

# **FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm

## **PRESENT Cllrs:**

Mrs. H. Bicknell (Chair)  
Mrs. M. Timms (Vice Chair)  
Mr. C. Tedd  
Mr. J. Buchanan  
Mr. G. Inns  
Mr. J. Smith

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

District Cllr, Mrs. P. Hardwick  
Mrs. E. Black  
Mrs. R. Knifton (Clerk)

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

County Cllr, Mr. M. Brown  
District Cllr, Mrs. N. Graves

## **01/16 REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

None

## **02/16 INTERESTS**

None

## **03/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 were **AGREED** as being a true record. Proposed by Cllr Inns and seconded by Cllr Smith. **RESOLVED**

## **04/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**AGREED** that the Council will avail itself of the service offered by SSALC, costing £100, to assist in the interviewing process when selecting a replacement for the current Clerk and that therefore Mrs. Knifton will not be directly involved in the interview process.

**NOTED** that the locks of the Public Toilets were in the process of being changed. Cllr Smith also **NOTED** that although the lighting has now been fixed, there is still an apparent problem of poor levels of cleanliness.

**NOTED** by Cllr Bicknell that the grant for the War Memorial repairs has been paid – to the wrong account. The Payer is continuing to attempt to rectify this.

**NOTED** by Cllr Inns that he has identified a possible Village Handyman, who saw the ad in the Fernhurst News, and hopes to encourage him to apply soon.

**NOTED** by Cllr Inns that he is still required to produce yet further identification documents to the bank in order to become an additional signatory.

**NOTED** that the bus shelter roof still needs repairing.

**ACTION:** Cllr Bicknell to contact A Lawes for a quote

## **05/16 COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY**

County Councillor Brown explained that at County Hall the annual discussions on Budgets and Council Tax (CT) were a hot topic. He indicated that CT was expected to increase by just under 4% meaning a £45-50 increase for an average Band D household. Before Christmas, Councillor Brown had failed to persuade his Cabinet colleagues not to increase CT, therefore – as a matter of principle – he reluctantly resigned from Cabinet over issue. Accordingly, he is no longer a Cabinet (Finance) member, although he plans to continue as a County Councillor through May 2017.

## **06/16 DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY**

District Councillor Norma Graves also briefly mentioned the expected CT increase, reminding us that the increase is necessary simply to maintain existing services.

*Recyclable Waste* – as part of the West Sussex Waste Partnership, the District Council is required to meet a target to recycle 50% of household waste by 2020. At present our rate is just 40%. Recent analysis has shown problems with mixing of recyclable materials within residual waste, as well as materials placed in

'wrong' bins, especially food waste. It is acknowledged that a robust campaign of communications will be important – with householders benefiting from much more detailed information on what should go in each category of bin.

*Sport and Health* – This year's Sport in The Community course programme starts during February half-term with football. A new Get Active Chichester project has been launched to encourage and support people to become more active to improve their health and well-being.

*Novium Museum* – is now fully accredited by the Arts Council, which represents a great deal of hard work. Cllr Graves recommends a visit to their exhibition re. Admiral Sir George Murray.

*Proposed improvements to A27 Chichester Bypass* – CDC hopes to succeed in obtaining developer contributions to mitigate impacts of additional traffic due to planned development of the A27 junctions. Small scale measures to improve six junctions around Chichester would cost approximately £13m. These works will not resolve the underlying problems of the A27 – there is a meeting later in January discussing an option to open a new route north of Chichester, which would have a very large impact on the Goodwood Estate and airfield.

Cllr Graves confirmed that she had passed on FPC's thanks to Piers Taylor's (CDC Communities Team) boss for his ongoing hard work on behalf of the young people of the Parish. She also passed on District Councillor Hardwick's good wishes; all present wished her a full and speedy recovery.

