



FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 10 April 2019

Minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting** held at Fernhurst Village Hall on
Wednesday 10 April 2019 at 6.45pm

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

In Attendance: David Bradford (County Councillor), Norma Graves (Chichester District Councillor), K Jones (Clerk).

42/19 Apologies For Absence: Mr C Tedd.

43/19 Declarations of Interests: None.

44/19 Public Representations: None.

45/19 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the meetings of the **13 February 2019** and **13 March 2019** were approved and signed.

February minutes: Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded: Cllr Smith

March minutes: Proposed: Cllr Timms, seconded: Cllr Jenkins

46/19 Matters Arising From The Minutes: Cllr Black advised the meeting that the lease on the playground had been located and had approximately 15 years to expiry.

47/19 County Council Commentary: Cllr Bradford focussed on road safety and advised that changing speed limits on road stretches was an expensive and lengthy process. Help with community speed watch initiatives was available.
The County Council's budget was under severe strain from the increasing costs of adult and child social care. Severe staff shortages (36% understaffed) are adding to the financial strain.

48/19 District Council Commentary: District Councillor Norma Graves advised the council of initiatives to promote Chichester as a "retail" destination. The North Street car park in Midhurst is being resurfaced to improve its amenity.
CDC is utilising a "Homeless Prevention Fund" to assist people where their indebted status is preventing access to housing.
Promotion of recycling continues.

49/19 S.137 Grants – The list of proposed grants totalling £6,925 was approved.
Proposed: Cllr Black, seconded Cllr Timms.

50/19 Elections – 2 May 2019 Councillors were asked to canvass suitable candidates for possible co-option to fill the two vacancies.

51/19 Annual Parish Meeting – May 2019 The meeting was advised that the Annual Parish Meeting was now scheduled for **Wednesday 22 May**.

52/19 Social Media Publicity & The Parish Council. The council is still working on the practicalities of using social media, and particularly the Fernhurst Community Facebook account, to communicate with parishioners. The council is being asked with increasing frequency to publicise material forwarded by West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council and other public bodies. **(Action: Clerk/Cllr Bicknell)**

53/19 Council Banking Arrangements. No progress to report. **(Action: (Clerk))**

54/19 Correspondence & Other Matters:

Councillors' & Clerk's Announcements:

Madam chairman, Cllr Bicknell advised the meeting that councillors Andrew Moncreiff and Chris Tedd would not be seeking re-election on the 2 May. The meeting thanked them warmly for their service and wished them well for the future.

Cllr Black reported that Chichester Diocese had refused permission for diocesan land in Church Road to be used as a public open space.

Cllr Timms reported that the Village hall had been booked for the annual Christmas party (14 December) and the Christmas lights event would take place on the 3 December.

Cllr Inns advised that the issue of the church clock chimes was now being dealt with by Chichester Diocese.

55/19 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

- Bank reconciliation for March presented for approval.
Proposed: Cllr Moncreiff, seconded Cllr Bloomfield
- Authorisation of list of payments and signing of cheques for April approved.
Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded Cllr Williamson
- **Planning Committee:** Cllr Buchanan reported on the well- attended public meeting held on the 9 April in respect of the Comer Homes planning application for the former Syngenta site. The fact that the applicant had failed to date to submit a "Viability Study" severely curtailed effective scrutiny of the application.
- **Property, Highways and Environment Committee:** Minutes of the meeting of the **11 March 2019**. Noted, received and accepted.
Cllr Black requested approval to repair and repoint the cemetery wall at its boundary with Church Road in the sum of £950 for the east section and £805 for the west section. The council agreed to authorise the expenditure of £950 on the eastern section.
Resolved: To approve expenditure of £950 to repair and repoint the eastern section of the Church Road cemetery wall.
Proposed: Cllr Bicknell, seconded Cllr Timms.

56/19 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** Cllr Inns reported that the Youth Club had a new chairman in Chris James and that the Sussex Club for Young People is to advise on the management of the club. There are concerns as to the structure of the club building.
Cllr Bloomfield advised that in respect of the recreation ground play area she had three draft schemes. The search for grant funding continued.
- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** Cllr Smith advised that the lighting in the toilets is to be converted to motion sensor control.

- **Policing:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** The Recreation Ground Trust has been granted planning permission for its proposed development as amended; funding of £250K has been secured with a further £250K required.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 15 May 2019

Chairman Signed:.....

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