



FAIR OAK & HORTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

2 Knowle Park Lane, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, SO50 7GL ☎ (023) 8069 2403

✉ enquiries@fair oak-pc.gov.uk 🌐 www.fairoak-pc.gov.uk

📱 @fair oakandhortonheathparishcouncil 📷 fair oakandhortonheath

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2021 at 7.00 pm at the Parish Office, 2 Knowle Park Lane, Fair Oak

P – present, Pt – part of the meeting, Ab – absent, Ap – apologies.

P	Cllr Anderson	Ap	Cllr Forfar	Ap	Cllr Mignot
P	Cllr Barrett	P	Cllr Higby	Ab	Cllr Scott
Ap	Cllr Bird	P	Cllr Marsh	P	Cllr Smith
P	Cllr Couldrey	P	Cllr Meech	Ap	Cllr Tennent
P	Cllr Douglas (Chairman)	P	Cllr McGuinness		Vacancy

Officers in attendance: Ms M Stephens, Clerk, Mrs L Greenslade/Mrs M Leadbitter-Allen, Deputy Clerks, Mrs J Cahill, Responsible Finance Officer & M Johnson, Operations Manager.

PUBLIC SESSION

A resident of New Road requested permission to purchase a piece of open space land at the rear of his property, owned by the Parish Council. He explained the history of the land. The Chairman advised that the Council's general policy is "no sale of public land", but despite that, every case is considered individually. She asked the Operations Manager to investigate and report back to next full council.

- Mr Nicholson - for Minute No 70
- Mrs Helen Brown (Arboricultural Consultant) for Minute No 66

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Higby – Minute No 67.

61. MINUTES (PAPER A)

RESOLVED

- (a) That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 20 September 2021, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record; and
- (b) That the delegated planning decisions of w/e 1 October 2021 be noted.

62. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Couldrey be appointed as Vice-Chairperson for the remainder of the municipal year. He accepted the declaration of office.

63. FINANCE REPORT (REPORT B)

Members considered the report of the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Finance Report be approved;
- (b) That BACS payment be approved; and
- (c) That the External Auditors report be noted.

64. TENNIS COURTS PROJECT & BOOKING FEES (REPORT C)

Members considered the improvement works to the tennis courts and the proposed court hire fees.

The Chairman reminded members that when the tennis courts were originally installed, hire fees were applied, however, due to the onerous task of collecting funds for bookings, this was disbanded. This had meant that the courts had been slowly degrading. In addition, there had been an increase in antisocial behaviour and court 'hogging' by professional coaches, thereby limiting court use for other users.

Members supported the improvements and the application of fees on the site. The new digital system would ensure improved booking experience for residents, secure the courts and ensure they remained in continual good repair.

Following discussion, it was:

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a subscription for everyone in one household, to play all year, be set at £35: and
- (b) That a charge of £6.00 per hour, per court be fixed, if not subscribing an annual membership

65. TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY & PLANTING SCHEDULE (REPORT D)

The Council considered the implementation of a tree management policy and tree planting schedule.

The Council had not implemented a tree replanting scheme in the last 5+ years. This had resulted in gaps in sites where trees that had been felled in the past (due to them being dead, dying, or diseased) had not been replaced. Following a recent audit of sites, a tree planting replacement scheme had been suggested.

Cllr McGuinness expressed concern over certain trees proposed along the avenue at Knowle Park, at New Century Park and Oak Walk.

After discussion it was:

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the payment of consultancy fees of £1,500 from the Lapstone Ear Mark Reserve budget be approved;

- (b) That the tree management policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (c) That the Planting schedule, as set out in Appendix 2 be approved, subject to further discussion with the Clerk, Chairman and Cllr McGuinness;
- (d) That the allocation of £16,632, from the Lapstone Ear Mark Reserve budget, towards the purchase of trees as per the tree planting schedule be approved; and
- (e) The allocation of up to £500, from within the existing tree budget, towards information plaques for the veteran oak tree(s) in Knowle Park, be approved, delegating the commissioning of these to the Parish Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman.

66. BEE & TREE CORRIDOR PROJECT (REPORT E)

The Council considered planting schemes for Summerlands Road, Brook Road, Library frontage and Meadowsweet Way as part of the first phase bee and tree corridor project.

The Council's Arboricultural Consultant was in attendance to answer technical questions from members.

Members were impressed with the scheme and thanked Helen Brown for all her efforts.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That subject to the reduction of one tree on the library scheme, the planting schemes as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (b) That the fees associated with the schemes as set out in paragraph 7.1 be approved and taken from the village environmental enhancement S106 fund; and
- (c) That the Parish Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, be delegated authority to oversee the implementation of the schemes.

