



FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 8 February 2017

Minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting** held at Fernhurst Village Hall on
Wednesday 8 February 2017 at 6.30pm

Councillors Present: Mrs H Bicknell (Chairman), Mr J. Buchanan, Mr G Inns, Mrs M. Jenkins, Mr J Smith, Mrs M Timms, Mr G Williamson.

Apologies For Absence: Mr W Black, Mr A. Moncreiff, Mr N Rawlings, Mr C Tedd.

In Attendance: K Jones (Clerk), District Councillor Norma Graves

16/17 Public Representations: Mr John Mitchell and Mr Bill Gourlay, trustees of the Fernhurst Recreation Ground Trust, addressed the Council to inform them of the project to upgrade the Recreation Ground Pavilion. The current facilities are considered woefully inadequate for current and projected future demand. The financial costs will be very significant but the Trust is prepared for the fundraising task. Completion of the project is currently forecast as 2020 – 2022.

Mr Peter Hudson addressed the council to explain the administrative arrangements he had put in place with “Football in the Community” where Fernhurst Parish Council had agreed to fund local participation to the extent of £500.

Mr Iain Brown informed the council of an article in the “Telegraph” magazine about Mr Tony Lucas, one time member of Fernhurst Parish Council, and a survivor of incarceration by the Japanese during the Second World War.

The South Downs National Park Authority had recently agreed to an extension of the Fernhurst Conservation Area. They had also recommended a record of local properties, whilst not qualifying for listed status, were of local historical interest. Mr Brown, on behalf of the Fernhurst Archives, kindly undertook to compile such a record.

17/17 Declarations of Interests: None.

18/17 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting of the **11 January 2017** were agreed and signed. Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded: Cllr Timms.

19/17 Matters Arising From The Minutes: None.

20/17 County Councillor Commentary: None.

21/17 District Council Commentary: District Councillor Norma Graves informed the meeting of developments at district council level in the following areas:

Shared Council Services: Following extensive investigation it has been concluded that there is no benefit to be gained for Chichester District Council by sharing back-office services with adjacent councils.

Chichester “Southern Gateway”: The possible incorporation of the soon to be redundant Chichester Crown and Magistrates Courts into this regeneration scheme is being investigated.

Novium Museum: - The Tim Peake exhibition is proving very popular with all age groups and is well worth visiting.

Priory Park: - Roman remains have recently been unearthed.

Community Led Housing Trusts: Chichester District Council has recently allocated £1.3M to support applications in the area.

22/17 A27 Consultation: Cllr Rawlings had attended the recent meeting on the development of the A27 chaired by local MP Andrew Tyrie and had presented councillors with a written report.

The division of opinion over whether the “consultation” was flawed and should be re-run is, unsurprisingly, based on geographical lines. Funds have been allocated centrally to the proposed upgrade of the existing A27 and could be lost if a further delay is caused by a re-run of the consultation. If the consultation is re-run and a Northern route preferred there is no guarantee funding would be available and the status quo would prevail. This is a very difficult issue: whatever the ultimate outcome many will be aggrieved.

23/17 Village Handyman:- Cllr Bicknell informed the meeting that a new Village Handyman was in the process of being engaged. **Action: (Cllr Bicknell)**

24/17 Office Refurbishment: Potential contractors have been contacted and specifications and prices are awaited. **Action: (Clerk)**

25/17 Notice-Boards – The colour of the public pin-board has become an issue with the supplier only offering a black rubber – deemed unsuitable. The supplier has been asked to offer a more suitable alternative. **Action: (Clerk)**

26/17 Village Design Statement – The following report had been presented by Cllr Black:

“The Design Statement Working Party had reached a view that the current Village Design Statement (DS) dating from the year 2000, left a lot to be desired. Its wording was too high level and generalised, lacking specific guidance. Subsequently, it was found that the issues of Vision, National and Local Design Policies and high level design guidance that could be included in the new DS were already enshrined in the newly adopted Fernhurst Neighbourhood Plan (FNP). There was no reason to repeat it. Subsequently, it was thought that the new DS might focus on more detailed design guidance given the content of the FNP and that this should be based upon Chichester District Council's (CDC) Design Guidelines.

Advice was sought from Southdown National Park Authority (SDNPA) to ensure that it would adopt the new proposed DS that included the CDC Guidelines. SDNPA responded by stating that, although it is now the planning authority, CDC's Design Guidelines (together with its 'saved policies') are still applicable when considering planning applications. This will continue until its Local Plan is adopted, scheduled for mid-2018. It therefore, sees no point in duplicating CDC's Design Guidelines in a new Parish DS.

SDNPA would like us to contribute to its first design guidance document that is due to come into effect after the Local Plan is adopted. This therefore, is the recommended way forward with the DS Working Party reviewing and as necessary updating CDC's Design Guidelines as well as considering new environmental and sustainability guidelines.”

27/17 Councillor Training – Following discussion with Sussex Association of Local Councils a three hour evening course suitable for all councillors, delivered locally, has been proposed. Dates are awaited from SALC. **Action: (Clerk)**

28/17 Correspondence & Other Matters

Councillors' Announcement: 4 November 2017 will mark the 50th anniversary of the crash of Iberia Caravelle EC-BDD at Blackdown, killing all 37 people on board. The council would support remembrance of the disaster. It is understood the Good Companions Cub have similar ambitions.

Clerk's Announcements: A new cheaper contract has been signed for the electricity supply to the public toilets.

A new cheaper contract has been signed for supply of telephone and broadband services to the Council.

The 2016/17 budget and accounts to the end of January 2017 showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £33,837 for the financial year.

At the meeting of the Property, Highways and Environment Committee meeting on the 6 February 2017 it had been agreed that the Council had exhausted possible remedies for speeding in Vann Road. It is a law enforcement issue in the hands of Sussex Police.

29/17 Monthly Executive & Committee Reports

- **January Bank Reconciliations:** were reviewed and agreed.
- **List of Payments and signing of cheques.** Authorisation of list of payments and signing of cheques.
Approval of the above proposed by Cllr Jenkins, seconded by Cllr Timms, carried unanimously.
- **Property, Highways & Environment Committee:** Minutes of the meeting of the 10 October 2016. **Noted.** Received and accepted.

30/17 Update on Local Issues

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** Cllr Inns advised the council that the Purple Bus facility for young people was attracting between 6 & 8 participants. A new Senior Youth Club Leader had been appointed but would not be operational until after Easter.
The ambition for an outdoor gymnasium at Nappers Wood was being progressed and a costing was awaited. It was anticipated to be approximately £10,000 of which 50% would have to be funded from local sources.
- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** The council noted that arrangements for the storage of chairs had changed yet again and the meeting environment improvement had been short lived.
- **Policing:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** Two of the trustees had presented to the meeting as in item 16/17

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 8 March 2017

Chairman Signed:.....

Date:.....