

FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Wednesday 9th February 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. J. Cottam (Chairman)
Mrs. C. Barnes
Mrs. H. Bicknell
Mr. M. Bishop
Mrs. N. Braithwaite
Mr. R. Chapman
Mrs. S. Ogilvy
Mr. J. Self
Mrs. E. Tyler
Mrs. M. Timms

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Mr. I. Brown

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. D. Bleach (Clerk & Executive Officer)
Mr. M. Brown (County Councillor)
Mrs. H. Caird (District Councillor)
Mrs. N. Graves (District Councillor)
1 member of the press

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mr. Self that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2011 be signed as correct. Carried.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Crossfield

Nothing to report.

b) School Governors

Mrs. Tyler will be attending a meeting on 17th February.

c) Fernhurst Public Toilets

The toilets were closed on 31st January and will be mothballed for one year. There had been no response to the article in the Fernhurst News. South Downs National Park has no policy regarding public toilets.

2.

d) Allotments

The Clerk had received a letter from the owner of land at Church Road, stating that he does not wish to sell the land. Mr. Harding would be advised of this.

e) Parish Boundary Review

The Clerk had sent out a short questionnaire to Vann Road residents, seeking their views on a boundary change. So far, nine out of eleven had replied and it was agreed to discuss the matter in March when hopefully all replies would have been received.

f) Parking at Nappers Wood

No further progress. Mrs. Barnes expressed concerns about access for emergency vehicles.

g) Snack Wagon/Youth Facilities

The project leader hopes to get his CRB check shortly and for the snack wagon to be up and running by the end of February. He is in contact with Mr. Colin Hughes regarding food hygiene training.

h) Play Area – Fernhurst Recreation Ground – Cricket balls

A response had been received from the Fernhurst Recreation Ground Trust which suggests that the play area should be closed during cricket matches, although this seems to be an unsatisfactory solution to the problem. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for 3.5m fencing on two sides of the play area and to write to the Parish Council's insurers asking for their views on the matter, regarding liability.

3. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mr. Brown gave a short talk on the West Sussex pension scheme that is open to all local authority employees in west Sussex and also to ancillary workers in the Fire and police services. The current value of the pension fund is £1.86b and all payments to current pensioners are met from contributions coming into the scheme, so the fund is not currently used to pay those pensions. The pension scheme has been judged to be the second best in the country. The funds are managed by various specialist firms, some of whom are performing very well and others not quite so well. It is likely that in the future, employees may have to pay a larger contribution than at present, leaving less to be funded by council tax payers.

Mr. Self asked whether WSCC might use a new pothole patching material that is in use in some other counties. Although it is more expensive, it is more durable than that currently used and should last a number of years.

4. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mrs. Caird reported that the Local Development Framework is continuing and is expected to be completed in 2013.

There is to be a meeting on 1st March between the District Council, the South Downs National park and the developer to discuss the design brief for the Syngenta site.

As the district is very short of rural housing, the qualifying rules are to be changed so that people have more chance of being housed in their own village. The rules on life tenure are also to be discussed.

There are problems being experienced in some areas of fly tipping on farmers' land, who then have to pay for it to be removed and disposed of.

Finally, Mrs. Caird reported that the government grant had been reduced by 49% OVER TWO YEARS. The Community Forum meeting on 2nd march would give more information on this.

Mrs. Graves reported that there were 17 homeless housing applications in December and that there are some 2,200 people in bands A to C on the waiting list.

Names can be put forward for the Youth Sports Achievements awards

There will be an event at Westgate Leisure centre for disabled people and their cares on 6th March.

There will be a family fossil hunt on 2nd April at Bracklesham bay.

Advice on holding street parties for the royal wedding can be found on the district council's web site.

The Chichester Festival Theatre has had a very good season and is becoming recognised as a national theatre.

The Pallant House Gallery has run some very good exhibitions recently.

5. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

From	Subject
Chichester District Council	Election timetable. Noted.
South Downs National Park	Seeking members for the Local Access Forum. Noted.
Sussex Police	Message from District Commander. Noted.
Campaign to Save Day Care Services	Copy of presentation made to town and parish councils. Noted.
WSCC	Minutes of County Local Committee held on 18 th January. Noted.
WSCC	Closure of Footpath No. 1095. Noted.
Sarah Bain	St. Magnus. Noted.
Chichester District Council	Football in the Community. Noted.
Chichester District Council	West Sussex Credit Union – presentation to council members on 3 rd March at Chichester. Noted.
WSCC	Highways Works Programme. Noted. No works scheduled for Fernhurst parish.

4.

WSSC	County Council Cabinet Re-Shuffle. Noted.
Mr. Terry Hilder	Membership officer – Chichester Lib/Dems. Seeking candidates for forthcoming District Council elections. Noted.
Neighbourhood Watch	Citizen Street Patrols. Mr. Cottam and Mr. Hudson had attended a meeting at Midhurst Police Station yesterday. Under this scheme, members of the public would be equipped with hot-line phones and would patrol the streets to see what is going on. Neighbourhood Watch is not currently interested in the scheme.
James Cottam	South Downs National Park meeting with the parishes. Mr. Cottam had circulated notes that he had taken at the meeting.
West Sussex Rural Forum	Decentralisation and Localism Bill meeting – 22 nd March. Mr. Cottam, Mr. Self and the Clerk to attend.
SALC	Sussex Police Survey. Noted.
James Cottam	Royal Wedding. An enquiry had been received as to whether the Parish Council would be organising a street party. It was agreed however that these should be organised by the residents in those streets that wanted one. The Clerk then advised that it was traditional for the Parish Council to provide souvenirs of such royal events to the primary school age children in the parish. It was proposed by Mr. Self and seconded by Mrs. Timms that souvenir mugs should be given to all children at Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School, with some extras for those who attend other primary schools. Carried. The Clerk would source a supply and liaise with Mr. Self on which design to purchase.
SALC	Councillor Introduction Sessions. Noted.
South Downs National Park	Planning seminars. Mrs. Braithwaite and Mr. Chapman to attend.
Sue Ogilvy	Youth Services. Noted.
Clerk	Metal detection agreement. Proposed by Mr. Bishop and seconded by Mr. Self that the agreement in favour of Mr. D. Wells should be signed. Carried.
Dept. for Communities & L. G.	Revision and consolidation of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. Consultation. Noted.

5.

SLCC	February newsletter. Noted.
Fields in Trust	The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. Noted.

Items Available for Reading

WSSC	Forward Plan of Key Decisions.
Ramblers Association	Newsletter – February 2011.
Chichester District Council	‘Initiatives’ – Winter 2011 issue.

6. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was suggested that the commanding officer of RAF Odiham be asked to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting on the subject of low-flying helicopters.

7. MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

a) Payments

(Mr. Cottam and Mrs. Bicknell declared personal interests in this item.)

It was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mrs. Timms that the list of payments and cheques shown at Annex ‘A’ be approved and signed. Carried.

Receipts

See schedule attached at Annex ‘A’.

c) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk presented bank reconciliation reports, attached at Annex ‘B’, which was accepted.

d) Monthly Budget Report

The Clerk presented the report, shown at Annex ‘C’, which was accepted.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Cottam that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2011 be signed as correct. Carried.

PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Self reported that he had received comments from Midhurst Road residents about excessive speed at the southern end of the village, near Woodfold. He is awaiting more information from residents.

6.

FERNHURST RECREATION GROUND

There will be a management committee meeting at the end of March which Mr. Cottam would be attending.

8. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

a) Services for young people and the Youth Club

Nothing to report.

b) Fernhurst Village Hall

Mr. Self reported that drainage repairs at the back of the village hall would cost over £4,000.

c) Policing

Nothing to report.

d) Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School

Nothing to report.

9. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS

Mrs. Bicknell had received complaints from Nappers Wood residents that shields had been placed on some of the street lights, resulting in insufficient light shining on to the footpath. The Clerk would discuss the problem with the street lighting team at WSCC.

Mrs. Turner advised that the annual pancake race will be held at the school on Tuesday, 8th March at 1.00 p.m. and that the Tennis Club would be holding a fund-raising barn dance on 19th February at the village hall.