

FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council, which Incorporated its Annual Meeting, held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Wednesday 11th May 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. J. Cottam (Chairman)
Mrs. H. Bicknell
Mrs. A. Notley
Mrs. S. Ogilvy
Mrs. H. Pezier
Mr. J. Self
Mrs. M. Timms

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Mr. R. Chapman
Mrs. N. Braithwaite

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Those members present signed their Acceptance of Office declarations prior to the commencement of the meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mrs. Ogilvy and seconded by Mr. Self that Mr. Cottam be re-elected as Chairman. There being no other nominations, the motion was carried.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed by Mr. Self and seconded by Mrs. Timms that Mrs. Bicknell be re-elected as Vice Chairman. There being no other nominations, the motion was carried.

3. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

It was agreed that the following committees be constituted as shown:

Finance and administration Committee: Mr. Cottam; Mrs. Bicknell; Mr. Chapman; Mrs. Ogilvy; Mrs. Timms.

Planning Committee: Mr. Cottam; Mrs. Braithwaite; Mrs. Pezier; Mrs. Notley; Mrs. Bicknell; Mr. Self; Mr. Chapman; Mrs. Timms.

Property, Highways and Environment Committee: Mr. Cottam; Mr. Self; Mrs. Timms; Mrs. Ogilvy; Mrs. Pezier; Mrs. Notley.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING

It was proposed by Mr. Self and seconded by Mrs. Timms that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2011 be signed as correct. Carried.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Crossfield

The Clerk reported that the Highways Manager had promised a report on the likely cost of improvements to the paths etc. by the end of May.

b) Fernhurst Public Toilets

Waiting for further information from the District Council on the possibility of funding from the South Downs National Park Authority.

c) Allotments

Nothing to report.

d) Parish Boundary Review

It was expected that the District Council would consider the request for a boundary review now that the elections had been completed.

e) Snack Wagon/Youth Facilities

The scheme had started two weeks ago with the Snack Wagon visiting Crossfield between 7.30 and 8.30 p.m. on Thursdays. More volunteers to help run it are needed.

f) Play Area – Fernhurst Recreation Ground – Cricket balls

The Clerk reported that he had ordered a sign warning of the danger of cricket balls landing in the play area. Two quotations for the erection of protective fencing had been received (see under correspondence).

It was agreed that the Braithwaite partnership be asked to prepare a planning application for the erection of fencing.

6. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mr. Brown apologised that he had been unable to attend the Annual Parish Meeting the previous evening.

He was sad to note that there had been a fatal accident on Henley Hill recently. Mr. Brown was asked to request that the Highways Manager looks at the problem of speed and safety on Henley Hill and write to the Parish Council.

There had been a problem of insufficient school places at Fernhurst Primary School for local children, but this had largely been resolved.

A pressure group had obtained 20,000 signatures to a petition asking the County Council to reinstate the £31m of cuts for services for older people, but it was unlikely to do so as the funds are not available.

Mr. Hudson suggested that 'recommended speed' signs could be placed on Henley Hill.

7. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mrs. Caird reported that following the election the District Council now comprised 38 Conservative, 8 Liberal Democrat and 2 Independent Members.

In order to spread the work-load, only one of the two District Councillors would attend Parish Council meetings, in turn.

In relation to the King Edward VII site planning application, Mr. Cottam asked **Mrs. Graves** to explain her reasons for voting in favour of the application when she was aware that Fernhurst and surrounding parishes had objected to it. Mrs. Graves replied that she had to show impartiality in planning applications before they go to the Development Control Committee, where they are considered in depth, and cannot therefore comment on them beforehand. She also stated that as a District Councillor, she had a responsibility not only to the Fernhurst ward, but to the District as a whole. Some conditions had been placed on the decision but none of them related to infrastructure improvements outside the site itself as this is an enabling development to achieve the protection of the listed sanatorium building. 220 new homes will need to be built to be able to fund that.

Mr. Cottam then commented that the development would put a strain on local services for the young, the elderly, parking at Haslemere, etc.

8. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

From	Subject
West Sussex County Council	Street Lighting Columns Replacement programme. Noted that the street lighting column replacement will begin in 2014.
Haslemere Town Council	King Edward VII Development. Noted.
Mr. J. Cottam	Fernhurst Primary School – Availability of places for local Children. Noted. See item 6. above.
Mr. D. Wells	Metal Detecting (finds). Noted.
SALC	Structure of SALC. Noted.
WSCC/NHS West Sussex/WS LINK	Local HeathWatch. To Mrs. Ogilvy.

4.

Johnsons Fishmongers	Mobile Fish Stall. Noted.
Clerk	Intruder Alarm – Extended warranty. Agreed not to purchase an extended warranty.
Sussex Police	Police Station Opening Times. Noted.
WSCC	Community Action Plans. Noted.
Chichester District Council	Bottle Banks. Noted.
Chichester District Council	‘Get Active in Chichester District’. Noted.
SALC	Councillor Induction Sessions. New members to advise Clerk when they could attend the available courses.
Fernhurst Youth Club	Annual General Meeting – 23 rd May at 7.00 p.m. Mrs. Bicknell to attend.
Clerk	Quotations for Safety Fencing at Play Area. Agreed not to accept either quotation until planning permission had been obtained.

Items Available for Reading

WSCC	Forward Plan of Key Decisions.
Chichester District Council	Community Information on Risks in Sussex.
Clerks & Councils Direct	May 2011 Issue.

9. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

10. MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

a) Payments

(Mrs. Bicknell declared a personal interest in this item.)

It was proposed by Mr. Self and seconded by Mrs. Ogilvy 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 a bank reconciliation report, attached at Annex 'B', which was accepted.

d) Monthly Budget Report

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

The Clerk reported that it appeared that there would be further rate relief for the cemetery and also that he had submitted the end-of-year VAT claim and tax return.

There would be a Finance and Administration Committee meeting on 23rd May.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Mr. Cottam and seconded by Mrs. Timms that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2011 be signed as correct. Carried.

The next meeting of the committee would be on 23rd May.

At the Planning Applications Committee meeting on 6th June, Members will be asked to consider the matter of Neighbourhood Planning. As this is of general importance, the Clerk would send out to all Members a copy of a quotation received from Navigus Planning for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Fernhurst.

PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Bicknell, the village handyman, had offered to remove the empty salt bags that were lying around the parish, if he could be provided with a map of their locations.

The sewage drainage problem at the Recreation Ground had been resolved.

FERNHURST RECREATION GROUND

Nothing to report.

11. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

a) Services for young people and the Youth Club

Nothing to report.

b) Fernhurst Village Hall

Mrs. Ogilvy asked Mr. Self if somewhere secure could be found in the village hall for storing the emergency plan box. He would see what could be arranged.

6.

c) Policing

A Police CCTV van had recently been parked in Vann Road as a deterrent.

Mr. Cottam commented that the switching of the Neighbourhood panel to the Annual Parish Meeting had seemed to go quite well.

d) Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School

Mrs. Notley volunteered to attend future meetings of the school's Parents Forum.

12. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS

Mr. Cottam commented that one more councillor is needed and that he and Mrs. Pezier had two people to contact to see if they would be interested.