# HORSHAM DENNE NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7pm



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

Item	Detail
1	Meeting Open and Welcome from the Chairman
2	Attending – HDNC: Chair - Trudie Mitchell, Jane Apostolou, Judy Pounds, Ian Botting, Nigel Hillpaul; Clerk – Sara Doy HDC Cllrs. David Skipp, Peter Burgess (arrived 7.40pm) WSCC Nigel Dennis (arrived 8.30pm) Visitors: Kenneth Sadler, Sally Sanderson, who have attended previous meetings. 10 Members of the public including 6 who responded to the Autumn Newsletter and 5 residents interested in planning application DC/17/2123 – Evolution Fitness, Gladstone Road.  Apologies – HDNC: Martin Bruton, Gianni Lozzi HDC Cllr. Adrian Lee.
3	Declaration of Members' Interests  Trudie Mitchell – Horsham Blueprint; Jane Apostolou – Horsham Town Community  Partnership, Wimblehurst Road Resident's Association, Judy Pounds WRRA
4	Approval of Minutes from last meeting (21.9.17).  Approved by IB, seconded by NH.
5	Matters arising from last meeting and Action points Outstanding Actions: None Item 11. Horsham Park: Sally Sanderson, Chair, New Friends of Horsham Park, reported that HDC had confirmed that they will receive no money from the Ice Rink.
6	Chairman's Report  Meetings attended:
	03/10/2017 NC's Introductory Meeting with Adam Chalmers 04/10/2017 Chris Lyons 05/10/2017 Horsham in Bloom Awards (See 8.9) 11/10/2017 HTCP AGM 12/10/2017 Miranda Shawcross (see 8.4)

### **Future Meetings**

13/11/2017 HALC AGM (IB to attend) 14/11/2017 Horsham Unlimited

#### **Meetings with HDC Directors**

<u>Adam Chalmers:</u> The purpose of this meeting with all three Neighbourhood Councils was to give AC information about the role of the NCs and to brief him on the main matters of concern prior to the next Quarterly Meeting at the end of November. Communication problems and the lack of progress on the Railway Subway were discussed. The meeting also clarified the responsibilities of each director

<u>Chris Lyons:</u> This meeting with only TM, raised the difficulties experienced with parking problems and lack of contact regarding the Hospital Car Park. The need to improve communications with HDC was also discussed.

<u>Year of Culture – HDNC participation:</u> Nigel Hillpaul attended the opening event and sent a report to members. NH commented that applications to be involved in the Event need to be made by November which gave very little time.

Local organisations were encouraged to participate and it is understood that the Horsham Society wanted to sponsor a competition.

There is an opportunity for HDNC to sponsor some activity and in view of Martin Bruton's involvement with the Older People's Forum one suggestion would be to organise a competition for the retirement / care homes in our area. Any other suggestions would be welcome.

**ACTION**: Members to forward ideas to SD.

<u>Communication with HDC:</u> One improvement was made on 2<sup>nd</sup> October in that the NCs are now automatically included in a new distribution list along with the Parishes.

<u>Tom Crowley:</u> The District's Clerks were contacted by Tom Crowley to announce his retirement at the end of March 2018. Meanwhile the NCs wish to arrange a meeting with him soon to discuss the ongoing problems with communication and publicity.

<u>Jane Apostolou:</u> Jane announced her intention to retire from the Neighbourhood Council after this meeting.

Jane has a long history with Denne and was instrumental in creating a very good relationship with Berkeley's regarding the West of Horsham development. Jane stood down as Chair in March 2012 to set up the Horsham Town Community Partnership which has flourished under her Chairmanship. Nevertheless she found time to re-join Denne in June 2013 and has made a valuable contribution, especially to the planning committee. Her example taught me how to achieve goals by being calm, polite, pleasant and persistent but it is difficult to live up to Jane's

standards.

HDNC wished Jane joy in her new interests and presented her with a gift of a house plant.

# 7 Clerk's Report

<u>Newsletter and responses from residents</u>: SD has received 12 enquiries from residents in response to the newsletter so far:

**Potential Councillors**: 3 residents expressed interest in becoming Volunteer Councillors for HDNC.

**Residents' Issues:** Problems were raised regarding parking and dog waste bins, (see attached appendix 1). SD discussed responses to all the enquiries with TM and is in the process of responding to the residents by email and telephone.

# Response to emails by Members and Holiday dates:

**Email responses**: It would be helpful if all members could respond to emails requiring an answer e.g. requests for representatives of HDNC at meetings, even if it is a negative response, or where comments and views are needed. But there is no need to respond to emails that are for information only.

**Holiday dates**: Members are reminded to let SD know dates when they are unavailable as far in advance as possible so that she can update the calendar and make alternative arrangements if necessary.

<u>Gatwick Tour 21<sup>st</sup> November:</u> IB has expressed interest in going on the Tour. No one else asked to attend.

**ACTION**: SD to book place for IB.

# **Reports from Members:**

#### 8.1 Finance

Payments made since 17.9.17: GL forwarded a report prior to the meeting:

Balance at 17. 9.17 5448.67 Payment of Clerk Salary (Sept) 320.00 Balance at 17.10. 17 5128.67

<u>Tree Warden</u>: MB submitted a written report prior to the meeting and wished to put on record his appreciation for the work done by Andrew Dickinson, on behalf of HDNC. This year there have been nearly 30 planning applications so far regarding trees and AD pays a site visit and makes a detailed report on each one in a voluntary capacity.

In view of the very high workload this year TM proposed to give AD a Christmas gift of £50 as was done in July 2016. All present agreed.

<u>Newsletter payment:</u> The delivery of 3650 newsletters was done very quickly and efficiently by George Doy, son of SD, sometimes with her unpaid help. Although a payment of 10p per letter had been agreed it is proposed that a total payment of £400 is approved. All present agreed.

Highwood deliveries were done for us by Berkeley's free of charge and a box of chocolates has been purchased as a token thank you.

**<u>Financial Accounts Audit</u>**: GL has passed the accounts to John Steele and if possible they will be approved at the next HDNC meeting.

# 8.2 Section 106 and CIL

<u>Garden of Remembrance</u>: The application for £63,982 from S106 funds was approved at the Planning Obligations Panel meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October. HDNC supported this scheme but will complain to HDC about the procedure involved and the extremely short consultation period given.

<u>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):</u> HDC finally implemented this system on 1st October and the legal department has been concentrating on finalising outstanding S106 agreements.

#### 8.3 Planning

<u>Pirie's Place</u>: Work is likely to start very soon after the utility services have completed necessary work. An article appeared in the WSCT 12<sup>th</sup> October confirming that Mr Pirie's Cart will be kept safe and returned when work is complete.

<u>Prewett's Mill:</u> Design work has recommenced on landscaping and discussions have taken place between Katja Griffiths, Sainsbury's and the Environment Agency. KG will meet TM soon to confirm plans.

#### **Holmes Park:**

<u>DC/17/1871</u>: An amended plan has been submitted reducing the signage wall to half the original size but it still is located on the building line.

<u>DC/17/2321:</u> A further plan has been submitted for Prior Approval Development that reduces the number of parking spaces.

HDC Cllr. Skipp said that he would look into both applications and speak to the Planning Officer and it could possibly go to committee.

<u>DC/17/2123</u> <u>Evolution Fitness/ Gladstone Road</u>: HDNC had been approached by residents who object to the planning application to remove a condition on usage. Residents of Gladstone Road and Hurst Road affected by the application were present at the meeting. TM said that HDNC had given advice to Richard Ward on how to respond to planning applications and stressed that HDNC would listen to the residents' comments but would not necessarily agree with them.

