



FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 16 December 2020

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held virtually on
Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 7.00pm

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

133/20 Apologies for Absence: Mrs S Bloomfield, Mrs M Timms.

In Attendance: K Jones (Clerk).

134/20 Declarations of Interests: None.

135/20 Public Representations: None

136/20 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting of the **11 November 2020** were approved.

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

137/20 Matters Arising From The Minutes Not Covered Below: None.

138/20 County Council Commentary: None to note.

139/20 District Council Commentary: None to note.

140/20 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. The A286 is a major road in the parish and district and determination of the application may take some time.

The council has decided its policy on cyclists dangerously and illegally ignoring the one-way status of Church Road is to lobby for the signage to be supplemented. Removal of the road from cycling route websites may also assist. **Action: (Clerk)**

141/20 Council Grants: A grant application in the sum of £500 has been received from Haslemere Food Bank.

Resolved: To approve payment of a £500 grant to Haslemere Food Bank using S.137 powers.

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

The grant to Friends of Fernhurst School in the form of Chromebooks to support in-school and home learning has been well received. Cllr Lloyd agreed to enquire of Fernhurst

School if any lack of home broadband facilities was inhibiting home learning for some pupils. **Action: (Cllr Lloyd)**

142/20 E-Mail & Website Facilities: The application for the fernhurst.gov.uk internet domain name has been submitted through the government approved registrar Fasthosts.

143/20 Christmas Arrangements 2020. The council expressed its appreciation to Robin Barnes, Ian Kennedy and Terry Layphries for the supply, erection and illumination of the Fernhurst Christmas Tree. Cllr Buchanan was thanked for his sterling work on erection of the Christmas Tree: Cllrs Timms and Bicknell for the council's Christmas cards.

144/20 Household Waste Disposal Facilities. The council had been advised, via the clerk to Midhurst Town Council, West Sussex County Council is planning to close 2 of its 13 Household Waste Disposal Sites as an economy measure. The council wishes to preserve essential facilities for parishioners and the clerk was instructed to write to appropriate officers and councillors at WSCC canvassing retention of facilities at Midhurst. **Action: (Clerk)**

145/20 HR Committee Report. Cllr Bicknell advised the council of the HR Committee meeting and its recommendation to the council for the clerk's remuneration for the 2020/2021 financial year.

Resolved: The clerk to be remunerated at band 25 of the National Association of Local Councils pay scales (pro-rata) for the 2020/2021 financial year.
Proposed: Cllr Bicknell, seconded Cllr Lloyd.

146/20 Syngenta Development. Cllr. Bicknell asked all councillors to consider ideas for projects to absorb the substantial Community Infrastructure Levy money that would be paid to the council as a result of the Syngenta development. A meeting in the new year would be convened to discuss proposals. **Action: (Cllr Bicknell)** The timing of receipts is dependent upon commencement of building and central government changes to developers' obligations occasioned by the Covid pandemic. The precise amount to be received is subject to calculation by the planning authority (South Downs National Park Authority). Cllr Buchanan agreed to contact SDNPA as to progress with the calculation. **Action: (Cllr Buchanan)**

147/20 Correspondence & Other Matters:

Councillors' & Clerk's Announcements: Cllr Inns announced that he had been co-opted a member of the Parochial Church Council of St Margaret of Antioch Fernhurst.

The clerk advised that the council had been contacted by a parishioner complaining of unleashed dogs on the recreation ground. The clerk was instructed to forward the mail to Mr C Scott, chairman of the recreation ground Trustees. **Action: (Clerk)**

148/20 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

Finance and Administration

- Bank reconciliations for November were approved.
Proposed: Cllr Inns, seconded Cllr Black.
- Authorisation of list of payments for December approved.
Proposed: Cllr Lloyd, seconded Cllr Inns.

- **Planning Committee:** Cllr Buchanan advised the council that the temporary Article 4 direction in respect of a field off Miggs Lane is to be made permanent by the South Downs National Park Authority. This will undoubtedly result in some disappointed and frustrated new landowners seeking to flout the restrictions. The situation will require constant monitoring. **Action: (All)**
- Planning Committee meeting minutes of the **5 October 2020** and **16 & 23 November 2020** received and noted.

- **Property, Highways and Environment Committee:** Cllr Black updated the meeting on the results of the tendering process for the tree cutting work identified by the recent tree inspection report.

Resolved: To award the contract to the lowest bidder, Wallace Timber, in the sum of £10,620.

Proposed, Cllr Black, seconded, Cllr Lloyd.

- The minutes of the Property, Highways & Environment Committee meeting of the **9 November 2020** received and noted.

149/20 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** Reports have been received of children gathering in the evening at the Crossfield benches, eating, drinking and depositing the resulting litter
- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** The Village Hall Trustees have deferred the Annual General Meeting to 2021. Maintenance work continues to make the stage area tidier and more attractive.
- **Policing:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** Cllr Bloomfield had reported the school was interested in participating in the playground refurbishment project.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** The ambition to renovate and extend the pavilion facilities was still seen as financially challenging, particularly in the 2022 timescale.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 20 January 2021

Chairman Signed:.....

Date: