



**FERNHURST  
PARISH  
COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting  
Minutes  
Wednesday 11 December 2019**

**Minutes** of the **Parish Council Meeting** held at Fernhurst Village Hall on  
**Wednesday 11 December 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, Mrs M Timms, Mr G Williamson.

**In Attendance:** K Jones (Clerk), Mrs Cathy Thorne

**163/19 Apologies For Absence:** Mr J Smith.

**164/19 Declarations of Interests:** None.

**165/19 Public Representations:** None.

**166/19 Previous Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting of the **13 November 2019** were approved and signed.

**Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded: Cllr Timms.**

**167/19 Matters Arising From The Minutes Not Covered Below:** Cllr Black asked if the clerk had responded to the correspondence received in respect of the parking congestion in West Close and if confirmation had been sent to the appointed consultant to project manage the public toilets refurbishment. The clerk answered in the negative but advised both would be done.

**168/19 County Council Commentary:** None.

**169/19 District Council Commentary:** None.

**170/19 Councillor Vacancies:** Mrs Cathy Thorne attended the meeting following her application to join the council as a co-opted member. Following a discussion with Mrs Thorne it was:

**Resolved: To Co-Opt Mrs Cathy Thorne as a parish councillor until May 2023.**

**Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, Seconded: Cllr Inns**

Following the passing of the resolution the Chairman congratulated Mrs Thorne on her co-option.

**171/19 Christmas:** The Christmas Lights Celebration was regarded as a well-supported and successful event. The chairman thanked Cllrs Timms, Buchanan and Smith for their work organising and running the event.

Cllr Timms advised that the arrangements for the Christmas function on the 14 December were progressing according to plan.

**172/19 Crossfield/The Leys:** Following the council's and Cllr Inns' approaches to Mark Armitage, Property Manager (South) for Hyde Housing Association, he was expected to

have visited the site on the 12 December to review the situation. The council hopes that some positive action will follow.

**173/19 Fernhurst Park/Syngenta Planning Application:** The application still awaits determination by the South Downs Park Planning Department. There is currently no known date for the decision.

**174/19 2020/2021 Budget Approval:** The revised budget (V2) had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Following discussion it was resolved to approve the budget which would leave the council tax precept unchanged at £72,600.

**Resolved: To approve and adopt the 2020/2021 budget.**

**Proposed Cllr Black, seconded Cllr Inns**

**175/19 National Savings Account:** The authorised signatories on the council's "postal service only" account are currently a matter of some conjecture. Enquires of the National Savings office have been unsuccessful and now a new form to establish signatories has been obtained.

**Resolved: To approve Cllrs Bicknell and Black being appointed as authorised signatories to the council's National Savings Account.**

**Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, seconded Cllr Timms.**

**176/19 Dog Fouling:** The clerk advised that he has contacted the Chichester District Council officer responsible but had received a response that she was on leave until the 17 December. A response is anticipated on her return.

**177/19 Date of January 2020 Meeting:** It was agreed to schedule the meeting to the **15 January 2020.**

**178/19 Correspondence & Other Matters:**

**Councillors' & Clerk's Announcements:** The council had received a welcome note of appreciation and prayer for its civic work from the Fernhurst Prayer Group. The Fernhurst Centre was under consideration for being granted "The Queens Award for Voluntary Service".

A complaint has been received about the condition of the footpath in Vann Road between West Close and Vann Bridge Close. Regular users of the footpath did not consider it to warrant a report to West Sussex County Council Highways Dept.

**179/19 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS**

**Finance and Administration**

- Bank reconciliation for November was presented for approval.

**Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded Cllr Black.**

- Authorisation of list of payments and signing of cheques for December approved.

**Proposed: Cllr Williamson, seconded Cllr Inns.**

The Finance Committee meeting minutes of the **17 June 2019** were received and noted.

- **Planning Committee:** Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of **3 October** and **5 November 2019** received, noted and accepted.

A meeting of the Planning Committee had been scheduled for the **16 December.**

- **Property, Highways and Environment Committee:** Minutes of the meeting of the **11 November 2019**. Noted, received and accepted.
- **Van Common:** Cllr Black proposed, following a tendering process, acceptance of a quotation in the sum of £1,080 + VAT from Adam Gibson Tree Care for essential tree safety work on Van Common.
- **Resolved: To authorise acceptance in the sum of up to £1,080+ Vat for essential tree safety work on Van Common.**  
**Proposed: Cllr Black, seconded, Cllr Jenkins.**
- **Public Toilets: Resolved: To authorise the expenditure of £1,500 + VAT with Potter, Owtram & Peck (Solicitors) in respect of a Deed of Variation on the council's lease on the Public toilets.**  
**Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, seconded Cllr Timms**

Cllr Black advised the meeting that two separate pieces of tree and hedge maintenance had been contracted in the cemetery at a cost of £380 + VAT each.

### **180/19 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES**

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:**

The Youth Club will hold its next meeting on 14 January. The High Sherriff of West Sussex is scheduled to visit the club on the 29 January. The charitable Hyde Foundation is to visit the Youth Club premises with a view to funding improvements.

- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** No report.
- **Policing:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** Fundraising for the pavilion redevelopment was reported to have reached £180,000 out of a £600,000 target.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

**Date of Next Meeting: 15 January 2020**

**Chairman Signed:**.....

**Date: 15 January 2020**