



Horsham Town Community Partnership

www.horsham.community



Minutes of HTCP Directors Virtual Zoom Meeting held on 13th July starting at 7.30pm

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Directors and Members to the Zoom Meeting and advised that although the government would be lifting many of the Covid restrictions from 19th July it was felt that it would be safer, easier and cheaper to continue with virtual meetings for the rest of the year.

2. Attendance:

David Searle (DSe) - HTCP Chair and representing North Horsham Parish Council,
Diane Sumpter (DSu) - HTCP Treasurer and representing Horsham Forest NC
Martin Bruton (MBr) - HTCP Director and representing Horsham District Older Peoples' Forum
Morag Wallack (MW) - HTCP Member and representing Trafalgar NC
Roland Knight (RK) - HTCP Director and Volunteer
Sue Brundish (SB) - HTCP Director and representing Horsham in Bloom
John White (JW) - HTCP Member and Volunteer
Sara Doy - Minutes Secretary

Apologies

Ian Botting (IB) -HTCP Director representing Horsham Denne NC
Ron Bates (RB) - HTCP Director and representing Horsham Society
Chris Glover (CG) - HTCP Director and representing Friends of Horsham Park

3. Conflicts of Interest: None

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 4th May 2021, approval and any issues arising

Amendment to 7.3 - The dates of the HDOPF public meetings regarding Rookwood should read 25th March and 8th April.

Approval of the minutes was proposed by MBr, seconded by DSu and agreed by all.

5. Chairman's Report

The report was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Chairman gave a brief presentation of the report. A copy is attached to these minutes.

6. Riverside Walk Improvements and Annual Walk

6.1 Riverside Walk Footpath Improvements

DSe had a meeting with HDC Parks and Open Spaces Manager Pete Crawford and suggested that the RSW route could be diverted from Lemmington Way through the trees adjacent to the A264 and passing by the Mott and Bailey. He was very enthusiastic but has an issue as all



Horsham Town Community Partnership

www.horsham.community



the trees in this area has Ash Die Back and may all need to be removed. The conversation should be continued when the issue is resolved and money becomes available. (See item 13.)

The RSW bridge over a stream adjacent to Hammerpond Road is in a very poor condition and will need to be replaced in the next couple of years. Pete Crawford will put in a budget proposal for 2022. This is the bridge which had the decking replaced in 2019 as it was becoming dangerous.

RSW adjacent to Bens Acre passes over a ditch which someone has spanned with an old timber. DSe sought agreement to replace the timber with a 1m wide timber bridge with a handrail at a cost of £400 funded by HTCP from grant monies remaining from other projects. The HTCP volunteers will carry out the works as agreed by Pete Crawford. All present agreed. DSu suggested that FNC may fund the project. **Post Meeting Note:** *DSu advised FNC will fund the project up to a maximum cost of £400 and would like to include a plaque acknowledging their contribution.*

Trafalgar NC advised that the Millennium Bridge is in need of maintenance. This should have been picked up when an audit of HDC structures were carried out that identified the Hammerpond Bridge condition. TNC should report their concerns to HDC.

Pete Crawford advised that the S106 monies to construct 2 lengths of Board Walk adjacent to Glebe Crescent has been lost. DSe explained that there was a time limit on using it which had run out. DSu commented that an extension should have been given due to the pandemic situation and thought it was unsatisfactory. She will take this up with HDC.

6.2 Riverside Walk Annual Walk

The next meeting of the Annual Walk Team is 14.7.21. Sponsorship donations have been approved by Forest, Denne and Trafalgar NCs. The North Horsham PC Finance Committee meets on 15.7.21. Included in the agenda is the RSW Grant which should be approved

7. Mobility Scooter Safety and Skills Sessions

It is proposed that the Mobility Scooter Safety and Skills Sessions are to start up again in August. There are 5 people waiting to attend. DSe has a meeting on 20th July with the Manager of the Health and Wellbeing Centre in the Forum to discuss possibility of using the centre to run the sessions.

8. Updates from Other Organisation

8.1 Neighbourhood Councils

- i) **Forest NC** - DSu said that the unparished area has a new Neighbourhood Warden, Maria Colenso.



Horsham Town Community Partnership

www.horsham.community



ii) **Denne NC** - SD reported that following Trudie Mitchell, Chair of HDNC, chasing Berkeley's to re-open the RSW path that was diverted in 2018 so the Highwood development access road could be constructed, the path has now be opened. TM has asked for some remedial work to be done and also a prickly bush needed to be cut back. This should all be completed before the RSW Event in September.

iii) **Trafalgar NC** - MW confirmed that she is the new Chair of HTNC.

