

FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Wednesday 11th
April 2012 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
Mr. J. Smith
Mrs. M. Timms
Mr. G. Walls

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING

It was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Walls that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2012 be signed as correct. Carried.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Fernhurst Public Toilets

Nothing to report. This matter needs to feature in the Neighbourhood Plan under 'services'.

b) Allotments

Nothing to report. This also needs to feature in the neighbourhood Plan.

c) Play Area – Fernhurst Recreation Ground – Cricket balls

A letter from the Council's safety inspector, justifying the need for the proposed safety fencing, had been sent to Chichester District Council. A decision on the planning application is still awaited.

d) The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Adverts of the event on Fernhurst Green on Monday 4th June have been placed in the April and May editions of Fernhurst News and posters will be displayed around the parish.

2.

With regard to a commemorative tree, it was felt that Elm trees are too susceptible to disease and it was therefore proposed by Mrs. Timms and seconded by Mr. Walls that a Copper Beech tree is planted instead. Carried. The tree will be planted on The Green in the Autumn, possibly with a small ceremony involving the school children. A suitable plaque will be found for the tree.

It had been suggested by Cmdr. Keith Evans that a commemorative wall plaque should be erected to mark the occasion at an estimated cost of £7,000.00. This was felt to be excessive and the Clerk would try to find an alternative.

Mrs. Ogilvy asked that grass on The Green is cut before the jubilee celebrations.

e) Neighbourhood Plan

The launch event on 3rd April had gone very well, with a good attendance. A number of people had signed up for the various working groups.

The steering group had met on 10th April and had decided on another public event on 22nd May when the leaders of the various working groups would each make a short presentation on their findings of the issues, needs and options, but not to focus on the solutions.

Mr. Bowden of Navigus Planning had suggested carrying out a parish survey which he would compile and would be distributed around the parish.

Mr. Walls asked whether the 2010 census information would be available in time for the date to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan, but was advised that it was unlikely to be ready in time.

Mr. Walls asked also whether copies of the recently published National Planning Policy Framework document could be made available to the working groups. These would be printed and made available to them.

Mrs. Braithwaite encouraged everyone to talk to as many people as possible about the Neighbourhood Plan to get them interested and involved.

f) Local Bus Services

The Clerk had received an email from West Sussex County Council advising that the results of the recent survey were still being considered and that no decisions had yet been made on the service that covers Fernhurst.

g) Broadband

Nothing further to report.

3. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mr. Brown reported that the County Council was to make a grant of £15k to the Recreation Ground for the draining and levelling of the football pitch. Mr Cottam commented that it is hoped that a contract for the work will be placed within the next few weeks.

3.

Under the Localism Act, Social Enterprise Organisations are given more prominence with a view to breaking down bureaucracy. As a result, the Adult Learning Services will be 'spun off' by the County Council and run under contract to, but independent from, the County Council. Other services may similarly be 'spun off' in the future.

With regard to broadband, the position now is that the government is claiming that this country will have the best broadband operation in Europe. The West Sussex share of the government funding for broadband is £6.26m and this has been matched by the County Council. Whichever contractor carries out the work will have to match that joint funding, bringing the total up to £25m. The biggest problem is that urban areas will benefit first as they are more profitable, but there will be around 10% of the county with a much slower (2mbs) broadband speed. Work is due to start in August this year, with completion in 2015.

Mr. Cottam asked if someone from WSCC could come to talk to the parish Council about broadband and Mr. Brown agreed to arrange that.

It was mentioned that there is an on-going survey by the County Council by which people can 'sign up' for high speed broadband.

4. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mrs. Caird reported, in connection with recent enquiries about priority for housing in Fernhurst, anyone with a local connection and is in the band 'B' priority group will get preference over others in band 'B', but not over those in band 'A'. However, with H9 exception sites, such as South Leys, those with Fernhurst connections will get priority, whichever band they are in.

Mrs. Braithwaite asked if a copy of the DTZ housing needs survey could be provided and Mrs. Caird agreed to send her one.

Mrs. Caird was pleased that the Fernhurst Neighbourhood Plan project was going well and expressed the view that there needs to be some dialogue if there are any issues with Chichester District Council services.

