



Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council

Minutes of the 426th Meeting

held on

Monday 7th June 2021 (via video conference) at

7.30pm

Attendees: Mr Martin Boffey (Chair), Ms Isabel Rivera-Aldridge (Treasurer), Morag Warrack, Olive Hobbs, Maralyn Thomas, Mrs Rhoda Hatton (Clerk)

In attendance: Councillor for Trafalgar Ward, Christine Costin; WS County Councillor, Nigel Dennis; HDC Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Horsham Town, Parking & Communications, Tony Hogben

01/426/21	MB welcome members and those in attendance
02/426/21	<p>The following Declaration of Member's Interest were declared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Boffey – Ward District Councillor for Trafalgar, member of Horsham and Crawley Liberal Democrats and Director Cootes Farm Community Ltd • Nigel Dennis - Council Member for West Sussex and member of Horsham & Crawley Liberal Democrats. • Christin Costin – District Councillor for the Trafalgar Ward and member of Horsham and Crawley Liberal Democrats • Tony Hogben – HDC Deputy Leader, Cabinet member and member of the Conservative Party • Morag Warrack - member of The Green Party.
03/426/21	<p>The Neighbourhood Warden, Alison Page introduced her newly appointed colleague Maria Colenso and both gave a presentation on their work. Maria, who had previously been employed as a personal trainer and Youth Councillor, had spent the last 6-7 weeks shadowing Alison in the Trafalgar Ward and Town centre area whilst also undertaking lots of training. They provided an update on their work at the Victory Road Rec where the cricket club rope has been cut several times. It was reported that a chain now replaced the rope. The Wardens reported on the drug dealing and drug use on the riverside walk; mostly behind football pitch. The increase in littering in these areas had led to a requests for more bins. Parking on the Bishopric on a Friday and Saturday evening had been monitored and reports submitted to operation crackdown although no fixed penalty notices had as yet been issued. On Rushams Road the Wardens had removed the illegal postings of 20-mile per hour signs and they had had spoken to the speed-watch and residents group who are both looking for alternative options to deter speeding. In addition, the Wardens would shortly be attending a meeting at Trafalgar Community Infant School to discuss parking concerns around the school.</p> <p>The wardens have new posters that they would like to have displayed on local noticeboards and MB asked that these be put in his pigeon hole for collection. CC enquired about the issue of dog mess on Victory Road Rec. MW and OH introduced themselves as FREC volunteers to the wardens. TH enquired about the wardens' brief on drug use, and in particular cannabis. Alison responded on how this was dealt with through education and if details are obtained, they are passed on to the police.</p> <p>It was advised that the 4TheYouth Snack Wagon has restarted and is engaging with young people but has not yet returned to Victory Road Rec. The Wardens reported that depending on what they are challenging people about, the reception differs although the desire is to get people to listen. CC enquired about new drugs that are emerging and the Wardens were not aware as yet that these were present in the Horsham area. MW advised that when in the Rec, she picks up litter and wished to know if it was worth collecting any of it as evidence of drug use. The wardens</p>

