



FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday 8 November 2023

Minutes of the **Meeting of Fernhurst Parish Council** held at Fernhurst Village Hall on **Wednesday 8 November 2023** at 7.00pm

Councillors Present:, Mr W Black (Vice-Chairman), Mr J Buchanan, Mr S Flatt, Mr G Inns, Mrs M Jenkins, Mr C Lloyd, Ms S Strongman, Mr G Williamson.

In Attendance: Chichester District Councillor Brett Burkhart, K Jones (Clerk).

185/23 Apologies For Absence: Mrs H Bicknell, Mr M Giffin.

186/23 Declarations of Interests: None.

187/23 Public Representations: None.

188/23 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting of the **11 October 2023** were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Flatt, seconded, Cllr Lloyd.

189/23 Matters Arising From The Minutes Not Covered Below: Cllr Buchanan advised he had completed and forwarded the Open Space Assessment requested by the South Downs National Park Authority.

The location of the water meter for the public toilets remains unresolved. **Action: (Clerk)** Cllr Inns advised that the Post Office had installed a temporary ramp to enable wheel chair access to the premises'

The placing of an advertisement in the January Fernhurst News to attract candidates for the councillor vacancy was agreed. **Action: (Clerk)**

190/23 County Council Commentary: None.

191/23 District Council Commentary: Chichester District Councillor Brett Burkhart had provided a written report on CDC activity at the District level on a range of issues.

The Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund were highlighted as possible sources of finance for local projects.

The Chichester District Local Plan continues to progress to adoption. The policy on Active Travel has proven problematic but Chichester MP, Gillian Keegan, has intervened with the Department For Transport to resolve issues.

192/23 Review of Council Standing Orders: The review being incomplete the matter was deferred. **Action: (Clerk)**

193/23 E-Mail & Website Facilities: Official e-mail addresses to be created for Cllrs Strongman and Williamson. The clerk was instructed to produce an updated Councillor Contact list. **Action: (Clerk)**

It was agreed to approach Brand Marquee to establish if they could assist. **Action: (Cllr Flatt / Clerk)**

194/23 Christmas Arrangements: Cllr Strongman agreed to assist with the preparations for the 10 December Christmas Party. **Action: (Cllr Strongman)**

The licence for the Christmas Lights was still being progressed from CDC. **Action: (Clerk)**
Christmas tree: The clerk was instructed to source a suitable tree and arrange its installation and de-installation for the 5 December Christmas Lights event. **Action: (Clerk)**

195/23 Grant Applications: The following Grant Applications were considered and voted upon:

Fernhurst Lunch Club: £500

Resolved: To accept the Fernhurst Lunch Club £500 grant application. (Local Government Act 1972 S.137)

Proposed: Cllr Strongman, seconded, Cllr Lloyd

Fernhurst Village Hall: £1,466

Resolved: To accept the Fernhurst Village Hall £1,466 grant application (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 S.19)

Proposed: Cllr Buchanan, seconded, Cllr Lloyd

196/23 Bank Deposit Accounts: An application has been made for a 35-day Notice Deposit Account with NatWest – to be progressed. **Action: (Clerk)**

197/23 Bus Shelter – Kingsley Green: The option of a bespoke wood shelter is being progressed. The first step will be to establish if planning permission is required via Chichester District Council. **Action: (Clerk)**

198/23 Playground Refurbishment: A revised quotation has been received from the currently preferred supplier. Subject to a satisfactory site meeting with the Village Ranger in attendance it was agreed to accept the revised quotation for the Matta supply and installation. It was agreed that technically the Matta product offered by far the best and most durable solution to the safety surface issue. The product was deemed much easier to repair and maintain than competing products. The installation came with a 10 year warranty, competing products with a 4 or 5 year warranty. Waverley Borough Council had expressed satisfaction with the supplier and inspections of a playground had proved very favourable.

Resolved: To accept the revised quotation for the Matta safety surface installation at the playground.

Proposed: Cllr Buchanan, seconded, Cllr Inns.

199/23 Draft Council Budget 2024/2025: The meeting scrutinised the draft budget prepared by the Finance Committee and previously circulated to all councillors. Subject to an increase of £500 in Entertaining Expenses the budget was adopted.

Resolved: To Adopt the Draft 2024/2025 Budget with the addition of an extra £500 expenditure under the “Entertaining Expenses” heading. The Council Tax Precept for 2024/2025 is set at £76,250.

Proposed: Cllr Lloyd, seconded Cllr Buchanan

200/23 Correspondence & Other Matters: The clerk advised the meeting that the Local Government Association and the three trade unions representing the unionised local government officers had agreed the 2023/2024 pay offer. The revised pay agreement leaves the clerk’s salary unchanged from that authorised in October.

201/23 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

Finance and Administration

- Bank reconciliations for October were not available for approval.
- List of payments for November was not available owing to date of the meeting.

Planning Committee

- Chairman’s Comments: None to note.

Property, Highways and Environment Committee:

- Chairman’s Comments: None to note.

202/23 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** No report to note.
- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** No report to note.
- **Policing:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** No report to note.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** None to note.

Date of Next Meeting: 13 December 2023

Chairman Signed:

Date: