



Horsham Town Community Partnership

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Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting

held on 18th November at 7.30pm using Zoom

Attendees:

David Searle (HTCP Chairman), Diane Sumpter (HTCP Treasurer and Chair of HFNC), Ian Botting (HTCP Director and HDNC member), Ron Bates (HTCP Director and Horsham Society), Martin Boffey (HTCP Director and Chair of HTNC), Morag Warrack (HTCP Member), Sue Brundish (HTCP Director and Horsham in Bloom left 8.15pm), Martin Bruton (HTCP Director and Chair of Horsham District Older People's Forum), Chris Glover (HTCP Director and Friends of Horsham Park)
John White (HTCP Volunteer)
Sara Doy (HTCP Minute Secretary).

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman, David Searle, welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining the meeting. He also thanked MBr for setting up the Zoom meeting and welcomed MW as the new representative for HTNC.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Proposed Director: Rolland Knight (North Horsham PC Councillor)
Non-members: Ruth Fletcher (HDC Councillor)
3. **Acceptance of AGM minutes convened on 10th October 2019:** Proposed by MBo and seconded by SB.
4. **Chairman's Report and review of progress to 18th November 2020 (David Searle):** A report by the Chairman had been circulated prior to the AGM (See Appendix 1).
DSu thanked the Directors and Volunteers for their support during the year.

Meeting with the District Community Partnerships 30/11/20: RB will attend on behalf of HTCP. There may be more information available regarding the Maintenance Grant. Although there is reserve money in the HTCP account which is sufficient at the moment, going forward there will be insurance costs and room hire costs so the grant is needed.

5. **Accounts and Treasurer's Report (Diane Sumpter):** The audited accounts for the year to 31st March 2020 were distributed with the Agenda papers prior to the AGM. No queries were raised. DSu and DSe will sign the accounts and they will be sent to Companies House. DSu confirmed that the finances are in a healthy position.

Maintenance costs: DSu said that based on the insurance cost last year of £347 and the £13 Company House filing fee and there being no other expenses at the moment, HTCP requires approx. £400 to cover its costs. MBo asked if it was necessary to renew the insurance. DSu commented that as there is sufficient money in the account it would be sensible to renew it rather than have to take out a new policy in the future which may have an increased premium.



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6. **Election of New Director Rolland Knight:** As RK was not at the meeting DSe explained that RK has been involved with the Mobility Scooter Training and a bridge repair on the Riverside Walk so he recommended that RK be approved as a new Director. MB seconded the proposal, and all present agreed.
7. **Election of Chairman:** As no one had put them self forward to take over as Chair, and as HTCP activities are on hold, DSe agreed to continue as Chair for one more year. DSu proposed and IB seconded the re-election of DSe as Chair. MBr expressed thanks to DSe for enabling HTCP to continue.
8. **Election of Directors:** The Articles of Association require that one third of the Directors should retire at each AGM. A retiring Director is eligible for re-election. There are currently 8 Directors including RK so three were required to retire. DSu, RB and JL stood down. JL has permanently stood down. DSu and RB volunteered to stand again as proposed by MBr, seconded by DSe, and agreed by all.

9. HTCP Future

Ongoing projects

- **Improvements to the Riverside Walk:** DSe met with Pete Crawford, HDC, in September. S106 money is still available for the Ben's Acre board walks which will probably start next Spring weather permitting. 2 lengths of 30m boardwalks are required and concrete spurs will be used instead of wooden posts as they will not rot. The contractor has quoted £15k.
- **The Annual Riverside Walk Event:** A leader is needed to organise and implement it, if the pandemic rules allow. It is expected that the organisation of the Walk will start in January 2021.
- **Scooter Skills and Safety Training:** There is still a small amount of the Tesco Grant left. A review of the training will take place in January 2021. Over 100 people have taken part. The Park Barn venue is provided free by HDC, and the training is sponsored by Clearwell, Burgess Hill. The training scooters were loaned but had to be returned when training stopped, but it is hoped that the scooters can be used again.
- **The Bus Map:** This may need to be updated. JW said that he needs to check a route through Broadbridge Heath. The cost of 6 maps is £42 and locations are being sought to display the maps. The board outside the Railway station can be used by HTCP (the WSCC board has been taken over by HDC but they have mislaid the key). It is possible that Metrobus may contribute to the Map costs.

