

## **FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council  
held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>  
September 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

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

APLOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Mrs. N. Braithwaite  
Mr. A. Moncreiff

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

### **1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING**

It was proposed by Mr. Walls and seconded by Mrs. Timms that the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 be signed as correct. Carried.

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

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

No further progress.

#### **b) Allotments**

Nothing to report.

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

See correspondence.

**d) The Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

Mr. Barnes, as tree warden, had applied to the Tree Council for a tree of our choice with a plaque, to be planted at The Green in November. Mr. Andrew Lawes had agreed to build a plinth for the plaque at a cost of £50.00 and would like the Parish Council to provide a design. Mrs. Timms had spoken to the school who would like their older children to be involved with the project.

**e) Neighbourhood Plan**

A public meeting had been held the previous evening with another planned for 16<sup>th</sup> October for targeted groups in the form of workshops. Mr. Cottam had written an article for the Fernhurst News, setting out the conflict between different groups of people with varying housing needs.

Mr. Chris Bowden is working on ideas to get others, particularly younger families, involved, possibly contacting them through the school.

Mrs. Bicknell suggested posters posing a few specific questions and asking interested people to attend the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Mr. Cottam would ask Mr. Bowden to produce a poster.

Mr. Smith would talk to Youth Club parents to try to get them interested.

**f) Local Bus Services**

It had been reported that the local bus service had been saved but that the timetable is to be reviewed.

**g) Broadband**

BT Openreach was still intending to install broadband to Fernhurst and the Clerk was asked to get an update for the next Parish Council meeting.

**h) The Future of The Revels**

The Revels committee had decided to continue running the event themselves in a similar fashion as previously, but it would be a smaller event on the recreation ground. Mrs. Bicknell had agreed to Chair the committee. Mrs. Bicknell asked whether the Parish Council would be prepared to increase its grant towards the running costs and was asked to write to the Clerk in October with her request.

**3. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY**

**Broadband**

Mr. Brown reported that the broadband procurement model adopted by West Sussex County Council is 11<sup>th</sup> in priority out of 40 County Councils.

The EU has decided that the contributions to be made by the government and the County Council contravene the competition rules of the EU, despite no infrastructure provider being interested without that financial support. As a result the rural broadband project has come to a halt although it is hoped that the problem will be resolved in November, but could be delayed longer.

### **St. Cuthman's School**

Mr. Brown, Mrs. Caird and Mr. Cottam had met recently in Vann Road to look at the proposed route of buses going to St. Cuthman's School. Mr. Cottam had called for the meeting due to many concerns about road safety on that route. At the Neighbourhood Plan public meeting the previous evening a considerable amount of concern was expressed. Mr. Smith added that many residents were concerned about this and a new bridge for the route from Stedham was suggested.

Members of the public present considered the whole area west of Vann Bridge is fraught with danger and vehicles exiting from Hawksfold Lane West cannot see what is coming from the left. Further along Vann Road there are a number of very sharp bends and narrow sections. There were concerns that the route will present a real danger to both pedestrians and other road users. Much of the whole route is unsuitable for coaches.

The problem would however start with the development of the school site with access needed by large construction and delivery vehicles.

It was considered that the better route is via Hill Brow and through Milland. The road past Redford, which goes past two lovely commons with public footpaths, is unsuitable.

Mr. Brown commented that the decision on the development of the site rests with the South Downs National Park Authority. WSCC is the statutory highways authority and must be consulted by the SDNPA. Consultations are handled by the highways officers, making a judgement on fairly clear rules and regulations on road safety. Elected Members are not normally involved in the process. If WSCC objects to the route, the developers will almost certainly appeal.

Objections to the route need to be based on an analysis of the road, pointing out the various dangers of the route. Mr. Brown would support any reasonable campaign by the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Mr. Cottam and seconded by Mr. Walls that the Parish Council considers the proposed route for coaches travelling to St. Cuthman's school via Vann Road is unacceptable. Carried.

### **St. Magnus**

Mr. Bicknell raised the matter of a problem with the route from Kingsley Green to St. Magnus where someone with a bulldozer had widened the road without authority. Mr. Brown replied that enforcement action was being considered.

## **4. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY**

Mrs. Caird commenced by saying that she considered the previous evening's Neighbourhood Plan meeting to be very helpful. A 15% return of the survey form she felt was very good and that she understood that information will also be gleaned from other sources. The Neighbourhood Plan referendum will be held within 28 days of a request from the South Downs National Park Authority.

Planning application delays had been a problem recently but the backlog has now been significantly reduced. Three extra people were now working on the planning north team.

4.

A government briefing paper had recently been issued on planning changes. This could affect the provision of affordable housing and infrastructure contributions. Also, permitted development rights are to be increased.

The Grange re-development has started and will take some 19 months to complete.

There are currently 280 people on the housing register in the A and B priority categories.

