

# **FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Fernhurst Village Hall  
on Wednesday 11 February 2015 at 6.30 p.m.

**PRESENT Cllrs:** Mrs. H. Bicknell (acting Chair)  
Mrs. S. Ogilvy  
Mrs. M. Timms  
Mr. R. Chapman  
Mr. J. Smith  
Mr. G. Walls  
Mrs. N. Braithwaite  
Mrs. C. Randall  
Mr. K. Harding  
Mr. J. Cottam

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**  
Mr. A. Moncreiff  
District Cllr, Mrs. N. Graves

**INATTENDANCE:**  
Mrs. R. Knifton (Clerk)  
County Cllr, Mr. M. Brown

It was **AGREED** that in the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Moncreiff, Cllr Bicknell as Vice-Chairman would act as Chairman for the meeting. Members of the Parish Council signed the attendance register. An apology was received from Cllr Moncreiff.

---

## **10/15 INTERESTS**

None

## **11/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 January 2015 were **AGREED** as being a true record. Proposed by Cllr Walls and seconded by Cllr Ogilvy. **RESOLVED**

## **12/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Cllr Timms confirmed that the caterer had been booked for this year's Christmas Event for the second Friday in December. The pavilion will be booked also.

**NOTED** that Cllr Timms had wished for the agendas to be posted rather than emailed. Cllrs Ogilvy, Cottam, Randall, Smith and Walls will continue to receive theirs electronically. All other members will receive theirs in the post.

**AGREED** that all members will receive the minutes prior to the agenda being sent out, not just the Chairman.

## **13/15 COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY – Mr. M. Brown.**

County Cllr Brown reported.

**NOTED** that there will be a Cabinet Meeting on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of February to discuss the budget debate which will include announcing the savings made in all front line service budgets. **NOTED** that Council Tax will be frozen for the 5<sup>th</sup> year running.

WSCC will be looking at utilising the property it owns to ensure sound investments for the future and one project will be to erect solar panels on WSCC owned land which, upon agreement with a local farmer, will also be used to graze sheep. The referred to land at Tangmere was once a WW2 aerodrome. WSCC have designated the far end purely for horticulture. It is hoped that the solar panels will power between 1000 to 1500 properties at a set up cost of £5m, including grid connection. The panels will last no less than 20 years

with the possibility of them lasting as long as 25-30 years. The electricity farmed should be worth around £21m. This project will promote WSCC's protection of the environment and show that the County are engaging in commercial opportunities in order to save money for the tax payer. The proposal has completed a 12 week consultation with no objections. WSCC are aiming for the project to be up and running by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2015.

Cllr Walls raised the subject of the housing shortage and asked whether the County would be looking to use some of its land for building purposes. Cllr Brown explained that WSCC, although not the Planning Authority, did have interests in some town houses in Chichester and some rural areas but these projects will not get underway until the following financial year. There are also some sites in Littlehampton and Crawley which have been ear marked for sale to commercial developers for about £10m.

The announcement on Friday will be that the County have managed to make savings of £68m by cutting waste and inefficiency. This will be the first stage of dealing with the £124m deficit.

Cllr Bicknell asked Cllr Brown for assistance with FPC's requests to Highways to clear drains in the Parish and to the reduce the risk of flooding.

**ACTION:** Emails to Highways to be forwarded to Cllr Brown.

#### **14/15 DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY – Mrs. N. Graves**

None available.

#### **15/15 CORRESPONDENCE & OTHER MATTERS**

- North West Forum – **NOTED**. Cllr Bicknell to attend with the possibility of Cllr Timms.
- Residential Development - Former site of Fernhurst Fuels, 10 Midhurst Road, Fernhurst. **NOTED** that upon recommendation by FPC, the new road will be named 'Tudor Gardens' in memory of local author, Alice M Tudor.
- Connecting communities on Streetlife. **AGREED** to pass on to the Fernhurst Centre.
- Fire service cuts update and new petition launched. **NOTED** that there was major concern raised by all members that due process had not been thoroughly followed through. Proposed by Cllr Walls and seconded by Cllr Harding.  
**RESOLVED** by way of a unanimous vote that Fernhurst Parish Council is opposed to the cuts and wish to sign the petition.
- CDC Corporate Plan 2015-2018. **NOTED**
- Dark Skies in the SDNP. **AGREED**. Proposed by Cllr Ogilvy and seconded by Cllr Timms that FPC wishes to sign up to the policy. **RESOLVED**.
- Shayler Amusements. **NOTED** that an application for use of the Village Green had been submitted to FPC for a travelling fairground. **AGREED** that this should be passed on to the Recreation Ground Committee.