RW summarised the history of the application and said that adjacent residents object to noise and vibration caused by users of Evolution Fitness (details of objections are available on the HDNC website).

TM has visited the studio twice but could not hear anything from outside. TM was told that Evolution Fitness has a maximum of 10 people and is open for only 4 hours per day. TM asked the residents what times they experience the noise. RW has logged all incidents which mapped the vibrations to the opening hours. Residents said that noise and vibration was sometimes experienced outside of the published opening hours.

HDC Councillor David Skipp said that he would arrange to meet with residents and the Planning Officer.

<u>Pirie's Place Carpark:</u> See item 12.

# 8.4 West of Horsham Development

<u>DC/17/2175 Downgrading of The Boulevard Bridge / Hills Farm Lane Access:</u> HDNC is pleased that our request to have continuous pavement on the northeast corner has been included. However an objection has been submitted concerning small patches of grass on the northwest and southeast corners that will be difficult to maintain.

<u>WSCC Land:</u> TM had a meeting with Miranda Shawcross, WSCC Programme Manager for Economy, Planning and Place to discuss possible use for the WSCC land, in light of the Community Centre requirements. Plans are at a very early stage but WSCC intend to build a new Fire Station with Police facilities above and also a residential Training Centre for the Fire Services. A separate access may be required off the A24 slip road.

WSCC is working with Clive Burley, HDC to put in a bid for funds under the Government's One Public Estate project (OPE). This is to finance a feasibility study to include the WSCC land and the Hurst Road Public services area,

#### 8.5 Community Services – Youth

JP reported that Liz Burt has announced that she is leaving Horsham Matters at the end of October and our new contact will be Ruth Hodgson, Community Support Manager. Despite the government's headline rate of inflation currently running at 2.7 % Horsham Matters are not

proposing an increase in their charges for the year 2018/19. On this basis the total costs for employment and delivery for Horsham would remain at £30,000. Horsham Matters will continue to supply the management support for the CYW Team as part of its contribution toward youth work across the Horsham District.

JP said that she hopes to attend the next Youth Provision Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

## 8.6 Community Services – Older People

<u>Horsham District Older Peoples Forum</u>: The next public meeting is on the 6th December at the Southwater PC offices, Beeson House, Lintot Square, Southwater.

The Older Peoples Forum is still working with Dan Barritt HDC to produce the Horsham District Older Peoples Directory of Services which should be published soon. The Forum are also working with Horsham Town Community Partnership on 2 projects that arise out of issues raised at Forum meetings. The first is to produce a comprehensive map and set of bus routes and timetables for the District as this is not available in a booklet format. The second is a pilot project to provide mobility scooter training based on a successful current scheme in Gosport. This training is aimed at improving the safety for the scooter user, pedestrians and other road users.

The Forum has just finished the first phase of a Hospital Insight project with Healthwatch West Sussex and Age UK Horsham District aiming to improve people's experience of hospital treatment 'from getting there to getting home.' The joint report will be published this month.

#### 8.7 Highways and Transport

<u>Network Rail Subway and Carpark:</u> Adam Chalmers was asked to discuss the project with Evan Giles. No progress has been made with the legal agreement as HDC staff have been occupied with the introduction of CIL.

<u>Hills Farm Lane Accident</u>: A car went off the road at night (4<sup>th</sup> October?) near the footpath over Boldings Brook and knocked down a cycle route post and bollard on the build-out. This was reported to Love West Sussex and currently the build out is protected by barriers.

<u>Station Road / North Street Junction:</u> Forest Neighbourhood Council has asked Cllr.Nigel Dennis to investigate problems with vehicles turning right at the no entry sign instead of going via the roundabout. TM has written in support having witnessed two vehicles turning right on consecutive days. TM asked the residents present if they considered it to be a problem and all agreed.

**ACTION**: SD to inform Cllr. Dennis of support.

<u>Hospital Car Park:</u> Chris Lyons agreed that HDNC is not constrained in any way from contacting the Hospital Services Support Manager direct. Contact details have been given but

so far attempts to make phone contact have failed. Meanwhile Mandy Cracknell has said there is a delay due to staff shortages.

<u>East Street parking problems</u>: Ben Golds, HDC Head of Parking Services, confirmed that there would be focused patrols in the East Street and Bishopric areas especially during busy times. Following incidents of some delivery drivers removing the bollards at the entrance to East Street to gain access, HDC are liaising with WSCC and Police to look into installing a different type of bollard. BG also confirmed regulations regarding single and double lines.

Kenneth Sadler said that he had witnessed about 6 cars parked in East Street that evening.

<u>Wimblehurst Road</u>: JA said that the meeting with WRRA and Louise Goldsmith had been postponed to 27<sup>th</sup> October at County Hall North at 10.30am. TM offered to attend.

JA reported that another accident had occurred when a driver had jumped the lights at the junction with North Parade, a child had been hit but not seriously hurt. JA said that despite recent work to the North Parade / Hurst Road / Wimblehurst Road traffic signals the timings were still not correct.

HDC Cllr. Burgess said that he was aware that there has been an increase in drivers 'jumping' the traffic lights at both the Wimblehurst Road and Hurst Road traffic lights.

**ACTION**: TM to contact Barry Edmonds, WSCC.

#### 8.8 Communications

The HDNC website is kept up to date and we are active on social media including Facebook and Twitter. Local events, health walks and activities are also regularly updated.

# 8.9 Park/Countryside and Leisure

<u>Park Management Plan:</u> The Park User Survey that will be used to inform future plans for Horsham Park has just been issued. Some additional questions requested by HDNC have been included in the survey.

SS said that she had reported an error on one of the survey questions.

**ACTION**: Members to make individual responses by Nov 27<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION**: HDNC to respond by email.

<u>Horsham in Bloom</u>; TM and SD attended the Presentation Event on 5th October. Unfortunately the Winner of the Denne Cup was unable to attend but TM delivered the cup to him on 8<sup>th</sup> October and he was very pleased that his efforts had been recognised.

It was noted that most of the awards are now in the form of vouchers or money and that it may be appropriate for Denne to offer a garden voucher (£20). All present agreed.

<u>Outdoor Gym</u>: Following consultation with HDNC it was decided to use the same colour scheme throughout for the equipment pods. It was agreed that the lime green trim on equipment will be less obtrusive than the bright red option. Publicity will take place soon but there is no completion date yet as the equipment needs to be ordered.

#### 8.10 | Emergency Plan

IB said that he is waiting to be advised as to the date of the next Town Centre Incident Group meeting with Tony Skelding.

# 8.11 Police / Neighbourhood Watch / Security

The weekly update is circulated and put on the website.

#### 8.12 Town Centre

<u>Christmas Lights:</u> It has been decided not to use the unpopular conical tree again in the Carfax. Unfortunately there are no plans to enhance the lighting on the trees at the Lynd Cross junction but there will be additional lighting in the trees at the Albion Way / Bishopric junction and this will help connectivity with the John Lewis area.

**Burton Court**; Forest NC had approached HDNC regarding the run down condition of these apartments which are in the Denne area. Cllr. David Skipp is due to raise the matter with Tom Crowley. Cllr. Skipp said that HDC have talked to Quadrant who own the apartments, about improvement and increased monitoring of anti –social behaviour.

<u>Town Vision</u>: HDNC submitted our response on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Clive Burley has confirmed that no decision has been made on the landscaping for the Lynd Cross / Bishopric area. A plan is being developed and there will be further consultation.

The Cycle Forum has submitted their response to the Town Vision and has asked HDNC to support their objections and proposals. Although HDNC supports the improvement of facilities for cyclists in the Town Centre, the needs of pedestrians and the appearance of the area should be given priority.

