HORSHAM DENNE NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th November 2017 at 7.05pm



The Church Lounge, London Road Methodist Church, London Road, Horsham.

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1	Meeting Open and Welcome from the Chairman
2	Attendance and apologies for absence: Attending – HDNC: Chair - Trudie Mitchell, Vice-Chair – Martin Bruton, Judy Pounds, Ian Botting, Nigel Hillpaul; Clerk – Sara Doy WSCC Morwen Millson (left 9pm) Christine Osborne and Rodger Whitefield – to be co-opted as members. Visitors: Sally Sanderson – New Friends of Horsham Park. Mr and Mrs Mitchell – London Road. 2 Members of the public who responded to the Autumn Newsletter. Apologies – HDNC: Gianni Lozzi , Godfrey Newman. HDC Cllrs. David Skipp, Peter Burgess; WSCC Cllr. Nigel Dennis
3	Declaration of Members' Interests Trudie Mitchell – Horsham Blueprint; Martin Bruton – Chair of Horsham District Older People's Forum, Director of Horsham Town Community Partnership; Judy Pounds - Member of Wimblehurst Road Resident's Association (WRRA).
4	Approval of Minutes from last meeting (19.10.17). Approved by NH, seconded by IB.
5	Matters arising from last meeting and Action points All action points had been dealt with or are in hand.
5.1	Co-option of new Members Christine Osborne and Rodger Whitefield confirmed that they would like to become members and gave some information on their careers and past experience. Co-option proposed by MB, seconded by NH and agreed by all.
6	Chairman's Report
	Meetings attended:
	01/11/2017 Pirie's Place Construction Manager (see 8.3) 06/11/2017 CLC TM and IB (see 8.13)

13/11/2017 HALC IB (see 8.13)

13/11/2017 Jim Cumming, Horsham Station Manager (see 8.7)

14/11/2017 Horsham Unlimited TM and JP (see 8.12)

15/11/2017 Christmas Lights Installation (see 8.12)

16/11/2017 Visitor Economy and Horsham District Tourism Forum (see 8.12)

Future Meetings

24/11/2017 Town Evacuation Communications IB 29/11/2017 Chris Lyons - Pirie's Car Park TM and MB 30/11/2017 Highways Liaison TM and IB 30/11/2017 NCs Quarterly Meeting with Adam Chalmers and Jonathan Chowen 05/12/2017 Special Charge TM 19/12/2017 Planning Training TM

ACTION: TM to ask if another member would like to attend the Planning Meeting as there are two places available.

HDC Quarterly Meeting with NC Chairs 30th November: TM advised that the following items were on the agenda: POP application procedures, the Railway Subway and Town Wardens.

TM has asked Greg Charman, HDC Community Safety Manager, what powers the Town Wardens would have and how practical it would be for the unparished part of Horsham.

MB queried how effective Town/Neighbourhood Wardens are in other areas.

Cllr. Millson said that they were very successful in Ashington and Bramber as they had been able to build a relationship with the community and youth.

RW asked who would have the ultimate say in the decision. TM advised that the three Neighbourhood Councils would decide.

ACTION: Members to forward any items for the Agenda.

Martin Bruton's Resignation: TM invited MB to explain his decision and thanked him for all his hard work on behalf of HDNC.

MB has been a member of HDNC for over 10 years, carrying out the role of Vice-Chair and Chair of the Planning Committee and running the website. He will step down from the Planning Committee at the end of November, and will attend his last HDNC meeting on January 18th. MB said he would still be available to give advice if needed and that he would continue in his role as Chair of the Horsham District Older People's Forum.

7 Clerk's Report

<u>Newsletter and responses from residents</u>: SD has received 2 further enquiries from residents in response to the newsletter who expressed interest in HDNC and wished to attend a meeting.

SD dropped off some of the spare newsletters to Horsham Library who were happy to make

them available to users of the library.

	Dirty bus shelters in Hills Farm Lane : A resident emailed about the filthy state of two bus shelters. SD contacted Karen Grisley, Street Scene Co-Ordinator HDC, who said the work could be done but at a cost of £38 per hour. Chris Lyons had previously confirmed that HDC is responsible for the maintenance of bus shelters in the Neighbourhood Council areas, so SD has asked if HDC's responsibility for maintenance of bus shelters includes cleaning. ACTION : SD to chase up a response.
	Dog waste bins needed: Two residents have raised the issue of a lack of dog waste bins along the riverside walk in the Hills Farm Lane and Highwood area. At the HDNC Meeting in May 2016 Cllr. Adrian Lee said that he and Cllr. Tony Hogben were pursuing getting bins installed. SD emailed to see if any progress had been made, but has not had an answer. ACTION : SD to chase up a response.
	30 Blackbridge Lane: CO had asked HDNC what could be done regarding the overgrown hedge outside this property which is making it difficult for pedestrians to walk along the pavement. She had also reported that the side of the property in Middleton Road is in a very untidy state. CO was advised to send in a report and photographs to Love West Sussex. A response was received advising that the Inspector had checked the area and requested that action be taken to resolve the issue.
	Reports from Members:
8.1	Finance
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	Riverside Walk.
8.3	Planning
	MB provided a report which was circulated to members after the meeting. The main points
	were:
	Planning Applications : HDNC have had 161 planning applications so far this year and as of
	16.11.17 there are 18 still to respond to.
	Pirie's Place replacement car park DC/17/2509 and 2511: This is a major project of public
	interest and will involve considerable disruption to the town centre especially with the
	redevelopment of Pirie's Place as well. This will either be 3 storey (426 car spaces) or 4 storey
	(531). HDNC had a planning committee meeting on 15.11.17 and agreed that the need for
	such a car park is evident and HDNC would support both applications subject to answers to
	some concerns.
	a) the potential view of the car park from the Carfax.
	b) the design of the tall brick 'slab' of the stairwell / lift shaft.
	c) the potential loss of light to the Park Place shops and residential flats above.
	d) the lack of landscaping/greenery planted at ground level.
	e) the car park is made as older people and dementia friendly as possible.
	f) the potential need for more than 8 electric car charging spaces.
	g) co-operation, during construction, between the new car park and Pirie's Place
	developments.
	TM and MB will be attending a briefing meeting with Dr Chris Lyons, HDC Director of Planning,
	on the 29 th November. The 21 day deadline for HDNC to respond to the planning applications
	due to end on the 29 th has been extended. It is hoped the applications will go to committee on
	6 th February.
	TM said that samples of the metal cladding to be used had been requested and also a request
	that the carpark surface used should minimise tyre 'squeal' noise.
	NH expressed concern regarding HGV traffic that could affect North Street going into the
	town.
	<u>Pirie's Place redevelopment</u>: A report dated August 2017 on the timescale and plans for the
	demolition and new construction of Pirie's Place had been circulated to HDNC on the 15 th
	November. The dates given do not appear correct - demolition stated to start 30 th October 17
	and the whole project completed in 74 weeks by 25 th January 2019.
	TM advised that that work had been severely delayed by essential utility work. Hoardings are
	now in place and the wood will be covered in white plastic. Despite the narrow corridor
	towards the car park the route is well lit. Promotional material will not be erected until the
	New Year after demolition work is completed.