- Office Toilet. Cllr Walls proposed that a full Health and Safety risk assessment be carried out to ensure that the works are undertaken as a matter of priority. Seconded by Cllr Bicknell.

**RESOLVED**

## **16/15 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS**

a1) Finance and Administration:

- Approval of the bank reconciliation. Proposed by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Ogilvy.

**RESOLVED**

- List of payments and signing of cheques. Proposed by Cllr Walls and seconded by Cllr Timms.

**RESOLVED**

**NOTED** that an application for a grant for the Fernhurst News has been submitted to FPC. **AGREED** on principal and will form part of the next agenda for approval.

a2) To agree and approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Proposed by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Randall. **RESOLVED** as being a true record.

b) Planning Applications Committee, including approval and signing of minutes. The minutes were agreed en mass. Proposed by Cllr Braithwaite and seconded by Cllr Chapman. **RESOLVED**

c) Property, Highways & Environment Committee. Cllr Ogilvy wished to add a couple of amendments to the minutes. Highways – paths and drains; Nappers Wood – sign for children playing; Kingsley Green – pothole report; Vann Road bridge – ‘slow down’ signage.

**NOTED** that the Crossfield site visit will take place on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm.

**AGREED** that the minutes are approved with the recommended amendments. Proposed by Cllr Ogilvy and seconded by Cllr Timms. **RESOLVED**

d) Fernhurst Recreation Ground. **Nothing to report.**

---

e) Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group.

It was proposed by Cllr Cottam and seconded by Cllr Randall that all members of the press and public be excluded from this item. **RESOLVED**

### **EXCLUSION of THE PUBLIC**

In accordance with the provisions of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public has been excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Information relating to the financial and/or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**NOTED** that the SG are meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February. A report will be brought back to the next meeting of Council.

(Bullets – appendix A)

**17/15 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES**

a) Services and facilities for Young People. Cllr Smith reported that Youth Club attendance has reached double figures and that there are many new faces in the senior club.

**NOTED** that the Lynchmere and Fernhurst Community Action Group will be meeting with Mark Armitage from the Hyde Group on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March to discuss the skatepark/BMX track. A full report will be brought back to the next meeting of Council.

b) Fernhurst Village Hall. **NOTED** that the toilet in the Parish Office is being dealt with by Cllr Smith. Works have not yet started and a full report will be brought back to the next meeting of Council.

c) Policing. **Nothing to report.**

d) Fernhurst Primary School. Cllr Timms reported that it is half-term week next week. A meeting with the Chichester Academy Trust is due to take place to explain the role of Ofsted.

**18/15 QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS**

**NOTED** that Cllr Walls is away until the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. **AGREED** that when he returns, both himself and the Clerk will review the Standing Orders and the Asset Register.

Meeting Closed 8.35

Signed.....

Date.....

## APPENDIX A - Notes to accompany 16/15 (e)

- FPC had agreed to overseeing a master plan;
- Meeting scheduled on the 12<sup>th</sup> with SDNPA;
- The NP has been under production for 4 years and Cllr Cottam wishes to retire as Chairman of the SG and as a member of FPC;
- The SG are looking for a Leader. A possible suggestion is Mike Hydon;
- Cllr Cottam had asked the Examiner if she would meet with him to discuss her comments but to no avail;
- **NOTED** that the SG had proposed 150 units for the Syngenta site whereas Comer Homes had proposed 250 units;
- **NOTED** that the House of Commons have just released a paper prohibiting fracking in the National Parks.