



DENNE NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL

Clerk: Miss Jenny Hartley. 88 Rusper Road, Horsham. RH12 4BN

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*Minutes of the DNC AGM held on Thursday 15th May 2014 at 7pm
in The Church Lounge, London Road Methodist Church
London Road, Horsham.*

MINUTES

1. 2014/116 Attendance and apologies for absence.

Present: Trudie Mitchell (TM), Martin Bruton (MB), Jane Apostolou (JA), Gianni Lozzi (GL), Jo Bull (JB), Ian Botting (IB) and John Moon (JM).

Also present: Clerk: Jenny Hartley and WSCC/HDC Cllr David Sheldon.

Apologies received from: DNC Member Judy Pounds, HDC Cllrs Frances Haigh, David Holmes and WSCC Cllr Nigel Dennis expected later this evening.

2. 2014/117 Election of Chairman for the Council year 2014/15

Following no further nominations being received, MB proposed that TM be elected as Chairman for the for the Council year 2014/15. Proposed MB Seconded: JA

3. 2014/118 Election of Vice Chairman for the Council year 2014/15

Following no further nominations being received, TM proposed MB be elected as Vice Chairman for the for the Council year 2014/15. Proposed IB Seconded GL

4. 2014/119 Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer/Treasurer

Following no further nominations being received, GL was elected as Treasurer for the Council year 2014/15. Proposed: TM Seconded MB

5. 2014/120 Appointment of Roles and Responsibilities

Appointment of Member Roles and Responsibilities agreed.

6. 2014/121 Annual Chairman's Report

Our numbers are still below our full complement but nevertheless it has been a very busy year; my thanks to all members for their contributions throughout the year.

We have welcomed back Jane Apostolou, who has also joined the Planning Committee and Andrew Dickinson was appointed as our Tree Warden in August, he has responded diligently to several planning applications. We have been approached by a potential member, Stephen Cluer, who will be retiring in June and a meeting has been arranged to give him more information and to discuss his interests.

It is disappointing that the biannual meetings between the three Neighbourhood Councils and the HDC Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council have been replaced by un-minuted quarterly meetings with the Town Cabinet Member and Director of Community Services. We will have to monitor if these meetings prove satisfactory.

Major projects 2013-4 included:

North Street and Railway Subway improvements and further work around the Station area.

Denne NC has been constantly working together with Forest Neighbourhood Council to encourage HDC to lead on getting stakeholders, including WSCC, Network Rail and Southern, to co-operate. Evan Giles is now chairing meetings and good progress has been made since March.

After much persistence on our part WSCC Highways did some work on the drainage at the rear of the station in March which seems to have solved the problem of flooding.

West Street Enhancement Programme

DNC participated in monthly stakeholder meetings prior to the opening in November. It is hoped that our contribution in discussions helped towards the successful delivery of the scheme. Although the work of the stakeholder group is now finished there will be a Phase 2 in 2014 to incorporate planting and a Wi-Fi system.

West of Horsham

Site visits, together with the Hills Farm Conservation Group, have taken place throughout the year to monitor progress and discuss any problems

Work on the Hills Farm Lane traffic calming and the South bound bus shelter started in July and was supposed to take 4 weeks, after many complaints about the standard of the work it was eventually completed in March.

Flooding caused problems in December / January and River Walk properties came very close to being flooded as the 1 in 1,000 year flood contour was exceeded. Since then a 400mm bund has been built to protect these properties.

Work on the grade separated junction across the A24 has started and is expected to take 2 years. The new footbridge over the A24 should be open by January 2015. The re-routed Twitten opened in April and the NEAP (playground) is ready to hand over to HDC.

The building of the affordable housing by Windrum Close is in progress, but houses cannot be occupied until detention basin 5 is built. Phase 1c is under construction with target completion May 2015 and work has begun on the Extra Care home with target completion September 2016.

Planning

In 2013 the Planning Committee dealt with 159 planning applications: thanks to Martin Bruton for chairing the committee and sending in excellent responses, which I do believe can influence decisions. It is so important to protect our area from unsuitable development and an excess of advertising and illuminated signage.

Denne responded to major applications including several plans for West of Horsham; the redevelopment of the Lifestyle Ford site as a combined Waitrose and John Lewis at Home; the amended High Ropes Course at the Pavilions; a revised application for sheltered housing in Hurst Road; various proposals to redevelop Linden House and most recently a consultation for redeveloping Norfolk House.

Denne submitted an objection to the Horsham District Planning Framework preferred option to build the majority of houses required in North Horsham.

Further meetings have been held with HDC in September, March and May to discuss constant delays in the planning system and the inaccuracy of the weekly lists. There are some improvements in the pipeline but we will still have to monitor the progress of all applications meanwhile.

During the year we have developed closer links with The Horsham Society which has enabled us to share information on planning applications.

Highways and Transport

The very wet winter caused many potholes in our area and these have been reported via the Love West Sussex website. The main work done has been the Granary Way roundabout and the paving by the Medwin Walk subway. Three Acres resurfacing is scheduled for 2014-5.

Denne supported the permanent TRO for pedestrianizing East Street and sent in responses to consultations on the LSTF cycle route and traffic signals as well as commenting on the proposal for CPZ restrictions in Ashleigh Road.

Youth Provision

Thanks to Judy Pounds and Jo Bull, who attended quarterly meetings during the year with HDC, North Horsham Parish Council and the other Neighbourhood Councils. Little active engagement has been required on our part although we did support the successful effort to release the Horsham Youth Club Management Committee funds to the Horsham Cluster. The meetings have reported on progress of the Youth workers and their various activities. Clare Ebelewicz took a sabbatical year in October to project manage a charity in Swaziland.

S106

HDC has prepared a list of available Open Spaces contributions and suggested uses for the money. Local Councils were asked to submit their own ideas; schemes have yet to be prioritised but Denne has requested a gym trail and improved signage for Horsham Park.

All the Neighbourhood Councils were asked by HDC to agree to provide funding from our Community Facilities and Open Spaces sources for schemes to benefit the whole town, (a new Pavilion for Trinity Cricket Club and for disabled sports facilities at Collyers College).

HDC Emergency Planning

Flooding proved to be the main hazard this winter in Horsham along the courses of Boldings Brook and the River Arun. Thanks to Ian Botting for responding to the request from HDC to identify vulnerable areas.

Denne NC was also involved in helping residents in Longfield Road who experienced flooding in their gardens and was invited to a meeting between the Environment Agency and the TRITAR conservation group in Tanbridge Park.

Police

We have had better regular contact with our local PCSOs.

HALC and CLC Meetings

Denne continues to attend these meetings although support from most Parishes is disappointing. Thanks to John Moon who has represented Denne.

Market Working Group

There was a long gap between meetings from November 2012 to January 2014 and another meeting was held in May. Jo Bull and Judy Pounds represented Denne but we have not been called on to take a more active role.

Horsham Park

The Memorandum of Understanding which was initiated in 2010 was finally signed in May 2014

Meetings have taken place throughout the year with Evan Giles and Denne has put forward suggestions for a new gym trail and for improved signage including maps at the main entrances. This proposal has the support of Cllr Jonathan Chowen who will discuss means of funding with Cabinet colleagues.

Christmas Lights

Denne was involved in discussions for the new contract and there was general approval of the style of lights chosen. It was noted that there should always be a traditional Christmas Tree as a focal point in future.

Dressed for Success

The NCs jointly supported the Christmas period promotion again giving a prize in the Market Stall category; however the response was very disappointed and the value of our prize was reduced accordingly. Hopefully there will be something different to encourage trade for Christmas 2014.

Town Signage

Denne was consulted on the proposed finger post and monolith signage for the town centre but so far is not aware of any decision.

Neighbourhood Planning

Following legal advice and the joint Neighbourhood Councils meeting held on 9th May 2013 it was agreed that the three Councils would initiate a bid to create a Neighbourhood Forum for the whole un-parished area; as this is the only way our area can produce a Neighbourhood Plan. The name Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum was chosen and Cllr. Frances Haigh was asked to Chair the group as she is independent of the NCs (note the Forum is non-political). The Forum has to prove it is representative of the whole area and involve residents and businesses; support has been received from The Horsham Society, HTCP and Horsham in Bloom among others.

Many meetings have taken place since and the group has received consultancy and financial help from Locality. In January exhibitions were held in Swan Walk and the Markets and there was a Public Meeting in Park Barn. Many people showed interest which enabled Blueprint to go ahead with its Inaugural General Meeting in March when the constitution was approved and a Steering Committee elected.

Since then a submission has been made to Horsham District Council who have to agree the area and proposal for a Neighbourhood Forum. HDC have requested a few minor changes which will be completed imminently

Horsham Town Community Partnership

Martin Bruton continues to represent Denne as a director on the board but we now receive reports directly from Jane Apostolou who is Chair of HTCP. The main progress is on the Riverside Walk project which we fully support.

Finally I will repeat what I said last year and hope that 2014-5 will prove successful for Denne and our Council continues to challenge and support activities and projects in our Neighbourhood. We are now involved in so many different activities and our views are taken seriously by HDC and WSCC.

Thanks again to all members of DNC for their contributions over the year and to Jen Hartley, our clerk who has given me so much help and support.

8. 2014/123 Annual Financial

See Appendix I

GL talked Members through his annual financial report. Proposed MB . Seconded : JM.

GL updated Members on the current situation regarding online banking.

9. 2014/124 Approval of the AGM minutes from the meeting held on 16.05.13

Minutes approved. Proposed: MB Seconded: JM

There being no further business the Chairman closed the AGM at 19.40pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DNC Financial Report 2013/14

Opening Balance	£ 3012.23	(from Bank Statement at 30/04/2013)
Income 2013/14		
HDC Grant 2013/14	£ 4936.00	
Total Income 2013/14	£ 4936.00	
Expenditure 2013/14		
Clerk Jenny Hartley	£ 2842.12	(from April 2013 to January 2014)
Methodist Church x Hire Hall	£ 239.00	(From April 2013 to December 2013)
Liability Insurance	£ 243.80	(Zurich)
Gift Voucher	£ 25.00	(Michael leaving present)
Clerk Stationery	£ 83.20	(Jenny Hartley)
Chair Stationery	£ 103.66	(Trudie Mitchell)
SALC	£ 60.00	(Chairs Meeting)
Solicitor Costs (1/3 share)	£ 51.16	(Forest Neighbourhood Council invoice)
Horsham in Bloom	£ 100.00	DNC Contribution
Dress for Success Award	£ 21.95	(Wine + Frame mount)
Invoice 2012/13 paid in 2013/14	£ 92.00	Legal Assistance (Hedleys Solicitors)
Total 2013/14 Paid	£ 3861.89	
Invoices 2013/14 still to pay		
Methodist Church - estimated	£ 122.00	(from January 2014 to April 2014)
WSCC Clerk J Hartley - estimated	£ 840.00	(from February 2014 to April 2014)
Total 2013/14 still to pay	£ 962.00	
Total Expenditure 2013/14	£ 4823.89	
Balance carried forward to 2014/15	£ 4086.34	(Excluding Unpaid Invoices at 30/04/14)
Balance carried forward to 2014/15	£ 3124.34	(Including Unpaid Invoices at 30/04/14)
Grant for 2014/15 (not received at 30/04/14)	£ 4936.00	(Estimated Amount)

Treasurer

G. Lozzi