	Holmes Park (previously the HDC offices)
	There have been various applications i.e. DC/17/1774, DC/17/1871, DC/17/2295, DC/17/2321. DC/17/1774 is still outstanding due to various amendments to the application regarding the frontage, landscaping and glazed entrance. HDNC were successful in getting the large 'Holmes Park sign' reduced in size by half.
	DC/17/2321 : TM added that the Case Officer has been informed of discrepancies in car parking spaces in various documents and also the reduced ratio of 75 spaces for 102 apartments if the undercroft application is approved.
	DC/17/1704 Nursery, Pondtail Road: Although this application is in North Horsham it is likely that a nursery would be used by many people from the Denne area. A response was submitted expressing serious concern as the footpath is dangerously narrow, especially under the railway bridge and asking for safety measures to be put in place to improve the footpath and to install crossing points, and also to install a safety barrier outside the nursery.
	<u>Tree Warden</u> : MB was pleased that the Tree Warden, Mr Andrew Dickinson will be thanked with a Christmas gift by HDNC approved at the last (October) meeting for his continued hard work and dedication this year.
	<u>MB's Resignation</u> : He thanked all those Councillors who have been part of and supported the planning committee and himself whilst he has been Head of the Planning Committee over the years. He sincerely wished his successor well and he would still be available to offer support and advice if needed.
	Prewett's Mill : TM had a meeting with Katja Griffiths, Landscape architect for the developer and plans are going ahead to improve both the Mill Bay Lane side and the river bank. It has been established that WSCC do not own the large area alongside Mill Bay Lane so an inquiry has been made to the Land Registry.
8.4	West of Horsham Development
	DC/17/2175 Downgrading of The Boulevard Bridge / Hills Farm Lane Access: Notices state that the road will be closed to private and service vehicles from 1 st December however amended plans are to be submitted following objections from WSCC and HDNC. The North access will be made narrower and will have bollards.
8.5	Community Services – Youth
	JP attended the Community Youth Work Meeting on 30 th October and the report was circulated prior to the meeting. The main points were:
	Staff Changes: Ruth Hodgson has replaced Liz Burt as Horsham Matter's Youth Project

		Manager. Emma Edwards is leaving and Dan Fairchild will take over as Youth Provision Team Leader. It has not been announced who will replace Dan Fairchild.
		Regular Engagement: Work continues at Hurst Road Youth Club, the Needles Youth Club; Millais, Forest and Tanbridge House Schools.
		Collyer's College: The Youth Provision Leaders attended the Fresher Fair to promote the Youth
		Clubs and support that is available. They also recruited some students as volunteers to help with the Clubs.
		Detached Work : This took place over the summer in the Town, Parks and surrounding areas
		and worked with Police to identify areas of concern.
		Mentoring: Dan and Maria mentored 3 young people over the summer working on
		confidence, life skills and family and relationship matters.
		Safeguarding Training: Dan is to attend a course in November which will enable him to
		support youth workers on safeguarding issues.
		Funding: The team are within budget for the amounts received for the NCs but will need to
		replace their IT equipment. It was suggested that a local business such as 'Creative Assembly'
		be approached to see if they will 'champion' their cause.
		Ice Rink: It was agreed that a higher profile of Youth Workers in the area might be needed
		when the ice rink is operational. The Providers of the rink would also be contacted to see if
		there would be opportunities for cheaper ticket concessions.
		Next Meeting: This is planned for 29 th January 2018 at the Horsham Matters' office.
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8.7 Highways and Transport

Network Rail Subway and Carpark: TM has asked for an update on the legal situation for the NCs Quarterly Meeting. TM has also met Jim Cumming, Horsham Station Manager on 13th November and he thought it is possible that the train operator, Govia Thameslink Railway (Southern), may part fund some work at the car park entrances to the footpath.

Cllr. Millson advised that she had raised the issue of the poor surface in the subway and had made some progress as it was agreed that WSCC will look at it and there is a possibility of using money from the Footway Funding.

<u>Station Road / North Street Junction</u>: WSCC have agreed to repaint the ahead only road sign but state that other signage is up to standard. Any infringement would be deemed deliberate and a matter for enforcement.

Hospital Car Park: 20th October TM met Peter Lusher who had been involved in a previous attempt in 2012 to improve the layout of emergency and disabled spaces. This information together with HDNC proposals has been forwarded to Tony Sampson, NHS Service Support Manager who has said he will take the proposals into consideration when a decision is made. He still seems totally unwilling to meet HDNC.

Wimblehurst Road: 27th Oct TM attended a meeting with representatives from WSCC and HDC to support the Wimblehurst Road Residents Association in their efforts to get traffic calming measures installed. Unfortunately Louise Goldsmith sent her apologies but Bob Lanzer, Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure attended. It was agreed that action to make Gordon Rd exit only into Wimblehurst Road should take place in Spring/Summer 2018 and that the installation of more and better situated HGV warning signage will be prioritized. JP said that most residents are happy with the proposed course of action.

<u>Hurst Road Traffic Lights</u>: Some adjustments to the sequence in November seem to have resolved the problems.

Richmond Road Pavement: Residents complained to HDNC that the pavement was to be resurfaced with tarmac instead of paving slabs. The matter was taken up by Cllr. Nigel Dennis and HDC with the result that the decision was made to withdraw the scheme from this year's "Even Better Pavements" programme. This leaves a situation where WSCC Highways will now only undertake reactive safety maintenance on these footways as and when required. Chris Stark has apologised for not informing HDNC or ND of the proposed work. Cllr. Millson commented that replacing paving slabs is more expensive.

Tree Felling:

1) The Causeway: HDC has informed us that the Cherry tree on the island will have to be removed as it is in terminal decline.

	2) Parson's Walk: HDNC was contacted by a resident complaining about the removal of a large oak tree on the green; this had been done without any consultation. On investigation it was discovered that Saxon Weald is responsible for the area and that the tree was diseased at the base and therefore unsafe.
8.8	Communications <u>Twitter</u> : NH said that there are now 106 followers.
8.9	Park/Countryside and Leisure
	 <u>Park Management Plan:</u> Evan Giles reported a good response to the survey (over 500 by Nov 6th with two weeks to go to the closing date). Only 3% expressed dissatisfaction and this was mainly because of lack of toilets. HDNC will be consulted when the results have been consolidated. <u>New Friends of Horsham Park:</u> An article in the November issue of AAH has been circulated to members.
8.10	Emergency Plan <u>Town Evacuation Plan Meeting</u> : IB is to attend on the 24 th November which will concentrate on communications.
8.11	Police / Neighbourhood Watch / Security
	MB provided a report which was circulated to members after the meeting. The main points were:
	Neighbourhood Watch Association Committee Meeting : MB attended the meeting on the 6 th November where an update was given by Inspector Anne Leadbetter.
	Sussex Police : The 'Policing Model' has changed yet again to take account of the shrinking budget and changes in priorities. Officers and PCSO's no longer have responsibility for particular wards or Parishes. HDNC will be in the Adur and Worthing area which includes the Horsham District. There will be 24hr Response teams and a separate Prevention Team (no night duty). These teams will consist of 2 Inspectors (Inspector Anne Leadbetter for Horsham) 4 Sergeants, 18 PC's and 33 PCSO's. Their gauge for response will be the level of risk of harm to the public.
	Operation Blackout : This has been formed to tackle the rise in vehicle crime in the district especially North Horsham and Southwater. Vehicle Crime : Old Millmeads had 3 unlocked vehicles on people's driveways entered and
	items stolen in the early hours of 29 th October. Street Briefings : Because police are no longer involved in attending local meetings e.g. HDNC; the intention is to hold advertised 'Street Briefings' in any problem areas. Vetted Volunteers : The police are looking for vetted volunteers to assist in police stations i.e.

