



## Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council Minutes of the 416<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (via video conference)

Present: Mr Boffey (chair), Ms Rivera-Aldridge, Ms Warrack, Ms Thomas, Mr Peterson, Mrs Hatton (clerk).

In attendance: Nigel Dennis

1/416/20

**Apologies for absence.**

There were no apologies for absence received

2/416/20

**Approve the minutes from the previous meeting.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020, had previously been circulated and were approved. Proposed by Ms Thomas and seconded by Ms Rivera-Aldridge.

3/416/20

**Matters arising**

Re 3/415/20

Mr Boffey had agreed to make enquiries as to whether training is available from either HDC or SSALC regarding 'considering and responding to planning applications' – **ACTION MB**

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan – Mr Boffey's comments had been submitted and acknowledged by HDC.

Re 4/415/20

The clerk was appointed at AGM which took place before the meeting.

Re 6/415/20

Pop-Up Cycling Lanes - Mr Dennis reported on the proposed cycle lanes which had been planned during lockdown when traffic flow was much lighter than that currently experienced. Following recent HDC meetings, the scheme will now go ahead although the planned West-bound lane has been dropped resulting in the scheme only offering an East-bound lane from Sainsbury's to Madeira Avenue. Cones will be used initially to mark out the dedicated cycle lane.

Mr Boffey advised that the Horsham Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan was currently out for Reg 16 consultation with Blueprint having been redesignated as the Neighbourhood Forum for the unparished area. Mr Boffey has joined the steering committee meetings.

Mr Peterson has submitted a report to the Joint Action Group concerning anti-social behaviour and littering on the Riverside Walk and is awaiting a response.

Re 7/415/20

Neighbourhood Council Communications – Ms Warrack outlined how some of the What's App groups set-up during the COVID-19 lockdown might be used to facilitate public engagement on the work of HTNC. Likewise, the use of a hard-copy newsletter to

canvass opinion was discussed along with the suggestion that the NC make contact with the two local schools about them circulating NC News. Ms Thomas queried if the latter would target only Trafalgar Neighbourhood residents or if it would impinge on residents from other NCs. Mrs Rivera-Aldridge suggested that perhaps schools could be asked to publish the headlines of the NC on a 'one-liner' with a web-link for those wanting to access more details. Mr Boffey felt Trafalgar School would be open to discuss supporting requests from the NC. Linking with Neighbourhood Watch scheme was also discussed as a means to strengthen the network. The use of noticeboards locally was discussed and the following identified; Victory Rd Rec x2 and Coote's Green which HTNC has access to, and Horsham Trinity Cricket club, Holy Trinity Church and Trafalgar Rd Baptist Church which it does not. It was agreed that the NC would construct an up to date newsletter and utilised this in order to canvass opinion. Mr Boffey will make enquiries at the forthcoming meeting of Horsham Blueprint to determine if the other NC's would like to produce a shared newsletter as was the case last year. **ACTION**

Re 8/415/20

Application DC/20/0614, which concerns the demolition of the Smith & Western restaurant.

Mr Boffey advised that he had received confirmation that council members have asked for this to go in front of the committee and their recommendations would be made in due course. Depending on the recommendations made and subsequently adopted, the HTNC might then be invited to raise objections at committee.

4/416/20

#### **Questions from the public**

None were received via the Chair, however Ms Thomas reported that neighbours had been complaining about the increase noise levels connected with fast accelerating, modified vehicles (particularly at night) along the Guildford Road/A24. Mr Dennis suggested that the Neighbourhood Warden be asked to investigate.

**ACTION**

5/416/20

#### **Correspondence**

Mr Boffey advised that correspondence has been sent on to members and the following discussions ensued:  
Cootes Pond - this had almost dried out in the hot weather. There was a suggestion by one resident (Mr Granger) that the pond should be dug out but further investigations by County deemed that this would not be appropriate. Mr Dennis advised that Eleanor Harries, from WSCC had held a site meeting, which included the Cootes Pond Conservation Volunteers, (responsible for maintenance) and a nature expert. Discussions at this meeting concluded that there was no justification on the grounds of highway issues to spend money on the pond and therefore it remains the responsibility of the volunteer residents. The advice of the wildlife expert was to encourage the ducks on the pond to migrate to the larger ponds at Warnham. It was agreed that the pond should be left as it is until the rains come again, although the Volunteers will conduct the annual cutting back and clearance in the coming weeks. Mr Dennis had forwarded the email from Council to those making the initial enquiry. Mr Boffey thanked Mr Dennis for his actions

Mr Boffey advised that the Gatwick Community Forum had indicated that they would like more involvement from HTNC and Mr Boffey replied that future invites to meetings would be welcome. It was however, impossible to send an attendee to the meeting coming up shortly.

