

FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Fernhurst Village Hall
on Wednesday 11 June 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllrs: Mr. A. Moncreiff
Mrs. N. Braithwaite
Mr. R. Chapman
Mr. K. Harding
Mrs. S. Ogilvy
Mrs. M. Timms
Mr. J. Smith

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mr. J. Cottam
Mr. G. Walls
Mrs. H. Bicknell

INATTENDANCE:
Mrs. R. Knifton (Clerk)
Mrs. N. Graves (District Councillor)
Mrs. H. Caird (District Councillor)
1 member of the press
4 members of public

The Chairman opened and welcomed all to the meeting. He explained that two members of the public sat in the gallery were prospective new members of the Parish Council.

21/14 INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Pecuniary, non-Pecuniary or Prejudicial interests in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting in accordance with **THE LOCALISM ACT 2011** and the **Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012**.

It was noted that since the adoption of the Code of Conduct on the 23rd of May 2014, all members were updating their interest forms.

Interest forms were returned to the clerk and the remaining forms from those absent were to be sent in to the Parish Office.

22/14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING

The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the 23rd of May were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr R Chapman and Seconded by Cllr M Timms.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting are agreed and signed.

Member of the public and prospective Cllr candidate, Mr Scott Montague asked the Chairman when he should make his representation to Council for co-option. It was explained to Mr Montague that the invitation to this meeting was purely to sit and observe in order to gain insight into how FPC conducts its meetings. It was further explained that the co-option and representations were to take place at the meeting in July. He asked whether it was necessary for him to remain in attendance. The Clerk confirmed that there was no obligation for him stay. He then proceeded to leave the meeting.

23/14 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Van Common

NOTED that the Clerk had received two quotes for the work and was awaiting the third. It was agreed that under financial regulations, the Council should 'endeavour' to obtain 3 quotes for work but as a 3rd was not available and the works necessitated immediate action, the existing 2 quotes would suffice.

Members considered both quotes and it was agreed that the quote sourced by residents of Van Common was the most cost effective and relevant to the site. The total cost of the works are £1,480. It was also noted that although the work should be carried out as a matter of urgency, care should be taken with the nesting birds on the Common.

Proposed by Cllr Ogilvy and seconded by Cllr Timms.

RESOLVED that FPC approves the quote from Mr Neil Cotton and gives the Clerk authority to action the work.

b) Neighbourhood Plan

NOTED that the consultation period ends on Friday the 13th of June. Further **NOTED** that the Clerk had been successful in applying for the grant from Locality and funds should be transferred to FPC by Monday the 16th of June.

c) Bollards

NOTED that work is due to be completed week ending 13th of June. WSCC have been contacted and have offered to assist financially. The Clerk to update members at the next meeting.

d) Banking

NOTED that there are still ongoing issues with Santander. The Clerk explained how the Bank has not acknowledged the mandate change and that the matter had been unresolved since the middle of March 2014. The Chairman spoke of his meeting with the Clerk and the need to change banks. Cllr Chapman as Chair of the Finance Committee, along with Cllr Bicknell as a longstanding signatory have had to negotiate with the bank on behalf of the Clerk as they are still refusing to discuss the matter with her.

It was further **NOTED** that due to a transfer between accounts being delayed by all the issues experienced, a cheque had bounced unbeknown to the Council. FPC will endeavour to resolve this issue as a matter of urgency.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Chapman will make a formal complaint to Santander on behalf of the Council. The Clerk to contact SSALC to see if they can offer any further advice.

Proposed by the Chairman, Cllr Moncreiff and seconded by the Chairman of Finance, Cllr Chapman.

RESOLVED that FPC transfers all accounts to NatWest. The Clerk to make the arrangements.

e) Phone and Broadband

Deferred.

f) Co-option

It was **NOTED** by the Council that there had been two applications for the vacancy and both prospective candidates had been invited to the meeting to observe.

The Chairman welcomed the remaining prospective candidate Mrs Caroline Randall and thanked her for her interest in joining the Parish Council.

The co-option will take place at the next meeting. The Clerk to send out co-option guidance notes to members.

24/14 COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY

County Cllr Mr Brown gave the following report:

He spoke of the 'political storm' brewing within WSCC. The reason is due to the recent changes to Local Government pensions. He explained that all County schemes are to be amalgamated which would put WSCC at a disadvantage. They have worked hard for the past 10 years to achieve the best funded scheme

nationally which is funded to a level of 95%, unlike some Councils in London which average at around 50%. WSCC have spoken with both SCC and EHDC.

Brandon Lewis MP has led the introduction of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provisions, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014 which makes the transitional provision between the existing local government pension schemes and the new scheme. The changes will mean a mandatory change from active investment management to passive investment management. He noted that if these arrangements had been introduced 3 years ago, the scheme would be £157m worse off over the 3 years. He stated that the deficit always rests with the employer which may necessitate a 'special tax' to Council Tax payers. A member of the public asked whether the employees paying into the pension would have a choice in investment manager but Cllr Brown confirmed that the choice would be made by a pension's panel.

There are currently 106 employers in the existing scheme. At a County Council meeting held the previous Friday, it was noted that all employees and Cllrs alike were opposed to the new scheme.

Cllr Brown informed FPC that he and Louise Goldsmith of WSCC are due to be meeting with Brandon Lewis MP shortly. Cllr Brown will keep members informed and report back to FPC.

25/14 DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

District Cllr Mrs Norma Graves gave the following report:

The Council have now fully vacated the East Pallant House new extension and the new tenants, Thomas Eggar, solicitors, have taken possession and will be moving in later in the year, once they have completed the alterations which they wish to make for their specific use.

The Council's teams have all moved into their new work areas and this change has enabled the Council to make a significant contribution to its deficit reduction programme through rental income and associated savings.

Planning Enforcement: *Planning enforcement has successfully recruited a planning officer to the team which has been short of two members which has resulted in some delays. Steve Pattie is an experienced planner. The remaining vacancy will soon be advertised and it is hoped to attract a suitable candidate. The Planning Strategy is being updated and processes streamlined which should then be able to deliver a very high standard of service.*

The Think Family *scheme is designed to help vulnerable families change their lives for the better. It is the local version of the Government's Troubled Families programme which aims to turn around the lives of "hard to help" families.*

Recent figures released by the County Council show that 1,197 families have been identified as being eligible for the programme. So far 639 families have been turned around which is 55 per cent of the full target of 1,165 families to be helped by the end of March 2015.

Once a family's circumstances are verified they are referred to one of the Key Workers who will work intensively with them for 6-18 months, depending on need, to help improve life in the family.

CDC hosts a Keyworker and to date she has worked with 22 families, some of whom have complex issues. Successes include stopping anti-social behaviour, parents back into work and improved attendance at school by children. Think Family also helps with accessing debt support, reducing the risk of homelessness and general improvements in family relationships.

Public Relations: *As part of the council's efforts to generate new income it was identified that additional revenue could be achieved by employing an Advertising and Sponsorship Officer. CDC appointed Terri Foster to this post in July 2012 on a part-time basis to generate income – the aim in Year 1 was to generate £25,000 worth of additional revenue – making the post self-funding.*

The outcome has well exceeded this target as a result of working with teams from across the council to maximize income generating opportunities. Through these activities £103,357 of additional income has been made in the past 20 months:

- £36,000 from roundabout sponsorship.
- Sponsorship of Westgate Leisure bringing in £16,000 for the service over 2 years.
- Advertising and sponsorship opportunities in Initiatives Magazine generating £42,700 to date
- Advertising and exhibition opportunities in car parks worth £4,050
- And almost £2,500 towards the 2013 and 2014 Triathlon series and Get Active event – in addition to Nature's Way sponsorship which is ongoing.

Other opportunities identified to date have resulted in an additional £40,000 revenue and £57,000 worth of savings. This gives a total of over £200,000 which has been generated/ saved.

All these measures enable CDC to continue to deliver good services while facing possible further cuts in funding.'

26/14 CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

House of Commons	Exploratory drilling for oil and gas. NOTED.
Mr Fordham	Contract for grass cutting. NOTED. Proposed by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Ogilvy. RESOLVED by members to pay the outstanding 3 years payment.
The River Way Trust	Offer of grant. NOTED.
Madhurst	Request for grant. NOTED.
Scottish and Southern Power	Proposed new distribution network. NOTED.

27/14 APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATIVES

Finance and Administration:

Mrs. H. Bicknell; Mr. R. Chapman (Chairman); Mr. A. Moncreiff (ex-officio as Chair); Mrs. S. Ogilvy; Mrs. M. Timms; Mr. G. Walls. **NOTED** that Mr. J. Cottam may wish to remain as a member and this will be minuted at the next meeting.

Planning Applications Committee:

All Members. As all Members of Council are on the planning committee, it was agreed that a Chairman would be elected.

