

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORTH HORSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 20th MARCH 2014 AT 7.30pm
AT ROFFEY MILLENNIUM HALL**

Present: Councillors M. Brakes, Mrs K. Burgess, P. Burgess, N. Butler, Mrs R. Ginn, N. Grant, R. Knight, M. Loates, G. Porter*, T. Rickett, Mrs P. Rutherford*, D. Searle, M. Senior, S. Torn, R. Turner, Ms B. Walters, I. Wassell, R. Wilton and Mrs S. Wilton

* denotes absence

In attendance: Sue Kemp, Parish Clerk

FC/115/14 PUBLIC FORUM

There were three members of the public present. There were no comments or questions

FC/116/14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillor Porter

FC/117/14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meetings of 9th January and 11th February 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as being a true record

FC/118/14 CASUAL VACANCY – HOLBROOK EAST WARD

Members noted that there was one applicant for the vacancy – Mr Nick Grant. Members noted receipt of Mr Grant's completed 'application'; and at the invitation of the Chairman gave a brief presentation about himself.

There then followed a vote, by way of a show of hands, which was unanimous.

IT WAS RESOLVED

That Mr Nick Grant be co-opted to the Parish Council in the Holbrook East Ward

Mr Grant then signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office

It was noted that Mr Grant would serve on the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee.

FC/119/14 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The following Open Session Committee Minutes were presented to Council –

- (a) **Planning, Environment and Transport Committee** – 16th January, 13th February and 6th March 2014
- (b) **Property Committee** – 6th February 2014
- (c) **Personnel Committee** – 20th February 2014
- (d) **Finance & Administration Committee** – 27th February 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the Committee Minutes be adopted

FC/120/14 HOLBROOK COMMUNITY GROUP NOTES

Members noted receipt of the notes of the Holbrook Community Group meeting of 13th January 2014, and that there were no requests.

FC/121/14 ROFFEY COMMUNITY GROUP NOTES

Members noted receipt of the notes of the Roffey Community Group meeting of 3rd March, and that there were no requests.

FC/122/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made

FC/123/14 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Holbrook Tythe Barn

Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Report that the internal works in the 'west wing' were almost complete. The Chairman again extended the invitation to Members to contact the Parish Office for a viewing of the facility.

(b) Harwood Road Allotments

Members noted that the Clerk, as Proper Officer had re-negotiated the five year lease with West Sussex County Council on the site, which expires on 31st March 2014. The annual cost for the next five years would be £250, as opposed to £300.

IT WAS RESOLVED

To note the Chairman's Announcements

(c) Street Naming at Fivensgreen – Urgent Matter

Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Report as to a request from Horsham District Council (HDC) for the Council to consider one of two alternatives for the naming of the new road into the development. Following discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the name Fivens Place be put forward

(d) Street Naming at Ringley Road – Urgent Matter

Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Report as to a request from HDC for the Council to consider the naming of a proposed new access road that would serve the possible future development of the site. Members noted HDC's suggestion as to a historical link to a Brigadier Whitworth, a former resident of the single large house that used to at the end of Rusper Road. Following discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the name Whitworth Way be put forward

FC/124/14 DEVELOPMENT NORTH OF THE A264

Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Report and a Supplementary Report to the Councils 'Alternative Strategy – Planning Report', as follows –

- “1. It is accepted that it is Government policy to plan long term although it is far from clear what housing numbers are to be planned for. What is clear is that a 5 year land supply has to be achieved and it is accepted that the District Council's figures should be used for this purpose.
2. The strategic importance of the Horsham/Crawley gap has long been recognised. The constraints limiting Crawley's expansion make it inevitable that the boundary west of Crawley will be breached. The Council's proposed breach of Horsham's north-eastern bypass will see the strategic gap between the two communities attacked from both sides.
3. The future of Gatwick airport raises important planning issues principally involving noise contours, the need for a northern Crawley bypass around Ifield and the quantum of development (both residential and commercial/industrial)

needed. But for the first time in a generation there is the opportunity to plan with certainty albeit that a decision by the Government in the early part of the next Parliament is needed before this can be achieved.

