

## **FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>  
October 2011 at 7.00 p.m.

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

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

Mr. K. Harding

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. D. Bleach (Clerk & Executive Officer)  
Mrs. H. Caird (District Councillor)  
Mr. M. Brown (County Councillor)  
Mr. A. Shaxson )  
Mr. J. Redwood ) South Downs National Park Authority  
Ms N. Fellows )  
2 members of the public  
1 member of the press

### **1. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS**

It was reported that Mrs. Lyons had resigned after her first meeting. Mrs. Braithwaite had found another possible candidate.

### **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was proposed by Mrs. Timms and seconded by Mr. Self that the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be signed as correct. Carried.

**There then followed a discussion with representatives of the South Downs national Park Authority.**

Mr. Cottam commenced by saying that he had expressed concerns that since planning had been passed to the SDNPA there was little contact with them and that there were a number of matters the Parish Council wished to discuss.

He asked whether the SDNPA had any plans to engage with the parishes to which Mr. Shaxson replied that due to the short number of representatives it would be difficult to attend every meeting in the same way as

2.

the District and County Councils. However, there are two parish council representatives and it may be possible for them to attend at times, if there was a specific need. Also, a planning officer would attend if there was a particular concern to the Parish Council. Ms Natalie Fellows is the link officer with Chichester District Council and she oversees every planning application submitted to them. She could be contacted by the Parish Council if information was needed. Mr. Shaxson then added that the SDNPA itself will decide only a small number of applications but they will be ones of major importance.

Mr. Cottam then raised the matter of the recent planning application made by Rosemary Park Nursing Home which is for a car park on the ground floor and staff and other accommodation above. As this was one of a number of recent applications and was of considerable size, the Parish Council felt that it should have been called in by the SDNPA to make the decision. Mr. Redwood replied that the Parish Council can always discuss such matters with Ms Fellows, the link officer.

Mr. Redwood continued that all decisions made by the District Council are in fact decisions of the SDNPA. Every week there are link officer meetings and they discuss those applications that are on the borderline for calling in but in case of Rosemary Park it had been felt that the District Council was dealing with the application appropriately. The SDNPA does influence the decisions made by the District Council on its behalf.

Mr. Cottam then raised the question of what was to happen with the Syngenta site as the Parish Council had been informed by the District Council that the SDNPA was working on a development brief for the site. Mr. Redwood replied that the District Council had considered the development brief first, followed by the SDNPA who wanted to see it influenced more in tune with the SDNPA objectives. There has not been any further progress in relation to this site, but the SDNPA had commissioned a housing study on housing needs for the SDNPA area and the outcome of that could influence the development brief for the Syngenta site. Also, due to changes in planning law and the Localism Bill, the SDNPA feels that they need to take a fresh look at the situation with the Syngenta site. They had discussed this with Comer Homes and have suggested that the SDNPA should work with them in making a planning application. Comer Homes do, however, wish to make this a housing-led development but this needs to be further considered.

Mr. Self expressed concern about the two developments at Syngenta and King Edward VII Hospital running in tandem and whether it is sustainable. Mr. Redwood replied that if the King Edward VII site gets permission for 420 houses it would put a new slant on whether there needs to be further housing on the Syngenta site.

The Clerk then asked about becoming a 'front runner' in the development of a Neighbourhood Plan as grants were available but that it would need the support of the SDNPA. Mr. Redwood replied that they would indeed offer such support and that the Clerk should contact him.

The Clerk then enquired about the making of an Article 4 Direction for the Conservation Area so as to avoid inappropriate developments occurring under permitted development rights. He was asked to write to Mr. Redwood about this and they would then offer advice.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **a) Fernhurst Public Toilets**

Mr. Cottam had been researching the possibility of replacing the present toilets with an automatic toilet but the cost had been found to be prohibitive and the cost of running the present toilets was far too high for the Parish Council to meet.

#### **b) Allotments**

The Clerk reported that the valuation of any piece of land by the District Valuer for purchasing for allotments would be in the region of £900 – 1,000. Purchasing land by use of a Compulsory Purchase Order was an extremely expensive option and would run into many thousands of pounds, even if the District Council was prepared to do this on the Parish Council's behalf, which he had been advised was fairly unlikely.

#### **c) Parish Boundary Review**

See under correspondence.

#### **d) Snack Wagon/Youth Facilities**

Mr. Cottam reported that there were only about 5 to 7 users each week and proposed that the project is ended soon. Seconded by Mr. Self and carried.

#### **e) Play Area – Fernhurst Recreation Ground – Cricket balls**

Awaiting the result of a planning application.

#### **f) University of the Village**

Mrs. Ogilvy reported that they had met with the people from the University of Surrey and local people. They had asked for ideas of what people would like to do and there were about six various suggestions which they will consider. There is still a problem with high speed broadband coming to the village. There are some doubts as to how the scheme will proceed.

#### **g) The Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

Mrs. Ogilvy had contacted a jazz band to play at an event on The Green on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The cost would be £450.00 for 3 hours. It was proposed by Mrs. Bicknell and seconded by Mr. Chapman that the band should be booked at that fee. Carried.

