



FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 9 May 2018

Minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting** held at Fernhurst Village Hall on
Wednesday 9 May 2018 at 6.45pm

Councillors Present: Mrs H Bicknell (Chairman), Mr W Black, Mrs Sally Bloomfield, Mr J Buchanan, , Mrs M. Jenkins, Mr J Smith, Mrs M Timms, Mr G Williamson.

59/18 Election of Council Chairman: Resolved: To elect Cllr Bicknell to serve as chairman of the council. Proposed: Cllr Timms, seconded, Cllr Buchanan

60/18 Election of Council Vice-Chairman: Resolved: To elect Cllr Timms to serve as vice-chairman of the council. Proposed: Cllr Bicknell, seconded, Cllr Buchanan

61/18 Election of Planning Committee Members: Resolved: to elect all councillors to the committee. Proposed: Cllr Bicknell, seconded, Cllr Timms

62/18 Election of Finance Committee Members: Resolved: To elect Cllrs Bicknell, Black, Bloomfield, Buchanan, Inns, Moncreiff and Timms. Proposed: Cllr Bicknell, seconded Cllr Timms.

63/18 Election of Property, Highways & Environment Committee Members: Resolved: To elect Cllrs Bicknell, Black, Buchanan, Inns, Jenkins, Smith, Tedd, Timms and Williamson. Proposed: Cllr Bicknell, seconded Cllr Timms.

64/18 Apologies For Absence: Mr G Inns, Mr A. Moncreiff, Mr C Tedd.

In Attendance: K Jones (Clerk).

65/18 Declarations of Interests: None.

66/18 Public Representations: Dr P Wilding, in his capacity as chairman of Lurgashall Parish Council, addressed the council in respect of recurring flooding problems experienced at the Lickfold bridge and the availability of grant money from West Sussex County Council. He proposed a joint application for grant money under "Operation Watershed" to conduct an appraisal of possible solutions.

On hearing of the lack of effective response from Chichester District Council in the matter of the White House wall Dr Wilding kindly offered to use his contacts at CDC in an attempt to speed a resolution of the matter. The council accepted the offer.

67/18 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting of the **11 April 2018** were agreed and signed. Proposed: Cllr Timms, seconded: Cllr Buchanan.

68/18 Matters Arising From The Minutes: The annual Parish Meeting held on the 18 April attracted 10 members of the public who heard interesting presentations from the speakers. Cllr Smith advised that use of the available microphones would have aided audibility at times.

Cemetery Lych-Gate: The clerk advised that the consulting engineers had offered to undertake the search for a suitable contractor for an agreed rate with a maximum cost. The meeting agreed for the council to instruct the consulting engineers on this basis.

Action: (Clerk)

69/18 County Council Commentary: None.

70/18 District Council Commentary: Subsequent to the meeting a commentary has been received from District Councillor Hardwick which has been distributed to councillors.

71/18 Property & Finance Committee Meetings: It was agreed to schedule a Planning Committee meeting for the 21 May and a Property, Highways and Environment Committee meeting for the 4 June.

72/18 Velo South. The council instructed the clerk to contact Velo South to ask for a representative to attend the next council meeting (13 June). The council had received a request to use the village green as a “bike-park” during the Velo South event. The council declined the request. **Action (Clerk)**

73/18 New Homes Bonus 2018/19 – Potential Projects. Various possible projects to benefit the village and its community were discussed. The deadline for an application is Monday 30 July. **Action: (All)**

74/18 White House Wall – The Green. The council has received information that a parishioner has been injured whilst circumventing the temporary fencing around the White House wall. The parishioner’s injuries were serious enough to require hospital treatment as an inpatient. The council’s demands for practical action by Chichester District Council to improve the safety of the walkway continue to be ignored. The on-site meeting promised by Chichester District Council continues to be pushed further into the future at some indeterminate date. The Building Control and Legal Departments of Chichester District Council have both shown no interest in improving matters. Copying the chief executive of Chichester District Council into correspondence with these departments has generated no improvement. The clerk was instructed to write to the injured parishioner expressing the council’s sympathy. **Action: (Clerk)**

75/18 Correspondence & Other Matters:

Councillors’ Announcements:

- **Village Green Maintenance** – The council was in receipt of correspondence from some parishioners concerning grass cutting on the village green and maintenance of signage, a dead tree and lamp-posts. The weather had delayed the first cut of the year and negotiations with a prospective long-term contractor were on-going for two cuts a month from May to September inclusive. The council had on its own initiative recently agreed to maintain all the finger-post signs in the parish. Cllr Buchanan agreed to inspect the dead tree and report back. **Action: (Cllr Buchanan)**
- **Cemetery Maintenance** – A parishioner had complained of hedge cutting in the cemetery and had refused to accept the council’s reasoning for its necessity. The clerk was instructed to write to the parishioner confirming the council’s policy. **Action: (Clerk)**
- **Lickfold Bridge Flooding** – Following the representations from Dr Wilding (see 66/18) it was resolved: **The council agrees to its name being added to the application for “Operation Watershed” funding to investigate mitigation of flooding at Lickfold bridge on the understanding Fernhurst Parish Council**

would not be responsible for any costs associated with the application or any investigative work. **Proposed: Cllr Bloomfield, seconded Cllr Jenkins.**

- **Lickfold Road Bridge.** Dr Wilding had informed the council that a secondary bridge on the Lickfold Road was showing evidence of damage. Cllr Williamson agreed to investigate and report back. **Action: (Cllr Williamson).**

Clerk’s Announcements: None.

76/18 Monthly Executive & Committee Reports

- **April Bank Reconciliations:** were reviewed and agreed.
- **List of Payments and signing of cheques.** Authorisation of list of payments and signing of cheques.
Approval of the above proposed by Cllr Timms, seconded by Cllr Williamson.
- **Planning Committee:** Minutes of the meetings of the **26 March 2018.** Noted, received and accepted.

77/18 Update on Local Issues

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** Cllr Inns had circulated a written report prior to the meeting. The play area in Nappers Wood had been given a much needed makeover.
- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** The hall is in need of replacement stage curtains which have a budgeted cost of £3,000. The village hall committee is also seeking a new treasurer.
- **Policing:** Sussex Police had provided a good speaker for the Parish Annual Meeting which the council had appreciated.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** Cllr Bloomfield will represent the parish council at the school’s community liaison committee meeting of the 13 June. **(Action: Cllr Bloomfield)**
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** No report.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 13 June 2018

Chairman Signed:.....

Date:.....