

# **FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>  
February 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

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

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Mrs. H. Bicknell (Vice Chairman)  
Mrs. N. Braithwaite  
Mr. A. Moncreiff

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. D. Bleach (Outgoing Clerk)  
Mrs. R. Knifton (Incoming Clerk)  
Mrs. N. Graves (District Councillor)  
1 member of the press  
1 member of the public

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Cllrs. and members of the public.

There were no Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal/Prejudicial Interest to any matters on the agenda.

## **1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING**

It was proposed by Mrs. Timms and seconded by Mr. Smith that the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014 be signed as correct. Carried.

## **2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **a) Fernhurst Public Toilets**

The outgoing Clerk reported that the toilets were now open. The opening times are between 7am and 5pm in the winter and 7am and 7pm in the summer. He informed council that a cistern had blown and that the council's plumber had resolved the issue.

**b) Neighbourhood Plan**

Mr. Cottam reported that the NP minutes were not accurate. It was noted that all documents had been sent to SDNP but that the independent examiner for another NP elsewhere had picked up some steps that had been missing. These include a consultation process with organisations such as the Environment Agency, the results of which should be reflected in the sustainability appraisal. It was noted that a four page response has now been received from the Environment Agency.

It was noted that other local Parish Councils have been in contact with FPC asking about the services that Navigus provides.

**c) Code of Conduct**

This will again be delayed due to the resignation of Mrs. Pezier as a Parish Councillor. The outgoing Clerk asked members who would be prepared to volunteer to look at existing draft versions of the Code with a view to drafting a single document.

Mr. G. Walls agreed to take on the redrafting.

**d) Resignation of a Councillor**

The outgoing Clerk confirmed that he had received a written resignation from Mrs. H Pezier. He informed council that the proper procedure and notification to CDC is due to commence.

**3. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY**

Mr. Brown sent his apologies but submitted the following email report which was read by the outgoing Clerk:

I'm sorry I can't be with you tonight. Had I been, I would have mentioned the following:

1. I will announce in my Budget Speech on Friday that Council Tax rates will be frozen for the 4<sup>th</sup> successive year.
2. That money will be made available to fund that part of Operation Watershed which allows communities to bid for cash to put in hand local works associated the local floods, ditching etc.
3. I remain committed to support whatever TRO is necessary to improve matters south of Fernhurst. I had said earlier that I would welcome evidence of local support, but my postbag of late has been dominated by that issue, so further evidence isn't necessary.

**4. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY**

Mrs. Graves reported. Her report is attached at **ANNEX 'A'**.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS**

<b>From</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Mr. N. Tonkin	Cooksbridge Corner accidents. <b>NOTED.</b>
The Purple Bus	Fernhurst Exit Report. <b>NOTED.</b>

Chichester District Council	Meeting with the parishes – 6.00 p.m., 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2014 at Chichester. <b>NOTED that Mr. J. Cottam and Mrs. S. Ogilvy will attend.</b>
SDNPA	Partnership Management Plan: Shaping the Future of Your South Downs National Park. <b>NOTED.</b>
Mrs. H. Pezier	Resignation from Parish Council. <b>NOTED. Minuted above.</b>
Clerk	Annual Parish Meeting – 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2014 7.00 p.m. <b>NOTED.</b>
Midhurst Rother College	Invitation to Prize Giving – Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 11.15 a.m. <b>NOTED. A member of the Parish Council will attend.</b>
Clerk	Registration of Council owned land. The outgoing Clerk reported that registration of Van Common had been completed with HM Land Registry. <b>NOTED.</b>
Clerk	Maintenance work – Van Common. The Clerk reported on the meeting that the incoming Clerk and the outgoing Clerk had attended with residents of Van Common. The following remedial works were discussed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The bottom of the ditch alongside the track to alleviate flooding is washing away causing the bank to be eroded and severe danger to the possible collapsing of the track itself. The residents have proposed to line the bottom of the ditch with rubble to prevent further erosion.</li> <li>2. The edge of the ditch requires supporting with stakes, infilled with rubble and earth, to prevent any further dilapidation to the track;</li> <li>3. A full tree inspection was carried out and it was noted that there were many dangerous branches, not to mention the urgent need to coppice the willow.</li> </ol> <p>Council NOTED that the Van Common Residents Association will obtain quotes for the work and bring back to the Parish Council for consideration.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that Mrs. Ogilvy, Chairman of Highways and Environment, would make a visit to Van Common with the Clerk to ascertain what work is necessary.</b></p>
SALC	January/February newsletter. (Circulated)

**Item Available for Reading**

SLCC 'The Clerk' magazine – January 2014.