The BBC South Today programme had commented that Chichester had seen a 5% closing of businesses, but the District Council's own statistics shows an increase in business survival rates. Generally, businesses in the District are doing well.

Finally, Mrs. Caird mentioned that there is still no prospective tenant for the empty shop in Crossfield. She would see what could be done to make the shop look more attractive whilst it remains empty.

5. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

From	Subject
Mr. J. Self	Resignation from Parish Council. A notice advertising the vacancy on the Council would be placed in the May issue of Fernhurst News and notices would be placed on the Parish Council notice boards. Mr. Cottam thanked Mr. Self for all his hard work on behalf of the parish, saying that he would be sadly missed.
WSCC	Public Rights of Way Service. Noted.

4.

Fields in Trust	Registration of Sports and Recreations Grounds. To Mr. Cottam for the Recreation Ground Trust.
Natural Land Management Ltd.	Roadside Grass Cutting. Noted.
Chichester Access Group	Access to Public Places and Shops. Clerk to send a copy of a survey carried out in 2006.
Chichester District Council	Cemetery Rates. Noted.
Des Bone Ltd.	Letter re: Play Area Fencing. Noted.
Fernhurst Club	Thanks for grant. Noted.
Surrey Air Ambulance	Talk at Annual Parish Meeting. It was proposed by Mrs. Timms and seconded by Mr. Cottam that a donation of £250.00 be made to the Surrey Air Ambulance following their talk. Carried.
Mrs. J. Turner	Request for use of The Green for display of vintage, classic and veteran cars at The Revels. It was proposed by Mr. Cottam and seconded by Mrs. Pezier that the request is granted, subject to any damage to the grass being rectified. Carried.
SDNPA	Vision consultation. The Clerk asked all Members to comment, so that he could compile a reply to the survey.
WSCC	Local Bus Services. Noted.
SDNPA	Adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement. Noted.
Fernhurst Youth Club	AGM Monday 30 th April at 7.00 p.m. Mrs. Bicknell to attend.
Chichester District Council	50+ Business Start-Up Support. Noted. Copy to Mr. Walls.
Voluntary Action Arun & Chichester	Merger of Voluntary Action Groups. Noted.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

7. MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

a) Payments

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

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.

d) VAT Return

The Clerk reported that he had submitted the VAT return and that payment had been received.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Smith that the minutes of the meetings held on 27th February and 12th & 26th March 2012 be signed as correct. Carried.

The following planning application was considered:

FH/12/00289/FULNP - Mr. & Mrs. S. Walters, Yew Tree House, Whites Lane, Henley Common, Fernhurst. Change of use of paddock to garden (retrospective application).

It was proposed by Mr. Cottam and seconded by Mrs. Braithwaite that the Parish Council recommends approval of this application. Carried.

PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Self had a list of outstanding matters that he had raised with County Highways. The Clerk took a copy so that they could be followed up.

He reported that he had received a most unsatisfactory reply regarding the lack of signing from the Hindhead tunnel to Fernhurst and Midhurst.

FERNHURST RECREATION GROUND

Mr. Cottam reported that tenders for the new football pitch had been received and were being evaluated.

6.

8. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

a) Services for young people and the Youth Club

Mr. Smith reported that the University of the Village had been in touch with the Youth Club with regard to the project they are running.

He had informed the Youth Club that he keeps the Parish Council informed on Youth Club matters.

They are trying to get young people of all ages involved in the Neighbourhood Plan process.

b) Fernhurst Village Hall

Nothing to report.

c) Policing

Mr. Cottam reported that there had been some vandalism problems recently in the village, which the Police are dealing with. Unfortunately, no-one called the Police when the problems were actually occurring.

Mr. Cottam is trying to get the Police to attend the Annual parish Meeting on 15th May, but this is proving difficult.

d) Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School

Nothing to report.

9. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS

Mrs. Turner suggested that the Fernhurst Society may be interested in helping to fund a Queen's Diamond Jubilee plaque.

Mrs. Bicknell reported that two bollards had been damaged in the village – one outside Fernhurst Club and another at the crossroads. The Clerk would report this to County Highways.

Mr Cottam mentioned that he had attended a Neighbourhood Plan event at Midhurst and had been given various guides on planning, which were passed to Mrs. Pezier to read.