8.2 North Horsham PC

i) The Incinerator construction is still being delayed due to Covid and Brexit, and the need for the Environmental Agency to consult with the public on the Environmental Permit.

ii) NHPC spoke at the Fairfax Public Enquiry (See item 13)

iii) Road closures are taking place on the A264 due to improvements to the Ruser Road roundabout and construction of a new footbridge.

iv) There will be one-way only traffic in Parsonage Road due to replacement of the gas main.

8.3 Horsham District Older Peoples Forum- MBr said that they will continue to use zoom for their meetings. The next public meeting is on 7.9.21. They are currently involved in a project to tackle loneliness and isolation called Chatty Cafes. Costa Coffee are running it and have a special table for people to sit at if they wish to chat to others.

8.4 Horsham in Bloom - SB reported that Nick Brook is the new Chairman of HiB and he is keen to get the organisation up and running and have a recruitment campaign. There was a useful meeting with Pete Crawford who was unaware of HiB's involvement in the town. SB is continuing as Treasurer.

8.5 Horsham Society - Ron Bates sent a report after the meeting as he was unable to attend.

The Horsham Society working closely with other local groups successfully registered Rookwood as an Asset of Community Value with HDC. Horsham Society had previously registered other Assets of Community Value, including the Drill Hall and Capitol Theatre. While this does not give assured protection in the future, it does require that particular procedures are followed.

The Horsham Society article to be published in the County Times on 22nd July 2021 publicises the HS Guided Walks on Sundays and Wednesdays starting at the Horsham Museum at 2.30pm. In addition, the article publicises the Riverside Walk Event on the 11th September 2021.

Heritage Trails lead by HDCPF: All 20 Heritage Trails information is on the HDC Horsham Museum website and can be downloaded free by everyone. Trails leaflets are also available free in all the District Libraries. The project to produce the 20 trails is now



Horsham Town Community Partnership

www.horsham.community



completed. Some Community Partnerships are in discussion with some of the volunteers to find out if they would be willing to lead a few guided walks of their trails.

8.6 Friends of Horsham Park - Chris Glover sent a report after the meeting as he was unable to attend.

Not much to report apart from a drive to leaflet residents about the incinerator and asking for volunteers to help distribute leaflets.

8.7 HTCP Website - JW reported that there had been quite a few visits to the website which includes information on the RSW Event in September.

8.8 Memorial benches: DSe said there had been an enquiry and he had provided details and costs. MBr asked if more than one plaque can be put on a bench so that the cost could be shared. DSe explained that only one plaque can fit on the recess. 2 benches have been installed without plaques but they may not be in a desired location.

9. Contribution to HDOPF Zoom Licence

Martin Bruton kindly organised the Zoom Meetings using the HDOPF licence. Finances are short at HDOPF and as HTCP will be using Zoom for the foreseeable future DSe put forward the suggestion that HTCP pay 50% of the annual licence until there is a return to in-person meetings. The cost of room hire at present is £20 and this is likely to increase. All present agreed to a contribution of £72.00

ACTION: MBr to send an invoice to DSu.

10. Rewilding Horsham Town

HDC has secured a grant from the government to rewild our local towns and to encourage shoppers to come back. HTCP has been invited to apply for a grant of £5k for rewilding and £2k to encourage shoppers to come back. DSe wrote to all the Directors asking for suggestions and nothing was submitted. DSe put forward the suggestion to erect bug hotels on trees around Horsham Town and link them with a competition for children. A meeting will be held with HDC and all the CP tomorrow where proposals will be either rejected or approved in principle.

11. Heritage Trail (Ron Bates) - (See item 7.5)

12. Bus Map (John White)

WSCC and Metrobus have concluded their investigations, and are happy for Horsham Town CP to take over the upkeep of the public transport notice board in the foyer of the Railway Station. It is important that contact is maintained with Metrobus to make sure the content



Horsham Town Community Partnership

www.horsham.community



of the poster is accurate and up to date. JW will approach Metrobus to ask if they will either print or pay for the poster.

DSe said that it should be made clear that HTCP will only be responsible for the contents of the notice and not the maintenance.

13. Finance (Diane Sumpter)

DSu confirmed that the figures were the same as reported at the last meeting.

Payment made for website hosting = £140.43

Sponsorship for the RSW Event from the 3 Neighborhood Councils has gone into the account.

DSe commented that he will find out about this year's grant from HDC at the next Community Partnership Meeting on 14.7.21. *Post Meeting Note: HDC has agreed and paid £500 maintenance grant.*

DSu concluded that HTCP's finances are in healthy position.