67. TWYNAMS FIELD (REPORT F)

Cllr Higby declared a non-pecuniary interest as a resident of Knowle Park. She concluded that there were no issues under common law that prevented her from remaining in the meeting to speak and to vote.

The Council considered a proposal for the opening of Twynams Field, Knowle Park to the general public.

As outlined in the report, the opening of the field for public access would cater for visitors seeking a longer walk around Knowle Park, and greatly compliment the facility the Parish Council provided to the public.

Following discussion, it was: -

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Twynams Field be opened to the general public, following engagement with nearby residents; and
- (b) That the Operations staff undertake works to create cut pathways around the perimeter of the field, with a view to opening the area for the summer (May to September) to gauge public reaction and use; and

(c) That members receive an update on the success of this in a years' time.

68. VILLAGE CENTRE (RENAMED IMAGE) TASK & FINISH GROUP (REPORT G)

The Council considered the recommendations of the Village Improvements Task & Finish Group which included the installation of solar benches, commissioning of a village wayfinding map and urban greening projects.

Members supported the recommendations of the group, and as such, it was:

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the options, as set out in paragraph 4.4 of the report be approved,
- (b) That £26,990 be taken from the village enhancement ear mark reserve to fund these projects; and
- (c) That the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council be delegated project management and allocation of funds.

69. COMMUNITY LIBRARY BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

RESOLVED:

That the item be deferred following receipt of the feasibility study.

70. COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Clerk updated members on the progress of the project including resident consultation, submission of the planning application and preliminary discussions on the detailed designs.

A full progress report would be submitted to the next Council meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

71. HCC PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE LOCAL CYCLING & WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN (LCWIP) FOR EASTLEIGH BOROUGH

The Chairman suggested that the following comments be submitted to the County Council:-

Fair Oak Parish Council welcomes any changes which would encourage residents to walk and cycle, increase physical activity, decrease traffic, and carbon emissions.

PRIMARY ROUTE: Route 280: Eastleigh Station to Bishopstoke (280.4)

Although this section of road is not within the Fair Oak Horton Heath Parish Boundary any construction along this road is likely to cause significant congestion along the Eastleigh Road/Bishopstoke Road Corridor in both directions

Although Fair Oak and Horton Heath welcome the proposed changes which would allow for a consistent, designated cycle route we do have some concerns as outlined below:

What is the Environmental cost of the removal of established trees to make way for widening of the carriageway and footpath to create cycle paths?

The proposed significant works to bridges and/or replacement of bridges is likely to mean road closures which would significantly impact traffic. What are the proposed diversion routes and time frames?

How do these proposals work/fit in with the open Transforming Cities Consultation: Bishopstoke Road-Bus Priority Improvement Scheme? The proposed timeline for these works, if approved, will begin in Summer 2022.

PRIMARY ROUTE: Route 280: Bishopstoke to Winchester Road (280.5)

The proposals within this plan must be considered when planning application [O/20/89498](#) is revised and resubmitted.

Fair Oak Parish Council welcomes changes to increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians and scheme would fit into 15 Minute Neighbourhood and assist in Parish Carbon Neutral targets, however the proposed traffic filtering improvements to the junction Sandy Lane/Fair Oak Road/Allington Lane will need to consider the cycle path improvements laid out in this consultation.

Fair Oak Road is a relatively narrow road which is busy with local traffic what kind of traffic calming measures are you proposing? With the road being narrow with parked cars on either side and a regular bus route, how would the removal of the centre line allow for cycle lanes to be introduced?

SECONDARY ROUTE: Route 339: Colden Common – Hound 339.1 Bosville – Woodside Avenue

Fair Oak Parish Council were concerned with the following:

To install designated cycle lanes along B3354 at Crowdhill would require widening of the carriageway and 3rd party consent. Is there a contingency plan if 3rd party consent is not received?

What would the redesign of the bus stop on Winchester Road look like?

SECONDARY ROUTE: Route 339: Colden Common – Route Description: 339.2 Fair Oak to Hedge End Station

Allowance for cyclists does need to be considered along this stretch of road but properties either side does not allow for the widening of the road to accommodate designated cycleways. How would HCC go about creating designated cycle lanes along this busy stretch of road?

RESOLVED:

That the comments, as outlined above, be submitted to Hampshire County Council.

72. WORK PROGRAMME (REPORT H)

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme be noted.

73 CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

RESOLVED:

That the Council offices be closed on Friday 24 & Friday 31 December 2021.

73. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The Chairman proposed that, under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Act 1960, the public and the Press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information which would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of its confidential nature (staffing matters)”

PART II – PRIVATE SESSION

74. STAFFING MATTERS

The Clerk gave a verbal report on staffing issues.

RESOLVED:

That an increase in hours to cover staff shortages in the Operations team be agreed.

This was all the business and the meeting closed at 8.44pm.

Signed..... Chairman

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