

FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Wednesday 13th
June 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. J. Cottam (Chairman)
Mrs. H. Bicknell
Mrs. S. Ogilvy
Mrs. H. Pezier
Mr. J. Smith
Mrs. M. Timms
Mr. G. Walls

APLOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Mrs. N. Braithwaite
Mr. R. Chapman
Mr. K. Harding

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING

It was proposed by Mr. Walls and seconded by Mrs. Ogilvy that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2012 be signed as correct. Carried.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Fernhurst Public Toilets

Nothing to report.

b) Allotments

Nothing to report.

c) Play Area – Fernhurst Recreation Ground – Cricket balls

The Clerk had submitted a planning application for the approval of materials to be used for the safety fencing at the play area.

d) The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The event had been very successful and Mrs. Ogilvy, Mrs. Timms, Mrs. Bicknell and Mr. Harding were congratulated on their organisation of the event that had incorporated a simplified version of the Revels. The organisers will consider over the next few weeks whether to continue in the same format next year or whether the Revels will be run as previously.

e) Neighbourhood Plan

A second public event had been held on 22nd May, which was well attended, statistical information had been circulated and the Chairman had produced a draft survey form to be distributed around the parish, following which the results will be analysed. Outstanding questions for the survey form are awaited from two groups and these are needed by the end of the week. The steering group would 'vet' the survey form and reduce the length of it if possible. The Conservation Area is to be examined in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Plan with a view to limiting or preventing permitted development rights.

f) Local Bus Services

Nothing had yet been heard about the future of the local bus service.

g) Broadband

The Clerk had spoken with a representative of BT Openreach and he was confident that he can achieve broadband for Fernhurst.

Mr Cottam commented to Mr. Brown on the poor performance of the WSCC speaker on broadband at the Annual Parish Meeting. Mr. Brown re-iterated the County Council plans for delivering broadband in rural areas.

3. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mr. Brown had been asked by the Recreation Ground to support the provision of cricket nets and other cricket-related works. He hoped to be able to make a reasonable contribution towards the project.

During the recent storms, the Fire and Rescue Service took over 1,000 calls on Monday alone, particularly from the Bognor and Littlehampton areas. One school had been seriously affected by sewage sludge. The service, which employs around 300 part-time firefighters, together with the permanent staff at the major fire stations, costs over £30m per annum to run. West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service had been trying for over a year to merge with East Sussex but this had been stopped by the government, although they will still try to co-operate wherever possible, including the sharing of an operations and control centre at Haywards Heath.

The number of house fires has reduced dramatically due to smoke alarms and non-combustible furniture. The rescue part of the service now has the greatest number of incidents to attend, including trapped animals, road accidents, etc.

4. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mrs. Graves reported the District Council had held two meetings to discuss a five year financial plan.

The voluntary Street Angels at Chichester have resulted in an almost 50% reduction of offences on Friday nights, but a lesser reduction on Saturday nights.

3.

From 2013 benefits claimants will be restricted to a maximum of £26k per annum.

Collection of Council tax in 2011/2012 had been 98.4% and collection of Business Rates had been 97.69%.

Several volunteers from the District Council would be helping with the Olympics.

The new Novium museum would be opening on 8th July with 150,000 artefacts on show.

Mrs. Graves would be taking two nearby residents to Lake House to meet with the planning officers to discuss the opposition to the appeal, on 15th June at 11.15 a.m. at Chichester. Mr. Cottam would try to attend.

Mr. Cottam asked Mrs. Graves to enquire what was happening to the former dry cleaners shop at Crossfield.

5. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

From	Subject
Clerk	Vacancy on Council. Noted.
Clerk	Old laptop computer. It was agreed that the old office computer could be purchased by the Clerk for spare parts for the sum of £10.00.
WSCC	Crime and Community Safety survey. Noted.
Blackdown Press	Quotation for questionnaire booklets. Noted.
Des Bone Limited	Inspection of War Memorial. Following a safety inspection, the Clerk would arrange further inspection to ascertain what work, if any, needs to be carried out.
WSCC	S.31(6) of the Highways Act 1980 – Cooksbridge Meadow. Noted.
Air Ambulance	Thanks for donation. Noted.
WSCC	Fostering. Noted.
Madhurst Festival	Request for donations. Agreed not to donate.
Items Available for Reading	
NALC	Local Council Review – Summer 2012 issue.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

7. MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

a) Approval and Signing of Annual Accounts 2011/2012 and Audit Return for 2011/2012

The accounts and audit return having been examined in detail by the Finance Committee on 21st May 2012, it was proposed by Mrs. Bicknell and seconded by Mrs. Timms that the both be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk. **Carried. (See annexes 'A' and 'B'.)**

b) Minutes of meeting held on 21st May 2012.

It was proposed by Mrs. Bicknell and seconded by Mr. Walls that the minutes be signed as correct. **Carried.**

c) Payments

It was proposed by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mrs. Ogilvy that the list of payments and cheques shown at Annex 'C' be approved and signed. Carried. (Mrs. Bicknell declared a personal interest in this item.)

Receipts

See schedule attached at Annex 'C'.

d) Bank Reconciliation

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

e) Monthly Budget Report

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

f) Burial Fees

The Clerk had reviewed the burial fees that had not been increased since 2009 and had applied an increase of 5% to most fees, except those relating to stillborn and very young children. It was proposed by Mrs. Bicknell and seconded by Mr. Walls that the revised burial fees be approved. **Carried. (See Annex 'F')**

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Mrs. Bicknell and seconded by Mrs. Timms that the minutes of the meetings held on 30th April and 21st and 28th May 2012 be signed as correct. **Carried.**

PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Clerk had arranged with WSCC for them to issue a licence to allow the planting of daffodil bulbs around the four 'Fernhurst' signs on the approaches to the village.

FERNHURST RECREATION GROUND

Nothing to report other than the cricket nets referred to by the County Councillor.

8. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

a) Services for young people and the Youth Club

Mr. Smith reported that consultation with young people is continuing.

b) Fernhurst Village Hall

Nothing to report.

c) Policing

Nothing to report.

d) Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School

Mrs. Timms had handed out the Diamond Jubilee bookmarks on 1st June.

9. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS

Mrs. Turner asked what the arrangements for the Neighbourhood Plan referendum were and was informed that a simple majority of those voting was all that is necessary to approve the plan.

Mrs. Ogilvy enquired about the planting of a commemorative tree for the Diamond Jubilee and it was agreed that the Jubilee Committee should discuss when and where a Copper Beech tree should be planted and to source a suitable plaque.

Christmas Party. The Clerk was asked to book the village hall for early December, either 7th or 14th.