IB commented on inconsiderate cycling and speeding by some cyclists.

Cllr. Burgess said that cyclists need to be more visible.

**ACTION**: All members to read the Cycle Forum response and forward any comments to SD.

## 8.13 HALC /CLC

The HALC AGM is on 13<sup>th</sup> November. IB is to attend.

#### 9. HTCP

JA circulated her report prior to the meeting. The main points relevant to the HDNC area:

<u>Riverside Walk Footpath Improvements</u>: Following liaison between HTCP and the company developing Prewett's Mill, dialogue is now taking place to instigate the improvements regarding footpath surfacing and planting.

<u>Horsham District Heritage Trail</u>: This joint project between the Horsham District Community Partnerships is progressing well. The estimated total cost of the project is £90k. HDC Museum Curator, Jeremy Knight is leading with the fund application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. If this is successful it is hoped to complete the project by September 2018.

<u>HTCP AGM</u>: This was held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017. At the AGM JA formally resigned as Chair of HTCP. David Searle, who previously had been Vice Chair, was formally voted in as Chair. The revised HTCP Action Plan was adopted at this meeting as well as some amendments to the HTCP Articles of Association.

TM asked for acknowledgement that HDNC represents local residents regarding Horsham Park through its Memorandum of Understanding with HDC.

**HTCP Action Plan**: The following 3 project areas will be the focus of the HTCP Action Plan for the next five year period. These are:-

- 1) <u>Horsham Park</u>: How the Park can be used and what it can offer while at the same time preserving this valuable green space for the community.
- 2) <u>Transport:</u> i) Producing inter-linked information on bus routes in and around Horsham ii) Developing a proficiency training scheme for mobility buggy users.
- 3) Horsham Riverside Walk -in terms of final footpath improvements.

<u>Horsham District Year of Culture 2019</u>: HTCP Director Ron Bates represented HTCP at this event, and following the event, HTCP has been approached by artist Alison Turnbull who is interested in installing public art on and round the Riverside Walk and tying these into heritage walks.

<u>Riverside Walk Benches, Hills Farm Lane:</u> Due to construction work for the new road to the West of Horsham Development, some HTCP benches will need to be moved; David Searle and Janet Fraser are to discuss this with Evan Giles, HDC.

#### 10. Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum

There was a Steering Group meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and a meeting with Norman Kwan at HDC on 11<sup>th</sup> October to discuss progress.

Work is being done to develop policies and Norman Kwan gave advice on which local areas had produced plans considered to be good examples.

#### 11. Members' Questions and Comments

JA thanked everyone for her leaving gift and card and wished HDNC future success.

#### 12. Reports from District and County Councillors

# **HDC Councillor David Skipp**

<u>Pirie's Place Car Park</u>; At the planning meeting the previous evening it had been agreed in principle to demolish and rebuild the carpark. The proposal is to have 4 to 5 levels. (See also comments by Cllr. Burgess).

NH asked what would happen to the flats next to the carpark. Cllr. Skipp said that there is a gap between the flats and the carpark, but he doesn't know the practical plans.

<u>Town Warden Scheme</u>: This scheme is run in other parts of the District. At present there is not a big police presence in Horsham and it has been suggested that Town Wardens could fill this gap, provide a regular presence and instil more confidence. The scheme is successful in Ashington.

The wardens are paid for by the Parish Councils; although Neighbourhood Council would not be able to provide funding, TM commented that Jonathan Chowen, HDC, had suggested it could be possible to increase the special charge.

Cllr. Skipp replied that the cost of two wardens would be approx. £70k per annum but it was too early to predict what the cost to individual residents would be.

Cllr. Burgess reported that North Horsham Parish Council is looking into having Wardens and it is expected that it would mean a £15 to £17 increase per annum for the precept.

DS confirmed that Greg Charman has done a report on the current use of the scheme.

**ACTION**: SD to ask GC for a copy of the report.

<u>Increase in rough sleepers</u>: TM asked if there was an increase in rough sleepers in the Town e.g. West Walk. Cllr. Skipp said there was not an increase. Six rough sleepers, who come into Horsham from other areas, had been identified, and the HDC Housing Department is trying to sort out accommodation for them.

#### **HDC Councillor Peter Burgess**

<u>Pirie's Place carpark</u>: The expected cost is around £7.25million. The carpark would have between 350 to 500 spaces and may include shops on the ground level, and the estimated completion date is the end of 2018. Ben Golds, HDC, is looking into to providing alternative temporary carparks.

<u>Sunday Street Food Competition</u>: The public will be able to judge which is the best Street Food stall.

<u>Burstow Court, Bishopric</u>: The opening of this accommodation for the homeless has resulted in only 8 families remaining in B and B accommodation.

<u>Year of Culture</u>: It will cover a wide range of activities from photography to Morris dancing and aims to show that 'Culture is Fun'. There is a film on about it on YouTube.

<u>Proposed Nursery in Pondtail Road</u>: The planning application for the Rising Sun Pub site should be considered by HDNC as although it is in the NHPC area, there have been some objections from Denne residents. The proposed Nursery would have 80 places and long opening hours and there is a concern about the increase in traffic.

# **WSCC Councillor Nigel Dennis:**

<u>Railway Subway</u>: The Asset Management Team is looking into the state of the subway as the tarmac surface is unsatisfactory.

<u>Parkfield</u>: A resident enquired if this road could be included in the CPZ. However there is a split in views of the residents so Cllr. Dennis is not sure that he can promote the idea.

<u>Next CLC Meeting</u>: This is to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> November and Cllr. Dennis suggested that an HDNC representative should attend as changes to the CPZ are to be discussed as well as proposals to use the WSCC/ HDC Parkside Carpark for public use in the evenings. The Agenda will be published soon.

<u>Traffic lights at junction of Wimblehurst Rd and North Parade</u>: This had been discussed in item 8.7. before Cllr. Dennis's arrival. JA reiterated the details of the recent accident. Cllr. Dennis said that he would ask for this problem to be investigated.

#### **13. Meeting closed at** 9pm

**Date of next meeting:** 16.11.17.

The date of the December meeting is to be decided as 21st is too near to Christmas.

December 14<sup>th</sup> was suggested.

**ACTION:** SD to check the Hall availability for alternative dates.

**ACTION**: Members to advise availability for December 14th.

#### Appendix 1.

#### Responses from residents to HDNC Autumn 2017 Newsletter.

**Oliver Road**: A resident of Oliver Road emailed to raise the issue of parking problems in Oliver Road and to see if it would be possible to put in double yellow lines.

**Pirie's Place Re-development**: A resident who owns the freehold to Fillipo's and Strands Hairdressers in Pirie's Place telephoned with concerns about the redevelopment of the area possibly causing access problems to the businesses.

**Mill Bay Lane**: A resident of Homestream House, Mill Bay Lane, telephoned regarding worn double yellow lanes and the poor state of the footpath.

**Blackbridge Lane**: A resident of Middleton Road emailed regarding problems caused by parking in Blackbridge Lane near the junction of Guildford Road and lack of visibility for drivers at the junction of Blackbridge Lane and Middleton Road.

**Stan's Way**: A resident of Stan's Way telephoned to express interest in HDNC and said he may attend a future meeting.

**Parson's Walk**: A resident of Parson's Walk raised the issue of dog waste not being picked up in his area due to the increase of dog walkers using his road to get to the Riverside Walk.

**Highwood Development**: A resident emailed to enquire to express concern at the lack of shops and facilities on the Development. They also enquired if there are plans for a new station and requested dog waste bins.

Another resident emailed to express concern at the planned closure of the vehicular access off Hills Farm Lane into the Development.