Consultations

- **Development of Rookwood Golf Course:** Building works will extend to the edge of the RSW adjacent to Redford Avenue. There is an opportunity to divert the walk around Warnham Nature Reserve to avoid having to walk along Warnham Road and Pondtail Road. It is also planned to divert the walk through the Mott and Bailey and adjacent to the A264 to the end of Bartholmew Way. It was agreed that nothing should be pursued until the decision regarding Rookwood is made.



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- **North of Horsham Development:** HTCP has been consulted by Legal and General regarding the future of the RSW through the North of Horsham Development.
- **HDC Public Realm :** HTCP has been invited to join the meetings with Adam Chalmers, HDC, and the Neighbourhood Councils.

10. Reports from Directors representing various organisations

Sue Brundish - Horsham in Bloom: It is dormant this year due to the pandemic. There has been no AGM yet.

Martin Boffey - Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council:

Rushams Road: A Speed Watch group has been set up for Rushams Road as it suffers from rat running.

Cootes Green area: All the land and verges belong to the Davis Estate are to be auctioned in December. A group of residents is planning to buy it and secure Village Green status so that it can be secured for the community.

Ian Botting - Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council:

Covid Vaccination site: The BT Telephone Exchange car park in North Street has been identified as a possible vaccination centre.

Diane Sumpter - Horsham Forest Neighbourhood Council:

Tree Mapping: The Friends of Chesworth Farm attended a meeting with Horsham Green Space Forum and the mapping of notable trees, as encouraged by Sussex Wildlife Trust, was discussed. DSe asked if HTCP would want to get involved with locating important trees on the RSW route. But it was decided against getting involved.

David Searle - North Horsham Parish Council:

North of Horsham development: There was a meeting with Legal & General on 17.11.20.

Incinerator: The campaign group No Incinerator for Horsham has found that an Environmental Agency permit is needed.

Martin Bruton - Horsham Older People's Forum:

MP Question Time 9/11/20: Andrew Griffiths, MP, said that he is against the government White Paper and the increased housing requirement.

Pondtail Road, under railway bridge: A Community Highways Scheme has been submitted to widen the pavement under the bridge and reduce the carriage way to a single lane so that drivers have to give way to oncoming traffic.

Ron Bates - Horsham Society:

Guided Heritage Walks: These are due to re-start in April 2021.



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Local List: This lists over 30 properties. An application has been made for funding to pay for a specialist to advise on wording for each property.

Heritage Trails: There are 20 trails in the Horsham District on the Museum website and hard copies available. £46k came from the Lottery.

Chris Glover - Friends of Horsham Park:

Rookwood: Some of the site is classed as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The wildlife needs to be identified and recorded. It is noticeable that numbers of insects have reduced e.g. moths, and there is a need to provide green corridors.

11. **Any Other Business**

Rookwood: Further discussion regarding how it will be decided if it will be included in the Strategic Plan.

12. **Next Meeting:** Date in January 2021 to be decided.

Meeting ended 9.00pm

Appendix 1: Chairman's Report for AGM 2020

Introduction

Covid 19 Pandemic started to affect Horsham Town Community Partnership (HTCP) in the first few months of 2020. On the 23rd March 2020 the Government imposed a total lockdown and to comply I made the decision to suspend all HTCP activities until further notice. Restrictions began to be relaxed in July 2020 but at that time it was not possible to continue with any projects and we remained suspended. Due to a rapid rise in the number of confirmed cases of Covid the Government decided on 31st October 2020 to reinstate the lockdown for a period of 4 weeks and advised that depending on the effect of the lockdown it may be necessary to further extend this period.

It is unlikely that HTCP will be able to resume its normal activities for some considerable time and therefore it is with regret that I have taken the decision to continue the suspension of HTCP for the foreseeable future. A discussion will be held on the way forward at the AGM and your views sort.

HTCP Maintenance Grant

We have not yet been advised if HDC will continue to support the Community Partnerships with annual maintenance grants. It is likely that the usual grant of £1000 will be considerably reduced and this will have an on ongoing effect on our ability to continue to operate. I will keep you advised as soon as we hear from HDC.

HTCP Directors

Rolland Knight a resident of Holbrook in North Horsham applied to become a Director of HTCP. Provided the Directors ratify the appointment Rolland will be welcomed to the Board.

Vote of Thanks

I would like to thank Diane Sumpter for undertaking the role of Treasurer and Eddie Case for his continuous support in auditing our accounts. Finally, my thanks go to my fellow Directors for their



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continuing support during this very difficult year and look forward to working together again in the future.

David Searle. Chair HTCP
1st November 2020