## 6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chairman wished to welcome the new Clerk, Mrs. R Knifton. He informed members that both the outgoing clerk and the new clerk would be working alongside each other until the end of the financial year.

Members welcomed the new Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Cottam reported on the bad weather Fernhurst had experienced over Christmas and the New Year which is still ongoing. It was noted that many parts of the Parish had no power over the Christmas period. Mr. Cottam explained to members how disappointed Parishioners were with the lack urgency and communication in restoring power by Scottish and Southern Electric.

Mr. Cottam wished to request support from council in raising dialogue with a view to meeting with managers of the company. It was noted that Mr. Cottam had already made contact with the company and an agreed response, with a date and time to meet should be given to the company by the Chairman within the next 10 days.

Mr. Smith requested that a question be posed at the meeting to request why the Electricity Company used the statement of "to improve services in rural areas by communication and reliability".

Mr. Cottam requested that any member of the public wishing to attend the proposed meeting should contact him ASAP. Councillors Cottam, Harding and Smith all agreed to be present and a guideline date of the middle of March was discussed.

**ACTION: The incoming Clerk to book the hall.**

## 7. MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

### a) Finance and Administration, including approval and signing of cheques and the minutes of the meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2014

It was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Wall that the list of payments and cheques shown at Annex 'B' be approved and signed. **Carried.**

A schedule of receipts, the bank reconciliation, shown at Annex 'C' the budget report shown at Annex 'D' were agreed.

It was proposed by Mr. Walls and seconded by Mrs. Timms that the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014 be signed as correct. **Carried.**

### b) Planning Applications Committee

It was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Smith that the minutes of the meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014 be approved and signed. **Carried.**

### c) Property, Highways and Environment Committee

Mrs. Ogilvy reported that she had received a call from John Self, regarding the junction from the King Edward VII Hospital on the A286 near Midhurst. He had written to express his concerns that the Parish

Council had not responded to his complaint. It was noted that Mr. Harding and Mrs. Braithwaite were existing members of the King Edward VII Interest Group.

Council noted that the Highways complaint wasn't within the boundary of Fernhurst PC.

Mrs. Ogilvy suggested that the PC could write to Easebourne PC in support of the correspondence and respond to John Self. **AGREED that the council approves for Mrs. Ogilvy to respond.**

**d) Fernhurst Recreation Ground**

Mr. Walls reported that the new football pitch was very good.

**8. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES**

**a) Services for young people and the Youth Club**

Mr. Smith reported that the Youth Club had now re-opened but it was noted that Marney Lowe was to be made redundant. Qualified child protection training had been due to be carried out by Ms Lowe.

**b) Fernhurst Village Hall**

The Clerk reported that the serious mould problem in the office toilet and works to remove the damp were currently being quoted for. The builder would report back to the FVH committee.

**c) Policing**

It was noted that Mr. Cottam, the Clerk and Mr. Moncreiff had attended a recent meeting with the police which had been organised by Detective Chief Inspector Tania Jones. The purpose of the meeting had been to enable local organisations to become aware of the recent issues surrounding sites where oil/gas exploration had or may be occurring. The meeting was very well attended.

The police have confirmed that they can no direct involvement unless there is a safety or public order issue.

**d) Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School**

It was reported that the new building is on track to be finished on the 28<sup>th</sup> March and that all repairs have been completed. It was further noted that the school has opted to become an Academy and will have a greater control over the school as a whole.

**9. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS**

Mr. Hudson wished to complain about CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) and wanted to ask why the PC is not taking action. Council explained to Mr Hudson that CIL was actually a fund to be paid to the PC not for the Parish to pay out and works in conjunction with s106.

**Signed.....**

**Date.....**