4. The duty for Councils to co-operate gives additional focus.
5. By planning on a long term basis the District Council risks planning for too much or too little development and, equally importantly, for development to be in the wrong place. It shares with Crawley Borough exceptional planning circumstances that warrant delaying long term commitments, provided 5 year land supply figures can be met. There is no downside to this approach (particularly as the District Council's Core Strategy lasts until 2018) but to reinforce it, a commitment to produce a long term strategy within twelve months of a decision on airport strategy should be made. It is folly to blindly interpret government planning policy as requiring local circumstances of such significance to be ignored.
6. The District Council continue to argue that it must act now to protect the rural communities within the District but in the short term all that is necessary is to produce a rolling 5 year rolling land supply and our submission shows that this achievable without North Horsham. Indeed it is most unlikely that development in North Horsham can be delivered in time to achieve the 5 year supply figures thus making development MORE likely in other areas in addition to that proposed in the Horsham/Crawley gap.
7. Here a point of clarification. Our strategy did not require 500 dwellings a year in Billingshurst / other villages. It proposed a total of 500 in the 5 year period from 2018. Under the umbrella 5 year rolling strategy local communities would have the flexibility to adopt local policies such as adopted by Barns Green without compulsion.
8. The merits of North Horsham do not stand scrutiny. In location terms development at Kingsfold would have considerably more attraction. The A24 could be dualled, a link across the railway to Langhurst tip and business park could-be provided and the location of a secondary school in Southwater would be far more sustainable and meet Horsham resident's needs. Whilst the self-interests of Tanbridge School would favour a

North Horsham location for a new secondary school the reality is that it will result in bussing children in from the West of Crawley location and render Southwater open to more residential development on the central site previously identified as a secondary school site

9. Adopting the strategy we propose would give the time to undertake a detailed analysis of the Kingsfold location and complete the infrastructure design needed to implement it (in this respect the land drainage and sewerage difficulties are similar to North Horsham).
10. The case for the business park in North Horsham is weak. It ignores analysis of the Gatwick Diamond which would support employment generation being located as close as feasible to the airport; an economically and sustainable better option. The study is flawed. The relocation of the RSPCA headquarters from the centre of Horsham to Southwater took place despite London agent advice that Horsham District is not a suitable location for investment (the test applied looks at relocation prospects in the event of a need to move and Horsham is not viewed favourably in this respect. Recent events with large employers departing have regrettably proved this view to be correct. A better example is afforded by the development of the Langhurst Business Park. Brixton Estates invested heavily but it has been plagued by difficulties. A substantial amount of space remains to be built 20 years on. To dismiss all the unoccupied commercial space on the grounds of suitability is considered to be superficial. An economic policy that provides for growth from SMEs already located within the District/Diamond has proved successful and should be planned for. The Novartis site as a vacant brownfield site will cater for this. North Horsham will be an unwarranted side issue and in all likelihood will only result in future applications for change to residential use.
11. A better economic policy would be to ensure the success of the £25 million that the Council invested in Southwater village centre.
The approach advocated does this as development in Southwater is needed to ensure the 5 year land supply. There are no infrastructure impediments to this and the most sustainable location for a new secondary school would be guaranteed.

The District Council is urged to stop their headlong rush to proceed with North Horsham, to identify sites within Horsham and Southwater sufficient to guarantee a 5 year land supply, to examine in detail Kingsfold as a location for major development (as a replacement for north Horsham) and to adopt an approach that commits to long term planning once the airport strategy has been determined.”

Following discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

- (a) That the **Supplementary Report** be included in the text of the **Minutes of this meeting**.
- (b) That the **‘Alternative Strategy – Planning Report’** and the **Supplemental Report** be sent to **Colgate, Rusper and Warnham Parish Councils, the three Neighbourhood Councils and HDC**
- (c) That the meeting referred to in the **Resolution of Minute FC/099/14 of 11.2.2014** be arranged for **Wednesday 2nd April 2014 at 7.30pm**; and that **representatives of Colgate, Rusper and Warnham Parish Councils; and representatives from the three Neighbourhood Councils** be invited to attend
- (d) That **Resolution FC/099/14 (a)** be amended to read **three other Parish Councillors; and that these Councillors be Councillors Butler, Rickett and Torn**

FC/125/14 ANNUAL MEETING OF ELECTORS 2014

Members noted that this statutory meeting would be held on Monday 28th April 2014 at 7.30pm at North Heath Hall. Members further noted (a) that arrangements were in hand for representatives of the Local Policing Team to attend and (b) that Councillor Butler would give an update on the Horsham Matters Youth Project.

IT WAS RESOLVED

To note the Report

FC/126/14 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Councillor Butler gave a brief up-date on the Horsham Matters Youth Project. He commented that excellent progress was being made on grant funding issues but there was slower progress on the various actions of the Project. He further commented that negotiations were taking place as to the provision of some youth work to take place at the former Roffey Youth Club.

There were no other Reports.

IT WAS RESOLVED

To note Councillor Butler's comments

FC/127/14 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members noted the schedule of invoices for payment tabled at the meeting, totalling £54,624.98

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the schedule of accounts, totalling £54,624.98, be approved and signed by the Chairman of Council

FC/128/14 DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 15th May 2014 – Annual Meeting of Council (scheduled)

FC/129/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

On the grounds that the discussion of the next agenda item would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, the press and the public were excluded from the meeting.

FC/130/14 SALE OF PARISH OWNED LAND AT NORTH HEATH HALL

Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Confidential Report. Following discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the matter progress

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

..... Signed

.....Dated