The sub-committee for this event, consisting of Mrs. Ogilvy, Mrs. Bicknell, Mrs. Timms and Mr. Harding were asked at their next meeting to consider a Diamond Jubilee Beacon and mugs for the children.

#### **h) Christmas Party**

The Clerk was asked to book the Recreation Ground pavilion for this event for 9<sup>th</sup> December.

#### 4. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mr. Brown first commented that besides not recruiting staff, the SDNPA had appointed a Chairman on £180,000 per annum.

Winter weather arrangements will be very similar to last year's that had worked quite well. They now have a new highways contractor who has purchased 26 new snow ploughs and the County Council had purchased 10,000 tons of gritting salt which is full capacity for their storage facilities.

Mr. Self expressed concern about the insurance of volunteers using the salt. Mr. Brown felt that those able to use it should do so, but suggested that the Parish Council contacts Mr. Kershaw (County Council solicitor) to ask what the position is.

Following an announcement by the Chancellor that Council Tax bills will be pegged at this year's level, the County Council currently felt that they would be able to meet this, for one year although the government would pay them an inflationary figure of 2.5% to meet this against an inflation figure of 3.5%. As this offer is for one year only, there could be an increase in the following year.

Mr. Hudson expressed concern that the County Council had withdrawn funding for the training of youth club leaders. Mr. Brown replied that there are still some funds available to help youth projects and he would try to help if necessary.

#### 5. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

**Mrs. Graves** reported:

- a) That the Grailands Close planning application had been approved.
- b) The Lake House planning application had been refused.
- c) The shop and flat of the dry cleaners was now empty of tenants and that two businesses were interested in the shop. The flat could be sub-let to a suitable tenant.
- d) There was no planning permission in force for the Vann Road nursery and this needs to be investigated by the planning enforcement team, to whom the Clerk should write.
- e) WSCC had been allocated £6m for improving broadband across the county, of which a portion will be spent in the Chichester District.
- f) WSCC has a department of 50+ people responsible for localism. Mr. Duncan Barrett has replaced Mr. Steve Johnson who has retired.

#### 6. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

**From**

**Subject**

Boundary Commission for England 2013 Review of Parliamentary constituencies. **Noted.**

Citizens Advice Waverley AGM Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 11.00 a.m. at Godalming. **Noted.**

5.

WSSC	Advice note for volunteers working under WSSC insurance. <b>Noted.</b>
WSSC	Return of Rail Concessions for Students. <b>Noted.</b>
Chichester District Council	Annual Meeting with the Parishes 19 <sup>th</sup> October. <b>Noted.</b>
The Royal British Legion	Donation. <b>Donation of £50.00 to be made from the Chairman's Allowance.</b>
Clerk	BT cabinet, The Green. <b>Noted.</b>
Chichester District Council	Review of Parish Boundary. <b>Clerk to send email address for responses to the consultation to all Members.</b>
SALC	Clerks Networking Day – Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December. <b>Agreed that the Clerk should attend.</b>
Stedham Parish Council	Meeting re: St. Cuthman's School. <b>Noted.</b>
South Downs Society	Response to Consultation on Draft National Planning Policy Framework. <b>Noted.</b>
Open Spaces Society	Response to Consultation on Village Greens. <b>Noted.</b>
WSSC	Public Rights of Way Volunteers. <b>A notice to be placed in the Fernhurst News.</b>
Open Spaces Society	Incorporating the Society. <b>Noted.</b>
<b>Items Available for Reading</b>	
WSSC Cowdray estate	Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Cowdray News September 2011.

**7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman will be away on Remembrance Sunday and asked if another Member would represent him. Mrs. Braithwaite offered to do so.

**8. MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS**

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**a) Payments**

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

6.

It was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mrs. Timms 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.

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Mr. Cottam and seconded by Mrs. Bicknell that the minutes of the meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be signed as correct. Carried.

### **PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Self reported that the County Council had not agreed to prioritise traffic on Vann Bridge but that some kind of signing might be possible on Henley Hill indicating the nature of the bends and gradient.

Mr. Self had raised with County Highways the questions of deer signs and 30mph limits on rural roads.

The hedge alongside a property in Hogs Hill, where the owner parks his car in the road in a somewhat dangerous position had been cut back but the parked vehicle was still causing a problem. Mr. Self would report the matter to County Highways.

Following a complaint about there being no pedestrian walkway in Church Road in the vicinity of the new Community Room, whilst building working is going on, the Clerk had checked on the position and had found that there is no legal necessity to provide a walkway on minor roads.

### **FERNHURST RECREATION GROUND**

Nothing to report.

## **9. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES**

#### **a) Services for young people and the Youth Club**

Nothing to report.

#### **b) Fernhurst Village Hall**

A new fence has been installed at the back of the rear car park.

7.

**c) Policing**

Nothing to report.

**d) Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School**

Nothing to report.

**10. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS**

None.