

Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th August 2021



Venue: Wesley Hall, Methodist Church, London Rd, Horsham

Item	Detail
1	Meeting Opened at 7.00pm and Welcome from the Chair
2	Attendance and apologies for absence: Attending – HDNC: Chair - Trudie Mitchell, Judy Pounds, Chris Osborne, Ian Botting HDC Cllrs: Tony Hogben, Cabinet member for Horsham Town, Parking and Communications (left 7.35pm), Ruth Fletcher, Peter Burgess (arrived 7.35pm), WSCC Cllrs. John Milne, Andrew Baldwin (arrived 7.45pm), Nigel Dennis (arrived 7.55pm) Clerk – Sara Doy Apologies: HDNC: Robyn Hathaway, Chris Ball, Gianni Lozzi, Nigel Hillpaul HDC Cllrs. Frances Haigh, Belinda Walters
3	Declaration of Members' Interests TM – Blueprint
4	Approval of Minutes from meeting held on 15.7.21: Approval proposed by TM, seconded by JP and agreed by all.
5	Matters arising from last reports and Action points All Action points had been dealt with or were in hand.
6	<u>Chair's Report</u> <u>Meetings Attended</u> 20/07/2021 Quarterly Meeting NC Chairs and HDC 27/07/2021 Park Site Visit JP and TM (see 8.10) 29/07/2021 Highwood CHS application (see 8.8) <u>Future Meetings:</u> None <u>Quarterly Meeting 20th July:</u> The notes will be circulated to Members when agreed by HDC but the main points affecting Denne were updates on the Blueprint referendum, the Drill Hall and Kaya Café. Meetings are to be arranged for the NC Chairs with Cllr. Roger Noel, Cabinet

	Member for Leisure and Culture and Vicky Wise, Head of Leisure and Culture to discuss Rookwood and facilities in the town; with Clive Burley to update the NCs on projects pertaining to the un-parished area; and with Sharon Evans, Head of Legal and Democratic Services to discuss NC governance. <u>Local Plan Postponed:</u> The Government are now requiring Local Plans to include a 30-year vision; this will incur changes to the Horsham Local Plan to make it acceptable to the Inspector. It has been queried as to whether Horsham has a 5-year land supply and if not it is vulnerable to speculative planning applications. <u>West Sussex Proposed Boundary Changes:</u> HDNC had queried the boundary changes. JM advised that the changes are to equalise the size of parliamentary constituencies to account for population shifts. The South East population has increased so there will be 7 more seats one of which is in Sussex. The boundary review is very overdue and the changes are good from a democratic point of view.
7	<u>Clerk's report</u> <u>Website:</u> RH agreed to look after the website so SD met up with her to run through what was required. SD will produce a list of amendments as some information needs updating. <u>Newsletter:</u> SD completed the draft with help from TM and circulated it to members for their comments. SD will obtain quotes for the printing and also for delivery. She knows a student who could help with the delivery. IB queried the mention of affordable housing in the Rookwood item. <u>ACTION:</u> IB to email SD with his comment. <u>Estate Agent Boards:</u> SD reported two new estate agent signs which had been fixed to the Blackbridge Court street sign. <u>HDNC Carfax Noticeboard:</u> The broken glass in one of the doors has still not been replaced. SD chased this up with HDC/Property. <u>Southern Water Drought Plan consultation:</u> Having discussed the plan with TM, SD submitted a response which was copied to members. <u>County Local Forums:</u> As the CLC public meetings will no longer be held WSCC has proposed holding County Local Forums instead for a one-year trial. Views on how the Neighbourhood and Parish Councils would want to be involved were sought. As discussed with TM, SD responded that the Forum seems to be mainly for public benefit. HDNC's main concern is how we will receive reports on Highways projects in future. AB commented that he is disappointed as the CLC was the only forum that members of the public could take part in.

	Reports from Members:
8.1	Finance GL provided the following report prior to the meeting: Payments made since 12.7.21: WSCC Clerk's July salary = £352.27 Zurich Insurance = £196.00 Balance @ 15.7.21 = £6516.61 <u>Bank Safeguarding Review:</u> GL is still trying to resolve the demand for further identification with HSBC.
8.2	Section 106 and CIL Nothing to report.
8.3	<u>Planning</u> <u>Hospital Car Park DC/21/0906:</u> The application has been received to introduce an ANPR payment system but very little information has been given about the operation of the system or changes to the carpark layout or cycle parking. These points were put to the Case Officer but there has not been a response yet. <u>Aldi DC/21/1413:</u> HDNC has queried the rationale for another supermarket in this part of Horsham and also questioned various aspects of the plan including the alignment of the building with the road, exit conflict with Waitrose traffic and the removal of the trees bordering the street scene. A reply has been received from the Case Officer and HDNC will submit a formal objection once other consultees have responded.
8.4	Highwood <u>Open Spaces transfer:</u> Several areas of open land have now been legally transferred from Berkeley's to HDC and HDNC received copies of the documents for reference.
8.5	Community Services – Youth JP provided a report which was circulated. The main points were: Youth Groups: These have been able to re-open without restriction or a need to book. Schools: The teams continue to offer one-to-one sessions at all the secondary schools. Real Loves Rocks: This course was successfully run in Tanbridge, Bohunt and Millais. It is also supported by the Wardens and HDC Community Safety Officer. Transition: Tanbridge has requested a weekly lesson advising on transition into work or

	further education. Mobile Community Hub: As sessions in Horsham Park were not successful it has moved to Bennetts Field. The Needles sessions are the most popular. The Hub is invited to events organised by the Wardens and Police. Suicide support: Following two recent tragic incidents 4TheYouth have provided extra support in schools and have been involved in a multi-agency response. Horsham District Safe and Well Partnership during August: As part of this work the Town Centre Wellbeing Centre has hosted drop-in information sessions Years 7 to 11. 4TheYouth and Southwater Youth Project are delivering support sessions in various locations including Horsham Park and the Needles. <u>Upcoming Tender of Youth Contract 2022-23:</u> JP and TM have been in communication with HDC. There is to be a meeting between HDC and the three Neighbourhood Councils on 7/9/21 to discuss the contract.
8.6	Community Services – Older People <u>Older Peoples’ Forum Meeting 12/8/21:</u> CO attended the meeting and her notes were circulated. The main points were: Chatty Cafes: (See June minutes) Funds have been received to enable leaflets to be produced. Age UK, Lavinia House: Stacey Cullen, Development Manager is leaving soon. It has been noted that Lavinia House has had a drop in attendance. RF heard that the drop is partly due to the pandemic and a lack of community transport. The previous good social atmosphere is missing and activities may need to be modernised. HDC Cllr. Frances Haigh is to talk to the Trustees. PB commented that a lot of the volunteers had left. Forthcoming meetings: The next HDOPF committee meeting is on 31/8/21. The next HDOPF Public meeting is on 7/9/21 and will include Laura Roberts from NHS and Jenny Blimpson from Chatty Cafes.
8.7	Community Services – NHS and Social Services Nothing to report.
8.8	Highways and Transport <u>Highwood /A24 Junction:</u> TM had a meeting on 29th July to assist the Residents’ Group, who were able to submit the Community Highways Scheme before the end July cut-off date for consideration this year; receipt has been confirmed. RF had been in contact with Broadbridge Heath Parish Council who expressed support for the proposal. The residents are looking to submit further evidence of support before the scheme is evaluated against the WSCC matrix in October, if prioritised a decision as to whether the application will progress to the next stage will be made in December or January.

