

FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Wednesday 13th
July 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. J. Cottam (Chairman)
Mrs. H. Bicknell
Mrs. N. Braithwaite
Mr. R. Chapman
Mr. K. Harding
Mrs. S. Ogilvy
Mrs. H. Pezier
Mr. J. Self
Mrs. M. Timms

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. D. Bleach (Clerk & Executive Officer)
Mrs. H. Caird (District Councillor)
Mr. M. Brown (County Councillor)
1 member of the public

1. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

It was agreed that this matter be deferred until the September Council meeting.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING

It was proposed by Mrs. Timms and seconded by Mrs. Ogilvy that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2011 be signed as correct. Carried.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Fernhurst Public Toilets

Nothing further to report.

b) Allotments

Mr. Harding had written to Lord Cowdray asking whether he had any land in Fernhurst that could be used for allotments. Lord Cowdray had replied that whilst he had no land available, he would be prepared to make a financial contribution.

c) Parish Boundary Review

Awaiting further information from Chichester District Council.

2.

d) Snack Wagon/Youth Facilities

Mr. Cottam said that this facility had become a bit of a disappointment as it was not well used. It will continue until September when the matter will be re-assessed.

e) Play Area – Fernhurst Recreation Ground – Cricket balls

Mrs. Braithwaite was waiting to hear from Chichester District Council as to whether the safety netting could be erected under Permitted Development.

f) University of the Village

Mrs. Ogilvy had been in touch with Prof. David Frolich of Surrey University. He would be meeting with them at the Fernhurst Centre tomorrow to discuss the project. Arrangements had been made with BT to speed up the broadband connection during the period of the project, but it was not known whether that arrangement would continue thereafter. There would be consultation with parishioners of all ages in due course.

4. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mr. Brown reported that the County Council had entered a bid for Government funding to roll out broadband in rural areas, but had been unsuccessful at present, but may receive £5-6m to commission upgraded broadband from BT, to be installed by 2015.

Bus subsidies had been withdrawn for underused bus services, to save £2m.

Libraries are generally to be kept open, but there may be some changes to the buildings used, with some being shared with other services, such as the Police. There will always be at least two staff running each library for safety reasons, but the second person could be a volunteer. Mobile libraries are unaffected.

Having previously been refused access to the formula and date used for calculating the Area Cost Adjustment, WSCC has now been permitted to have access to the information, having been granted research status. They will now examine the reason for having received poor settlements over the past few years.

In future, WSCC will keep the income from business rates (£320m), but will retain only £140m of it, with the rest being distributed elsewhere. The Minister is to be challenged over this matter.

Mr. Brown has had an opportunity to become Chairman of the Commissioning Board, which spends £376m per year to look after those with dementia, head injury etc.

Mr. Cottam asked how the SDNPA discharges its democratic accountability to residents in the National Park and it was suggested that the Parish Council writes to the Chairman of the SDNPA to ask the question, or invites them to attend a Parish Council meeting.

5. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mrs. Caird reported:

- a) that the SDNPA has to create its own Local Development Framework, but because of the amount of work they have to do, cannot produce it at the same pace as the District Council, who must have theirs in place by 2013. The District Council will continue with its own process but will not include in it the number of houses to be built in those areas within the National Park. The South East Plan no longer dictates the number of houses to be built in the District, but CDC's plan will contain suggested numbers of houses to be built in the non-National Park area. The SDNPA's Local Development Framework will probably not be in place until 2014/15. Until then, there is a danger of developers challenging any planning decision that refuses permission for large developments.
- b) replacement wheelie bins will be charged for in future.
- c) there is still no final design statement for the Syngenta site – awaiting the SDNPA.
- d) the revised Housing Allocation Policy has been adopted.

Mrs. Caird was informed that the Parish Council wished to accept the offer of Mr. Carvel to speak to them about planning issues. Mrs. Caird would obtain dates from him.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

From	Subject
Mr. J. Self	Traveller sites. It was understood that the District Council had responded to the consultation document.
DigitalUK	The digital switchover. Noted.
Mr. J. Self	Vann Bridge. Waiting for a response from County Highways.
Clerk	The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was agreed that some form of celebration should take place. This will be further discussed in September.
Chichester District Council	Minutes of Standards Committee held on 6 th June. Noted.
Mr. J. Self	Henley Hill. Noted.
South Downs National Park	Forum Event – Tuesday 19 th July at Brighton. Noted.
Mr. C. Savage	Refusal of King Edward VII planning application. Noted.
Playsafety Ltd.	Annual RoSPA safety inspection of play area. Noted.

4.

SLCC

Annual Conference – Reading – 14th – 16th October. **It was proposed by Mr. Cottam and seconded by Mrs. Timms that the Clerk may attend the conference if the agenda is of sufficient interest and importance. Carried.**

Items Available for Reading

WSCC

Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

‘Clerks and Councils Direct’

July issue.

Open Spaces Society

‘Open Space’ – Summer 2011 issue.

Cowdray Estate

June newsletter.

Local Council Review

Summer 2011 issue.

J. Parker

Plant catalogue.

SLCC

The Clerk magazine – July 2011.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Cottam reported that at his last monthly session at the Fernhurst Centre he had had one man concerned about the parking outside the school and he had written to the Police asking for enforcement action.

Also, a woman had asked for a copy of the Planning Committee agenda to be placed on the noticeboard at Kingsley Green.

8. MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

a) Payments

(Mrs. Bicknell declared a personal interest in this item.)

It was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mrs. Braithwaite that the list of payments and cheques shown at Annex ‘A’ be approved and signed. Carried.

Receipts

See schedule attached at Annex ‘A’.

b) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation report, attached at Annex ‘B’, which was accepted.

c) Monthly Budget Report

The Clerk presented the report, shown at Annex ‘C’, which was accepted.

5.

d) Final Internal Audit Report for 2010/2011

The Internal Auditor had found nothing on which to report.

e) Review of the Parish Council's Standing Orders

It was agreed that a group, including the Clerk, Mrs. Bicknell, Mrs. Pezier and Mrs. Timms would meet in September to discuss this matter. The Clerk would issue the other members of the group with copies of the current Standing Orders and the NALC model Standing Orders.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Mr. Cottam and seconded by Mr. Chapman that the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd May and 6th, 13th and 20th June 2011 be signed as correct. Carried.

It was agreed that Navigus Planning be invited to meet with the Planning Committee in September.

PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Self would be writing to County Highways asking for deer warning signs to be erected along rural roads in the parish.

FERNHURST RECREATION GROUND

There will be a meeting of the Trustees on 30th July. As Mr. Cottam is unable to attend, he would be represented by Mrs. Bicknell.

9. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

a) Services for young people and the Youth Club

Mr. Cottam had been invited to attend an opening at the Youth Club of a new grass amenity area.

b) Fernhurst Village Hall

Nothing to report.

c) Policing

Nothing to report.

d) Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School

Mrs. Timms would attend a meeting of the Parents Forum on 19th July.

10. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS

a) Mr. Hudson asked whether the Chairman of the SDNPA is elected or appointed and was informed that they are elected by the other Members of the board.

6.

b) Mrs. Bicknell requested any spare shrubs for the Fernhurst Club garden which she is trying to improve.

c) Mr. Harding advised that a parishioner wishes to start an under-9's football club in Fernhurst. Mr. Hudson suggested that he contacts Mr. Ben Polhill of the District Council for possible help and advice.