	phoning victims of crime or those who have reported incidents to police to give feedback.
8.12	Town Centre
	<u>Christmas Lights</u> : The lights will be switched on Saturday 18 th November. Garry Mortimer- Cook invited TM to join his meeting to check the installations with Vernon Peake, Festive Lighting on 15th. There have been some extra decorative balls added to the West Street installation to give a better view along the street, these are a different design to last year so will create a new impression.
	It has not proved possible to light the trees at the Albion Way of the Bishopric because the old power supply is dead. Therefore the lights will be used in the 2 large trees in the Bishopric that do have a working power supply – these should be visible on the approach from the west of town.
	There is also a problem with up-lighting the trees in the old fountain basin as the electric connections were taken out when the 2016 Christmas lights were removed.
	<u>Town Vision</u> : At the last meeting it was agreed that HDNC could not fully support the proposals submitted by the Cycle Forum, but no action was taken as the consultation period had closed. However following the Cycle Forum's further request for support at the CLC meeting a response was submitted by HDNC to the Town Vision consultation to clarify our views; this was accepted by HDC for inclusion in the responses.
	ACTION : TM to arrange a meeting with Ruth Fletcher, Chair of the Cycle Forum, to discuss any areas of common ground.
	<u>Visitor Economy Meeting and Horsham District Tourism Forum</u> : TM attended the Forum on 16 th November. There were various representatives from Hotels, Vineyards, and Businesses present. A draft strategy is being put together to promote the Horsham District. An alternative name to Horsham District is sought. TM will circulate her notes at a later date.
	<u>Horsham Unlimited</u> : JP and TM attended the meeting on 16 th November and notes were circulated prior to the meeting. The main points were:
	Bishop's Weald development : The orange paint should be removed before the end of January and there are still 3 residential floors to be added.
	Town Centre Events guidelines : There was a discussion regarding clarification of guidelines for music played in the bandstand/Carfax in the daytime. Clare Mangan, HDC Head of Economic Development, agreed that loud music is unsuitable in the daytime and was asked to circulate guidelines to all businesses in the bandstand area.
	Town Wardens : TM reported on the possibility of employing Town Centre Wardens. (See also
	item 6). Denne Road Car Park Signage : Gill Buchanan is to arrange a meeting with Chris Holt of La Source and TM to decide where signage is needed
	Swan Walk Redevelopment: An application has been submitted to divide the old BHS Unit

	into 3 and provide a 24 hour gym and improved toilet facilities including a Changing Place. At the Wilkinson's end of Swan Walk Gill Buchanan stated that work will probably not
	continue as planned.
	Business Improvement District 2018 : GB said a BID Board needs to be set up and a Chair identified. Funding of £70k is needed to set it up, and a manager and premises may be
	needed. Businesses would need to contribute financially and would require a return on the investment.
	Data Collection : Footfall monitors are in place around the town and a report will be put together.
	East Street smell : This is caused by missing/damaged rubber bungs in the drains.
	Albion Way Subway: Garry Mortimer-Cooke is arranging for temporary thick card murals at
	the entrance to the subway to encourage people to visit the Park and the Town Centre.
	Rough Sleeper : Gill Buchanan said she would find out who to contact regarding the homeless
	man who frequently sleeps in West Walk.
.13	HALC /CLC
	CLC 6 th November Meeting: TM and IB attended the meeting that had several matters of
	interest to the Denne area.
	 CPZ Zone A Changes: The officers recommended withdrawal of the extension of restricted hours (to 9.00 p.m.), which had been supported by HDNC. However this was opposed by Cllr. Nigel Dennis and the CLC agreed that the extended hours would be implemented but monitored. It was made clear that there are no additional permits available and in fact there is a waiting list.
	2) Parkside Car Park: There is a proposal to introduce parking charges for public use in the evening and weekend. Councillors raised various safety, security and access concerns; residents from Madeira Avenue were also opposed to the proposal. It was agreed that further information is required to enable a decision.
	3) London Road: Marcus Summersfield spoke on behalf of residents putting forward the scheme for a one way system as previously detailed to HDNC by Cllr Dennis. He was advised by Chris Stark to submit a Community Highways Scheme application.
	Annual Meeting of HDC and HALC 13 th November: A report by IB was circulated prior to the meeting. The main points were:
	Budget : HDC has a budget of £6.2 million for 2017/18. Next year there will be no further
	grant from central government and HDC will need to find funding for a projected budget of
	£7million.
	Housing: Horsham District has to plan to build 800 houses per year which may rise to 970.
	New Bin Collections: Horsham District currently recycles 45% of its waste. The target is 50%,
	to be met by 2020 to avoid a government imposed penalty so bi-weekly collections are being
	brought in from Fabruary 2019
	brought in from February 2018.