A meeting was to be arranged with Sam Irvine (CDC) to discuss housing register numbers.

The homelessness hostel in Midhurst has been sold due to being unpopular and the money used to improve and extend another hostel in Chichester.

It has been a particularly difficult summer in relation to travellers setting up illegal camps.

Mr. Cottam again raised the question of illegal activity in Vann Road where there is a welding business and a suspicion of someone living in a caravan on the site and added that if the situation was not dealt with, it could lead to establishing existing rights.

## 5. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

<b>From</b>	<b>Subject</b>
West Sussex Fire & Rescue	Consultation on Service Plan 2013/2014. <b>Noted.</b>
Sussex Police	Election of Police & Crime Commissioner. <b>Noted.</b>
Rural Services Network	Plan to Reduce Rural Speed Limits. <b>Noted.</b>
WSCC	Broadband update. <b>Noted.</b>
Action in Rural Sussex	Annual Review & Annual General Meeting. <b>Noted.</b>
Dept. for Communities & Local Gov.	Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests. <b>Distributed to Members.</b>
Fernhurst Good Companions	Application for Grant. <b>Proposed by Mrs. Bicknell and seconded by Mrs. Pezier that a grant of £300.00 be made under S137. Carried.</b>
South East Water	Water Main Replacement – Haslemere Road from 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept. to December. <b>Noted.</b>
WSCC	New Community Support Worker. <b>Noted.</b>
Surrey County Council	Minerals and Waste Development Framework. <b>Noted.</b>
Santander	Bank Charges. <b>Noted.</b>
South Downs National Park	National Park Authorities' Performance Assessment. <b>Noted.</b>

5.

Audit Commission	Appointment of external auditor from 2012/2013. <b>Noted.</b>
Navigus Planning	Fees. <b>Noted.</b>
Chichester District Council	Community Forum meeting 19 <sup>th</sup> September – Lodsworth. <b>Mrs. Ogilvy to attend.</b>
Clerk	Quotations for tree work at cemetery. <b>Proposed by Mr. Walls and seconded by Mrs. Bicknell that the quotations from AB Gardening and Tree Surgery in the sum of £3,770.00, less a contribution from a neighbouring resident of £1,500.00 (£2,270.00 net) be accepted, subject to gaining the approval of the work by the Tree Officer. Carried.</b>
Valley Landscapes	Play Area Safety Fencing. <b>Noted.</b>
Marion Adams	Footpath from Kingsley Green to Fernhurst. <b>Reported to WSCC.</b>
South Downs National Park	Neighbourhood Plan grant. <b>Noted.</b>
South Downs National Park	Parish group session on National Park's Performance Assessment – Weds. 28 <sup>th</sup> November 3.30 to 5.30p.m., Capron House, Midhurst. <b>Mr. Cottam to attend.</b>
Valley Landscapes	Quotation for maintenance to War Memorial. <b>It was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mrs. Timms that a quotation by Valley Landscapes in the sum of £460.00 plus VAT for the maintenance of the War Memorial be accepted. Carried.</b>
Southdown Gospel Hall Trust	Offer to donate a park bench. <b>It was agreed that Southdown Gospel Hall Trust be informed that their kind offer of a Park Bench be accepted and that it should be placed adjacent to the Golden Jubilee commemorative tree to be planted at The Green.</b>
WSCC	County Local Committee – 25 <sup>th</sup> September – 7.00 p.m. at Lodsworth Village Hall. <b>Noted.</b>

**Item Available for Reading**

SALC	Summer Newsletter.
'Clerks and Councils Direct'	September 2012 issue.
SLCC	'The Clerk' magazine – September 2012 issue.
NALC	'Local Council Review' – Autumn 2012 issue.

**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 Mr. Smith that the two lists 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'.

**d) Bank Reconciliation**

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

**e) Monthly Budget Report**

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

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

It was proposed by Mrs. Bicknell and seconded by Mr. Chapman that the minutes of the meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 13<sup>th</sup> August and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012 be approved and signed. Carried.

**PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Nothing to report.

**FERNHURST RECREATION GROUND**

Nothing to report.

**8. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES**

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

Mr. Smith reported that the Junior Youth Club will be starting some training sessions with Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club.

Mr. Inns is collating the information on young people for the Neighbourhood Plan.

7.

**b) Fernhurst Village Hall**

Nothing to report.

**c) Policing**

Nothing to report.

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

The school had thanked the Parish Council for the grant towards the games area.

They were concerned about comments made on car parking/drop-off point.

The next School Governors' meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

**9. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS**

Mrs. Bicknell reported that she had attended a meeting on changes to Council Tax and passed information to the Clerk.

Mrs. Ogilvy apologised that she would be unable to attend the October Parish Council meeting.

Mrs. Timms asked what was happening about re-locating the Millennium sign from Crossfield to outside the Post Office. The Clerk was in contact with WSCC to try to obtain a licence to move the sign on to the highway verge.