

FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Mr. J. Cottam (Chairman)
Mrs. N. Braithwaite
Mr. R. Chapman
Mr. K. Harding
Mrs. S. Ogilvy
Mr. J. Self
Mr. J. Smith
Mrs. M. Timms

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

Mrs. H. Bicknell
Mrs. H. Pezier
Mr. G. Walls
Mrs. H. Caird (District Councillor)
Mrs. N. Graves (District Councillor)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. D. Bleach (Clerk & Executive Officer)
Mr. M. Brown (County Councillor)
1 member of the public
1 member of the press

1. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

Following a short presentation by Mr. John Smith as to his involvement in the community, it was proposed by Mr. Cottam and seconded by Mr. Self that Mr. Smith be co-opted as a Councillor. Carried.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING

It was proposed by Mrs. Braithwaite and seconded by Mr. Chapman that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2011 be signed as correct, subject to a minor addition on page 2. Carried.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Fernhurst Public Toilets

No further progress.

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b) Allotments

The Chairman suggested that a plan is drawn up of the process that the Parish Council needs to go through to achieve allotments. Mr. Harding was considering forming an independent allotments committee but was advised that the matter should form part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

c) Parish Boundary Review

The Chairman had written in support of the transfer of Marley Common to Lynchmere parish, if that is what the residents want.

d) Snack Wagon/Youth Facilities

Mr. Cottam reported that this facility had now been closed.

e) Play Area – Fernhurst Recreation Ground – Cricket balls

Awaiting the result of a planning application.

f) University of the Village

Mrs. Ogilvy reported that the university is to provide a web link to enable us to see what progress is being made.

g) The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Mrs. Ogilvy had booked the jazz band and the group would meet again on 28th November to discuss beacons and mugs.

h) Christmas Party

The Clerk had booked the pavilion for the event. The Chairman wished to slightly expand the invitation list to include others who are active in the community. It was agreed that Councillors would distribute the food so as to mingle with the invitees. Mr. Chapman to arrange to obtain the wine and glasses.

i) Neighbourhood Plan

The 'front runner' application was now on the Parish Council web site. It has been well received by the SDNPA who have submitted it to the Department for Local Government.

It was proposed by Mr. Cottam and seconded by Mrs. Braithwaite that Navigus Planning be engaged to produce the Neighbourhood Plan for Fernhurst, subject to agreeing costs and a timetable for the work. Carried.

4. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mr. Brown reported that the County Council's savings plan was going to plan and there will therefore not be any need for cuts to libraries and youth clubs, but problems in the Eurozone could cause the Government to demand more cuts in the future.

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Youth unemployment and jobless totals in general are quite high. Therefore, the County Council is producing £10m funding to encourage employment and growth.

It is also bringing forward the Capital Planning programme so that projects for years 3, 4 and 5 are brought forward, resulting in £35m of projects being carried out sooner. This includes spending on some schools, but as most of the schemes are relatively small, the work is likely to go to local firms rather than larger companies.

There will be a building programme for old peoples' homes due to the rising number of people living longer.

Mr. Brown commented that he had been consulted on the proposed boundary change for the Marley Common area and had stated that as both parishes appeared content with the review, so was he.

Mr. Cottam commented that planning officers are recommending the granting of planning permission for the King Edward VII site. A statement by WSCC says that the costs of schooling will be £400k, but the s.106 agreement sets aside only £100k for those needs.

Mr. Cottam asked if Mr. Brown could find the time to walk around the Crossfield area with him to see what could be done to improve the pathways.

Mr. Noel Tonkins (public) expressed concern about the increased accident rate at Cooks Corner. He was seeking support to get something done to improve the situation. There had been at least five accidents in the past year with varying degrees of injury. He believed that the 50 mph sign leads people to think they can take the bend at a greater speed than possible. WSCC Highways had visited the site and they would consider safety measures such as a maximum speed sign before the bend and a reduced speed limit.

Mr. Self added that Henley Hill is also an area where there are numerous accidents and WSCC Highways will try to do something about the situation, such as signs to warn of hazards and bend maximum speed signs.

It was emphasised that members of the public should report all accidents to WSCC as otherwise they are unaware of the situation, especially those accidents that are not reported by the Police, being damage only with no injuries.

5. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

No report.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

| From | Subject |
|---------------------------|---|
| South Downs National Park | Settlement Hierarchy Study. Noted. |
| South East Water | Water main replacement – Kingsley Green. Noted. |
| Clerk | Vann Common. Mr. Cottam and Mr. Harding to visit. |
| Mr. J. Self | Vann Bridge/Henley Hill/Winter Service Work. WSCC are prepared to accept liability in relation to volunteers carrying out snow |

4.

clearing and salting. A differ contractor will be dealing with snow clearance and salting. He has snow ploughs and a blower and WSCC will pay the costs.

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| Kompan | Recreation Ground Play Area. Repair work to commence on 17th November. |
| Mr. D. Edmunds | Village Hall Bus Stop. Clerk to meet with WSCC Highways to discuss what can be done to prevent drivers overtaking the bus on the wrong side of the ‘keep left’ signs. |
| Chichester District Council | Public Toilet Costings. Noted. |
| Mrs. J. Turner | Youth Tennis. Noted. |
| Fernhurst Youth Club | Invitation to Christmas Drinks. Mr. Cottam to attend. |
| Action in Rural Sussex | Digital Switchover Help Scheme. Passed to Mr. Self. |
| Clerk | Christmas Lights – Tuesday 6 th December 7.00 p.m. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Ogilvy to arrange mulled wine and soft drinks. Councillors to provide mince pies and sausage rolls. |
| Chichester District Council | London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Route. Noted. |

Items Available for Reading

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| Action in Rural Sussex | Annual Report and Accounts. |
| ‘Clerks and Councils Direct | November 2011 issue. |
| Open Spaces Society | ‘Open Space’ – Autumn edition. |
| SLCC | ‘The Clerk’ – November edition. |

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman asked that everyone should tell people about the ‘front runner’ application that is on the web site.

8. MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

a) Payments

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'.

b) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation report, attached at Annex 'B', which was accepted.

c) Monthly Budget Report

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

d) Chairman's Allowance

Due to increased expenses, it was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Harding that the Chairman's allowance be increased by £100.00, to be met from reserves. Carried.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Mr. Cottam and seconded by Mr. Chapman that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2011 be signed as correct. Carried.

PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Self reported that the County Council would be considering the provision of deer warning signs and considering rural speed limits.

A car, badly parked at Hogs Hill, is to be reported by County Highways to the Police.

FERNHURST RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman had written to the Chairman of the Recreation Ground because the income from letting the pavilion is dominated by lettings to the Singing Kettles, who have moved to the Youth Club building, asking what effect this would have on the Recreation Ground's finances.

9. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

a) Services for young people and the Youth Club

The Snack Shack had closed. The Community Action Group is interested in a BMX track on land in the valley east of the recreation ground. Mr. Smith was asked to look into the possibilities.

b) Fernhurst Village Hall

Nothing to report.

c) Policing

A day of action is planned in Fernhurst.

6.

d) Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School

Mrs. Timms had received no information from the school.

10. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS

Miggs Lane

Mrs. Turner reported that the 6' width restriction signs had been removed.

Rosemary Park Planning Application

Mrs. Turner congratulated the Parish Council for getting the SDNPA to call in the above planning application to make the decision itself.