



FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 15 January 2020

Minutes of the **Parish Council Meeting** held at Fernhurst Village Hall on
Wednesday 15 January 2020 at 6.45pm

Councillors Present:, Mrs M Timms (Chairman), Mr W Black, Mr J Buchanan, Mr G Inns, Mrs M. Jenkins, Mr J Smith, Mrs C Thorne, Mr G Williamson.

In Attendance: County Councillor David Bradford, District Councillor Norma Graves, K Jones (Clerk), Mr Nigel Barker, Mr Christopher Lloyd.

1/20 Apologies For Absence: Mrs H Bicknell, Mrs S Bloomfield.

2/20 Declarations of Interests: None.

3/20 Public Representations: None.

4/20 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting of the **11 December 2019** were approved and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded: Cllr Timms.

5/20 Matters Arising From The Minutes Not Covered Below: None not covered below.

6/20 County Council Commentary: Cllr David Bradford advised the meeting that West Sussex County Council would be raising its council tax precept by 3.99% for the 2020/2021 financial year. Despite this increase in locally raised taxation the decrease in funding from central government continues to reduce the council's overall spending power. In excess of 50% of WSCC spending is on social services for children and the elderly. Roads maintenance, particularly pothole repairs, is a never ending burden as increasing road use and wet weather cause deterioration. WSCC has reached an agreement with East Sussex County Council to utilise the services of their Chief Executive on a shared basis until a permanent arrangement is agreed.

7/20 District Council Commentary: Chichester District Councillor Norma Graves advised that the financial condition of Chichester District Council was satisfactory despite reduction in central government funding.

The proposed Syngenta development was still under negotiation between Comer Homes and South Downs National Park planning officers.

New accommodation for seventeen single homeless people is to be provided in Chichester.

The contract to redevelop the "Southern Gateway" area of Chichester has been awarded to Henry Boot PLC.

8/20 Councillor Vacancies: Mr Nigel Barker and Mr Christopher Lloyd attended the meeting following their applications to join the council as a co-opted member. Each made their representations to the council in support of their application.

Resolved: To Co-Opt Mr Christopher Colver Lloyd as a parish councillor until May 2023.

Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, Seconded: Cllr Inns

The clerk was instructed to write to Mr Barker thanking him for his application and interest in the council. **Action: (Clerk)**

9/20 Christmas: Following the successful conclusion to the Christmas Lights Celebration and the council's annual Christmas Party the chairman thanked all councillors whose assistance had ensured their success. The chairman was thanked by the council for her part in organising the events.

It was agreed that more lights for the Christmas Tree were required next year and that it would be more economical in the long-term to purchase commercial rather than residential grade lights. **Action: (Clerk)**

9/20 Crossfield/The Leys: Hyde Housing Association has been approached to support the tenants complaining of overbearing growth of trees and undergrowth on their eastern boundary. To date no substantive response has been received. Chichester District Council Environmental Health Dept. has been approached for assistance with the problem and a substantive response is also awaited.

Chichester District Council has advised that the parcel of land at the corner of The Leys and Vann Road was sold in 1978 to a private property company. The clerk was instructed to write to the company to enquire the current position of the land. **Action: (Clerk)**

10/20 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 although it is understood negotiations continue between the developer and South Downs National Park Authority planning officers on detailed matters.

11/20 Dog Fouling: Dog fouling remains an ongoing issue. The clerk was instructed to place an advertisement in the Fernhurst News promoting responsible dog walking and advising that dogs should not be unleashed on the Fernhurst Recreation Ground.

Action: (Clerk)

Signage at the Recreation Ground advising of bye-laws banning the unleashing of dogs on its grounds was considered to be the responsibility of the Recreation Ground Trustees.

12/20 Correspondence & Other Matters:

Councillors' & Clerk's Announcements:

A date needs to be arranged for the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting. It was considered to be desirable to arrange a speaker; a talk on the activities of the South Downs National Park Authority was considered a possibility. **Action: (All)**

The clerk was instructed to check the receipt of grant applications for consideration at the next meeting. **Action: (Clerk)**

13/20 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

Finance and Administration

- Bank reconciliation for December was presented for approval.

Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded Cllr Smith.

- Authorisation of list of payments and signing of cheques for January approved.
Proposed: Cllr Thorne, seconded Cllr Williamson.
The Finance Committee meeting minutes of the **17 June 2019** were received and noted.
- **Planning Committee:** Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of **26 November 2019 and 16 December 2019** received, noted and accepted.
- **Property, Highways and Environment Committee:** Minutes of the meeting of the **9 December 2019** were not presented to the meeting.
- **Public Toilets:** Cllr Black advised that draft legal documents have been received from Chichester district council in respect of the licence to alter and lease extension.
- **Resolved: To authorise the signing of the extended lease on the public toilets.**
Proposed: Cllr Black, seconded, Cllr Inns.
- **Van Common:** Work to cut down and prune trees identified as safety risks is to be completed in February. The council is seeking technical and financial advice in respect of the blocked culverts on Van Common.
- **Cemetery Maintenance:** The meeting authorised the clerk to negotiate a new 12 month contract with the existing maintenance contractor.

14/20 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** Cllr Inns advised the meeting that Fernhurst Youth Club was still seeking funds for the extensive refurbishment of the Youth Club building with the Hyde Charitable Trust being a possible donor.

The Junior Football Club is seeking a new pitch as it is unable to continue to use the one at Fernhurst Recreation Ground

- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** No report.
- **Policing:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** Notices to advise of bye-laws and to promote responsible dog walking are required.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 12 February 2020

Chairman Signed:.....

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