



FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 13 September

Minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting** held at Fernhurst Village Hall on
Wednesday 13 September 2017 at 6.30pm

123/17 Councillors Present: Mrs H Bicknell (Chairman), Mr J. Buchanan, Mr G Inns, Mrs M. Jenkins, Mr A. Moncreiff, Mr J Smith, Mrs M Timms, Mr G Williamson.

124/17 Apologies For Absence: Mr W Black, Mr C Tedd, Mr N. Rawlings.

In Attendance: K Jones (Clerk), County Councillor David Bradford, District Councillor Norma Graves.

125/17 Public Representations: None.

126/17 Declarations of Interests: Cllr Bicknell declared an interest in item 138/17 below which contained a payment to her spouse in the sum of £98.00 for labour and materials supplied for the erection of the new parish notice-board.

127/17 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting of the **12 July 2017** were agreed and signed. Proposed: Cllr Williamson, seconded: Cllr Timms.

128/17 Matters Arising From The Minutes: The Emergency Plan working party had not managed to convene in August. A meeting had been held with representatives of Chichester Diocese on the 1 September to discuss the possibilities of Diocesan land in Church Road. A response is awaited from the Diocese which may take some time.

129/17 County Councillor Commentary: The council was pleased to welcome the new county councillor for the area, David Bradford. Cllr Bradford informed the meeting of the complexities and challenges of becoming a new county councillor covering fourteen individual parishes. Eighty five per cent of his contact with electors involves highway issues.

130/17 District Council Commentary: District councillor Norma Graves updated the meeting of developments at Chichester District Council. These covered expansion of staff in the planning department, a recycling week promotion, an educational digital tea party and cycling activities. Lodsworth Parish Council was keen to promote a flood prevention scheme and were requesting support from Fernhurst Parish Council; further enquiries to be made. **Action: (Clerk)**

131/17 Cemetery Lych-Gate: The structural engineers engaged by the council had not submitted an acceptable scheme of works. It was agreed to contact Elsted Builders to seek alternative remedies. **Action: (Cllr Buchanan/Clerk)**

132/17 Office Refurbishment: Further progress had been delayed by the inability to install the large filing cupboards. Smaller cupboards will have to be ordered. **Action: (Clerk)**

133/17 White House Wall - Planning Application 17/02188 – No reply had been received from the e-mail sent to the planning officer on the 5 September. The council's comments had not been added to the South Downs National Park Authority's planning website.

134/17 Tree Audit & Inspection – A tree audit and inspection still required. **Action: (Clerk)**

135/17 Approval and Adoption of Updated Financial Regulations An updated Risk Management Policy is require together with confirmation that variable direct debits are permissible.. **Action: (Cllr Moncreiff / Clerk)**

136/17 Insurance – Insurance cover for councillors acting in “ex-officio” roles was still required. A proposal had been received from the current insurer but it was decided to consult SSALC Ltd on possible alternatives. **Action: (Clerk)**

137/17 Village Post Office – The public consultation period has concluded with no major reservations. Subsequent to the meeting it has been advised that the transfer to Dudman-Ward Ltd will take effect on 1 February 2018.

138/17 Council Notice-Board – The village-map was still awaited and Cllr. Buchanan undertook to liaise with the Fernhurst Society. **Action: (Cllr Buchanan)**

139/17 Winter Planning – Grit Bins – The five bins ordered by the council had been delivered and securely installed. Cllr Smith advised that West Sussex County Council Highways Department were no longer providing a service to deliver “Hippo Bags” filled with grit/salt when weather conditions warranted. All attempts to find an alternative local contractor had failed. To aid road conditions the contractor who would grit local roads had been provided with an extended list when needed.

140/17 Fencing of Village Green – The application for a New Homes Bonus payment has to cut the village green and use the village handyman to trim the edges. **Action: (Clerk)**

141/17 Public Toilets – Plans for the refurbishment of the public toilets were referred back to the Property Committee. Grants to add disabled access were to be sought. **Action: (Property Committee)**

142/17 Correspondence & Other Matters:

Councillors' Announcements:

- A cycle rack will be installed adjacent to the Fernhurst Centre.
- Fernhurst Horticultural Society had requested permission to plant a third tree on the green at Cross Field which was agreed. **Action: (Cllr Timms)**
- Paving is needed for the currently grassed area in front of the new council notice-board. Paving outside the Mumbai Restaurant which is apparently no longer used could be utilised.

Clerk's Announcements: Neil Mariner, who acts on behalf of the council as the “village handyman” is currently indisposed. The council wished him a speedy recovery. A new contractor for the weekly play area inspections is being sourced.

143/17 Monthly Executive & Committee Reports

- **August 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 Jenkins, carried unanimously.
- **Planning Committee:** Minutes of the meeting of the **26 June 2017** and **24 July 2017** and **14 August 2017**. Noted. Received and accepted.

144/17 Update on Local Issues

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** Hyde Group may yet fund the outdoor gym equipment.. The Senior Youth Club is meeting every Tuesday with a temporary leader while a permanent replacement is sought.
- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** No report.
- **Policing:** It was reported that grounds maintenance and farming equipment was still being targeted by thieves in the area.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** The recent Ofsted report was very good.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** The council was informed that the Recreation Ground Trustees had sought pre-application planning advice on their current scheme and had been advised that it was too large.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 11 October 2017

Chairman Signed:.....

Date:.....