



FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 13 September 2023

Minutes of the **Meeting of Fernhurst Parish Council** held at Fernhurst Village Hall on
Wednesday 13 September 2023 at 7.00pm

Councillors Present: Mrs H Bicknell, (Chairman), Mr W Black, Mr J Buchanan, Mr G Inns, Mrs M Jenkins, Ms S Strongman, Mr G Williamson.

In Attendance: West Sussex County Councillor Tom Richardson, Chichester District Councillor Eleanora Newbery, K Jones (Clerk).

139/23 Apologies For Absence: Mr S Flatt, Mr M Giffin, Mr C Lloyd.

140/23 Declarations of Interests: None.

141/23 Public Representations: The clerk advised that Ms Sarah Paknadel had requested the council consider the installation of a bus shelter at the southbound bus stop at Kingsley Green. The matter was being considered by the Property, Highways & Environment Committee which would report to the council with a recommendation. Purchase of a proprietary bus shelter had already been discounted on the grounds of cost; a bespoke alternative remained an option.

142/23 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting of the **12 July 2023** were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Buchanan, seconded, Cllr Jenkins.

143/23 Matters Arising From The Minutes Not Covered Below: None.

144/23 County Council Commentary: West Sussex County Councillor Tom Richardson advised that the scheme to reduce the speed limit at Henley Hill had proven too expensive at the budget stage to progress as a Traffic Restriction Order. Any further progress would have to be as a Community Highway Scheme which would be dependant on WSCC budget allocation.

An "On-Demand" bus service was being introduced under the 98 Flex banner.

145/23 District Council Commentary: Chichester District Councillor Eleanora Newbery had been advised by Chichester District Council Estates Dept. that access to the Crossfield retail premises was the responsibility of the individual leaseholders. The possibility of a co-ordinated comprehensive solution appeared very low.

Illicit activity at the Syngenta site continued to be reported. It was expected that an impending start on housing development would improve security.

The proposed development at the glebe land in Church Road was considered undesirable with little chance of success.

Cllr Buchanan agreed to draft a response to the developer. **Action: (Cllr Buchanan)**

146/23 Review of Council Standing Orders: The review being incomplete the matter was deferred. **Action: (Clerk)**

147/23 Review of Council Financial Regulations: Updated Financial Regulations had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Resolved: To adopt with immediate effect the Financial Regulations dated September 2023.

Proposed: Cllr Buchanan, seconded Cllr Black

148/23 Review of Council Risk Assessments: Updated Risk Assessments had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Resolved: To adopt with immediate effect the Council Risk Assessments dated September 2023.

Proposed Cllr Strongman, seconded Cllr Black

149/23 Councillor Code Of Conduct: An updated Councillor Code of Conduct had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.

Resolved: To adopt with immediate effect the Councillor Code of Conduct dated September 2023

Proposed: Cllr Williamson, seconded Cllr Black

150/23 S.106 & CIL Money: The Ferden Lane Bus Shelter project has been completed in a very satisfactory manner. In the absence of Cllrs Lloyd and Giffin respectively there was no report on the Road Safety Scheme or Speed Indicator Devices. Cllr Buchanan was to approach Cllr Lloyd to see if he would also take responsibility for any CCTV element in the Road Safety Scheme. **Action: (Cllrs Buchanan, Lloyd & Giffin)**

151/23 E-Mail & Website Facilities: Official e-mail addresses to be created for Cllrs Strongman and Williamson. **Action: (Clerk)**

Website review is ongoing. **Action: (Clerk)**

152/23 Fernhurst Club & Fernhurst Youth Club: Cllr Jenkins agreed to contact Ann Pretty on the future of the Youth Club. **(Action: Cllr Jenkins)**. The council has no information on the Fernhurst Club other than that visible from outside the premises.

153/23 Neighbourhood Plan: No developments to report on the potential review of the Fernhurst Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Buchanan agreed to draft and circulate a response to the SDNPA request on Public Open Spaces, deadline, 20 October. **Action: (Cllr Buchanan)**

154/23 Christmas Arrangements: Cllr Buchanan is to organise the Choral singers via Penny Sydenham. **Action: (Cllr Buchanan)**

A licence for the Christmas Lights is to be obtained from CDC. **Action: (Clerk)**

Rev. Nick Haigh to be contacted.

Guest List to be reviewed. **(Action: Cllrs Bicknell, Buchanan & Jenkins)**

155/23 Grant Applications: Fernhurst Scout Group had submitted a request for financial support to help re-roof the Scout Hut. The council agreed to a grant of £2,000 subject to receipt of an official grant application. The clerk was instructed to send a grant application form. **(Action: Clerk)**

Resolved: Subject to receipt of a grant application form to award a grant of £2,000 to the 1st Fernhurst scout Group.

Proposed: Cllr Bicknell, seconded, Cllr Jenkins

156/23 Bank Deposit Accounts: A new Bank Deposit Account with NatWest Bank, paying a higher rate of interest, is to be opened. **Action: (Clerk)**

Resolved: To approve the opening of a new NatWest Bank Deposit Account.

Proposed: Cllr Black, seconded Cllr Williamson

157/23 New Computer: The council's laptop computer, now 15 years old, has a failing keyboard. It was agreed to replace rather than repair owing to the computer's advanced age. A separate large screen and wireless mouse and keyboard were recommended for ergonomic reasons. A budget of £1,100 was allocated.

Resolved: To approve a budget of £1,100 for replacement computer equipment.

Proposed: Cllr Jenkins, seconded, Cllr Buchanan

158/23 Public Toilets Water Meter: Castle Water continue to fail to provide information about the location of this meter despite constant prompting. The bills against the alleged meter are suspiciously high and are disputed. The clerk will continue to pursue. **Action: (Clerk)**

159/23 Bus Shelter – Kingsley Green: A request to install a bus shelter at the south bound stop at Kingsley Green has been received. Initial examination of proprietary wooden and glass and metal framed shelters were dismissed as too expensive. The option of a bespoke wood shelter is to be progressed. **Action: (Cllr Jenkins & Clerk)**

160/23 Correspondence & Other Matters:

- Housing development adjacent to Scotland Lane in the Borough of Waverley may have a detrimental effect on land at the parish boundary.
- Haslemere Town Council is to be contacted in respect of Public Toilets Cleaning and property security. **Action: (Clerk)**

161/23 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

Finance and Administration

- Bank reconciliations for July & August were approved.

Proposed Cllr Black seconded, Cllr Buchanan

- List of payments for August & September were approved.

Proposed Cllr Buchanan, Seconded Cllr Jenkins

Planning Committee

- Chairman's Comments: None to note.

Property, Highways and Environment Committee:

- Chairman's Comments: None to note

162/23 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** No report to note.
- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** No report to note.
- **Policing:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** No report to note.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** None to note.

Date of Next Meeting: 11 October 2023

Chairman Signed: **Date:**