

**HORSHAM FOREST NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL**  
**Clerk: Mrs M Vinall, 40 Rookwood Park, Horsham, RH12 1UB**  
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**MINUTES OF MEETING 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023 7.30 p.m.**  
**Salvation Army Hall, Albion Way, Horsham**

**Present:** Mr. G. Stanley (Vice-Chair), N. Friswell, K. Johnson, J. Olson, C. Puckle, G. Sitton, and B. Travers  
**District Councillors:** DC Ms. R. Fletcher and Dr. D. Skipp  
**County Councillors:** CC Dr. N. Dennis  
**Public:** 0  
**Apologies** Mrs. D. Sumpter (Chair), Mr. J. Milne, DC Mr. C. Minto

Mr. Olson declared an interest in that he is a co-founder of the '20 is Plenty Horsham' campaign.

Mr. Stanley welcomed everyone, presiding over the meeting seeing that Mrs. Sumpter sent her apologies.

**01.03.23 Minutes of Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

These were proposed by Mr. Friswell and seconded by Mr. Puckle  
\*Approval of minutes followed the discussion on Matter Arising.

**02.03.23 Matters Arising**

**00.03.23 Public Forum – Hammerpond Road**

Following on from the public forum at the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 meeting, councillors discussed the proposal by a member of the public to re-explore speed limits.

There was discussion on the appropriateness and feasibility for a lower speed limit to be introduced along Hammerpond Road, following the contributions of a member of the public at the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 meeting.

Mr. Sitton referred to the initiatives in Surrey to reduce the speed on rural country lanes. Mr. Friswell, a frequent user of the road, was concerned about arbitrary speed limits deviating from national norms. Mr. Puckle voiced his support for lower speeds, particularly near the narrow sections along the ponds. DC Cllr Fletcher noted there is a significant history of accidents and highlighted that the concerns of those who do not use the road due to the perceived danger, should be considered.

Councillors discussed the potential confusion with Doomsday lane, seeing it is sign-posted 40 mph from Brighton Road, but 60 mph from Hammerpond Road.

**Resolved to pause further discussion until a formal proposal has been made to WSCC, and either CC Jay Mercer or WSCC ask FNC for comment.**

**02.01.23 YMCA**

Mr. Stanley noted the existence of the football club for over 100 years, pre-dating much of the newer surrounding house, which has added to the danger of getting out of Gorings Mead due to the proximity of parked cars. A suggested alternative to route traffic through a new entrance from Chesworth Lane through Chesworth Farm was rejected due to the impact on the public amenity.

**04.03.22 Blueprint**

Noted that Mrs. Sumpter had circulated correspondence.

**Resolved to pause further discussion until next meeting.**

**03.12.22 Queensway/Queens Street**

DC Mr. Olson advised that WSCC had agreed with HDC's proposed scheme to relandscape the forecourt, however asking that the bollards along Queen Street be pushed back 400 mm from the street.

**Resolved the DC R. Fletcher will speak with officers at HDC regarding paving stones.**

**09.12.22 Wilder Horsham/1m2**

Mr. Olson referenced the progress with FNC's 1m2 One Square Metre (1m2) Mini-meadow Challenge. Seeds and other materials have been purchased. However, volunteers to pack and distribute were needed. Mr. Olson is still awaiting a response from the local primary schools as to whether they will distribute seeds to pupils.

Suggested locations for distribution to the public were: New Street Butch, Claphams Butcher, local Scouts, Horsham Montessori.

**07.01.23 CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy**

Mrs. Sumpter had circulated HDC responses to the three NC's initial questions. HDC had confirmed that it would arrange a zoom meeting and this is something that Forest Neighbourhood Councillors have been requesting over a period of time. This is the only way that the levy can be fully understood.

**Resolved Mrs. Sumpter will ask HDC to arrange a Zoom Meeting to which all FNC Councillors are invited.**

**06.02.23 Arun Way Dog Bin**

Correspondence from HDC has confirmed they do not have the capacity to adapt current vehicles to access a new bin at the end of Arun Way, and therefore cannot take it forward without incurring extraordinary costs at this time.

**03.02.23 Barbed Wire/WSCC/Dry Pond**

DC Dr. Skipp met with Horsham Angling Society to discuss fencing that has been put up along the paths near the ponds off Hammerpond Road. On the side of the pathway, and public right of way, there is dangerous barbed wire, and there is more barbed wire in the forest. The landowners themselves are not local. DC Dr. Skipp is currently attempting to liaise with WSCC to request its removal on the grounds of health and safety. The ponds are also SSSI, and therefore DC Dr. Skipp will next be contacting Natural England.

**07.02.23 Neighbourhood Wardens**

Mr. Sitton referenced the circulated report back on Admin time reported by Neighbourhood Wardens and continues to push for answers.

**03.02.23 District and County Councillors Reports**

**DC Mrs. Fletcher** advised regarding the Horsham YMCA Football club planning application, that HDC's tree warden cannot accept the ash tree being felled. She is waiting to see this opinion reflected in the planning officer's report.

**DC Dr. Skipp** reported back on the earlier HDC Public Realm strategy for Horsham Town. Current HDC budget allocations are for design and delivery of the Bishopric, but only include

further design work for the Carfax. Carfax plans currently ask for the retention of the existing granite sets.

Mr. Friswell commented that the surfaces are currently bumpy. DC Mrs. Fletcher responded that the plans aim to improve crossings for all road users, where they actually desire to cross.

**DC Mr. Olson** had nothing further to add that wasn't already spoken about.

**CC Dr. Dennis** referenced residents' concerns with verges on both Burford Road and Depot Road. While the current weather has resulted in 'mud baths', the change in season and weather will mean that grass will start to recover.

The problem is exacerbated by parking on the verges. CC Dr. Dennis commented that WSCC has a policy to no longer erect bollards or replace if they are not already there. Another option is to plant trees, but WSCC has a limited budget. CC Dr. Dennis noted in some locations parish councils pay for the trees. FNC agreed they do not have the same funds to provide trees as do parish councils.

DC Mrs. Fletcher offered to provide information to Mr. Olson on the WSCC Donate a tree scheme, and for FNC to request trees for Burford Road, assuming they meet WSCC criteria.

**Resolved the CC. Dr. Dennis will send resident request for trees on Burford Road to Mr. Olson. will speak with officers at HDC regarding paving stones.**

CC Dr. Dennis indicated that while WSCC continue to make pot hole repairs, many of the potholes done in January are now coming out again. Mr. Olson commented that upon speaking with a WS Highways team on Orchard Road, they indicated much of the repair work is meant to be temporary, waiting for follow-up resurfacing later in the year.

**Resolved, after suggestion from Mr. Puckle, to request specification from WSCC on pot hole repair standards.**

CC. Dr. Dennis referenced correspondence from a resident of Woodgate Close on the danger of crossing Harwood Road from the north side, east-bound bus stop.

#### **04.03.23 Planning**

Mr. Travers noted that there had been four planning applications, and that planning applications now also go to Blueprint as a separate consultee, despite Blueprint including the three neighbourhood areas.

#### **05.03.23 Treasurer's Report**

Current Account £8477.06, Reserve Account £1290.88.

The Clerk's honorarium and expenses have been paid for March. Mr. Travers investigated the situation with honorariums across the three neighbourhood councils: Denne pay clerk through a WSCC payroll system facility no longer available to others; Trafalgar use a private company that charge £700 per annum.

**Resolved that Forest will continue to carry on as usual unless requested to make changes by FNC Clerk Mrs. Vinall.**

The cost of the Spring newsletter will be roughly £700 for printing and delivery.

Mr. Travers is still negotiating with the Salvation Army, who want to now charge for 3 hours instead of 2, despite our meetings lasting only 2 hours.

The 1m2 seed project is expected to cost £600 for all materials.  
**Resolved for Mr. Olson to pay and request reimbursement from FNC.**

The hall hire invoice is still outstanding and a further newsletter is scheduled. The comment was made that Denne NC is asking for an increased share of HDC grant. It is also noted that Denne's expenses are higher for its clerking but lower for insurance. The Clerk will follow up the insurance quote. NC Mr. Travers is in discussion regarding payrolls.

Councillors are asked to submit any expenses before year end.

**06.03.23 Horsham Climate Action Day**

Mr. Puckle said there are no further updates.

**07.02.23 Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies**

**Speedwatch**

Mr. Sitton announced Speedwatch has a new device that requires training and is hoping a PSC will explain how to use it. Sussex Safer Roads Partnership is informing schools of parking and speed problems. Mr Sitton reported Operation Crackdown has been updated and dashcam footage is now available to be used in public prosecutions.

**08.03.23 Correspondence**

WSCC communicated there is to be a new SEN school.

**Resolved to confirm whether this is the earlier discussed extension to QE2 or a new school in a new location.**

Councillors discussed plans for the Coronation in Horsham orchestrated by HDC.

**Resolved not to request a grant from HDC.**

**09.03.23 Any Other Business**

Mr. Friswell noted that WSCC have requested residents to use the bus more, but do not write to holders of bus passes to remind you when they are due to expire.

Mr. Puckle referred to a resident that was having difficulty installing a memorial bench in Hills Cemetery. DC Mrs. Fletcher indicated that there is current expansion work at the cemetery and all bench requests have been delayed.

DC Dr. Skipp mentioned an ash tree that is due to be felled at Ben's Acre, and that HDC is not notifying residents about the removal of mature trees.

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

**CORRESPONDENCE UP TO 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**WSCC** Circulations including Highways Newsletters that advise 31,500 potholes have been filled within last 10 months. New Street and Orchard Road road issues have been dealt with and so far, there has been no criticism. Details of planned works during w/c 13<sup>th</sup> March that include many local streets – Sandeman Way, Dickens Way

Highways – FNC has asked for real time bus signs to be fitted in Brighton Road. Highways has a major spending programme, but CC John Milne has explained that the majority of the money has already been allocated.

WSCC Ukranian Support update

WSCC Youth Cabinet

WSCC Road Safety

WSCC New School to be built for children with special needs. *The new special free school will provide 130 full-time places for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who have autism spectrum and social emotional and mental health needs. It will be an all-through school for both boys and girls aged from 4 to 18.*

West Sussex Mind – information about Mental Health Awareness Week and new CEO, Kerrin Page.

Carers Support Network

## **HDC**

Cost of Living Support Sessions

Confirmation that HDC will run CIL sessions for Neighbourhood Councillors

Befriends Project (e mail dated 9<sup>th</sup> March that included a flyer about this initiative)

Voluntary Support Network including details of Parents Advisory Group

THE KING'S CORONATION email from Sarah Hogben, HDC Communications and Marketing Officer

HDC Pete Crawford's correspondence about one diseased tree to be felled in Leechpool Woods.

Kings Road 30 mph proposal –NC Mr. Olson has approached Kingslea School; no further updates

Virgin Media – Broadband – NC Mr. Sitton and DC Mr. Minto e mails regarding contact. NC Mr. Sitton has personally written to Jeremy Quin and has circulated the response he has received.

SAXON WEALD Road Show, Orchard Road – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Great British Spring Clean – week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> March – 14<sup>th</sup> April

DD Stakeholder Presentation – Gatwick Airport – February slides

CLIMATE CHANGE information about follow-on meeting

Chesworth Farm Capital Works commenced 6<sup>th</sup> March

## **SOUTHERN WATER PROJECT**

1. Southern Water are investing in a new pumping station and pipeline to transfer flows from Mannings Heath wastewater treatment works, near Golding Lane, to the Horsham sewer network at Chesworth Lane. The project involves a 3.8km pipe laid through fields, with construction works starting summer 2023 and finishing December 2024. The work will be carried out in sections, with Chesworth Farm currently scheduled for autumn 2023.

## Investigation Works

2. Surveys and investigations to inform the construction project are in progress, with archaeological investigations along the pipeline route due to start w/c 20-Mar-2023. The archaeological investigations take the form of a series of shallow trenches, allowing the archaeologists to survey the ground and confirm the absence of items of archaeological significance ahead of the construction activities.

## Contact

3. If you have any questions or would like to know more, please email [jenny.keirle@theclancygroup.co.uk](mailto:jenny.keirle@theclancygroup.co.uk) or you can call Southern Water on 0330 3030 368. Just tell us you're calling about Capital Projects, with Project Reference Number (PRN) 751162 so we can help you more quickly.

## Neighbourhood Watch

Denne and Trafalgar Minutes

HALC MINUTES – these include a letter sent by HALC Chairman expressing concerns about delays to the Local Plan

Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory

Horsham and Sussex Alerts including details about PCSO recruitment. Applicants are asked to submit their CV's by 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

ARUN WAY DOG BIN - LETTER FROM PAUL ANDERSON