

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF NORTH HORSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 22nd JANUARY 2015 AT 7pm
AT ROFFEY MILLENNIUM HALL**

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

* denotes absence

In attendance: Sue Kemp, Parish Clerk

FC/071/15 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present

FC/072/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Loates, Senior, and Mrs Walters

FC/073/15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 13th November 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as being a true record

FC/074/15 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The following Committee Minutes were presented to Council –

- (a) **Personnel Committee** – 20th November 2014
- (b) **Property Committee** – 4th December 2014
- (c) **Planning, Environment and Transport Committee** – 11th December 2014
- (d) **Finance and Administration Committee** – 18th December 2014

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the Committee Minutes be adopted

FC/075/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made

FC/076/15 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Guinness Trust development, Crawley Road

Members noted that the current road works would be extended for another week, until 23rd January. Further that British Gas would be completing gas connection works on 4th and 5th February, when further traffic management would be put in place.

(b) British Telecommunications

Members noted that staff had discovered a major discrepancy with phone bills going back to 2008, involving mobile phones, which had been billed for but were not ordered or used by the Parish Council. It was further noted that other discrepancies had also been uncovered and a formal complaint had been lodged with BT. Members were pleased to note that the refund for the mobile phones alone was estimated to be in the region of £8,400.

IT WAS RESOLVED

To note the Chairman's Announcements (a) and (b)

(c) Play Area – Highdown Way

Members noted Councillor P. Burgess' comments that Horsham District Council (HDC) proposed to sell a small Play Area in Highdown Way. It was noted that there had been no consultation with local Members or, indeed, the Parish Council, until such time as the Statutory Notice was displayed in the West Sussex County Times. Following discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

To write to Horsham District Council to establish the full details of the situation

FC/077/15 COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Report detailing the resignation of Councillor Grant; and that due to the proximity of the May elections, the law provided that the vacancy did not have to be filled. Following brief discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

- (a) that Councillor Grant's resignation be noted and that a letter be sent thanking him for his contribution to the work of the Parish Council
- (b) that in accordance with S89(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Rule 5(5) of the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006, the vacancy would not be filled.

FC/078/15 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – 18th DECEMBER 2014

(a) Committee and Consolidated Budget for 2015/2016

Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Report and the Budget papers, as previously circulated. Members noted the increase in the Tax Base for the Parish from 8230.7 to 8382.1; and the decrease in the Council Tax Benefit Grant by 30%, not 25% as first anticipated. Members noted that that, taking all factors into consideration, there was an overall increase to the Council's Budget of 0.91%. Following discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

- (i) To note the final amendments to the Committee and Consolidated Budget for 2015/2016; and
 - (ii) To approve the Committee and Consolidated Budget for 2015/2016
- (b) Parish Precept – 2015/2016**
Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Report and the Committee Recommendation as to the level of the Precept requirement. Following brief discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the Parish Council's Precept requirement for the financial year 2015/2016 be set at £278,908

(c) Bank Mandate

Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Report with the regard to the Parish Clerk being added as a signatory to the Parish Council's Lloyds Bank accounts. It was noted that this would facilitate easier communications with the bank and the operation of internet banking.

It was further noted that safeguards would be built into the Parish Council's systems to protect both the Clerk and the Parish Council. It was further noted that the Mandate would apply to the current Clerk only. Following brief discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the current Parish Clerk be approved as an additional signatory to the Parish Council's Lloyds Bank accounts

(d) Community Youth Work Grant provision

Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Report giving details of the current Agreement. Members considered that the current annual grant allocation of £25,000 could now be spent more effectively elsewhere and perhaps in other areas of the community, e.g. older people. Following discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the Agreement be terminated on the anniversary date of the Agreement – 31st May 2016, by giving 90 days' notice.

FC/079/15 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT NORTH OF THE A264 – INTERIM REPORT FROM THE EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC

Members noted the comments of Councillor Torn, that the process had been suspended and that the Inspector had produced an Interim Report. In essence, the Inspector was saying that he was happy with the sites put forward by HDC but there had to be a further 2,000 new homes. When this work was finalised, there would begin a new period of consultation, following which the Examination in Public would continue. Following general discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

To note the comments of Councillor Torn

FC/080/15 LOCAL COUNCIL AWARDS SCHEME

Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Report detailing the new Scheme which would replace the current Quality Status scheme, which would end on 31st January 2015. Members noted the Clerk's comments as to the fact that some 'time-consuming' work was needed to address one or two of the criteria required. Following discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the Parish Council would not participate in the Local Council Awards Scheme, at this time

FC/081/15 COUNCIL DIARY – COUNCIL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 2015

Members noted receipt of the Council Diary for the forthcoming Council year. Following brief discussion

IT WAS RESOLVED

To approve the Council Diary for the Council year 2015/2016

FC/082/15 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORS OF THE PARISH

Members noted receipt of the Clerk's Report and that this Statutory meeting would be held on Monday 27th April 2015 at 7pm at Holbrook Tythe Barn. Members asked that Jane Apostolou be invited to act as Guest Speaker for the evening, on the subject of the Riverside Walk.

IT WAS RESOLVED

That arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Electors of the Parish continue to be made

FC/083/15 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Councillor Butler commented on his involvement with various Youth projects, including Science Days in schools.

Councillor Searle commented on recent BIFFA Meetings, that whilst things were going well, problems had been identified regarding the sale of derived fuel.

IT WAS RESOLVED

To note the Reports

FC/084/15 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members noted the list of invoices for approval and payment tabled at the meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED

That the schedule of accounts for payment, totalling £74,261.70, be authorised

FC/085/15 DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 19th March 2015

FC/086/15 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

FC/087/15 SALE OF LAND – NORTH HEATH HALL

Members noted that this matter was progressing.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm

..... Signed

.....Dated