



FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 14 December 2016

Minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting** held at Fernhurst Village Hall on
Wednesday 14 December 2016 at 6.30pm

Councillors Present: Mrs H Bicknell (Chairman), Mr W Black, Mr G Inns, Mrs M. Jenkins, Mr A. Moncreiff, Mrs M Timms, Mr G Williamson.

Apologies For Absence: Mr J. Buchanan, Mr N Rawlings, Mr J Smith, Mr C Tedd.

In Attendance: K Jones (Clerk), District Councillor Norma Graves.

108/16 Public Representations: Mr Peter Hudson addressed the council in support of a request for financial support for "Football in the Community". The council had agreed to a grant of £500 in the 2016/17 financial year but this had not been taken up owing to operational difficulties. Those difficulties remain and Peter Hudson undertook to contact the organisers in an attempt to resolve the issues.

109/16 Declarations of Interests: None.

110/16 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting of the **9 November 2016** were agreed and signed. Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded: Cllr Timms.

111/16 Matters Arising From The Minutes:

- Following the meeting between the clerk and the playground safety inspector minor repairs were required to the safety surface which should be within the scope of the village handyman. The junior swing seats and chains were also worn and aged, requiring replacement, but not immediately. The entrance gate to the playground should be self-closing. The Clerk was instructed to instigate repair and replacement.
Action: (Clerk)
- Two additional quotations for bus shelter roof still required. **Action: (Clerk)**
- The clerk was instructed to contact Mike Dare, WSCC Highways, to discuss the possibility of a traffic survey in Vann Road – if one has not already been conducted.
Action: (Clerk)

112/16 County Councillor Commentary: None.

113/16 District Council Commentary: District Councillor Philippa Hardwick advised the meeting on the following points:

- **Site Allocation – Lynchmere – Sturt Avenue** – Despite objections and reservations concerning the risk of flooding and restricted site access the allocation for housing was not rejected at the District Council meeting of the 22 November 2016. The allocation is being strongly opposed locally and a report on flooding risk is awaited from the Environment Agency.

- **Waste Recycling Initiatives** – The District Council has a recycling target of 50% by 2020 at the latest. Recent initiatives have raised the rate from 39.9% to 42.8% but more is still needed.
- **Careline** – This will be co-ordinating the District and County Council emergency help lines (**01243 778688**) during the Christmas/New Year closedown.

114/16 Council Budget for 2017/18 and Council Tax Precept Demand: The draft budget for 2017/18 and council tax precept demand had been circulated. The budget showed total planned expenditure of £81,340. The precept request to support the budget was proposed as £73,549.48 (2016/17 £73,418.82). This would result in an equivalent Band D parish council tax charge of £55.53 (216/17 £56.06).

It was resolved: Fernhurst Parish council to adopt the draft budget for 2017/18 and proposed council tax precept request of £73,549.48.

Proposed: Cllr Moncreiff, Seconded: Cllr Jenkins – carried unanimously.

A discussion followed of the council's designated reserves policy and the adequacy of those reserves. Following the discussion:

It was resolved: To transfer the balances currently designated "Public Toilets" and "Neighbourhood Plan" to the general "Asset Replacement Reserve". To transfer £27,500 from the council's General Reserve to the designated "Asset Replacement Reserve".

Proposed: Cllr Moncreiff, Seconded: Cllr Timms – carried unanimously.

114/16 Extension of the Fernhurst Conservation Area: Cllr Black reported to the council that the proposed extension had been adopted by South Downs National Park on Thursday 8 December; effective immediately. The council had requested the inclusion of additional land but this request had not been accepted.

115/16 Proposal to Adopt the Telephone Kiosk at Kingsley Green: The kiosk is under threat of removal by BT. The Kingsley Green Society and many local parishioners wish it to be retained as a familiar part of the village landscape. BT are willing to sell the kiosk for a purely nominal sum to either a registered charity or a statutory body. The Kingsley Green Society does not fall into either category but is keen to take over the maintenance and alternative use of the kiosk.

The council discussed the adoption of the kiosk and the implications of The Kingsley Green Society effectively taking responsibility for it.

It was resolved: "Fernhurst Parish Council to apply to adopt the kiosk subject to written permission to publicise its adoption and adapted use."

Proposed: Cllr Moncreiff, Seconded: Cllr Inns – carried unanimously.

116/16 Hurstfold Industrial Estate Planning Application – S.106 Grants – At very short notice the council was advised of the possibility of a S.106 grant (£18,090) to improve community facilities. The council was ineligible to apply for the grant and information was passed to the Village Hall Committee and the Recreation Ground Committee to enable them to possibly secure the grant money.

117/16 Farnborough Airport – Airspace Consultation – the initial analysis of the consultation representations has been published by TAG Farnborough Airport: they are overwhelmingly opposed.

118/16 Councillor Training – An e-mail is to be circulated to councillors asking for dates they will not be available for training and also any particular topics they would want covered.. **Action: (Clerk**

119/16 Correspondence & Other Matters

Grant Applications For 2017/18: The majority have now been returned and they are to be tabulated and circulated to councillors. **Action: (Clerk)**

Cemetery – Lych Gate Maintenance – Cllr Jenkins has inspected the notice-boards in the lych gate and recommended one be removed. It was agreed to refer this issue to the Property Committee. **Action (Clerk).**

Councillors' Announcements:

Christmas Lights: The event had passed off well and £98.46 had been donated by those attending. It was agreed to give 50% each to the Fernhurst Youth Club and Scouts.

Crossfield: Some of the trees purchased for Crossfield have now been planted.

Clerk's Announcements:

New Homes Bonus: No report.

Operation Watershed: No report.

Van Road Speeding: No traffic data had been collected by the speed sign temporarily installed by WSCC Highways. A traffic survey would cost in the region of £500. White lines were being repainted in Vann Road and it remained to be seen if this slowed the traffic.

120/16 Monthly Executive & Committee Reports

- **November Bank Reconciliation:** was reviewed and agreed.
- **List of Payments and signing of cheques.** Authorisation of list of payments and signing of cheques.
Approval of the above proposed by Cllr Moncreiff, seconded by Cllr Timms, carried unanimously.
- **Planning Committee:** Minutes of Planning Committee meetings of the 7and 14 November 2016. **Noted.** Received and accepted.
- **Finance Committee:** : Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of the 14 November 2016 received and accepted.

121/16 Update on Local Issues

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** Cllr Inns advised the council that the Fernhurst Youth Club Christmas Party had gone well.

Hyde Housing had verbally approved the use of the Nappers Wood play area for the proposed outdoor gym and also to maintain it. £12,000 of local fundraising was still required to bring the project forward.

A new leader for the Senior section of the Youth Club is being recruited.

The agreement document for the 2017 Purple Bus facility was discussed. Some reservations were expressed that the conditions were too onerous for the council to comply with.

- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** No report.
- **Policing:** The council agreed to make no comment on the consultation by Sussex Police to raise funds by increasing the council tax precept.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** The parking problems outside of the school persist despite the efforts of all concerned parties. The meeting expressed the view that parents were ignoring the dangers created to themselves, their children and other road users, for the sake of their own perceived convenience.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 11 January 2017

Chairman Signed:.....

Date:.....