## **07/16 CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER MATTERS**

- *Vacancies for Councillors – co-option of Mr. A Moncrieff* – the Council was informed that Mr. Andrew Moncrieff had confirmed, to the Chairman, his willingness to rejoin the Council. Cllr Inns proposed that Mr. Moncrieff be co-opted, seconded by Cllr Smith, with all in agreement.
- *Crossfield Public Toilets* – Agreed to postpone until next meeting any further discussion of a new maintenance contract. A quote has been received from Wettons. **ACTION: chairman** to compare quotes. Cllr Inns **NOTED** that these facilities continue to have no disabled access.
- *FPC Website* – all are pleased with the work done so far by Cllr Tedd and the Clerk.
- *Crossfield Green Area Path and Seating* – The required minimum of three quotes have now been received, from Valley Landscapes, Andrews Landscape and Mr. Andrew Lawes. **AGREED:** Cllr Inns proposed the acceptance of the Valley Landscapes quote (including the path and two concrete pads for benches as well as removal of the overgrown Christmas tree, **but excluding** the supply of benches and the painting of metal railings), seconded by Cllr Timms, all agreed.
- *Purple Bus* – the Council has been informed of, and asked to nominate a liaison Councillor for, the new Purple Bus service. This is a free service (to end users and to the Parish Council) aimed at youngsters aged 13 to 19, but mainly for those aged 15 to 19. The Bus will provide a social hub, including games and snacks. The Bus will park in Crossfield car park from 7pm to 9pm – starting Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr Inns volunteered to represent FPC in all contact with the Red Bus team and will be responsible for communicating details of the new service.
- *Welfare Reform Thin Tank* – run by the London School of Economics. Cllr Inns had accepted an invitation from Martlet Homes to this two-day event in Chester 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March and intends to report back to the Council.
- *Redundant Photocopier* – Cllr Bicknell had received a quote for £118 to have the old machine removed from the Clerk's office. Cllr Tedd offered to remove it, and dispose of it in a way which obviates the need for FPC to spend money dealing with this.
- *Neighbourhood Plan* – Three quotes having been received for the urgent printing of copies of the Fernhurst Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr Timms proposed acceptance of the quote from Blackdown Press (£2,065 for 1300 small and 150 large copies) and was seconded by Cllr Smith, with all agreed (Cllr Inns abstained, as he is also part of the NP Steering Group).

## **08/16 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS**

A) Finance and Administration Committee:

The list of payments was inspected, proposed by Cllr Inns and seconded by Cllr Smith. Subsequently, Cllr Bicknell **NOTED** that the recent Internal Audit report requires a Financial Risk Assessment by carried out by the end of the financial year (end March 2016) – she plans to schedule a meeting to discuss this as soon

as possible.

**B) Planning Applications Committee:**

The minutes of the meeting of 07-Dec-2015 were proposed for approval by Cllr Buchanan, seconded by Cllr Smith, with all others present at that meeting in agreement. Similarly, the minutes of the meeting of 04-Jan-2016 were proposed for approval by Cllr Buchanan and seconded by Cllr Smith, with all others present at that meeting in agreement.

**AGREED** that a meeting would be held at 6pm on 22-Jan-2016 to discuss SDNP/15/06214/HOUS and SDP/15/06400/HOUS.

**C) Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group:**

Nothing further to report.

**D) Property Highways and Environment Committee:**

Nothing further to report, except to note the dangerously frozen leakage of water from somewhere between Fernhurst Club and the new homes at the Fernhurst Fuels site. **ACTIONS:** Cllr Smith will urgently inform Chichester and Cllr Bicknell will inform the owner of the new houses via the estate agents. Subsequently, Mr. Peter Hudson, from the floor, informed the Council that he had shown District Councillor Graves the frozen water and all hoped she would help to achieve speedy resolution.

**09/16 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES**

a) Services and Facilities for Young People – Cllr Inns reported further disappointment over lack of attendees at the Youth Club.

b) Fernhurst Village Hall – Cllr Smith had no further news, anticipating a scheduled meeting the following week. **NOTED** that Cllr Bicknell had asked FVH Trustees John Bounds and Peter Taylor if they could investigate the re-enabling of the central heating radiator in the Clerk's office.

c) Policing – Peter Hudson, from the floor, noted that PCSO Heidi Hay is now effectively the only PCSO for the whole area (three others are leaving or have already left). PCSO Hay had indicated to Mr. Hudson that she will no longer patrol and will be supported by mobile teams from Chichester – who he suggests, may have little or no local knowledge. Cllr Inns plans to attend a meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

d) Fernhurst Primary School – Nothing to report. Mrs. Judith Turner (Press) noted that the School had cancelled the Pancake Race as two classes will be away on the day.

**Meeting Closed at 19:57**

Signed .....

Date.....