Audit of accounts: It was agreed that a gift of 2 bottles of wine be purchased to thank Eddie Case for doing the audit again.

14. Development New House Farm (David Searle)

DSe spoke at the Public Inquiry and had to remind the Inspector that he was speaking as the Chairman of HTCP trying to protect the RSW and not as a Councilor which she referred to him as. In being questioned by the applicant's barrister DSe was asked how much HTCP had spent in improving the RSW. DSe said £80k and advised that there was still in the region of £200k worth of work left. It was suggested that if planning approval was given their client may wish to make a contribution to the remaining works. DSe received telephone calls from Fairfax the developer agreeing to contribute £50k if planning was approved.

DSe has referred this matter to HDC Monitoring Officer to ensure the offer is in the public domain. The Inspector's decision is expected in September 2021.

15. Rookwood Development

As confirmed in the West Sussex County Times and the email from MW, HDC has withdrawn Rookwood Golf Course from the draft Local Plan for the time being. MW thanked everyone involved in supporting the objection including MBr and the HDOPF for hosting the public meetings.

16. AOB



Horsham Town Community Partnership

www.horsham.community



Greg Charman: MBr advised that GC the HDC Community Safety, Health & Wellbeing Manager is leaving on 6.8.21.

Horsham in Bloom: SBr said there is a drive to change the name i.e. find an alternative to 'Bloom'.

RSW planting: MW enquired if it might be possible to plant fruit trees and shrubs along the RSW as a link to rewilding. DSe said that there are beautiful apple trees on the section along Hills Farm Lane but no one picks the apples.

17. **Next Meeting**

AGM followed by Directors' Meeting: Tuesday 21st September 7.30pm via Zoom.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.



Horsham Town Community Partnership

www.horsham.community



Horsham Town Community Partnership Chairman's Report to Board Meeting to be Convened on 13th July 2021

Introduction

It is expected that the Government will start to relax some Covid Restrictions as from the 19th July with all restrictions being lifted by 24th July. The Delta variant is still spreading and we must be cautious and take personal responsibility for our own safety and those who we come into contact with. Until we see the effect of the relaxation of Covid restrictions all HTCP Meetings shall be via Zoom.

HDOPF Zoom License

Martin Bruton kindly agreed to arrange our Zoom Meetings using the HDOPF Zoom License. HDOPF and all voluntary organisations are struggling financially and with the Boards agreement I would like to suggest HTCP makes a contribution towards the license. To be discussed as agenda item 8

Riverside Walk Improvements

I have met with Pete Crawford, HDC Parks and Open Spaces Manager and have been advised that the S106 monies for the construction of board walks opposite Bens Acre has expired and is no longer available. Pete hopes to allocate monies from another budget to enable these works to be carried out during the summer months. Awaiting an update from HDC.

2021 Annual Riverside Walk

The Events Team have a meeting on Wednesday 14th July to update arrangements. The event will take place this year on Saturday 11th September and so far we have received 180 applications to join the walk. It is hoped that when the scouts are added in and a few more apply the numbers will increase to circa 300.

All 3 Neighbourhood Councils have agreed to give a grant of £180 and monies have been deposited into our account. NHPC will consider the grant at their next Finance Meeting on 15th July. The walk will support the Parkinson Society.

Mobility Scooter Skills and Safety Sessions

The Mobility Scooter Team have agreed to delay the start of future sessions until the Government lifts all the Covid restrictions. HDC, Health and Wellbeing have taken over an empty shop at the entrance to the Forum from Blackbridge Lane and we have a meeting arranged with the manger on 20 July to discuss the possibility of running sessions in the shop and taking practice trips around the town.

Rewilding Horsham Town

District Community Partnerships have been invited to submit proposals to support HDC's initiative for rewild the District Towns. I asked HTCP Directors for their ideas and so far no responses have been received. I have put forward an idea to erect bug hotels in the towns 110 trees and link it to a children's treasure hunt. HDC is in agreement and meetings will be held to secure funding and develop the idea



Horsham Town Community Partnership

www.horsham.community



Bridge Repairs between Hammerpond Road and Hampers Lane

A bridge that crosses a stream adjacent to Hammerpond Road which we replaced the decking in 2019 for HDC is in need of replacing as the timber support beams are rotting. Pete Crawford has requested a meeting on Monday 12th July to seek our input into the new design. I will report back at the meeting. I will also raise an issue of a substandard bridge opposite Bens Acre and suggest we may fund the replacement. To be discussed at meeting.

HDC Maintenance Grant

Our application to HDC for this year maintenance grant has been approved and the £563 has been transferred to our account.

David Searle
Chairman HTCP

10th July 2021