	<u>West Parade Contraflow Cycling Scheme:</u> The WSCC Project Manager Peter Bradley consulted HDNC as although West Parade is in the Trafalgar area there are two road crossings included (North Parade and Wimblehurst Rd) which are in Denne. Members were asked for comments and a meeting will be arranged with PB to discuss queries raised. JP queried the loss of a parking space in West Parade as it is usually occupied. ND commented that some of the houses have their garages at the rear. RF added that most residents are in favour. <u>Blackbridge Lane Community Highways Scheme:</u> One objection was raised to the consultation about the removal of parking spaces; HDNC reiterated that spaces are rarely occupied. <u>Needles Close TRO:</u> JM brought this matter to the attention of HDNC; there seems to be a lack of communication between WSCC and HDNC. Fortunately, HDNC has no objection to the proposal to introduce double yellow lines. <u>Abandoned Shopping Trolleys:</u> Another problem arose with an abandoned Wilkinson's Trolley in Hills Farm Lane. Several attempts to speak to a manager eventually resulted in Wilkinson's taking no responsibility for recovering their property as their personnel had not been risk assessed. Fortunately, HDC collected the trolley next morning classing it as fly tipping. <u>Road Works:</u> August 22nd -24th Albion Way will be closed overnight so resurfacing can take place. JM confirmed that local residents will be informed. <u>Blocked Drain in Guildford Rd:</u> The drain outside No. 5 is blocked again (water sometimes ponds to the other carriageway), it takes a very long time for the water to disappear. The WSCC Highways Steward told HDNC that only standard scheduled maintenance is taking place unless there is danger to life or property; fortunately, the next maintenance check is in October.
8.9	Communications NH provided a report prior to the meeting: <u>Social Media:</u> Twitter now has 220 followers; Facebook is quieter.
8.10	Park/Countryside and Leisure <u>Horsham Park Management Plan:</u> Pete Crawford, Parks and Countryside Manager gave HDNC and Friends of Horsham Park a preview of the plan before its submission to Cabinet. JP and TM noted that there was very little difference to the draft version but there is an emphasis on prioritising projects. <u>Quarterly Meeting:</u> A site visit took place on 27th July attended by JP and TM. Main items discussed were the Park House Garden and options to bring the water feature back into use; the tree clearance work to be done around the pond; the escalating cost of improving the picnic area and a "cease and desist" order to the café tenants for exceeding their curtilage.

	JP added that the Skate Park is still partially closed. Prior to the tender process going ahead for the new scheme, a further inspection is needed of the foundation to check if it is suitable to support a concrete skating surface.
8.11	Emergency Plan/ Winter Maintenance <u>Southern Water Drought Plan</u>: A response was made on 2nd August querying some aspects of the plan but there has been no acknowledgement.
8.12	Police / Neighbourhood Wardens <u>Wardens' July report</u>: This was circulated prior to the meeting. IB summarised the main points including: Talking Tents: This initiative by the Wardens provided information and signposting in branded gazebos over the summer holidays. Pirie's Place car park: The Wardens dealt with a man climbing over the outside of the car park. (See also Tony Hogben report)
8.13	Town Centre <u>Meetings</u>: It is regrettable that the regular meetings with Clare Mangan and about the market have not taken place this year. RF said that HDC Economic Department is very busy and there is no cover for CM. <u>Carfax Cobbles</u>: PB commented on the very bad state of the cobbles and is concerned that nothing has been done.
8.14	HALC /CLC <u>HALC</u>: HDNC has been kept informed of discussions between HALC and Paul Clarke HDC Leader and Glen Chipp, HDC CEO, specifically regarding the Local Plan. It seems as if better and more frequent communication has been established. <u>HALC Meeting 4/8/21</u>: The minutes and notes from IB were circulated prior to the meeting. IB gave the following summary: HALC has a new Chair and Clerk. HALC wrote a letter to Glen Chipp regarding a lack of communication and it has been agreed that there will be quarterly meetings. HALC is meeting HDC to discuss the Local Plan on 17/9/21. It has been suggested that workshops should be organised possibly in September to enable the Parish and Neighbourhood Councils to discuss the Local Plan with District Councils. A Climate Emergency Group has been set up by HDC and will include two HALC members. The group will look at energy saving measures. <u>CLC</u>: See item 7

9.	HTCP Nothing to report.
10.	Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Forum No further update on the referendum date.
11.	Members' Questions and Comments <u>Overgrown vegetation along Guildford Road – between Hills Farm Lane and roundabout:</u> IB asked who is responsible? ACTION: TM will investigate.
12.	Reports from District and County Councillors Tony Hogben – Cabinet member for Horsham Town, Parking and Communications (TH gave his report at the beginning of the meeting as he had to leave early) <u>Local Plan:</u> TH confirmed that this had been aborted at a late stage as legal advice was sought which advised there should be a delay to accommodate new legislation. Barbara Childs, HDC Director of Place, had hoped the Plan was future-proofed but due to changes to the National Planning Framework HDC now needs to produce a 30-year vision and change some of the wording. It should go to Full Council in November. IB asked about the 5-year housing land supply. TH commented that BC will let a few appeals through otherwise HDC is at risk from speculative development proposals. JM added that some appeals have been dismissed on technical grounds but not on the 5-year supply commitment. <u>Parking:</u> TH advised that income has gone down by £900k in the past year, although income from Pirie's Place car park has increased possibly because it is easier to use. HDC may have to adjust the pricing to compensate for the other less used car parks. JP commented that the minimum charge is quite high for people only needing an hour's parking so many people use Sainsbury's as parking is free to Sainsbury's shoppers. TH talked of 'dynamic' pricing where charges are higher at popular times e.g. lunchtime, Christmas, but this is not legal unless a private company runs the car parks. JM added that due to the government grants HDC are unable to adjust the charges. TH said that the commuter car parks are less busy due to more people working from home. <u>The Forum:</u> Samples of paint are being looked at. The aim is to complete the work before Christmas. The estimated cost of painting is £150k and the surface should last for 5 years, but replacement of some of the grouting will also be needed.

Market: The contract is up for renewal. A company has been commissioned to carry out a review and to look into an indoor market too.

Drill Hall: This should go to Cabinet in September.

Subway: New interactive panels have been put up to promote the District.
RF commented that they are not particularly engaging. IB asked if they are graffiti-proof.
JM said that an EU grant paid for them.

East Street/ Park Place: Since the pandemic the temporary extension to the TRO hours that the road is closed to traffic allowed restaurants to have tables and chairs outside which proved very popular. This will become a permanent arrangement subject to residents agreeing.

Burton's Court Bin Store: The cost of £140k was more than expected so it is unlikely to get signed off. RF commented that in view of the problems faced by residents of Burton's Court during the rebuilding of the car park HDC has a moral responsibility to sort it out.
TH advised that Nigel Weston is to review the costs.

Pirie's Place car park: TM asked if there was any news about the risk assessment for installing fencing on the top storey of the car park, where parkour has taken place, as it would be safer and look better aesthetically. TH will find out.

Nature Recovery Network: This is an inspirational vision to encourage wildlife and biodiversity in developments. There will be a press release soon.

WSSC Councillor John Milne

Adult Social Care charges: There is an enquiry into the cost of adult social care which has increased by 70%. The Health and Social Care Scrutiny committee is to discuss it.
AB commented that the Butterfly Project costs have doubled.

GPs: There is a survey looking at the increase in demand for GPs which is causing a lot of pressure.

West Sussex Transport Plan: The consultation deadline is 8/10/21.

Hills Place TRO: JM is to meet the warden to discuss parking restrictions.

WSSC Councillor Nigel Dennis

Grass cutting: There have been issues with the website with dates shown not always coinciding with when cuts are carried out. The number of cuts has been reduced from 7 to 5

p.a. (it was 9 a few years ago). He has asked if the grass cutting contractor can respond to specific problem areas.

20mph speed limit: A motion had been put to WSCC calling for 20mph speed limits to be facilitated in residential areas where it has the support of the local people (unless it is a major through route). There is a new Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Joy Dennis, and the response should help indicate whether she is more supportive of the concept than her predecessors.

WSCC Councillor Andrew Baldwin

Weedkilling: AB has observed that the weedkilling on roundabouts has not been very effective.

HDC Councillor Ruth Fletcher

Review of Conservation areas: The Richmond Road conservation area will probably stay the same but London Road may be extended to include West Point and the section up to the Park entrance.

HDC Councillor Peter Burgess

Dukes Square: PB said that the plans to develop the area are progressing. RF considers the design is very dull and needs to include a community space. PB added that the flats will be two storeys high and be built in the centre of Duke's Square.

Horsham Trains: There is a nine-day closure affecting all trains through Horsham from 14th to 22nd August.

RSA Building: 4 years ago an outline plan was submitted to convert the offices to residential but it was supposedly just a 'house-keeping' exercise. Now a more detailed plan has been submitted so PB has asked if RSA plan to move out of Horsham.

Britaniacrest: Looking at the plans there is an inference that Biffa will shut down. Planning approval has been granted but there is now an environmental condition imposed.

Public Toilets: PB considers that action is needed. The toilets by the Bus Station are supposed to be refurbished.

13.	Meeting closed at 9pm. Next Meeting: 16th September 2021 in the Church Lounge. Francis Vernon, Chair of Horsham Cycling Forum to attend. Apologies in advance from JM.
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