

BISHOPSTOKE, FAIR OAK AND HORTON HEATH LOCAL AREA
COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 24 November 2021 (7:00 pm – 7:26 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor Parker-Jones (Chair); Councillors Dean, Broomfield, Marsh and Tidridge

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rushton

RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Dean, Parker Jones and Tidridge declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 as members of Bishopstoke Parish Council.

Councillor Marsh declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 as a Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Councillor.

41. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public raised the issue of the Persimmon Phase 1 Development, particularly the treatment of the boundary with 38A and 40 Mortimers Lane. The resident had produced a case study that highlighted a number of flaws with development control and planning policies, and accompanying photos. He had been in contact with different members of the Council and had asked for the issue to be scrutinised by the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel. This was declined. He implored the Committee to look at this development, among many others, to see what improvement opportunities were available. The case study and photographs have been shared with members of the Committee and relevant officers.

42. MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

43. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair gave the following report:

The Chair welcomed Cllr Broomfield back to BiFOHH after his couple years break and also pleased that Cllr Tidridge remains a member. She also recorded her thanks to Nick Couldrey who was the former chair of this committee and who was not re-elected in May.

It had been a very busy year since the elections and these are some of the activities that have occurred.

On 27 May the Chair and Cllr Marsh visited Fair Oak Squash Club to see the improvements made to the facilities, following an award of funding from this committee. The changing room improvements, now means that membership, especially of women has increased significantly from single figures to over 100. It is a community facility that the volunteers who run and manage it should rightly be very proud of and the facilities beyond Squash and Racket, such as the gym are very good.

On 29 July the Chair had the pleasure of interviewing perspective organisations to take forward youth service provision at the Y-Zone, all those interviewed were of a high calibre, but it was awarded to Youth Options, the Council is now in the contractual phase and it is hoped that all being well the new delivery will commence early in 2022.

The Chair has continued to meet regularly with both parish councils – which is helping to ensure a much greater amount of communication and collaboration between us, as does our regular team meeting.

In September the Chair attended the opening of the outdoor learning centre, another Youth Options programme, she would encourage all members who have contact with local schools to encourage them to see if there is scope to work with Youth Options.

Recently, the Community Development Officer, Michael Gillam was appointed. Members will recall the funding for this post was agreed at our previous meeting.

Stoke Wood Surgery has received £65k as approved by the Committee for improvements to its rooms.

Other monies set aside have resulted in additional bins, and other community assets such as a new play area at Bow Lake in Bishopstoke and a new play area at Pembers Drive in Fair Oak.

Earlier this month the Chair attended the Bishopstoke Parish Armistice service to lay the wreath on behalf of the Council.

Some of the safety improvements near the y-zone have begun, with the reciting of the benches. Work to reduce the height of the hedge has been agreed and work to place additional benches as requested by our older residents is being finalised.

The medium risk tree works associated with the Planney in Bishopstoke are due to commence imminently now we are out of Bird Nesting Season.

There was probably far more I could mention but I hope this gives a good flavour and overview.

There are some concerns shared by this committee, especially in respect to Asset Transfer and Development Monitoring. The Chair had requested several weeks prior that a report on problems and action taken by planning enforcement be brought to this meeting, however it was not forthcoming and she was very disappointed. The Chair would write to the Executive Head of Housing and Economy and request that at the next meeting in January the Committee receive a response and update in respect to the case study presented this evening and to inform him that they will start a rolling program of site scrutiny. Crowdhill and the Chase were suggested as the first sites.

The Chair requested that it was recorded that at no time had the Chair or Independent Councillor members of this committee requested that meetings of the Local Area Committee be cancelled. Any cancellation had been at the request of officers, firstly to ensure a covid compliant venue and due to lack of substantive business, thereby saving the public purse from holding unnecessary meetings. Any officer requested cancellation was discussed and approved in conjunction with all Committee members. The Chair reiterated that going forward no meetings would be cancelled.

44. FINANCIAL REPORT

The Committee received a report by the Local Area Manager (agenda item 6) relating to expenditure from the Committee's developer contributions.

The Committee received the following update:

- In regard to recommendation 4, relating to Hot Bins, the contribution should be listed as: DCF/15/77500Foreman Homes re land to West of Hammerley Farm, Horton Heath Receipt
Date:12/03/2021

RESOLVED –

That the Committee approved the following recommendations, subject to the update above:

- (1) £30,000 is allocated for improvements to the footpath at Knowle Lane, Fair Oak, from developer contributions.**
- (2) £6,315.94 is allocated for a new timber trail at Otter Close, Bishopstoke, from developer contributions.**

- (3) £1,500 is allocated to a living willow wigwam at Meadowsweet Way, Horton Heath, from developer contributions.**
- (4) £1,200 is allocated to purchase hotbins from developer contributions.**
- (5) £300 is allocated towards wildflower planting in Fair Oak, from developer contributions.**