



Horsham Town Community Partnership

www.horsham.community



Minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting

held on 21st September 2021 at 7.30pm using Zoom

Present:

David Searle (HTCP Chairman), Diane Sumpter (HTCP Treasurer and Chair of Horsham Forest Neighbourhood Council), Martin Bruton (HTCP Director and Horsham District Older People's Forum), Ian Botting (HTCP Director and Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council member), Ron Bates (HTCP Director and Horsham Society), Sue Brundish (HTCP Director and Horsham in Bloom), Roland Knight (HTCP Director), John White (HTCP Volunteer) Sara Doy (HTCP Minute Secretary).

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman, David Searle, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. DSe also thanked MB for setting up the Zoom meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Morag Warrack (HTCP Director and Chair of Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council)
3. **Acceptance of AGM minutes convened on 10th November 2020:** Proposed by DSe, seconded by SB and agreed by all.
4. **Chairman's Report and review of progress to 15th September 2021 (David Searle):** A report by the Chairman had been circulated prior to the AGM (See Appendix 1). DSe highlighted the following:

Meetings: Going forward meetings will continue to be held virtually using Zoom. The Millennium Hall will not be available as it is to be used for booster vaccinations.

Riverside Walk Improvements: DSe said he is to attend a meeting on 6/10/21 which will be attended by various organisations that offer grants for community work. He will see if it is possible to get sponsorship for improvements. DSu said she will enquire about funding at the forthcoming meeting of HDC and the Neighbourhood Councils.

Mobility Scooter Skills: It is hoped the training courses will restart in October subject to any Covid restrictions or weather.

Integrated Bus Map: JW has put the map up in the noticeboard outside the railway station. He is hoping to also put one up in one of the Carfax noticeboards.

Rewilding Horsham Town: Regarding the suggestion to plant bug/bee friendly plants in existing flower beds, there is a need for volunteers to help with this. MB suggested contacting Horsham Green Spaces and DSu suggested contacting Sally Sanderson of Friends of Horsham Park.

2021 Annual Riverside Walk Event: This was very successful and there has been good feedback. Over £3k has been raised for the Parkinson's Society. Another organisation is sought to take over the running of the Event, but it should remain as a community event. The Scouts may be



Horsham Town Community Partnership

www.horsham.community



interested. The cost came in under budget as the minibus hire cost has not risen and New House Farm made no charge for using their field to park cars. It is suggested that the remaining funds contribute towards next year's insurance.

It was suggested that there could be a donation required to take part. DSe was not in favour of this idea as not everyone completes the whole walk and participants start at different points. There has never been a charge to take part and it could discourage participants. The chosen charity is responsible for their own fundraising collections. DSe will ask the Rotary Club if they are interested, as they run a lot of community events and have younger members.

5. **Accounts and Treasurer's Report (Diane Sumpter):** The audited accounts for the year to 31st March 2021 were distributed prior to the AGM. No queries were raised. DSu confirmed that although HTCP only has a small grant, at the moment the finances are in a healthy position.

A gift of wine will be given as a 'thank you' to Eddie Case who has again audited the accounts. The accounts will be signed and sent to Companies House.

DSu reminded members that if there are any changes e.g. change of address, retirement, they should letter her know as Companies House need to be advised.

6. **Election of Chairman:** DSe agreed to continue as no one else has put themselves forward for the role. Proposed by MBr, seconded by RK and agreed by all.
7. **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 eight Directors so three were required to retire. Ian Botting, Sue Brundish and Martin Bruton stood down. IB, SB and MB volunteered to stand again. All agreed.

8. **HTCP Future:**

Chairman role: MB expressed concern that if DSe needs to stand down who will take over? He commented that DSe has a lot of invaluable knowledge about the Riverside Walk. DSe said he would hope to still remain involved.

10. **Next AGM**

Date to be confirmed for September/October 2022 subject to the accounts being finalised.

Appendix 1.

Chairman's Report for 2021 AGM

Introduction

Covid 19 Pandemic continued to affect Horsham Town Community Partnership (HTCP) with projects continuing to be suspended. Directors Meeting continued on Zoom. We welcomed the Government's

A Company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, incorporated 7th September 2011
Company No: 7765509. Registered Office Telfont Magna, Salisbury Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13
0AJ



Horsham Town Community Partnership

www.horsham.community



announcement in the Spring that some of the restrictions would be lifted in the summer months and this gave us the opportunity to plan a gradual start-up of our projects.

RSW Improvements

I applied to HDC for S106 monies that has been specifically designated for improvements to construct 2 lengths of raised board walk adjacent to Grebe Crescent where the ground gets flooded each year and remains muddy. After 2 years of chasing HDC they have now advised that the timescale to spend the money has run out and the money no longer exists. Pete Crawford HDC Parks and Countryside Manager is exploring other avenues to fund this project.

Prior to this year's Annual Riverside Walk an inspection of the route identified a potential hazard adjacent to Bens Acre where a single timber board had been laid over a ditch. Forest Neighbourhood Council (FNC) kindly offered to fund a new timber bridge for the sum of £400. Volunteers constructed the bridge which incorporated a plaque acknowledging FNC contribution.

The current route of the RSW is along Rusper Road and then along Lemmington Way. It has long been an aspiration to divert the route past the Mott and Bailey site through the wooded area between the A264 and houses to avoid walking along roads. Peter Crawford was consulted and he advised that this area has 90% of trees with ash die back and he is in the process of letting a contract to remove the trees. Once the area is cleared we will raise the issue with him again.



Mobility Scooter Skills and Safety Sessions

It was hoped to reinstate these sessions before the onset of winter but due to the rates of infections continuing to rise they have been put on hold.

Integrated Bus Map

We have recently been given the key to the notice board in the foyer of Horsham Railway Station which contains an out of date bus map and information. The door is stuck shut and once it is freed we will insert a copy of our bus map.

Rewilding Horsham Town

HDC has invited HTCP to take part in rewilding Horsham Town. We withdrew our first suggestion to build and erect bee boxes as they required to be removed, cleaned and stored each year and we do not have the resources. A further suggestion is that we plant bug/bee friendly plants in the existing flower beds. Funding will come from monies allocated by the government to HDC. HDC will appoint a consultant to give guidance and work with us. I have approach Horsham Green Gym and Horsham in Bloom to support the project with their volunteers but so far have not received any interest. It may be possible to advertise in WSCT for volunteers.

Promoting the High Street

HDC has invited HTCP to take part in an initiative to promote Horsham Town and encourage shoppers back to the high street. Funding will come from monies allocated by the government to HDC. The suggestion is next year, several musical event will take place on the Carfax bandstand. I will advise the Board of our involvement when more detail is known.

Fairfax Development at New House Farm



Horsham Town Community Partnership

www.horsham.community



In May 2021 I spoke against this development at the inquiry along with other interested groups and I am pleased that the Inspector dismissed the appeal.

2021 Annual RSW Event

The Annual RSW this year took place on Saturday 11th September starting and finishing at New House Farm in North Horsham. The walk was started by the Chairman of HDC David Skipp accompanied by Jeremy Quin MP. 320 walkers took part with 180 finishing the 13mile circular walk and being presented with a certificate of achievement. This year the walk supported the Parkinson Society who raised, circa £2500. The West Sussex County Times photographer attended the start and you can view his photographs on their website and in this week's paper. Lunch was taken at Chesworth Farm which gave their Friends the opportunity to explain their role and get more members. The



event was once again sponsored by Denne, Forest and Trafalgar NC and North Horsham Parish Council. We have received a number of emails thanking us for organising the event and praising the Volunteers

Zoom Meetings

It is unlikely that face-to-face meetings will resume until next year and Zoom Meetings will continue. Roffey Millennium Hall will not be available for room hire until next year

as they will be a Vaccination Hub from September 2021.

We have contributed to HDOPF Zoom License fee as we use these facilities for our Zoom Meetings. My thanks to Martin Bruton for arranging and administering the Zoom Meetings

Vote of Thanks

I would like to thank Diane Sumpter for undertaking the role of Treasurer, Sara Doy for taking the minutes and Eddie Case for continuous support in auditing our accounts. Finally, my thanks go to my fellow Directors for their continuing support during this very difficult year and look forward to working together again in the future.



o f
h i s

David Searle. Chair HTCP - 15th September 2021