6/416/20

### **Planning Applications**

All applications received over the past month had been sent on by Mr Boffey to the neighbourhood councillors, these applications included:

- 30 Rookwood park – single storey extension
- 14/16 Irwin Drive - tree surgery
- 46 Collingwood Road - tree Surgery
- Guildford Road – hedge (23<sup>rd</sup> September)
- 86 Irwin Drive – felling of maple tree (TPO)
- White Hart Court – tree surgery
- 24 Shelley Road (old corner shop) for which a discussion took place on the amendment to application. This included adding soft landscaping and leaving a wall in place, rather than erecting a fence. The footprint of the original application is being reduced and relates now to just one house. It will also include the removal of one of the two garages which actually stands as a double garage in order to increase the size of the garden. The size of the window will also be reduced and a modest 1<sup>st</sup> floor extension added. Although work has already commenced in advance of planning permission being received, it is likely that work only extends to elements that would not require permission in any case. It was noted that previous applications which had related to the siting of more than one dwelling had all failed in the past.

No objections were raised to any of the applications

7/416/20

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr Boffey requested that the handover of the Treasurer role (to Ms Rivera-Aldridge, as appointed at the AGM) be dealt with outside of the meeting. Ms Rivera-Aldridge agreed to get in touch with the previous treasurer. It was reported that the balance of the account stood at £12,738.89. Mr Boffey proposed a financial plan be put together based on the income and expenditure over the past several years (for which records are available), in order to determine how the NC anticipate spending the funds available in the most appropriate manner. Ms Warrack agreed to provide costings on resources required for Friends of the Rec project. Mr Boffey suggested a review of the availability of noticeboards. Ms Thomas reminded the members that the Insurance payments would be due shortly. It was agreed that the NC should look at online banking in due course and Ms Warrack suggested that the NC research the use of Triodos as an ethical bank. **ACTION IR & MB**

8/416/20

### **Highways Matters**

Mr Dennis reported resident's concerns about the safety of children crossing the road and the amount of speeding around Rushams Road/ Greenway and Guildford Road. Mr Dennis had looked for a solution that might have some chance of success in light of the fact

that Mike Thomas (Area Manager, WSCC Highways) indicated that the 20 MPH scheme was not considered suitable as it would require speed bumps being placed in the various roads. Other solutions (e.g. a one-way system) had also been discussed previously. Ms Thomas enquired about the speed watch group and Mr Dennis advised that the monitoring location approvals for this were in place already. There was a further discussion on whether the idea of 20 MPH should be pursued. Mr Dennis advised that a group of residents could submit a proposal outlining how the problem could be addressed, as could the NC. Ms Rivera-Aldridge suggested canvassing neighbourhood opinion via a survey and Mr Boffey agreed that this had previously been the plan but it would require members getting together outside the meeting to lead this initiative alongside Mr Dennis. Enquiries were made as to whether the schools had been approached and Mr Dennis advised that Greenway Academy had not produced a Travel plan but that Trafalgar Community Infants School had done so. **Action:** A group would work together to take these discussions forward for the next Highway meeting which is scheduled for 6-months' time.

Mr Dennis advised that he had been asked to nominate one road or area for sign cleaning/maintenance and had nominated North Parade. The members felt that this had been a sensible suggestion.

Mr Dennis highlighted the siting of the 'Private...' notice that he had seen at the entrance of the twitten that runs from North Parade to April Close – given that Mr Dennis noticed that this twitten also has a street light, he is making further enquiries as it would be unusual for the Council to light up a private road.

Mr Boffey enquired if there had been any further news on the widening of the Robin Hood roundabout and Mr Dennis advised of the points he had raised with County.

9/416/20 **Missing or damaged street furniture**  
No items to report.

10/416/20 **Members Reports for outside committees attended**  
Mr Boffey advised that with the exception of the PCSO community engagement last Friday he had not attended any meetings since the last NC meeting. It was reported that there was good community engagement by the residents at the PCSO meeting and that Jeremy Quin MP also attended.

It was agreed that once meetings of bodies such as Horsham Town Community Partnership and the Youth Provision group resume it would be good for members to attend such outside committees in order to share the load. Mr Boffey would circulate details as and when they come forward. **Action MB**

Mr Boffey advised that a Blueprint meeting is scheduled for the coming week as the next stage of consultation commences on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The meeting on Thursday was set to agree the publicity necessary.

11/416/20

**Programme of meetings for the coming year**

Mr Boffey advised that currently the HTNC Meetings are held on the first Monday in the Month and therefore the following dates would be entered into the diary:

- 5th October 2020, 2nd November 2020, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 4th January 2021, 1st February 2021, 1st March 2021, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (with AGM).

It was agreed that these would be put on notice boards and on the website. **ACTION**

12/416/20

**Any other business**

Mr Boffey shared the sad news that Leonard Crosbie passed away at the weekend and his 25 years' service to the NC community was recognised by members. The chair would write a letter of condolence to his family and consider how the NC would mark his passing. He has been greatly missed whilst unable to attending NC meetings and will be a great loss to the community.

Ms Warrack advised that on 11th September from 2.00 - 4.00pm, the grand launch of the Friends of the Rec will take place. Ms Warrack would like to invite Jeremy Quin. Members were advised that Anne Turner will be supporting Ms Warrack.

No other business was brought forward. Mr Peterson enquired about the recipients of speeding fines collected and Mr Dennis believed that these might go to central government rather than local government as was the case with parking penalties.

13/416/20

**Date and time of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (venue tbc, subject to COVID-19 restrictions)

**Meeting closed at 21.25 hours.**