

Minutes of a meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council held at the Church Rooms, Colbury on Tuesday, 12th April 2005, at 7-30 p.m.

Present

S. Arnold (Chairman)  
S. Ardern  
D. Bryant  
A Holdsworth  
R. Judd  
W Kewley  
I Oliver  
P. Sopowski

In Attendance:-

Mr. D. Hawkins, Clerk to the Council  
PC Lisa Woodcock  
25 members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from:

County Councillor F. Bright  
District Councillor L. Puttock  
District Councillor D. Tipp  
Mr. A. Jeffery

The Chairman opened the meeting by saying:-

*Good evening and welcome to you all. What a lot has happened since we last met? Charles and Camilla are happily married with their families giving full support, which says something about articles in newsletters - you can't always believe them. But of course this occasion was over shadowed by the death of the Pope. I am not a Catholic, but a true Christian, and if we can learn something from his passing - to encourage us all to speak the truth and live the truth by our actions, what a better community and world we would live in.*

*And on a brighter note, I have confirmed today at 4.25pm that the Kingfisher Homes Planning Application has been withdrawn.*

**(1) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A Parishioner, asked if the Parish Council was going to have a discussion about the Kingfisher Application?  
Councillor Sopowski replied that although withdrawn, Kingfisher would come up with something different. He believed that the NFDC Housing Design Team now had a different view on what is required for the village.

A Parishioner, wished it noted by the Parish Council that residents of the Brimpton Mead Care home had been given one months notice to quit the Home. She believed that the same company had purchased three properties adjoining the Home.  
Councillor Sopowski replied that this was useful information, especially in the light that Hollystone Ltd had two current planning applications to make alterations to the Home. He thought it was a shame that predominantly local residents would have to be relocated.

A Parishioner and Chair of the Neighbourhood Watch Association, wished it known that the Fire Service was offering a free service to inspect, test, and repair any fire alarms in Parishioners houses. They would also fit free, new fire alarms if requested. This useful information is to be included in the next Newsletter.

A Parishioner enquired if the Parish Council was going to continue the task of having "Dragons Teeth" fitted in the grass verge along Foxhills?  
Council Sopowski asked the Clerk to remind everyone the current position on the problem.  
It was then agreed to show The Area Surveyor the problem at first hand on the imminent "Village Walkabout".

A Parishioner, said that he was pleased to see that a traffic survey by way of automatic counters in the road had taken place in the village. He surmised that this was the promised survey to measure traffic levels "post Right Hand Turn". However in his opinion, the week after Easter was not a "normal week" and measurements would be skewed. He would like to see the survey carried out again on an "ordinary week", before the results of the current survey are published.  
The Clerk was tasked to write to HCC and report this observation.

A Parishioner, enquired if the mess left by the travellers near to the railway station approach was going to be cleared up?  
Councillor Arnold replied that in her opinion a priority was to have a gate erected across this stretch of road to stop any move travellers moving in. She asked the Clerk to ask NFDC for a litter pick of the rubbish in the vicinity of the travellers encampment, she noted that a lot of the rubbish was there before the travellers arrived.

A Parishioner asked if the triangle of land bordered by Woodlands Road and the A35 could also have a litter pick, the woods there contained a large amount of rubbish thrown from cars.

PC Woodcock then gave her report on the village.

The Forces new intelligence system "Oberon" had come into action on the first of April. PC Woodcock said that the system, which had National Links, would be a far better intelligence system for all forces. The system, as it was new, only contained two weeks crime figures, these showed 2 reported minor crimes for the village. PC Woodcock reported that she had visited the travellers by the railway station on numerous occasions. She had been liaising with the Travellers Officer at HCC over their removal. She had insisted that HCC issue an order for their removal last week and the travellers had now moved to the Busketts Lawn Car park. Councillor Arnold observed that HCC had just sat back and allowed the travellers to stay in place, it was only the pushing from the police that had stirred HCC into action. Councillor Sopowski enquired if the intervention of a District Councillor "to bite people" at HCC would be of any help in future cases? PC Woodcock replied that any feedback from other sources to HCC would greatly help speed up the traveller's removal. PC Woodcock agreed to liaise with the Parish Councillors next time the travellers appear.