	tax on all developments of £135 per square metre. Building on back gardens is included, but extensions to existing properties are exempt. For the three Neighbourhood Councils the tax raised will be held by HDC and the NCs will be consulted on how the money is spent. Brownfield Land Register: The consultation was completed in November.
9.	НТСР
	No monthly report was received.
	ACTION : MB to check with David Searle, the new Chair if he will be sending regular reports to HDNC.
10.	Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum
	A Steering Group meeting was held on 4 th November specifically to discuss the adoption / rejection of policies in the Horsham Society Design Brief.
11.	Members' Questions and Comments
	Extra town parking : RW said that he had mentioned to Cllr. Burgess at the previous meeting that the old Kings Head car park, which is not used at the moment, could be a possible public car park when Pirie's Place Car Park is out of use. TM responded that it is privately owned.
	<u>Area between Middleton Road and Arunside School</u> : CO spoke of the unsightly and dangerous state of this area of unused land and the potential for it to be improved and made better use of by the local residents.
	TM responded that the owner of the land needs to be identified.
	ACTION : TM to arrange site meeting with CO.
	Denne Road application (DC/17/1802): JP said that as the application does not provide parking and there is an issue with no parking permits available in this zone HDNC may have to object.
12.	Reports from District and County Councillors
	HDC Councillor David Skipp: Cllr. Skipp provided a report prior to the meeting as he was unable to attend.
	<u>Gladstone Road application</u> : Cllr. Skipp said that he is following up the residents' issues raised at the last meeting and has asked for it to go to committee. <u>Town Vision</u> : The next cabinet meeting will discuss the vision statement and the Cabinet are being asked to give approval for 12 areas to be worked up for approval.

WSCC Councillor Morwen Millson:

Budget Planning: This has begun for the next 4 financial years. It is expected that the WSCC will need to continue to make savings and increase Council Tax due to the Government's reducing Revenue Support Grant. The total savings predicted to 2021/22 amount to £75.6 million, with savings of £24.1 million needed in 2018/19. It is not yet known whether the additional precept for Social Care will continue beyond 2019/20.

<u>New West Sussex Plan 2017-22</u>: This was approved at the last council meeting and can be viewed on the website. The 5 main themes are: Best start in life; a Prosperous Place; Strong, safe and sustainable place; Independence in later life; a Council that works for the Community.

Street sweeping: The council has procured a new contract to divert street sweepings away from landfill. The council expects to save £1.7 million over three years; and a further £1.2 million if the contract is extended for two further years. This will also increase recycling rates by 1.72%. It is also hoped that District Councils may be encouraged to sweep more often, discouraging weed growth.

Local Energy Tariff: WSCC is working with Robin Hood energy, Brighton and Hove and East Sussex County Councils to launch a local energy tariff for West Sussex residents by the end of 2017. It is hoped that the council-backed scheme will be able to encourage residents, who have not switched their energy suppliers before, to do so; potentially saving around £300 a year.

<u>Highways Maintenance Contract</u>: The County Council is in dialogue with three bidders for the new contract. This will be awarded in February, with a view to starting in July 2018. A task and finish group, of which Cllr. Millson is a member, has been established to monitor the final stages.

Fairtrade County: West Sussex is now a Fairtrade County which means that the County Council, a number of towns, villages, districts, employers and businesses support Fairtrade, sell its products, or use them on their premises.

<u>Cricketfield Road</u>: Cllr. Millson attended a recent meeting to consider the resident's concerns about traffic speeds and also an oak tree branches which are very close to overhead cables.

North Street Subway: Cllr. Millson has again raised the issue of the condition of the subway with Highway Officers (see item 8.7)

Junction of Riverside and The Crescent: Cllr. Millson has given her support to the resident looking for parking restrictions.

Oliver Road: Cllr. Millson has not heard back from the residents seeking the implementation

	of parking restrictions so will follow it up.
	Blackbridge Lane speeding problems: Cllr. Millson is trying to arrange a meeting with Chris Stark to look at the problems. TM requested that HDNC also attend. CO raised the issue of parking problems near to the schools at drop off/pick up times. IB again raised the issue of speeding in Hills Farm Lane.
13.	Meeting closed at 9.25pm
	Date of next meeting: 18.1.18 N.B There will be no meeting in December