quarterly Meeting official Minutes

Street Naming – HDC Jenny Smith

Southern Water Draft Water Sources Manager – to be referred to as WRMP

Novartis Parish Liaison Meeting 11th July.

Neighbourhood Warden Reports

Warnham Cycle Route to commemorate Shelley - Mr. Stanley advised that he had attended a recent event at Warnham Nature Reserve to commemorate 200 years Shelley Anniversary.

HDC Water Neutrality General Meeting 27th July – it is understood that so far, NC Mr. Milne and Mrs. Sumpter intend to join the Zoom Meeting.

07.07.22 City Fibre

The way in which some verges are being “reinstated” following City Fibre installation is of great concern to residents. CC Mr. Milne shared an email response from WSCC Highways Compliance Officer, Melissa Myhill who has been in contact with City Fibre clearly stating that the level of work is unacceptable. It would seem there is lack of supervision and more than one firm involved with this project. (As a side point, the comment was made that it didn’t seem feasible to have so many companies involved and bankruptcy from any one of the companies was a likely outcome).

WSCC Ms. Myhill is meeting with City Fibre on 18th July and will raise the concerns.

Resolved to refer this reply to FNC residents.

08.07.22 Planning

22/0964	3 Harwood Court	Erect a single-storey rear conservatory	No objection
22/1062	30 Kennedy Road	Erect single-storey front extn & garage conversion to form habitable living space.	No objection
22/1083	15 Forestfield	Remove detached garage & rear conservatory & erect a two-storey side extn & single-storey rear & front extns with assoc works.	No objection
22/1162	52 Comptons Lane	Remove existing rear projection and erect single-storey side & rear extn. Install ground floor bay window to front.	No objection and see below
22/1117	133 Bennetts Road	Demolition of existing side projection/outbdg & erect single-storey side extn.	No objection
22/0870	3 St Leonards Road	Alter existing conservatory inc. replacement of existing glass roof with solid roof, install roof lantern & form a garden room.	No objection

22/1162 Clearly a contentious proposal, as neighbours are in dispute. However, as property is north of no. 50, little lack of light issue

09.07.22 Treasurer’s Report

Current Account £12,691.53 Reserve Account £1,286.63. The Clerk’s honorarium and expenses have been paid. Zoom has been paid for one further year to be ready for possible issues (as is the case July 2022 Meeting due to weather). Mrs. Sumpter confirmed that despite using Zoom, FNC will honour the cost of hiring Salvation Army Hall.

10.07.22 Matters Arising

Section 106 monies – Mr. Friswell is delighted that there appears to be money available for dropped kerbs. He referred to other mobility issues that he has encountered, e.g. tarmac pavements that have risen due to tree root systems.

Mrs. Sumpter cautioned that this money is under Highways and that although lists can be submitted, FNC will probably not be able to have input into decisions and it is unlikely that the money will cover many installations.

11.07.22 Any Other Business

Blocked drain – the drain alongside the dip in Brighton Road (before The Hornbrook Pub) is blocked.

Resolved CC Mr. Milne will follow this up.

Friends of Chesworth Farm – an idea is being rooted to invite HDC CEO Jane Eaton to visit the area and that FNC is involved.

Resolved Mrs. Sumpter agreed to follow up this suggestion.

Bus Users Group – all FNC's had been asked to identify bus stops that needed real time bus signs and then Mr. Sitton will compile the list of proposals. He explained that there is money available from Central Government

Horsham District Older Peoples Forum – the Constitution is being revised. The next meeting is on 4th October at which Mr. Jonathan Chowen will be the speaker.

Riverside Surgery – 5 new Doctors have been appointed. Mr. Sitton advised that residents are being asked to become part of Patient Participation Groups. Over 50's will probably be invited for a Covid booster from early Autumn.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.