PC Woodcock announced that she will be paying special attention to the graffiti artists who target the underpass of the A326 at Foxhills. She said that the stop and search powers the police had would allow her to check individuals for cans of paint. Councillor Bryant asked if the Traffic Wardens could have another blitz on cars overstaying the time limit in the Parade of Shops. PC Woodcock agreed to pass on the request to the Wardens at Totton. He asked the Clerk to pursue with NFDC increasing the waiting area to cover the car parking spaces opposite the Happy Cheese. PC Woodcock said that would be a great help to her if these spaces were included.

The Chairman asked if there were any other matters that the public wished to discuss, none were forthcoming  
And it was

**RESOLVED:**

- Clerk to ask NFDC to increase the spaces covered by the waiting limit in the Parade of Shops.
- Clerk to request a litter pick at the station approach.
- Clerk to arrange a walkabout with Rob Millar of HCC

**(2) DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST IN AN AGENDA ITEM**

The Chairman reminded Parish Councillors that they must fill out a Code of Conduct "Form C" if they have a personal interest in any agenda items which follows.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted

**(3) MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2005 were approved.

Councillor Holdsworth, seconded by Councillor Judd proposed that the minutes are approved, the vote in favour was unanimous.  
And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted

**(4) HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Councillor Arnold, (continuing on from Public Participation) thought that a barrier of some design was necessary across the station approach path, to stop travellers camping on this land in the near future. She requested the Clerk to write to the HCC Area Surveyor and broach the subject of a barrier.

Councillor Judd presented a paper on traffic through the village and the Lyndhurst Bypass ....

On 13th April 2004, Councillor John Charlesworth of Lyndhurst Parish Council spoke at Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council Meeting, outlining why Lyndhurst Parish Council had set up a By-pass Committee and where the Committee was at that time. The idea of the Committee was consultation not confrontation. He went on to say that the right hand turn at Ashurst & Colbury would cause major problems for Lyndhurst Traffic and it would not improve their current situation.

We were given the impression that we would be contacted again in the near future as would all the Forest villages involved in traffic

flow. One year on and nothing has been heard.

After the comments during our March meeting, and the letter from a member of the public in the April issue of the Parish Newsletter, what are the views of our Parish Councillors on the following comments and suggestions?

1. The policy of diverting traffic from Lyndhurst to other parts of the Forest will jeopardise Lyndhurst Parish Council's chance of ever getting their by-pass.
2. If signage is put up to divert traffic through Ashurst, when busy, and queues form on the A35, traffic will divert via Beaulieu - another problem. Then the tranquillity of the Forest will be under threat, as well as the peace of our village.
3. Why isn't a Committee formed with at least one representative from every Forest village Parish Council, so that this matter can be discussed positively from the view of the whole Forest area, and this Committee to meet every two months, in order that all Parish Councils can be kept up to date, and to have an input, and to get things resolved.
4. We must think of the Forest area and villages as a whole, not just the problems of Lyndhurst, in isolation. We are all affected and must all work together.
5. At the present moment we are in danger of pitting one village against another
6. I personally feel a member of our Parish Council should attend the next Lyndhurst Parish Council Meeting and speak in their Public Participation to bring up these points. If the Parish Council agrees with these views, I would be quite happy to put myself forward to do this, if you would wish it?

Councillor Arnold thanked Councillor Judd for a well put together paper, she said that it showed you have the village at heart. Councillor Arnold had already been in contact with the Lyndhurst Clerk, who had agreed to allow Councillor Judd to have the 7.15pm slot at their next meeting.

Councillor Sopowski said that traffic control in and around the New Forest did not have any "joined up thinking", it was all internal politics from individual parties.

Council Judd said that the increased traffic flow through the village was definitely causing pollution. She wanted to know what had happened to Councillor Charlesworth suggestion of a traffic tunnel in Lyndhurst?

Councillor Arnold had received a comment that "Lyndhurst had helped Ashurst, by stopping lorries entering our village from the direction of Lyndhurst"! She then asked for a vote of all those in favour of allowing Councillor Judd to speak at the Lyndhurst Parish Council meeting. The vote was unanimous.

#### **b/ Highways other**

Councillor Arnold announced that a replacement bus shelter for the A35 was on order with Queensbury Shelters.

Councillor Arnold reported that the Clerk had written to Councillor Estlin re- variable signs on the motorway, but, as yet, no reply had been received.

