

FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Fernhurst Village Hall
on Wednesday 8 April 2015 at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT Cllrs: Mrs. H. Bicknell (acting Chair)
Mrs. M. Timms
Mrs. C. Randall
Mr. J. Cottam
Mrs. N. Braithwaite
Mrs. S. Ogilvy
Mr. J. Smith

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:
Mr. A. Moncreiff (Chair)
Mr. K. Harding
Mr. R. Chapman
Mr. G. Walls
District Cllr, Mrs. N. Graves

INATTENDANCE:
Mrs. R. Knifton (Clerk)
County Cllr, Mr. M. Brown
Mrs Judith Turner (Press)
District Cllr, Mrs. H. Caird

28/15 INTERESTS

None

29/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 March 2015 were **AGREED** as being a true record.
Proposed by Cllr Timms and seconded by Cllr Smith. **RESOLVED**

30/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

31/15 COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY – Mr. M. Brown.

County Cllr Brown gave the following report:

It was noted that now WSCC are into the new financial year, the revenue budget stands at £528m and the capital budget stands at £140m. It was further noted that this is the 1st year of the 4 year period whereby the County are set to make savings of £124m. In the previous financial year, they had made savings of £41m.

In making these savings, WSCC have streamlined their services in a bid to make them more efficient, whilst safeguarding frontline services.

Noted that there had been a sharp increase in the bill for adult social care. It is believed that this is due to the ageing population.

This is the 5th year in a row that WSCC have not raised its precept.

The local issue of the Syngenta site was discussed and Cllr Brown informed members that he had met with the developers and with Highways at the Fernhurst Centre. The proposal of 250 homes was discussed and it was noted that Fernhurst's NP had advised 150. Cllr Brown explained that using brownfield sites for new development was preferable and that he personally does not oppose the scheme. He stated that he would be prepared to be quoted on this statement.

Cllr Cottam asked Cllr Brown as to in what capacity had he met with the developers. He informed Cllr Brown that the only responsibility WSCC have with this proposed development is with regards to Highways matters and that the housing densities were outside his remit. Highways' input is with regards to the provision of access by foot which is an essential part of the application. Highways had informed the SG that there would be adequate provision.

County Cllr Brown confirmed that his opinion on the development was a personal one as a private individual.

County Cllr Brown continued with his report and explained that WSCC has borrowed £418m to improve roads, schools and other projects. Capital expenditure is around £141m. It was noted that schools had previously been wholly funded by the Department of Education but that they now only fund 80% of the requirements.

The A27 road project was discussed and it was noted that the improvements should be completed by 2019.

32/15 DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

District Cllr Heather Caird gave the following report:

Cllr Caird reported on what a pleasure and privilege it had been to serve as District Cllr for Fernhurst for so many years. She stated that this would be her last visit to FPC's meetings.

The housing register for Fernhurst stands as follows: Band A – 33; Band B – 192; Band C – 718; and Band D – 2000.

Sport in the Community: Many meetings have taken place with local sports clubs with the aim of helping students to get involved.

Dementia Festival: CDC are increasing publicity. The events will take place between April and June

Careline: The service is available around the district. The main contact is Brenda Jackson on 01243 513042.

Rural Business Fund: Awarded to help create and set up any small businesses. The main contact is Guy Blackmore on 01243 534846.

Work experience – this is supported by Chichester in Partnership. It aims to offer work experience places for an 8 week period.

Syngenta:

It was proposed by Cllr Cottam and seconded by Cllr Braithwaite that all members of the press and public be excluded from this item. **RESOLVED**

EXCLUSION of THE PUBLIC

In accordance with the provisions of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public has been excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Information relating to the financial and/or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

NOTED that the next meeting of the NPSG will be held on the 16th of April at 11.15am.

33/15 CORRESPONDENCE & OTHER MATTERS

- Annual Parish Meeting – to be held on Tuesday the 28th of April. Cllrs Braithwaite and Cottam sent their apologies.
- Crossfield – Cllr Ogilvy presented the following document:

Ideas for Possible Development of Crossfield Submitted by Highways and Properties Committee following site visit on 16.3.15

1. Paint railings black.
2. Make path across grass from lamp near road to Chinese restaurant.
3. Lay Curb or wall on border of grass and path near shops.
4. New covering needed for path (at the moment the path is uneven and broken in places).
5. Make path wider. Fernhurst Centre would like to put out tables and chairs in the summer.
6. Take out Christmas tree which too much too large and lanky now and replace with smaller fir tree.
7. Take out Monkey Puzzle tree which is not fitting for a rural village green.
8. Relocate rubbish bin.
9. Plant 2 trees opposite Groomery and Dudmans.
10. Plant more shrubs.
11. Plant up bottom flower bed near Dudmans.
 - Fencing for the Village Green – The Clerk to obtain quotes.
 - Request from the Clerk to bring over her SCC pension to WSCC - **AGREED**
 - War Memorial – **NOTED** that the grant application has been submitted.
 - Standing Orders. **AGREED** that Cllr Walls will assist the Clerk in the next two weeks.
 - Additional matters to be heard at the Chairman’s discretion **NONE**

34/15 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

a) Finance and Administration:

- Approval of the bank reconciliation. Proposed by Cllr Cottam and seconded by Cllr Ogilvy.
RESOLVED

- List of payments and signing of cheques. Proposed by Cllr Ogilvy and seconded by Cllr Cottam. **RESOLVED**

b) Planning Applications Committee, including approval and signing of minutes. The minutes were agreed en mass. Proposed by Cllr Braithwaite and seconded by Cllr Smith. **RESOLVED**

c) Property, Highways & Environment Committee. **As per minute 33/15.** The issue with the knotweed as reported by Mrs Nunn was discussed. Letters have been written to CDC. The matter is ongoing.

d) Fernhurst Recreation Ground. **Nothing to report.**

e) Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group. The matter was discussed under Exclusion of the Public as per Council minute 32/15.

35/15 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

a) Services and facilities for Young People. **Nothing to report.**

b) Fernhurst Village Hall. **Nothing to report.**

c) Policing. **Nothing to report.**

d) Fernhurst Primary School. **Nothing to report.**

36/15 QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS

None

Meeting Closed 8.20

Signed.....

Date.....