Proposed by Cllr Moncreiff and seconded by Cllr Ogilvy that Cllr Braithwaite remain as Chairman. There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED that Cllr Braithwaite remain as Chairman.

Property, Highways and Environment:

Mr. A. Moncreiff (ex-officio as Chair); Mr. K. Harding; Mrs. S. Ogilvy; Mr. J. T. Smith; Mr. G. Walls.

NOTED that Mr. J. Cottam may wish to remain as a member and this will be minuted at the next meeting.

List of Council invitations and events:

Friday 13 June 2014
From 10.45am

Celebrate the Serpent Trail!
Organised by SCC in conjunction with SDNP

NOTED.

Starts @ Swan Barn Farm, Collards Lane,
Haslemere

Tuesday 17 June 2014
18.30 – 20.15

NOTED. Attendees to include:

**Cllrs Braithwaite, Smith, Chapman,
Cottam and Bicknell. A pre-meeting to be
attended by the Chairman.**

DECC

Organised by Norma Graves
@ Fernhurst Village Hall

Attendees: Lynchmere and Fernhurst PCs

Monday 30 June 2014
Morning Event

NOTED. Attendees:

Cllrs Bicknell and Timms.

‘Vote for Me’

Organised by CDC @ CDC

Attendees: Heather and Andrew

Annual Representative Required

**NOTED. It was proposed by Cllr
Braithwaite and seconded by the
Chairman that Cllr Cottam is best suited
for the role should he accept.**

Rural Services Network

Requiring one Cllr to be nominated as a
representative for their online sounding board

Thursday 3 July 2014
Afternoon Event

NOTED. Attendees:

Cllrs Moncreiff, Walls and Chapman.

Invitation to presentation by Nick Boles MP,
Under Secretary of State for Planning
Organised by CDC @ CDC

Friday 4 July 2014
12.00 – 16.00

NOTED.

Leader Funding for Rural Economic
Development

Organised by WSCC

@ CDC’s Committee Rooms, East Pallant
House

Tuesday 8 July 2014
13.30 – 16.30

NOTED. Attendees:

**Cllr Braithwaite if available with Cllr
Cottam as reserve if available.**

Joint Minerals Local Plan
Engagement Event

Organised by WSCC @ The Hall, The South
Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst

28/14 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

a) Finance and Administration.

- i. Approval of the list of payments and signing of cheques. Proposed by Cllr R Chapman and Seconded by the Chairman, Cllr A Moncreiff that the list of payments be approved and the cheques be signed. **RESOLVED.**

- ii. Bank Reconciliation. Proposed by Cllr R Chapman and Seconded by Cllr S Ogilvy. **RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the Finance Committee sign the reconciliation.

b) Planning Applications Committee:

- i. 23rd May: **Proposed by Cllr Braithwaite and Seconded by Cllr Chapman that the minutes be approved. Carried.**
- ii. 9th of June: **Proposed by Cllr Ogilvy and Seconded by Cllr Smith that the minutes be approved. Carried.**
- iii. **Celtique.** The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr Braithwaite, had prepared a letter to send to SDNPA in response to the revised application from Celtique for planning application: SDNPA/13/05896/CM.

Cllr Braithwaite proposed that the letter should be sent on behalf of the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Harding.

RESOLVED that the letter is sent by the Clerk on behalf of FPC.

c) Property, Highways & Environment Committee. **Nothing to report**

- d) Fernhurst Recreation Ground. Member of the press, Mrs Judith Turner reported that the Recreation Ground had been very well used over the half term and that 45 children had been involved in the football holiday activities.

29/14 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

- a) Services and facilities for Young People. It was noted that there were still ongoing issues with disclosure and barring. Nothing further to report at this time.
- b) Fernhurst Village Hall. It was noted that the Village Hall Committee had agreed on purchasing the new chairs for the Village Hall.
- c) Policing. It was noted that there had been several scams in the area, namely fake representatives of organisations such as the RSPCA attempting to collect on behalf of the charity. Members noted that it was possible to check their legitimacy with the organisation itself or the District Council as they need to register their organisation and get clearance for their activities.
- d) Fernhurst Primary School. Noted that there will be a full board meeting next week.

30/14 QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS

Peter Hudson asked FPC whether it would pay the entrance fee for 16 to 19 year olds to join the Fernhurst Club. It was noted and agreed that this had been resolved by Council two years ago and therefore FPC would assist.

Mr Hudson went on to ask about the progress with the 20mph speed limit enforcement on Van Road. The Clerk confirmed that she would investigate the matter further.

Meeting Closed 9.08pm

Signed.....

Date.....