Councillor Sopowski announced that he had received further complaints about obstructions placed on the grass verges along Woodlands Road. The number and size of some obstructions made it necessary for pedestrians with pushchairs to walk in the road. Councillor Bryant noted that residents of Balmerlawn Road were being sued by a motorist who had left the road to avoid a pony and crashed into similar obstructions.

The clerk announced that the last two letters to the Forestry Commission asking for some action on these obstructions had solicited just postcards informing the Council that they would investigate the matter.

It was agreed that a "personal" letter should be sent to Mike Seddon, Deputy Surveyor, informing him that the matter was going on the agenda at the New Forest Consultative Panel, and could he investigate the problem prior to the meeting.

And it was

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to write to the HCC Area Surveyor requesting a barrier across the station approach path.
- Clerk to write to Mike Seddon, Forestry Commission, re - verge obstructions.
- Cllr. Judd to attend a Parish Council meeting at Lyndhurst

#### **(5) VILLAGE WALKS**

Councillor Arnold announced that some Councillors had taken the suggested path as far as possible before trespassing. The owner of the Forest Inn has been very co-operative and keen to lend a hand; we went to the top of his ground, which then only leaves a short distance to Priors Bushes. We do realise that if we are fortunate to provide a circular walk back for our villagers this would mean keeping close to boundaries. From a briefing it would appear that a small bridge would be required and either a stile or gate, however this would be presented in a package to the owners for their perusal.

Councillor Sopowski said that he did not want to see too many access points into the forest, he could see that the Landlord thought it may be good for his business. He went on to say that not everyone would be happy with a new walk and he was worried that the Parish Council would put time and money into a walk that could be overused by walkers. He had seen this before when the Forestry Commission wanted larger car parks in the Inclosures, this had to be fought and stopped to keep the foot traffic off the forest.

Councillor Judd enquired if the walk would be advertised?

Councillor Arnold said that it may be included in a "Healthy Walks" brochure.

Councillor Sopowski again questioned "do we want another foot access into the forest"? I am worried that it may become a honey pot for walkers.

Councillor Oliver observed that the parish was seeking to introduce a "permissive walk", where permission is sought of the landowner to walk on their land without the landowner being responsible for those carrying out the walking. And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

#### **(6) RECREATION GROUND**

Councillor Oliver reported that the picnic bench was sited at a strange angle. Every time he straightened it, the bench was tilted again by youths using the park.

Councillor Arnold said " as reported in the March minutes a plan has been submitted to NFDC for great changes in the park". She went on to say that after standing in the middle of the park with an officer getting soaking wet, the committee and the Clerk have managed to secure a substantial grant from NFDC. We just need the rubber stamp from "officialdom". I wish to congratulate the whole park committee and of course the Clerk for the tremendous effort that has been made and we look forward to replenishing the furnishing in the near future.

And it was

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

#### **(7) PARISH COUNCIL 20 YEAR CELEBRATIONS**

Councillor Arnold reported on arrangements by saying; We had another meeting last evening, and all is looking good for a fun day out for the village. Councillor Kewley has begged and pleaded with various business's which is making for a very good draw. To me the pleasure of taking on such an event is the community spirit that it is bringing. Everybody that I have approached is saying "count me in" "what can I do? It gives you a real boost and who knows it could be an annual occurrence? I say this with tongue in cheek as I look at some of the committees faces here tonight. What we would like is bottles for the bottle stall and of course if you have the odd new TV or DVD surplus to requirements please remember our draw. Last night we did think that a car was coming but unfortunately the committee member was only talking about another occasion. Never mind we tried. But all in all everything is going to plan, all we pray for is a dry day.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

#### **(8) PLANNING**

*Prior to the Parish Council meeting commencing at 19.29, Councillor Oliver presented a Form "C" in that he resides at Ryedale where a current planning application is being considered. He took no part in any discussion on this application.*

#### **A/ Monthly report from the head of the Planning Sub-committee.**

Councillor Sopowski, as Head of the Planning Committee read a report prepared by the Clerk on planning matters within the Parish for the last month.

