

FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Wednesday 13th
February 2013 at 7.00 p.m.

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

APLOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Mrs. N. Braithwaite
Mr. A. Moncreiff

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. D. Bleach (Clerk & Executive Officer)
Mrs. H. Caird (District Councillor)
Mr. M. brown (County Councillor)

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING

It was proposed by Mrs. Timms and seconded by Mrs. Ogilvy that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2013 be signed as correct. Carried.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Fernhurst Public Toilets

The Clerk had written to the South Downs National Park Authority seeking financial assistance towards the running of the toilets but they had replied stating that they did not support such schemes.

The Clerk was asked to write to the District Council asking whether it would be prepared to meet the rates on the toilets.

b) Allotments

Nothing to report.

2.

c) Play Area – Fernhurst Recreation Ground – Cricket balls

Nothing further to report.

d) Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman reported that at the last steering group meeting Mr. Bowden of Navigus Planning had been instructed to prepare the draft policies on housing. Completion of the plan would probably be in the autumn.

e) St. Cuthman's School Bus Route

The whole viability of the project had been called into doubt, having underestimated the general running costs of the school.

f) Broadband

The Clerk reported that work was due to start on connecting the new cabinet at The Green. He was asked to obtain an update on the position.

g) Fernhurst Millennium Sign

The Clerk had met with Mr. Barnes and the work to move the sign would be carried out as soon as possible.

h) Code of Conduct

Still under consideration.

3. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mr. Brown was pleased to report that in the light of recent problems it had been established that there is no horse meat in school meals or the meals on wheels service meals.

The Localism Act gives all branches of Local Government new opportunities. One of these is that WSCC could become a house builder. This is being discussed and considered but the emphasis would be on homes to rent for the middle market – small 2-3 bedroom detached and semi-detached properties. The shortage of such homes can make recruitment difficult. WSCC has banks of land and quite useful reserves that could both be used to help with a housing scheme. There would be no right to buy. The rent from the houses would help to support the revenue budget.

Another possibility would be to build one or two care homes in the north of the district, where there is a shortage but WSCC would not run them itself.

Mr. Cottam asked about the problem of delivering salt bags to the parish and Mr. Brown apologised on behalf of WSCC for the lack of service.

4. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mrs, Caird advised that the budget goes before Council at the beginning of March. CDC has a balanced budget but needs to find another £1.5m over the next five years. CDC is likely to recommend an increase of 10p per week for a band 'D' property. This will help protect the front-line services and the most vulnerable people. The new homes 'bonus' will also help the financial position.

CDC is having young people aged 18-24 to work with council officers to gain some work experience.

CDC's Local Plan will go out to consultation in March, hopefully to be adopted in 2014.

Mr. Cottam asked whether the empty shop at Crossfield has been let but Mrs. Caird advised that a potential letting had fallen through, so it is back on the market.

5. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

From	Subject
WSCC	Consultation on Highways and Transport Draft Works Programmes. Noted. The Clerk was asked to provide a telephone number and e-mail address for members to report potholes, etc.
Clerk	Salt bags. Noted.
South East Water	Water main replacement – Haslemere Road. Noted that work is now complete.
Mr. J. Cottam	Cooksbridge corner accidents. The Clerk was asked to write to WSCC Highways expressing the Parish Council's unhappiness at the lack of response to a member of the public.
Navigus Planning Ltd.	Fees. It was proposed by Mr. Walls and seconded by Mr. Cottam that the estimated extra fees of £3,230.00, payable to Navigus Planning Ltd. to take account of extra work done in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan, be approved. Carried.
WSCC	County Local Committee – Wednesday 27 th February, 7.00 p.m. at Fernhurst Primary School. Mr. Walls to attend.
Mr. John Spiers	Royal Mail letter box, Midhurst Road. Royal Mail had agreed do re-instate the box.
Items Available for Reading	
SALC	February newsletter.
SLCC	'The Clerk' magazine – January 2013.
'Clerks and Councils Direct'	January 2013 issue.

4.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

7. MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

a) Minutes of meeting held on 7th January 2013

It was proposed by Mrs. Bicknell and seconded by Mr. Chapman that the minutes be approved and signed.

b) Payments

It was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Bicknell 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. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Smith that the minutes of the meetings held on 7th and 28th January 2013 be approved and signed. Carried.

Planning Application

SDNP/12/03343/HOUS – 111, Midhurst Road, Fernhurst. Room in the roof with rear facing dormer window. Single storey rear extension.

Mr. Smith, who had visited the site, explained that the neighbours were unhappy with the dormer window overlooking their garden. The flat roofed dormer is contrary to planning guidelines and the Fernhurst Village Design Statement.

It was proposed by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Harding that the Parish Council recommends refusal of the application. Carried.

Enforcement Notice

An enforcement notice had been served on Land at Brackenwood, Telegraph Hill, Midhurst and relates to a change of use of the land, without permission, to a mixed use for agriculture and equestrian purposes, namely the keeping a training polo ponies.

Appeal against Enforcement Notice

An appeal had been lodged against an enforcement notice served on Land North East of Cooksbridge House, Midhurst Road, Fernhurst, relating to a change of use of the land, without planning permission, to the stationing of a mobile log cabin for the purpose of a dwelling house.

Erection of Large Shed in Garden of a House in Homelands Copse

The Clerk had been advised by CDC that this was lawful development. Mrs. Caird was asked to ascertain whether business rates were payable on the building.

PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the committee will be arranged for mid-march.

FERNHURST RECREATION GROUND

Nothing to report.

8. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

a) Services for young people and the Youth Club

Mr. Smith reported that numbers at the Youth Club have increased but there are staffing problems.

b) Fernhurst Village Hall

Nothing to report.

c) Policing

Everyone was aware of current issues in the parish.

d) Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School

Mrs. Timms had attended a Governors meeting the previous week.

9. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS

Mrs. Ogilvy asked the date of the Annual parish Meeting but this has not yet been fixed.

Mr. Harding asked if a salt bin could be placed in Nappers Wood. The Chairman advised that this is a parish-wide problem and would be discussed at the Property and Highways Committee next month.

6.

Mr. Harding reported that he had attended a meeting of the King Edward VII group last month and had learned that the developers have no money to develop the site and now want to build a small number of houses (about 34) and the money from the sales would be held by the SDNPA so that if the company was liquidated that money could be used to renovate the chapel and the outside of the main building.

Mrs. Timms asked whether the damaged verge in Vann Road is to be repaired and was advised by the Clerk that it is the intension of WSCC to carry out the repair and to reclaim the cost from the lorry's insurers. The Clerk had asked WSCC whether bollards could be placed around the bend to avoid further problems.