



FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 11 November 2020

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held virtually on
Wednesday 11 November 2020 at 7.00pm

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

118/20 Apologies for Absence: Mr J Buchanan, Mrs M Timms.

In Attendance: K Jones (Clerk).

119/20 Declarations of Interests: None.

120/20 Public Representations: None

121/20 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting of the **14 October 2020** were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Smith, seconded: Cllr Black.

122/20 Matters Arising From The Minutes Not Covered Below: None.

123/20 County Council Commentary: County Councillor David Bradford had provided a written commentary for November and December which had been circulated to all councillors. The council noted that Cllr Bradford had announced his intention to retire from West Sussex County Council from April 2021 and thanked him for his support and service to the parish.

124/20 District Council Commentary: None to note.

125/20 Road Speed & Safety Issues: An application to West Sussex County Council Highways for a Traffic Restriction Order to reduce the speed limit on the A286 between the Kings Arms public house and the junction with Kings Drive from 50 to 40mph has been made.

Following the application by the clerk for input from West Sussex County Council Highways Department on the road safety issues raised by cyclists ignoring the one-way status of Church Road a response has been received. It is clear there is no simple solution and a sit visit is regarded as necessary but constrained by current Covid restrictions.

126/20 Council Grants: The council has cancelled its customary Christmas party which seeks to reward those that have served the parish in some capacity during the year. The council decided to approach two local charities inviting them to apply for grants to support their work for parishioners. **Action: (Clerk)**

127/20 E-Mail & Website Facilities: No progress to report. **Action: (Clerk)**

128/20 Christmas Arrangements 2020. Cllr Buchanan has agreed to erect the donated Christmas tree. Extra lights are to be purchased for the tree. **Action: (Cllr Buchanan & Clerk)**

The council will send Christmas cards this year. **(Action: Cllrs Bicknell & Timms)**

129/20 2021/2022 Budget (V3). The draft budget for 2021/2022 (V3) had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting following recommendation by the Finance Committee. **Resolved: To formally approve and adopt the 2021/2022 Budget (V3).**
Proposed, Cllr Lloyd, seconded, Cllr Black.

130/20 Correspondence & Other Matters:

Councillors' & Clerk's Announcements: Cllr Inns announced that he was no longer a member of the Parochial Church Council of St Margaret of Antioch Fernhurst.

131/20 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

Finance and Administration

- Bank reconciliations for October were approved.
Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded Cllr Lloyd.
- Authorisation of list of payments for November approved.
Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded Cllr Lloyd.
- **Planning Committee:** No chairman's comment.
- **Property, Highways and Environment Committee:** Cllr Black updated the meeting on the results of the official tendering process for the refurbishment of the public toilets. The results were disappointing with the lowest bid settling at £41k, some £9k above the council's expectations. Efforts to obtain bids from locally based businesses had proved unrewarding. Building trades are anecdotally very busy and building materials in short supply owing to the disruption of Covid restrictions.

Resolved: To award the contract to the lowest bidder, Hallmark Property Services in the sum of £41,645.

Proposed, Cllr Bicknell, seconded, Cllr Lloyd.
- The minutes of the Property, Highways & Environment Committee meeting of the **12 October 2020** were received and noted.

132/20 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** Cllr Inns advised that the Youth Club was still closed.
- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** The Village Hall is currently closed owing to Covid-19 restrictions.
- **Policing:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** Cllr Bloomfield reported that the school has a new head teacher, Mrs Jennifer Thornton. The school and scouts group had expressed their wish to be involved in the potential playground refurbishment.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** No report.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 16 December 2020

Chairman Signed:.....

Date: