



# FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 18 September 2024

**Minutes** of the **Meeting of Fernhurst Parish Council** held at Fernhurst Village Hall on  
**Wednesday 18 September 2024** at 7.00pm

**Councillors Present:** Mrs H Bicknell (Chairman), Mr J Buchanan, Mr Simon Flatt,  
Mr C Honeyman Brown, Mr G Inns, Mrs M Jenkins, Mr C Lloyd, Mr G Williamson.

**In Attendance:** Chichester District Councillor Eleanora Newbery, and K Jones (Clerk).

**108/24 Apologies For Absence:** Mr P Bellet, Mr B Black, Mr Ms S Strongman.

**109/24 Declarations of Interests:** None.

**110/24 Public Representations:** None.

**111/24 Previous Minutes:** Approval and adoption of the minutes of the meeting of **17 July 2024** was deferred to the October meeting.

**112/24 Matters Arising From the Minutes:** None not considered below.

**113/24 County Council Commentary:** None to note.

**114/24 District Council Commentary:** Chichester District Councillor Eleanora Newbery presented her report. Planning Inspectors to the District Council's Local Plan have been appointed and CDC has received the "Matters, Issues & Questions" which will inform discussion at the hearings.

£9,000 has been allocated to support community orchard schemes.

Public EV charging points within the Crossfield car park remain a possibility.

The currently empty unit in the Crossfield precinct may re-open as an Indian restaurant.

**115/24 Clerk's Replacement:** Elizabeth Ford has been offered and accepted the position of Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer to Fernhurst Parish Council. Elizabeth will start on the 30 September and there will be a one month handover period with the current clerk.

**116/24 Review of Council Policies & Regulations:** A review continues to be required of the following policies and regulations:

Standing Orders – Financial Regulations – Code of Conduct – Risk Assessments

**Action: (Clerk & Councillors)**

**117/24 Road Safety:** The council continues to support Fernhurst Primary School in its efforts to improve local road safety and has designated funds available to do so if required. The TRO to reduce the 50mph speed limit to 40mph is reaching its long drawn out conclusion. Implementation of new signage will bring further delay.

**118/24 Christmas Arrangements:** The Licence for the Christmas Lights is still awaited from Chichester District Council. With the retirement of Terry Layphries, a new suitably qualified and certified electrician will have to be engaged. John Jordan is to be contacted to secure erection of a Christmas Tree. Nick Haigh is retiring at the end of October and a suitable replacement is needed. **Action: (Clerk)**

**119/24 Grant Applications:** The clerk was instructed to circulate via email invitations to apply for a grant from the Council to suitable applicants. **Action: (Clerk)**

## **120/24 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE & OTHER MATTERS**

**Councillor Comments:** Cllr Inns informed the meeting of a video production available on the 2 or 3 October promoting information on the protection of disabled and other vulnerable people.

The clerk was instructed to place an advertisement in the Fernhurst News to raise awareness of Fly-Tipping and overgrown hedges impeding use of public footpaths. **Action: (Clerk)**

**Clerk Comments:** The clerk advised that at very short notice the council's telephone line had been switched from analogue to digital on July 11: disabling the council's telephone connection.

Some councillors had expressed dissatisfaction with the Village Hall as a meeting place conducive to the council's business. An alternative, the Fernhurst HUB was discussed and after the discussion the following resolution was carried.

**Excepting the Annual Parish Meeting, Council business in 2025 will be conducted in the Fernhurst HUB.**

### **Proposed Cllr Jenkins, seconded Cllr Lloyd**

#### **Finance and Administration**

- Chairman's Comments: None.

July & August Bank Reconciliations, July, August & September Payments were not presented for approval..

#### **Planning Committee**

- Chairman's Comments: None.

#### **Property, Highways & Environment Committee**

- Chairman's Comments: None to note.

There were no updates on Local Issues.

**Date of Next Meeting: 16 October 2024**

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

**Date:**