	advised that common evidence would be little zip lock bags some of which have logos/pictures printed on them and nitrous oxide canister that are used to inhale drugs alongside the use of a balloon. They confirmed that drug litter can be reported. MB thanked the wardens for all their hard work in and around the Trafalgar neighbourhood community. The wardens then left the meeting.
04/426/21	MB apologised that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 th May 2021 had only been released that day but as there were no objections and all had had an opportunity to read these, IR-A proposed and OH seconded the approval of the minutes.
05/426/21	<p>The following matters arising from the minutes were discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Previous Minute 05/425/21(a) - ND had agreed to investigate how exactly the policy and process of the rewilding scheme worked in practice and he had emailed MB earlier with some details that highlighted the different approaches being used in the rewilding pilot schemes locally. It was noted that there were about 20 schemes around the county. The creation of habitat spaces was being trialled in Lancing and if successful, these might be rolled out to other locations in due course. Previous Minute 05/425/21(b) - ND had agreed to continue to investigate other opportunities [re parking in Springfield Park Road] and to advise Mr Jones accordingly. It was reported that the situation was improving and that the nursery had responded positively. The nursery would soon be re-opening their front access and this would alleviate problems further. Previous Minute 05/425/21 (c) - MB and RH had agreed to review progress with the [Rushams Road] residents' group and to update Mr Wood accordingly. Rushams Road group have been contacted and advised of the Community Highway Scheme that can be applied for (the deadline for applications being the end of July). However, members were unsure that the residents were in agreement on the preferred route forward. MW offered to send a reminder out to residents on the Residents What's App group to ensure that the deadline was not missed but it was felt that residents should be given the opportunity to respond to MB's latest enquiries in the first instance. Previous Minute 09/425/21 - MB had requested that the matter re repairs to the millennium bridge at Red River be passed on to the HTCP meeting by MW. There had been no meeting recently but the matter had been electronically passed through for consideration Previous Minute 10/425/21 - an invoice had be requested by IR-A [for the £180 donation towards the Horsham' Annual Riverside Walk] - Completed Previous Minute 12/425/21 - MB had offered to source an accountant to do a third person inspection of the accounts before the AGM - Completed. Previous Minute 13/425/21 - MB had agreed to review the draft [IDP Schedule]. Completed and a schedule has been drafted
06/426/21	No questions from the public had been submitted at the time of drafting agenda and none were raised at the meeting.
07/426/21	<p>MB invited TH to speak to members. Having accepted, TH advised members of the recent appointment of Cllr Paul Clarke (PC) as the new Leader of Horsham District Council (HDC) who was replacing the previous leader, Ray Dawe, after a 10-year period in office. PC was keen to establish a balanced cabinet and appointed a member for Horsham Town, the portfolio now held by TH himself which also includes the Parking and Communications briefs for the District as a whole. Through this role and his Deputy leader role, TH attends meeting for 2 hours a week with the Chief Executive.</p> <p>It is TH's ambition to achieve in addition to the post-Covid recovery, the Town Centre vision document, the walking/cycling strategy and the Public Realm strategy. He will challenge the treatment of matters as confidential where he feels it is unnecessary and push for greater public consultation. TH is also pleased that communication is included in his portfolio and he would like to see an improvement in the 'marketing' message for HDC initiatives and achievements.</p>

	<p>Parking is the final part of his portfolio and with takings for this being 31% down on previous years, there is a lot of work to be done in this area. Questions were taken and CC welcomed TH to his new role and looked forward to working with him. Community volunteers were discussed as the number of these had increased dramatically over the past year and Cllr Claire Vickers was looking at how their involvement could continue as Cabinet member for Community & Wellbeing. IR-A raised her concerns about communication as she finds it hard to forward on to residents the useful communications that she receives from HDC and TH agreed that better use of social media could be looked into. TH finished his presentation by concluding that the given the financial challenges the District Council faces, it needs to position itself so that it might apply for every grant possible when looking to make improvements to the Town Centre.</p>
08/426/21	<p>HDC update from Councillors Martin Boffey and Christine Costin. The latest news to share was that Rookwood had been declared an Asset of Community Value (ACV) following an application by the Horsham Society, supported by the local ward members. CC hopes that this will be strengthened as its existence is integral for the future of Warnham Local Nature Reserve. CC drew member attention to the fact that the planning for the Smith and Western was likely to come forward again and she expressed her disappointment that the planning appeal connected to the Scout Hut on the Bishopric had been successful. CC declared that there was the need to watch that the character of the cottages on the Bishopric are not interfered with when the resources for the building work are being delivered. CC reported that she had been concentrating on the litter problems and the concerns about dog mess in the ward. The re-opening of the Capitol was discussed and CC reminded members that she is available to the NC and residents if her help is needed.</p> <p>MB discussed the new collection of batteries at the kerbside. CC enquired if any of those present had concerns about the plans for collection of batteries in containers that might not be safe. MB also gave a run down on the committees to which he has been appointed.</p> <p>TH was invited to speak about Rookwood and he informed those present that sustainability wise, it was still considered to be the best site for development given its proximity to the town centre and the railway station. However, politically he felt there would not be sufficient support within amongst members of the Council for it to be included in the final plan. MW asked for clarity on what was meant by the term 'most sustainable' and CC responded that basically it related to self-sustaining communities and the ease of access to employment, roads and travel. It was confirmed that 'sustainability' was being referred to in a planning context and did not take into consideration ecological, environmental or mental health factors.</p>
09/426/21	<p>As part of the WSCC update from Councillor Dennis the sink hole at Dog and Bacon Green was reported to have been fixed and it was hoped that normality would be resumed. MB asked if there was any indication of what had been causing the issue but this could not be confirmed. The small hole that had appeared on the corner of Curzon Avenue and Vale Drive had also been fixed and this work had been undertaken as a priority. ND advised that urgent work is managed within 5 days and moderate work within 28 days. ND informed members that he remains Chairman of the Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee (RAAC) at WSCC. MB asked if the consultation on the Children's and Families Centre had completed and ND reported that following the results of the WSCC elections the Conservative Group have a mandate for going ahead with closures, which should be borne in mind when the consultation results emerge.</p>
10/426/21	<p>The highways matters for consideration included an overgrown hedge at 80 Guildford Road which is blocking the path and this was reported by MT. All other matters relating to the Trees in Irwin Drive have now been resolved. There were no temporary Traffic Regulation Order requiring consideration at the time of drafting the agenda.</p>
11/426/21	<p>As there were no items concerning missing or damaged street furniture to consider, ND left the meeting at 20.55hrs</p>

