



**FERNHURST
PARISH
COUNCIL**

**Parish Council Meeting
Minutes
Wednesday 14 December 2022**

Minutes of the Meeting of Fernhurst Parish Council held at Fernhurst Village Hall on
Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 7.00pm

Councillors Present: Mrs H Bicknell (Chairman), Mr M Giffin, Mrs M Jenkins, Mr C Lloyd, Mr J Smith, Mr G Williamson.

In Attendance: K Jones (Clerk)

167/22 Apologies for Absence: Mr N Barker, Mr W Black, Mr J Buchanan, Mr G Inns.

168/22 Declarations of Interests: None.

169/22 Public Representations: None.

170/22 Previous Minutes: The Minutes of the meeting of the **9 November 2022** were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Williamson, seconded, Cllr Jenkins.

171/22 Matters Arising From The Minutes Not Covered Below: None.

172/22 County Council Commentary: West Sussex County Councillor Tom Richardson had advised of much needed impending work to unblock the road drains serving Hogs Hill.

173/22 District Council Commentary: None to report.

174/22 Councillor Vacancy: Mr Robin Sewell addressed the council in support of his application to be co-opted as a councillor. Questions from and to Mr Sewell were subsequently asked and responded to. Madame Chairman thanked Mr Sewell for his interest and application and explained that the other applicant was unable to attend the meeting tonight for reasons outside of their control. The other applicant would be interviewed at the January meeting when a decision would be made.

175/22 Council Budget & Precept 2023/2024: Following discussion it was agreed to adopt the final draft (V2) budget which included a Council Tax Precept of £76,250.

Resolved: To approve and adopt the presented budget and a council tax precept of **£76,250** for the **2023/2024** financial year.

Proposed: Cllr Bicknell, seconded Cllr Smith.

176/22 HR Meeting: To be arranged for January 2023. **(Action: Clerk)**

177/22 S.106 & CIL Money: There was no report owing to the absence of Cllrs. Barker and Buchanan.

178/22 E-Mail & Website Facilities: The clerk had spent some time evaluating potential suppliers. Several businesses active in the provision of these services to parish councils had been identified but on enquiry all were one person businesses, one had two employees and the other had numerous employees. The businesses with more than one employee were more expensive than the sole traders. **Action: (Clerk)**

179/22 Fernhurst Club & Fernhurst Youth Club: Madame Chairman had contacted one of the trustees of the Fernhurst Club listed on the Charity Commission website. The trustee denied any knowledge of his official status and any involvement with the management of the charity.

The council understands the trustees of the Fernhurst Youth Club are to hold a meeting to contemplate the future of the charity.

180/22 Neighbourhood Plan: No report owing to the absence of Cllr Buchanan.

181/22 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)**

It is hoped the front door to the Village Hall is functioning for the Christmas Party on the 18 December.

182/22 Fernhurst Retail Facilities: The former newsagent premises appears to be re-opening as a convenience store.

183/22 Correspondence & Other Matters: The council noted the Boundary Commission “consultation” on proposed Parliamentary Boundary changes affecting Fernhurst and the extremely brief response period allowed.

The clerk advised the council that the interim audit report for 2022/2023 had now been received and awaited his attention.

184/22 MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

Finance and Administration

- Bank reconciliations for November were approved.
Proposed Cllr Giffin, seconded, Cllr Williamson
- List of payments for December were approved.
Proposed Cllr Giffin, Seconded Cllr Williamson
- Finance Committee meeting minutes of the **11 April 2022** were received and noted.

Planning Committee

- Chairman’s Comments: None.
- Planning Committee meeting minutes of the **12 October & 14 November 2022** were received and noted.

Property, Highways and Environment Committee:

- In the absence of Cllr Black, Cllr Jenkins updated the meeting on the various project and maintenance initiatives in progress with reference to the Public Toilets, Cemetery and Playground.
The council accepted the offer of a sign from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to be attached to the cemetery entrance. **Action: (Clerk)**
- Property, Highways & Environment Committee minutes of the **10 October 2022** were received and noted

185/22 UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

- **Services and Facilities for Young People:** The continuing uncertainty as to the future of Fernhurst Youth Club was noted.
- **Fernhurst Village Hall:** The non-functioning front door awaited repair.
- **Policing:** The council had received numerous emails from Sussex Police Neighbourhood Policing which invariably contradicted the previous email. The possibly correct information supplied about the appointment of a solitary PCSO to be responsible for “Neighbourhood Policing” across numerous parishes in the north of the CDC area does not lead to the expectation of any regular police presence in the parish.
- **Fernhurst Primary School:** No report.
- **Fernhurst Recreation Ground:** No development to report.

Date of Next Meeting: 11 January 2023

Chairman Signed:

Date: