



FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 8 March 2017

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

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

Apologies For Absence: Mr A. Moncreiff, Mr N Rawlings, Mr C Tedd, Mr G Williamson.

In Attendance: K Jones (Clerk), County Councillor Michael Brown.

31/17 Public Representations: Mr Peter Hudson addressed the council to advise the first
“Football in the Community” sessions would be taking place on April 20 and 21.

32/17 Declarations of Interests: None.

33/17 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting of the **8 February 2017** were
agreed and signed. Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded: Cllr Timms.

34/17 Matters Arising From The Minutes: None not covered below.

35/17 County Councillor Commentary: County Councillor Michael Brown made his
valedictory address to the council. He advised the council of the continuation of “Operation
Watershed” into the 2017/18 financial year. The Chairman thanked Councillor Brown for
his aid to the parish over his years of service and wished him well for the future.

36/17 District Council Commentary: None directly. Cllr Timms informed the meeting that
she had spoken to District Councillor Norma Graves concerning the boundary wall of the
White House on Fernhurst Green. The latest information would appear to be that the
householder has agreed to instruct a structural engineer to provide a report on the
condition of the wall in respect of its stability and safety. Chichester District Council
building control has statutory powers over the matter but have to be fully compliant with
the legal process.

37/17 A27 Consultation: Plans to upgrade the A27 around Chichester have been
scrapped by the withdrawal of funding for the project. The grounds for the funding
withdrawal have been stated as a lack of community support. A meeting had been held on
the 6 March sponsored by West Sussex County Council in an attempt to build a local
consensus. This will prove very difficult to please all parties.

38/17 Village Handyman:- Cllr Bicknell informed the meeting an appointment to meet the
new village handyman had been arranged for tomorrow.

39/17 Office Refurbishment: A suitable supplier had been located and plans and a
quotation were awaited. Cllr Smith agreed to advise the Village Hall Committee about the
council’s plans and to ask about decoration and carpeting for the office.

Action: (Cllr Smith)

40/17 Notice-Boards – The supplier has offered an alternative to the black rubber material deemed unsuitable – only available in a dark grey. It was noted that other suppliers offered a multitude of alternative colours. The clerk had proceeded with the dark grey alternative.

41/17 Cemetery Lych-Gate – A meeting with Andy Whittington was to be arranged to look at what needed to be done. **Action: (Clerk)**

42/17 Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen – The clerk reminded the councillors that elections for the positions of council and committee chairmen and vice-chairmen would be held in May and now was the time for councillors to start considering if they wished to stand. **Action: (All)**

43/17 Correspondence & Other Matters:

Councillors' Announcements:

Village Green Fencing: A quotation for the replacement fencing at the village green had been received. Two other quotations were needed. **Action: (Clerk)**

Kingsley Green Telephone Kiosk: The contract to purchase had been received and the payment of £1 was to be approved at this meeting.

National Trust Covenants: Copies of those applicable to certain parts of the parish were still awaited by Cllr Black.

Joint NE/NW Forum Meeting – Midhurst, 28 March. Cllr's Black and Timms indicated their willingness to attend.

Fernhurst News: The clerk was instructed to place a full-page advertisement in the April edition of the Fernhurst News to publicise the **Annual Parish Meeting** scheduled for 26 April. **Action: (Clerk)**

The clerk was also instructed to place an advertisement in the Fernhurst News to request that hedges that overhang and obstruct public footpaths are to be cut back to the boundary of the footpath. Hedge cutting is not advisable until the 1 September owing to the disturbance of nesting birds.

Richard Chapman Memorial Tree – Ruth Payne had approached the council and it had been agreed to allow the planting of a native species tree near the existing Copper Beech on the Village Green.

Tree Audit – An audit and safety inspection of trees on parish council owned land is required. The principle area affected will be Van Common. **Action: (Clerk)**

Public Toilets – Complaints have been received of the public toilets being closed at between 4.00 and 4.30pm: the clerk to contact the contractor. **(Action: (Clerk))**

Clerk's Announcements: None

44/17 Monthly Executive & Committee Reports

- **February 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 Timms, seconded by Cllr Inns, carried unanimously.
- **Planning Committee:** Minutes of the meetings of the 17 January and 20 February 2017. **Noted.** Received and accepted.

45/17 Update on Local Issues

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** Cllr Inns advised the council that the Purple Bus facility for young people was still attracting between 6 & 8 participants and would run until April.
A quotation for the outdoor gymnasium at Nappers Wood had been received at £14,000: 50% would have to be funded by community fundraising.
- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** No report.
- **Policing:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** The deputy head-teacher is acting as head of the school awaiting a permanent appointment.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** A letter had been received from a trustee of the Recreation Ground concerning the Neighbourhood Plan and its potential effect upon fundraising for the proposed pavilion redevelopment.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 12 April 2017

Chairman Signed:.....

Date:.....