



FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 14 October 2020

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held virtually on
Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 7.00pm

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

102/20 Apologies for Absence: Mrs C Thorne, Mrs M Timms.

In Attendance: Chichester District Cllr Peter Wilding, K Jones (Clerk).

103/20 Declarations of Interests: Cllr Buchanan declared an interest in respect of item 104/20.

104/20 Public Representations: Ms Lesley Buckley made representations to the council requesting funding for various small Fernhurst Horticultural Society initiatives in the village.
Resolved: To approve budget expenditure of £500 for a new public seat and £185 for planting costs in respect of the land at the corner of Vann Road and The Leys.
To approve budget expenditure of £230 in respect of the re-planting of the raised flower bed at the corner of Vann Road and the A286.

Proposed: Cllr Bicknell, seconded Cllr Bloomfield.

105/20 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting of the **9 September 2020** were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded: Cllr Buchanan.

106/20 Matters Arising From The Minutes Not Covered Below: None.

107/20 County Council Commentary: None to note.

108/20 District Council Commentary: District Cllr Peter Wilding updated the council on the following issues active in the Chichester district:

- £10,000 grants to small businesses, funded by central government, had been distributed to mitigate Covid related costs.
- Self-Isolation grants of £500 were available to those on low incomes.
- Chichester District Council had suffered a loss of revenue of £8M directly related to Covid of which £4M had been covered by a central government grant. The financial pressures on the district council are on-going.
- The planning consultation on the allocation of housebuilding targets was causing issues for the district council.
- The Chichester "Southern Gateway" redevelopment scheme is proceeding.
- The council is refurbishing the St James Industrial Estate in Chichester at a cost of £2.5M.

109/20 Road Speed Issues: Parishioner Peter Goodman is organising the collection of local representations to support the TRO application for the A286.

The issue of cyclists in Church Road has generated much correspondence and discussion. The safest resolution was being sought and the clerk was instructed to seek input on the road safety issues from West Sussex County Council Highways Department.

Action: (Clerk)

110/20 Council Grants: The council has resolved to assist pupils at Fernhurst Primary School with their remote learning needs via the Friends of Fernhurst School group. Cllr Lloyd agreed to liaise with the Friends of Fernhurst School to establish their precise requirements. **Action: (Cllr Lloyd)**

111/20 Covid Grant: The clerk informed the meeting that the Small Business Rate Covid Grant in the sum of £10,000 had been received.

112/20 E-Mail & Website Facilities: The original application to register the fernhurst.gov.uk domain name has proved unsuccessful as the application has to be made through an approved domain registrar (Fasthosts).

113/20 Christmas Arrangements 2020. The current Covid situation has resulted in the council cancelling its usual Christmas Party arrangements. The celebration around the switching on of the Christmas lights is also cancelled.

The Christmas tree and decorative lights will proceed. Robin Barnes has agreed once again to provide the tree and Cllr Buchanan its erection. **Action: (Cllr Buchanan)**

114/20 2021/2022 Budget Thoughts & Ideas: The Finance Committee welcomes these from all councillors prior to the compilation of the first draft of the budget. **Action: (All)**

115/20 Correspondence & Other Matters:

Councillors' & Clerk's Announcements: Cllr Bicknell advised that Jenny Moncreiff, widow of former councillor Andrew Moncreiff, had requested permission to plant a memorial crab apple tree in Fernhurst Cemetery.

Resolved: The council to source and plant a crab apple tree in Fernhurst Cemetery as a memorial to the late Cllr Andrew Moncreiff.

Proposed: Cllr Buchanan, seconded, Cllr Jenkins

The clerk advised that the local postmaster had requested that the lay-by outside the Post Office be designated as a loading bay to aid deliveries and collections to and from his premises. The lay-by is quite large and only half would be needed for loading and half could be designated for disabled drivers.

116/20 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

Finance and Administration

- Bank reconciliations for September were approved.
Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded Cllr Smith.
- Authorisation of list of payments for October approved.
Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded Cllr Smith.
- Finance Committee meeting minutes of the 10 August 2020 received and noted.

- **Planning Committee:** Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of the **1, 21 & 28 September 2020** received, noted and accepted.
- **Property, Highways and Environment Committee:** Cllr Black updated the meeting on the following matters:
 - Vann Road/Van Common gully/culvert: work has been completed but the planned work had to be modified in the face of the restrictions that multiple service ducts across the footbridge presented. Cllr Black requested permission for the contractor, Landbuild Ltd, to be paid on presentation of invoice.
Resolved: The council to pay Landbuild Ltd on presentation of invoice.
Proposed Cllr Black, seconded Cllr Inns.
 - The council had sought quotations for the maintenance of grass verges at Van Common.
Resolved: To appoint J Jordan Contractors to maintain the Van Common verges at a cost of £1,200p.a.
Proposed Cllr Buchanan, seconded Cllr Black.
 - A licence to locate a parish council grit bin on the corner of Vann Road/West Close has been received from West Sussex County Council Highways.
Resolved: The council to accept and sign the licence.
Proposed: Cllr Bicknell, seconded Cllr Jenkins.

117/20 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** Cllr Inns advised that the Youth Club was still closed but relatively well funded but that unfortunately the respected youth leader Donna would no longer be active at the club.
- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** No report.
- **Policing:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** Cllr Bloomfield reported that the school was very busy adapting to the Covid restrictions and the new intake of pupils.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** No report.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 11 November 2020

Chairman Signed:.....

Date: