



# FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 11 January 2023

**Minutes** of the **Meeting of Fernhurst Parish Council** held at Fernhurst Village Hall on  
**Wednesday 11 January 2023** at 7.00pm

**Councillors Present:** Mrs H Bicknell (Chairman), Mr W Black, Mr J Buchanan, Mr C Lloyd, Mr J Smith, Mr G Williamson.

**In Attendance:** Chichester District Councillor Peter Wilding, K Jones (Clerk).

**01/23 Apologies for Absence:** Mr N Barker, Mr G Inns, Mr M Giffin, Mrs M Jenkins.

**02/23 Declarations of Interests:** None

**03/23 Public Representations:** Mr Simon Flatt addressed the council in support of his application to be a co-opted councillor.

**04/23 Previous Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting of the **14 December 2022** were approved.

**Proposed:** Cllr Smith, seconded, Cllr Lloyd.

**05/23 Matters Arising From The Minutes Not Covered Below:** None.

**06/23 County Council Commentary:** Report received from West Sussex County Councillor Tom Richardson advised of weather-related delays to road surface repair in Vann Road and the adoption of a new road speed limit policy by the County Council.

**07/23 District Council Commentary:** District Councillor Peter Wilding informed the meeting of the impending retirement of long-serving District Councillor Norma Graves who has decided not to stand at the May elections. The Chichester D.C. Local Plan is to be presented for adoption on the 24 January and a consultation period is expected to run from 3 February to 17 March. All Parishes Meeting has been arranged for 6 February; the main item on the agenda will be progress on the Local Plan and how Parishes get involved in the Consultation.

**08/23 Councillor Vacancy:** Mr Simon Flatt addressed the council in support of his application to be co-opted as a councillor. Questions from and to Mr Flatt were subsequently asked and responded to. Cllr Bicknell thanked Mr Flatt for his interest and application and explained that the council would consider his application and that of the other applicant, Mr Robin Sewell.

Following discussion and a vote, the council decided to offer the councillor vacancy to Mr Simon Flatt. **Action: (Clerk)**

**Resolved: To offer the councillor vacancy to Mr Simon Flatt**

**Proposed: Cllr Bicknell, seconded, Cllr Williamson.**

**09/23 HR Meeting:** The date of 30 January at 14:30 was agreed, at Fernhurst Hub, if available. **(Action: Clerk)**

**10/23 S.106 & CIL Money:** No progress to report.

**11/23 E-Mail & Website Facilities:** A recommendation is to be presented at the February meeting. **Action: (Clerk)**

**12/22 Fernhurst Club & Fernhurst Youth Club:** It is understood that the sale of the residential accommodation portion of the Fernhurst Club has been completed.

**13/23 Neighbourhood Plan:** No report.

**14/15/23 Fernhurst Christmas Tree – Christmas Party:** The “Christmas Tree” had been placed an illuminated and a well-attended evening enjoyed by many on the 6 December. The physical specimen supplied was poor and a different supplier would be used next year. A licence for the 2023 event from Chichester District Council is to be applied for. **Action: (Clerk)**

The chairman invited the views of councillors as to the advantages and disadvantages of an evening or daytime event for the Christmas Party. Following discussion, it was agreed to hold the event on Sunday 10 December 2023, daytime, and book the Village Hall between the hours of 10:00 – 17:00. **Action: (Cllr Bicknell)**

**16/23 Fernhurst Retail Facilities:** The council has become aware that the owners of the premises at 6 Midhurst Road have applied for an alcohol off-licence. The meeting expressed its universal concern that the granting of the licence would greatly increase the risk of renewing the problems of under-age drinking in the village fuelling anti-social behaviour. The clerk was instructed to prepare the council’s representations. **Action: (Clerk)**

**17/23 May Elections:** The clerk was instructed to act as the nominated person from which election nomination papers may be sourced. **Action: (Clerk)**

**18/23 Fernhurst Water Drainage Issues:** The recent heavy rain has exposed the vulnerability of drains to become almost completely blocked; particularly at Hogs Hill/Old Glebe, Church Road and Vann Road. West Sussex Highways are to be prompted to keep these drains unblocked. **Action: (Clerk)**

**19/23 Skateboard Park:** The council had received a request for a skateboard park in the village. Whilst sympathetic to the request the council agreed it had neither any suitable land nor the financial resources to provide one. Fernhurst Recreation Ground was identified as a possible site and enquires would be made as to the views of the recreation ground trustees. **Action: (Clerk)**

**20/23 Income & Expenditure & Balance Sheet 31 December 2022:** The documents had previously been circulated to councillors and the council’s financial position was deemed satisfactory.

**21/23 Correspondence & Other Matters:** None to report.

## 22/23 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

### Finance and Administration

- Bank reconciliations for December were approved.  
**Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded, Cllr Lloyd**
- List of payments for January were approved.  
**Proposed Cllr Smith, Seconded Cllr Lloyd**

### Planning Committee

- Chairman's Comments: None to note.
- Planning Committee meeting minutes of the **8 December 2022 & 3 January 2023** were received and noted.

### Property, Highways and Environment Committee:

- Cllr Black updated the meeting on outstanding work and projects. A quotation is awaited from Mike Fordham on the Fernden Lane bus shelter project. Quotations are required to implement the work identified in the tree survey. A full quotation is awaited on the planned memorial restoration work in the cemetery. Mr James Sawers of MacDonald Oates is to be contacted in relation to holdings of the council's land title deeds.  
The council has accepted the offer of a sign from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to be attached to the cemetery entrance. **Action: (Clerk)**

## 23/23 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** The continuing uncertainty as to the future of Fernhurst Youth Club was noted with the trustees noting the situation.
- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** A new acting chairman has been appointed. The council noted the installation of the new projector and stage-lights in the main hall.
- **Policing:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** The relatively low current pupil numbers were noted. A school open-day is apparently planned.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** The trustees are planning for a full reopening of the pavilion in May.

**Date of Next Meeting: 8 February 2023**

**Chairman Signed:** .....

**Date:**