

1.

FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Wednesday 14th
September 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. J. Cottam (Chairman)
Mrs. H. Bicknell
Mrs. N. Braithwaite
Mr. K. Harding
Mrs. J. Lyons
Mrs. S. Ogilvy
Mrs. H. Pezier
Mr. J. Self
Mrs. M. Timms
Mr. G. Walls

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

Mr. R. Chapman

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. D. Bleach (Clerk & Executive Officer)
Mrs. N. Graves (District Councillor)
Mr. M. Brown (County Councillor)

1. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS

Following statements by both candidates as to their interests in becoming councillors, it was proposed by Mr. Cottam and seconded by Mr. Self that both Mrs. J. Lyons and Mr. G. Walls be co-opted on to the Parish Council. Carried.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING

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

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Fernhurst Public Toilets

Mr. Cottam had been researching the possibility of replacing the present toilets with an automatic toilet. If this appeared to be a feasible option, grants towards the cost would be sought from both the District Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

b) Allotments

Mr. Harding had identified another possible site for allotments and, if necessary, the Parish Council could ask the District Council to compulsorily purchase the site, or any other, on its behalf. The Clerk explained that whilst that option was available, it would be the District Council that would decide whether or not to use that power. Should it do so, any costs would fall upon the Parish Council, as would the cost of the valuation of the land by the District Valuer.

c) Parish Boundary Review

The District Council had indicated that it would proceed with a review of the parish boundary, which would involve consultation with parishioners.

d) Snack Wagon/Youth Facilities

Mr. Cottam reported that the snack van had not appeared the previous Thursday and asked the organiser to confirm when it would return and to enquire about paying for the visits made to Fernhurst to date.

e) Play Area – Fernhurst Recreation Ground – Cricket balls

Mrs. Braithwaite reported that a planning application for the erection of safety fencing had been made to the District Council.

f) University of the Village

Mr. Cottam and Mrs. Ogilvy had met with the people involved with the project, which is to show how the resources of the University of Guilford could be accessed by rural areas, via high-speed broadband. They would now come up with ideas, with members of the community, to discuss. The research project will run from now until Christmas.

g) The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Mrs. Ogilvy suggested that the celebration should consist of dancing to a jazz band on The Green, with events such as races for the children. Mrs. Ogilvy, Mrs. Bicknell and Mr. Harding to look into the idea and report back in October.

4. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mr. Brown first mentioned an invitation to join in the Infrastructure Development Plan and make suggestions as to what is needed in the parish.

Mr. Brown then reported that the County Council is to receive £6.5m from the government to improve broadband in rural areas by 2015.

The previous day, he had met with the Local Government Minister, Mr. Bob Neil and had learned that the government is changing the system of local government finance, through which the County Council will retain the money collected from the business rates. He pointed out to the Minister that East Sussex County Council, which is very similar to West Sussex, receives £76m more per annum than West Sussex and had asked that he explains this, which he has promised to do.

5. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mrs. Caird reported:

- a) That the District Council continues to receive guidance and consultations from the government, causing a great deal of work and expenditure.
- b) Homeless persons applications for housing had decreased slightly but housing applications in general had increased.
- c) There is a low cost lending scheme available to help people fund essential repairs to their houses.
- d) She had written an article for the Fernhurst News regarding graffiti and dog mess.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

From	Subject
South Downs National Park	Visit by Mr. Jim Redwood, Head of Planning and Mr. Andrew Shaxson, Planning Committee Chair, on 12 th October. Noted.
Surrey County Council	Adoption of minerals plan documents and publication of Inspector's report and consultation on Aggregates Recycling plan document. Noted.
Chichester District Council	Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations. Noted.
Royal Horticultural Society	Britain in Bloom. Passed to Mr. Cottam.
Chichester District Council	Guide to building or restoring village shops. Noted.
Chichester District Council	Annual meeting with the parishes – 19 th October. Mr. Cottam and Mr. Self to attend.
West Sussex Fire & Rescue	Potential merger of East and West Sussex Fire Services. Noted.
SALC	Councillor training. Noted.
Fernhurst Club	Application for grant. Passed to Finance Committee.
Action in Rural Sussex	AGM – Friday 4 th November at Ardingly. Noted.
South East Water	Water main replacement at Kingsley Green – from 3 rd October for 15 weeks. Noted.
Fernhurst Recreation Ground Trust	Minutes of meeting held on 30 th July. Noted.
Mrs. B. Newman	Graffiti and dogs mess. Noted.

4.

Open Spaces Society	Defra consultation on village greens. Passed to Mr. Self.
WSSC	Chichester Registration Office moving to Orchard Street. Noted.
WSSC	The Purple Bus coming to Fernhurst from 13 th September to 13 th December. Noted.
Arun & Chichester CAB	Merger of Arun and Chichester, Adur and Worthing and Central Sussex CABs and AGM 13 th October at Bognor Regis. Noted.
Clerk	Arson Damage at Children's Play Area. Noted. The Clerk was awaiting estimates of the cost of repair and would then submit an insurance claim.
Chichester District Council	Community Forum meeting – Cocking – 14 th September. Noted.
South Downs NP Authority	Autumn Workshops. Noted.
WSSC	North Chichester County Local Committee – 27 th September at Loxwood. Noted.
WSSC	Big Society Team Managers. Noted.
Sussex Assn. of Local Councils	Annual Report & Accounts and AGM 4 th November at Ardingly at 2.00 p.m. Noted.

Items Available for Reading

WSSC	Forward Plan of Key Decisions.
'Clerks and Councils Direct'	September issue.
English Rural Housing Assoc.	Newsletter – Summer 2011.
SLCC	The Clerk magazine – September 2011.
NALC	Local Council Review – Autumn 2011.
Navigus Planning	Journal of Local Planning – Autumn 2011.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

8. 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. Cottam 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'.

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.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Mr. Self and seconded by Mrs. Bicknell that the minutes of the meetings held on 25th July and 1st, 15th and 22nd August 2011 be signed as correct. Carried.

It was agreed that Navigus Planning be invited to meet with the Planning Committee in on 17th October to discuss Neighbour Planning.

PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Self reported that people are very concerned about the dog fouling problem and felt that more dog waste bins are needed, but they are expensive to have emptied. Mr. Cottam would raise the issue with the Recreation Ground Management Committee at their next meeting.

Mr. Self had visited the residents of a cottage at The Green where there has been concern expressed about the parking of their car, causing an obstruction in the somewhat narrow road. The resident is looking to have the hedge cut back so that the car can be parked a little further to the side.

Signage before the Hindhead tunnel is to be provided to direct people to Midhurst and Chichester.

A fallen tree at Henley Hill has left a root void under the road.

The Clerk advised Members that due to the age of the present machine, it would be prudent to replace the cemetery tractor mower. He had identified a suitable replacement, a Countax C600, at a discounted cost of £3,000.00, of which part of the cost could be offset by the sale of the present machine.

It was proposed by Mr. Self and seconded by Mr. Cottam that the Clerk be authorised to purchase the new Countax tractor/mower at a cost of £3,000.00 and to sell the present machine at the best price he could obtain. Carried.

FERNHURST RECREATION GROUND

Nothing to report.

9. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

a) Services for young people and the Youth Club

Nothing to report.

b) Fernhurst Village Hall

Nothing to report.

c) Policing

There had been problems in the village the previous Saturday morning, involving a youth causing considerable damage to fences, a greenhouse and kicking cars. The Police had arrested the person responsible.

d) Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School

Mrs. Timms had attended a meeting of the Parents Forum on 19th July. Having listened to the Headteacher, Mr. Parkes, she felt that he had got the school well back on course. She had a tour of the school and the Headteacher had explained what they want to do during the next year. The school had managed to accommodate all those pupils that had applied for places.

10. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS

a) Mr. Cottam asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting to discuss revised Standing Orders.

b) The Clerk was asked to book the pavilion for the Christmas party on 9th December and to also ask the Kings Arms the cost of hiring the Barn function room.