

FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Wednesday 12th
March 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT Cllrs: Mr. J. Cottam (Chairman)
Mrs. H. Bicknell (Vice Chairman)
Mrs. N. Braithwaite
Mr. A. Moncreiff
Mr. R. Chapman
Mrs. S. Ogilvy
Mr. J. Smith
Mrs. M. Timms

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Mr. K. Harding
Mr. G. Walls

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. D. Bleach (Outgoing Clerk)
Mrs. R. Knifton (Incoming Clerk)
Mrs. H. Caird (District Councillor)
1 member of the press
1 member of the public

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Cllrs. and members of the public.

There were no Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal/Prejudicial Interest to any matters on the agenda.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING

With an amendment to the minutes dated the 12th of February 2014, Minute 2b) which should read “.... The minutes were no longer accurate due to recent changes with the Neighbourhood Plan”, it was proposed by Mr. Cottam and seconded by Mrs. Timms that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2014 be signed as correct. **Carried.**

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Fernhurst Public Toilets

The outgoing Clerk reported that the toilet leaks have been fixed and the toilets are being well maintained. Mrs. Ogilvy reported that she had been approached by a member of the public to inform her that the toilets are being well used by the public and well looked after by the Parish Council.

b) Neighbourhood Plan

Mr. Cottam reported that the process had taken a turn for the worse. He reported on the recent issues with Slaugham Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan which had been submitted to the examiner in January 2014. Their Plan had been praised by the examiner but further work on procedural matters had been requested.

It was noted that Chris Bowden of Navigus had spoken to the Parish Council regarding the contents of the Sustainability Appraisal document and it was further noted that a Landscape Assessment was also now required. Council were concerned for the ongoing requests for more extensive documentation and, more importantly, the increasing costs to the Council in supplying further documents. It was noted that the likely cost of producing the Landscape Assessment would be in the region of £4k, with the cost of the Sustainability Appraisal already costing an additional £3k.

The timing for completion of these additional works is critical and are expected to be completed by mid-April 2014.

Mrs. Braithwaite highlighted concerns over the inclusion of the 'greenfield' sites in the Plan but it was noted that protection over these sites would only be achieved if they were included.

AGREED that upon completion of the Landscape Assessment, the document will be assessed by the Steering Group before submission.

c) Code of Conduct

This will again be delayed until the new Council Year and will be addressed by a new Working Group. Proposed by Mr. Cottam and Seconded by Mrs. Ogilvy. **Carried.**

3. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mr. Brown reported on the petition of 242 names he had received regarding the ongoing issue with traffic on the A286 near the King's Arms Public House.

He further reported on the County's budget debate and was pleased to announce that WSCC is financially in good shape and have been able to freeze Council Tax. WSCC are now able to reduce the amount previously quoted on savings to £128m.

Mr. Brown then spoke of WSCC's negotiations with BT to install a fibre optic service for the whole of the County. The Parish Council confirmed that Fernhurst already received the service.

4. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mrs. Caird reported on CDC's balanced budget but spoke of the proposed savings due to be effected with services. It had been agreed that that there would be a Council Tax rise of £265 a year on Band D properties in order to keep all services active.

She spoke of the Celtique existing application and it was noted that it would be taken to Committee on Friday the 14th of March to discuss tree works and environmental issues. Noted that their appeal still has two and a half months left of its six month timescale.

She reported on the Grange in Midhurst which was operational and the facilities are excellent.

Mrs. Braithwaite asked Mrs. Caird as to which planning authority is dealing with the enforcement of the Polo Arena Development. Mrs. Caird confirmed that CDC remain the enforcement body and the applicant will be required to dismantle any works completed.

Mr. Cottam reported that the Government had repealed permitted development rights to developments that lie within the National Parks or within AONB.

5. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

From	Subject
Clerk	Letter to Rogate & Terwick News. NOTED
Midhurst Rother College	Confirmation of Principal's attendance to speak at Annual Parish Meeting. NOTED
Chichester District Council	Spring Clean Day. NOTED
Clerk	Update on street light replacement. NOTED that all lights are due to be replaced in Oct/Nov 2014
Clerk	Update on provision of bollards at junction of Midhurst Road/Vann Road. NOTED that the quotes have been received. Proposed by Mrs. Ogilvy and Seconded by Mrs. Timms that the quote received from Urbanscape and Valley Landscape Projects totalling £850 be AGREED. Carried. WSCC had suggested that they may be able to assist with the cost of the works.
Clerk	Update on request for Double Yellow Lines, Church Road. NOTED
Chichester District Council	Casual vacancy. NOTED
Chichester District Council	Invite to AGM on the 25 th of March. NOTED

Items Available for Reading

'Clerks and Councils Direct'	March 2014 issue.
SLCC	'The Clerk' magazine – March 2014 issue.
Open Spaces Society	'Open Space' – Spring 2014.
Navigus Planning	Journal of Local Planning – Spring 2014 (Circulated by email).

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chairman reported on the imminent SEB meeting regarding loss of power over the Christmas period and urged members to attend. Feedback on this meeting will be reported at the next meeting of Council.

7. MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

a) Finance and Administration, including approval and signing of cheques and the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th of February 2014

It was proposed by Mrs. Bicknell and Seconded by Mr. Chapman that the list of payments and cheques shown at Annex A be approved and signed. **Carried.**

A schedule of receipts, also shown at Annex A, the bank reconciliation shown at Annex B and the budget report shown at Annex C were agreed.

Changes to the Bank Mandate were noted and it was agreed that there were a number of ex-members that needed to be removed, namely: Carla Barnes, Ian Brown, Peter Curry, E Tyler, J Allen, Amanda Townsend, John Self and the outgoing Clerk, D Bleach.

Names to be added are Cllr G Walls and the incoming Clerk, R Knifton.

Proposed by Mr. Chapman and Seconded by Mrs. Bicknell. **Carried.**

The amended cemetery fees shown at Annex D were tabled and it agreed that a rise of 3% would be added for the financial year 2014/15. Proposed by Mrs. Bicknell and Seconded by Mr. Chapman. **Carried.**

b) Planning Applications Committee

It was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Smith that the minutes of the meetings held on the 10th and 24th of February 2014 be approved and signed. **Carried.**

c) Property, Highways and Environment Committee

Mrs. Ogilvy reported that she had undertaken a site visit to Van Common with the Clerk to investigate the proposed works to support the ditch, removal of dead tree branches and for the coppicing. The works were agreed in principal and it was NOTED that quotes were being sought.

It was further NOTED that Mrs. Ogilvy had contacted Easebourne Parish Council with regards to the entrance to the King Edward VII Hospital and they agreed it was dangerous. Easebourne Parish Council had approached WSCC regarding the issue and had been informed that they were of the opinion that no alterations were needed to the junction. This information had been conveyed to Mr. Self. The Edward VII Liaison Meetings have, to date, been inconclusive.

d) Fernhurst Recreation Ground

No report.

8. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

a) Services for young people and the Youth Club

Mr. Smith reported that Marney Lowe of WSCC was due to carry out CP training on the 22nd of March. There is still no confirmed replacement for Ms Lowe.

It was NOTED that the Youth Club are planning a summer event to be held on the recreation ground and that a grant was being sought through the Sussex Police Safer Community Fund.

It was reported that Graham Inns had received an award for being Tenant of the Year under the Tenant’s Participation Advisory Service. NOTED that he has been involved in Youth Work for the community for 4 decades.

b) Fernhurst Village Hall

The Clerk reported that the serious mould problem in the office toilet and works to remove the damp were currently being quoted for. The builder would report back to the FVH committee.

c) Policing

No report.

d) Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School

Mrs. Timms spoke of the Governor’s Meeting held week commencing 3rd of March 2014. She spoke of the success of the Pancake Race and that the building works were on target. She also NOTED the complaints regarding the dropping branches on the adjacent tree on the road. Any works to this tree will be under the jurisdiction of WSCC Highways.

9. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS

Mr. Hudson asked whether the Parish Council had any update on the 20mph speed limit on Vann Road. The Clerk reported that Ed Dickinson at WSCC was in contact with the Parish Council. WSCC are investigating the feasibility of the scheme and if feasible would consider whether s106 monies could be used to implement it.

Signed.....

Date.....