#### **Planning Application information for the months of March / April 2005.**

##### **(a) Applications received since the date of the last meeting: -**

Application No - 84124 - 4, Pine Close - Kittow - New Bungalow

Application No - 84162 - 38, New Road - Peel - Roof Alterations

Application No - 84167 - 24, New Road - Anderson - Rear Extension, conservatory

Application No - 84208 - 22, Ashdene Road - Rumbold - Attached Garage

Application No - 84220 - 2, New Road - Wilkinson - Conservatory

Application No - 84243 - 88, Lyndhurst Road - Hollystone Ltd. - Extension to garage

Application No - 84282 - The Barn, Ashurst Farm - Bryant - External Alterations, Change of Use

Application No - 84365 - 65, Ashdene Road - Wareham - Rear Extension, replacement garage

Application No - 84366 - 4, Wingrove Road - Robinson - Roof Alterations

##### **(b) Tree work applications received since the date of the last meeting**

None

##### **(c) Planning permission granted since date of last meeting**

Application No - 83634 - 129, Lyndhurst Road - Harris - Rear Extension

##### **(d) Tree work applications approved since the date of the last meeting**

None

##### **(e) Tree work applications refused since the date of the last meeting**

None

**(f) Planning permission refused since the date of the last meeting**

None

**(g) Appeals made since the date of the last meeting**

None

**(h) Appeals granted since the date of the last meeting**

None

**(i) Appeals refused since the date of the last meeting**

None

**(j) Tree Preservation Orders issued since the date of the last meeting**

Application No - 17/05 - 4, Ash Grove - 1 Oak

**(k) Renewal of Public entertainment Licence**

Colbury Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane - Mrs. E. Harris (Church Warden)

**(l) Transfer of Justices Licence**

Joanne Williams is the new Licence Holder for The Happy Cheese 9<sup>th</sup> March 2005

**b/ Planning application by the Drew Smith Homes to build 8 units near to the site of 30, Foxhills.**

Councillor Sopowski announced that the application was still doing the round of Councillors on the Planning Sub-Committee. He wished to comment that the application was a "No, No for him as one of the proposed properties was on the exact site that had been recently turned down by NFDC when phase one of the development was built. All the Parish Councillors noted comments made by a parishioner, who owned a property on phase one, and wished to organise opposition to phase two. His comments centred on the access road to the site, which in his opinion was too small. There had already been incidents during the school run of people parking or turning in what he considered to be a private driveway to the existing new houses. He was going to organise the other residents of Vixen Close into opposing the application.

The Clerk announced that as directed by the Parish Council, he had sent questionnaires to the three properties affected by the development. These had sought the opinions of the householders on the planning application just outside their rear boundaries. He reported that they had not replied although stamped envelopes had been provided for a reply slip to the Parish Council.

Councillor Sopowski continued by saying "Now what we need to do is make a decision for the whole village on this application".

Councillor Arnold directed the Clerk to display the site plan on the village notice board for all to see and comment.

And it was

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to pin site plan on notice board.

**c/ Kingfisher Homes, planning application to build 14 units near Ashurst Station**

Councillor Arnold made comment again, as per her reply in item 1 on the agenda that she had been advised at 4.25pm today that Kingfisher Homes had withdrawn their application. Councillor Sopowski retorted that a new application to build on the site would soon follow.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

**(9) THE "LENGTHSMAN"**

Councillor Judd observed that the Parish Council's application to both District Councillors for a Rural Grant to paint the street furniture in the Parade has resulted in the sum of £166 being received from Councillor Tipp. She wondered what had become of the grant monies allocated to Councillor Puttock? She said this without malice, after reading the original documentation from NFDC, which showed that the grant monies could be split three ways.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted

**(10) JOB VACANCY PARISH CLERK**

*The Clerk in a letter to the Parish Councillors tendered his resignation.*

Councillor Arnold asked those Parish Councillors who were available, to join her on the evening of Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> of April to go through the applications for the position of Parish Clerk. She also wished volunteers to attend the interview on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May (pm)

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

**(11) ACCOUNTS**

**a/ Accounts paid since the date of the last meeting.**

None

**b/ Accounts due since the date of the last meeting.**

D. Hawkins, Clerks Salary and Expenses	366.73	
IRD, Clerks PAYE/nics + employers nics PO Ltd		94.12
Mrs. M. Weston, Newsletter Editorial Costs issue No 93	223.79	
Frost the Printers, Newsletter Printing Costs issue No 93		417.00
Mrs S Arnold , Newsletter Accounts Dec 2004- March 2005		59.12
Mr P Green, Speaker APM 2005		25.00
Mr Bennett, replacement plants damages caused at his property		69.68
Portsmouth City Council, badges for Parish Councillors	12.42	
Newsquest, Job Advert Parish Clerk		346.63
Mr D Hawkins , Purchase Storage Boxes		12.00
Carousel , Computer Consumables	15.73	
Mrs M Weston, extra editorial fees issue 92		40.00

Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Holdsworth , proposed that the accounts as shown be paid. The vote in favour was unanimous.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

**(12) GRANTS**

There were no grant applications this month.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted

**(13) REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES**

**Councillor Sopowski** - None this month

**Councillor Holdsworth** - None this month

**Councillor Oliver**- attended the Parish & Town Councils liaison meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, test of the village circular walk on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, Lyndhurst PC APM on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April and the 20 year celebrations sub committee meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April  
**Councillor Arnold**- Attended the New Forest Association of Local Councils meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005 with Councillor Rita Judd. Confirmation of the 4 Parish Councillors to the National Park Authority Copythorne Parish Council had written about the break-up of fields for horse and pony pets for riding on the Forest. It was agreed that any problems about animal welfare could be referred to the NSPCA. Owners of pet riding horses erecting 'shanty-town' animal shelters could be considered for reference in the Local Plans. The main part of the meeting was taking up with the constitution of the Association, Ringwood Council had put in several alterations and these would be discussed at the next executive meeting. Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council had no reason to make any changes. The executive committee had put Councillor Arnold's name forward to join the executive meeting. It was a unanimous decision for this to happen.

Attended the Lyndhurst Parish Council APM on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March with Councillor Oliver purely out of interest to learn how other parishes organise their meetings, and to acknowledge an interest in our neighbouring parish.

Attended the Parish and Town Council s liasion meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March. Topics were:-

Community Safety Strategy -ASBO, Burglary and the fear of crime

Crimes against people -hate crime and domestic crime

Crimes against property -400 in the last year of which 90 where insecure property Community Reassurance and communication - 17.5% reduction is the aim. What you can do for yourselves -Ensure local issues are not ignored.

Encourage understanding -work with partners [this meaning the partnership with PRIME]

Parish Plans and Health Checks

Rural Pathfinder projects

An appointment was made with Penny Valender with regards to the Parish Plan

National Park Changes in planning Tourism

The South East Plan

Held a sub-committee meeting of the 20 Year Celebrations on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April. (see item 7 of the agenda)

**Councillor Ardern** - None this month

**Councillor Judd** - Attended the NALC meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March with Councillor Arnold. Read this report on New Forest North Citizens Advice Bureau Management Committee Meeting held at Avonway Community Centre, Fordingbridge, on Monday 4th April 2005 at 7.30p.m. I attended representing Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council. Recruitment in Totton CAB -Three ladies have all started as trainee advisers. Premises. Security facilities for the staff have been installed, and arrangements are in place for the use of a fourth interview room. Computers/IT/Office Equipment. New PG Debt software has been purchased and they hope shortly to be in a position to purchase the first of two new computers. A new locking filing cabinet has been donated by Kestrel Security, a local firm. Ringwood and Fordingbridge also reported on their various problems and achievements. The work-load in Totton Office is very high and is having to be monitored. The debt cases are becoming very time consuming -it was explained that a 20 -30 minute interview with a client can be followed up with a minimum of about three hours of very specialised work for the adviser.

**Councillor Kewley** - attended the 20 year celebrations sub committee meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April.

**Councillor Bryant** - None this month

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted

(14) **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence received :-March April 2005**

HCC	Holding out For Hampshire - The South East Plan (Leaflets)
HCC	New Forest Action Forum Annual Report 2004
NFDC	How Changes in Planning Rules may affect you (National Park)
NFDC	Information Bulletin April 2005

Councillor Arnold announced that the Parish Council would be receiving a letter from Ann Arscott, Chair of the Board of Governors from Foxhills Junior School. The letter is in reply to the newsletter article on how this years Carol Concert was run.

Councillor Arnold also announced that she had not received any aims or objectives from villagers in reply to the request printed in this months newsletter.

(15) **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

None

The public meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9-00pm