12/426/21	The Neighbourhood Warden's Report for April 2021 had been circulated previously and no matters were raised. There were no further items of correspondence were due for consideration at this meeting.			
13/426/21	The following matters relating to planning were considered:			
	Date Issued	Reference	Details	Actions
	12 May 2021	DC/21/0469	Surgery to 29 x Various Species of Trees, Mainly Cypress (Not all protected, see DC/08/2384) 23 Cedar Close Horsham West Sussex RH12 2BN	NFA
	13 th May 2021	DC/21/0799	Conversion of loft to form habitable living space incorporating hip to gable roof extension, creation of dormers to sides, installation of rooflights to side and front and amended and additional fenestration works at 54 Merryfield Drive Horsham West Sussex RH12 2BA	NFA
	17 th May 2021	DC/21/0831	Erection of a single storey side infill extension. 27 Percy Road Horsham West Sussex RH12 2JN	NFA
	18 th May 2021	DC/21/0344 re:	The erection of a single storey garden room to rear garden at 14 The Plat Horsham West Sussex RH12 2AE	NFA
	24 th May 2021	DC/21/0691	The erection of single storey rear extensions at Arun House 8 Wildgoose Drive Horsham West Sussex.	NFA
	27 th May 2021	DC/21/0869	Erection of a first floor rear extension and installation of side window at first floor level. 7 Cedar Close Horsham West Sussex RH12 2BN	NFA
	3 rd June 2021	DC/21/0883	Erection of a single storey front extension at 43 Collingwood Road Horsham West Sussex RH12 2QN	NFA
	3 rd June 2021	DC/21/0816	Erection of 1.8m high and 1m high fencing at 2 Collingwood Road Horsham West Sussex RH12 2QW	NFA
14/426/21	The Treasurer's reported the following matters under finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The balance of account stood at £13,241.49. • Regular payments are being made for the clerk salary, payment to the accountants for payroll services and HMRC in respect of PAYE. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £180 has been paid to the Horsham Town Community Partnership as sponsorship for the Annual Riverside Walk event due to take place in September. • The subscription for the website (£15) is due during the month of June. • The year-end accounts have been submitted to the auditor so that these might be approved at the AGM.
15/426/21	Reports from members who attended outside committees - none had been scheduled at time of drafting the agenda and none were reported at the meeting.
16/426/21	<p>It was agreed that the following would attend the forthcoming outside committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The "Wilder Horsham District" initiative – Thursday 1st July 2021 (MB/MW) b. Round table meeting regarding Gatwick Northern Runway Project – RH would send MW the details so that she could attend on 22nd June. PMN – MW unable to attend c. MT would continue to attend the Neighbourhood Wardens quarterly meetings . a. The Older Peoples Forum at 10.30am on Tuesday 8th June would be attended by OH and MW.
17/426/21	The Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCF) had been reviewed by MW but it was felt that this was a complicated process and as no particular area could be identified as an area of benefit – due to the extensive land requirement - it was agreed that the HTNC would not pursue this opportunity. CC left the meeting at 21.00hrs
18/426/21	<p>Members discussed possible content for the July release (before the school holidays) of the next HTNC Newsletter – The following was suggested as possible content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Update on the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme b. 20's Plenty for Rushams Road c. Recycling d. Trafalgar School Foodbank e. Recognition of HDC and other local issues (e.g. placed 59th nationwide for recycling) f. Tony Hogben to introduce his new role g. Annual Riverside walk in September h. AGM results <p>RH to email members with date by which to send in further suggestions or draft articles for inclusion.</p>
19/426/21	It was agreed that the AGM would be held as a face to face meetings in the school Hall (to allow for social distancing) at Trafalgar Community Infant School. MB reminded members that all posts would be up for election including the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer positions.
20/426/21	Under any other business, TH enquired about the Special Charge for the unparished area which was discussed briefly (it is set at £26.01 for 2021/22). TH left the meeting at 21.30 hrs
21/426/21	<p>Date and time of the next meeting: The following dates have been entered into the diary for a 7.30 pm start:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 5th (to follow immediately after the AGM) • No August Meeting • September 6th • October 4th • November 1st • December 6th • January 10th (due to the New Year's Bank Holiday) • February 7th • March 7th • April 4th • May 9th (Due to May Day Bank Holiday) (AGM Date)

Meeting ended at 21.38 hrs