

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 17th JANUARY 2023 7.30 p.m.
Salvation Army Hall, Booth Way, Horsham

Present: Mrs D. Sumpter (Chair), Mr N. Friswell, J. Milne, J. Olson, (Arr. 8.30 pm) C. Puckle, G. Sitton, G. Stanley and B. Travers
District Councillors: DC C. Minto and Dr D. Skipp
County Councillors: CC Dr N. Dennis (arr. 8.15 p.m.)
Public: 6 members of public
Apologies DC Mr C. Mitchell

01.01.23 Minutes of Meeting held on 12th December 2022

After minor amendments, including explanation of cancelled PDAG Meetings (Horsham Town and Local Economy) the Minutes were proposed by Mr Puckle and seconded by Mr Friswell.

02.01.23 Public Forum

The Chair, Mrs Sumpter, welcomed members of the public to this meeting. They wished to discuss Planning Application DC/22/2257 YMCA installation of 3G artificial pitch.

The Chair said that Mr Mike Whiteford, Chairman YMCA had attended the December FNC Meeting to explain this proposal to Neighbourhood Councillors. Mr Whiteford had listed possible participants to whom the facility will be opened-up plus the fact there is funding from YMCA Downslink and Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club.

The members of public live in Gorings Mead, the entrance road to YMCA. Firstly, they were concerned that they had not received notification of the planning application and it was only published in WSCT newspaper on 12th January – one day after official closing date for comments. Mrs Sumpter said FNC would raise this second comment to HDC.

Whilst there is general acceptance that an artificial pitch is good for the Club, the concern is that it will substantially increase traffic both pedestrian and vehicular to the site. The entrance to and from Gorings Mead is narrow and a member of public suggested that considering the parked cars, reduced this to a maximum of 4.5 metres. This is the pinch point but there are other parts of the road where single line traffic regularly happens.

The sight line from Gorings Mead into Brighton Road is already described as poor and one member of public explained that it can already take 5 minutes to exit onto Brighton Road. He foresees traffic queues both on the main Brighton Road and Gorings Mead.

An additional comment to the road width is that cars are mounting the kerb/pavement, and this has caused its disintegration as well as water meters along the road being broken. There has been more than one instance when residents' walls have been hit by vehicles. Residents who live in The Gorings said that on match days, spectators are parking and blocking their driveways. Any increase in pitch usage will exacerbate all the problems.

Members of the public felt that the impact and intensity of what is being proposed is unacceptable. In Mr Whiteford's presentation he said that there will be 65 tarmac car parking spaces and a further 30 spaces on a grassed area but this is no increase on current provision. The members of public felt it was unrealistic to accept YMCA statement that stewards will be employed to direct drivers to Horsham Town Car Parks.

Mrs Sumpter thanked the members of public for their input and explained that Neighbourhood Councillors would take into consideration their comments when discussing the application later in the Meeting. She urged them to individually submit comments to HDC Planning as quickly as possible. She also explained that we would ask for the planning application to be

called in and explained that if this happened how the application would proceed. The members of public then left the Meeting.

03.01.23 Matters Arising

02.06.22 Arun Way Dog Bin

To be added to February Agenda.

04.03.22 Blueprint

There is to be a Meeting on 24th January to discuss the way forward, how to recruit new members and to discuss planning issues (the inclusion of Blueprint as Planning consultees). Mrs Sumpter will be attending this Meeting.

05.07.22 Water Neutrality

The Local Plan was scheduled to be discussed at full Horsham District Council on 18th January to be followed by a Regulation 19 Consultation in February 2023 setting out how the District will deliver the required number of homes in a sustainable way, supporting the requirements to be water neutral and the delivery of community infrastructures, transport links and opportunities for local employment..

However, the Council, stating that it should wait for the Gove Report and reforms that may reduce the District's housing number requirement, decided to pause the process until later in 2023. As a result of this decision, the Cabinet Leader, Mr Jonathan Chowen, resigned from his position and the Conservative Party.

DC Mr Milne considers this a pointless delay, especially as the water neutrality issue has already reduced the housing numbers and developers are now finding ways to deliver water neutrality statements. He also believes that Central Government will use three criteria for reducing numbers – Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Character (densification of suburban areas). None of these are relevant to this District. The prediction is that there will be no change to the current housing allocation.

Neighbourhood Councillors expressed their concern about this situation as it could result in developers putting forward sites and HDC may not be able to challenge.

04.09.22 Overgrown Vegetation

The Clerk will distribute a suggested letter that, in the first instance, will be sent to residents where vegetation on their property is overhanging the pavement. This will act as a reminder of their responsibility. A formal Highways letter would be the follow-up option if the letter has no effect. Once the FNC letter is approved, the Clerk will be responsible for using the posting the letters and then maintaining a list of recipients and documenting any further correspondence/

07.09.22 Jubilee Tree

Mrs Sumpter is waiting for HDC Mr Crawford's response for the plaque wording. She reminded FNC that they agreed to fund the plaque..

03.12.22 Queensway

Mrs Sumpter thanked Neighbourhood Councillors for their input in response to HDC Clive Burley's options and these have now been submitted. It is hoped that changes will be implemented, including de-cluttering and the installation of some trees along the pavement line to soften the area's appearance. FNC strongly supports the inclusion of further bollards along Queensway and is asking for benches to be reinstated. FNC is also supporting reviewing parking bay times and restrictions to alleviate some of the "takeaway" problems.

07.12.22 Trees

HDC Arboricultural Officer, Mr Andrew Bush has said that he can join a Zoom Meeting to talk about his role.

Resolved to confirm this offer if a further Zoom Meeting is scheduled.

08.12.22 Cycling Proposals – Comptons Lane

Mr Sitton suggests that WSCC may be re-considering cycling proposals for this area towards The Forest School but there is no firm information.

Resolved that when more detail is known, FNC will consider putting forward pre-consultation comments.

09.12.22 Correspondence – Wilder Horsham

This is to take place on 2nd February – 10.00-4.00 p.m. NC/DC Mr Olson will represent FNC but there are further places available.

04.01.22 Reports from District and County Councillors

DC Mr C. Minto referred to poor drainage in Bennetts Field, especially at the bottom end by the play equipment and if unresolved, it will negatively affect the positioning of the proposed gym equipment.

CC Mr J. Milne was pleased to report that WSCC has a new speed limit policy that will be applicable to all areas of West Sussex. All villages will have a 30-mph speed limit and in towns the ruling has been changed that initiated 30 mph speed limits. The wording for average speeds will be changed from “must” to “should” and applications will be considered on a case-to-case basis. Average speeds have also changed, e.g. applications for 30 mph will be triggered by an average speed of 35 mph (up from 33 mph).

DC Dr D. Skipp said that the Council budget will shortly be set and there does not appear to be any major controversy. He understands that the Scrutiny Committee is looking at the way HDC uses consultants. He is pleased to report that excellent work has been carried out on green spaces around the town, including New Street Garden – he is uncertain which HDC Department is funding this work. Dr Skipp believes that HDC will place 2 compulsory purchase orders on two residential houses that have remained empty for a period of time. These houses may be allocated to homeless people.

CC Dr Dennis discussed New Street Subway and drainage. DC Mr Minto said that one problem emanates from the railway car park and, in theory, is easy to repair; his video is available to support the statement. The problem, as always, is ownership but Dr Dennis will continue to look for a solution.

He referred to potholes and said that notifications are being prioritised and at this time it is unlikely that any that do not fall into Priority 1 – mostly A roads – will receive urgent attention. (New Street potholes have been documented).

Speed restrictions in Harwood Road may be considered under the Community Highways Scheme. He will support an application for a speed reduction east of Stirling Way.

DC Mr Olson understands that “We Buy Any Car” has withdrawn its Appeal and will be vacating the railway car park site.

The 5G mast application in Brighton Road is “going to appeal”. Mrs Sumpter confirmed that FNC objections should be included with HDC paperwork.

The problem with the New Street lamppost that is now in the centre of the pavement (due to building work) continues. WSCC state it is the developer’s responsibility. Removal involves considerable electrical work; the ideal solution would be for the lamp to be attached by brackets to the wall.

DC Mr Olson is consulting with HDC Mr P. Crawford about the broken fencing at Ayshe Court Lake. It is likely this will be replaced using the health and safety “route”.

Residents in Gardeners Court are concerned that Saxon Weald has not installed a ramp to ease mobility and DC Mr Olson is following up this matter.

The PDAG (Policy Development Advisory Group) for Horsham Town and Local Economy is re-scheduled for this month.

05.01.23 Planning

| | | | |
|---------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 22/1930 | 11 Parsonage Road | Demolish exstg gge & erect single sty side and rear extns. Convert loft to form habitable living space, incorpg raising of ridge height, erect 1 st floor extn, create fr & rear dormers, install 5no rooflights & solar panels to sides & assoc. wks. | Amendment to submission of 4/11/22. See below, but no objection |
| 22/2376 | Woodcroft, Chesworth Lane | Remodelling to exstg dwelling, inc raising ridge ht, erect 1st floor extn, removal of exstg consvy & erect single storey rear extn and assoc. altns. | No objection |

22/1930 Substantial changes to original plans, for which we had no objections. The new proposals have a slightly higher roofline, but now provide for many more solar PV panels, and 2 x EV charging points. No objection.

22/2376 Another case of a bungalow growing to two floors, but a large conversion that fits with other nearby properties. Plot size is sufficient. No objection.

Planning Application DC/22/2257 YMCA installation of 3G artificial pitch plus general works.

Following on from discussions earlier in the meeting, FNC will object to this application on traffic grounds. It supports the installation of the 3G artificial pitch but is concerned that the road is already too narrow to manage current usage and the problem will be exacerbated by perceived additional use. It will also adversely affect the traffic flow in Brighton Road. The applicants need to present an enforceable and workable traffic plan.

FNC will ask Denne District Councillors to “call in” the application.

06.01.23 Treasurer’s Report

Current Account £9,223.85, Reserve Account £1,289.09. The Clerk’s honorarium and expenses have been paid for January. The Treasurer, NC Mr Travers, referred to the Special Charge, commenting that an increase of 8.3% in 2023/2024 will generate a further income of £700. He commented on excess balances in 2020/21 and 2021/22 together with the likely credit balance for 2022/2023.

Mrs Sumpter referred to Denne’s request that the Special Charge NC grant should be allocated according to dwelling house numbers.

07.01.23 CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy

At this stage, HDC is not prepared to arrange a Zoom Meeting but Mrs Sumpter explained that HDC Emma Parkes may arrange a meeting after 31st January by which time all NC comments will have been submitted. A question list has been circulated by Mrs Sumpter and she asked Councillors to submit their own questions to her. She will then send these onto HDC.

Separately Mr Puckle circulated a breakdown of CIL analysis that was included with Section 106 funding paperwork. Mr Puckle has presented a breakdown between the three neighbourhoods but Mrs Sumpter explained that CIL monies are for all the town and not separated. Of the figure, 15% is for the three neighbourhoods to allocate but this is increasing to 25% following the Neighbourhood Plan approval.

About Section 106 monies outstanding, attention is drawn to the Forest figure of £9,230.66 that is to be allocated to recycling. FNC Councillors would like to have input into this expenditure.

Resolved Councillors will submit additional questions. Mr Puckle will circulate CIL break out analysis when HDC circulate figures.

08.01.23 CLIMATE ACTION DAY

Following on from the discussion at December Meeting, Mr Puckle said that the ideal way forward would be for the 3 Neighbourhood Councils to work together to “declare a climate emergency” and to develop common communications. At this time, NC Mr Olson seconded the motion that separately, FNC should acknowledge the climate emergency and look to setting up a small Steering Group.

Resolved to add to February Agenda

09.01.23 Correspondence

Novartis Parish Liaison Committee Meeting 20th December 2022 – update

Southern Water - Water Resources Management Plan

Gatwick Airport Meeting slides (referenced by NC Mr C. Puckle)

A24 Dorking Corridor proposal

EV Charge points in Forest Neighbourhood

Speedwatch Report (G. Sitton)

HALC/HDC MINUTES

The Drill Hall future – British Legion is no longer interested in taking over this building.

WSCC Applications for Primary School Places

Sussex Alerts including “Have Your Say” on Police Funding

WSCC Newsletters - HDC Newsletters

Shelley Memorial Project Update

Southern Water - tool for reporting pollution issues – email dated 7th January 2023

10.01.23 Any Other Business

Neighbourhood Warden Report – there is a query about the number of hours allocated to each Neighbourhood. NC Mr Olson attended the recent “Neighbourhood Warden Walk” and said that Maria and Charlie are disappointed they cannot patrol outside the three neighbourhoods (i.e., in the vicinity of The Bohunt School). FNC Councillors confirmed this is because North Horsham Parish Council will not contribute towards costs. NC Mr Milne suggested that NHPC may re-consider if there is a specific request and figure for the portion of time.

Mr Sitton agreed to ask for a breakdown of allocated “Administration” time that is currently listed as 25% of the time per month..

Resolved to add Neighbourhood Wardens to February Agenda.

The Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.