

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2005 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

Present: Councillors S. Arnold (in the Chair), S. Ardern, D. Bryant, A. Holdsworth, R. Judd, W. Kewley, I. Oliver, P. Sopowski

In Attendance: Parish Clerk L. Griggs, District Councillor L. Puttock, District Councillor D. Tipp and 26 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: None

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Public Participation

It was pointed out that the Gas Board in carrying out their work in Ashdene Road had deposited a large container directly in front of an electricity sub station and a similar thing had happened in Knightwood Close. This could be a significant hazard. Councillor Arnold said she would speak to the workmen.

It was confirmed that the Parish Plan update would be dealt with under Planning.

2. Disclosure of Interest

None

3 Minutes

On a proposal by Councillor Kewley seconded by Councillor Judd the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

Councillor Judd said cars were still being parked in front of the shops all day and asked what action could be taken to prevent all day parking in a restricted area. WPC Adams was present and, at the invitation of the Chairman, said the Police had visited the area ready to take action. However it was noted that when the Police appeared people were rushing from nearby premises to move the cars before the allowed parking period had expired. Unfortunately due to pressures elsewhere the Traffic Warden would be unable to visit Ashurst regularly.

The Chairman advised that the potholes and collapsed drains etc had now been repaired.

The Clerk reported that the matter of expenses for Councillors would be discussed in January. The Council was notified in October 2003 that it would be possible for Parish Councils to agree to pay expenses to Councillors if action was taken by December 2003. There was nothing in the minutes to indicate whether the Council had considered the matter at that time and therefore further consideration as to how to proceed was necessary. Documents would be circulated prior to the next meeting.

The Chairman said she had just received by email a Press Release in regard to the possible merger of Police Authorities and in view of its urgency, the deadline for submissions was before the next meeting, she wished to raise it now. Consideration was being given by Government to merge Hampshire Constabulary with one or more neighbouring forces and the document was seeking support from the Hampshire Community in opposing any merger. She said the document could be placed in the Newsletter so all residents could make their own submissions. The Council would oppose the merger

plans. Councillor Sopowski questioned whether that was actually the view of the Council. On a show of hands the Council agreed by a majority decision to oppose the merger and place the document in the Newsletter and on the web site.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The revised document having been circulated prior to the meeting and having had no further amendments proposed, the Chairman invited the Council to accept the revised document. On a proposal by Councillor Oliver seconded by Councillor Judd it was **RESOLVED** that the document be ratified and forwarded to the Information Commissioner.

4. Highway matters.

a) The Clerk advised that permission had been received to close The Parade for the duration of the Carols in the Dark tomorrow evening.

b) Councillor Sopowski reported that the plans for the Cycle Path were still awaited.

c) Councillor Judd said that the leaves and rubbish were still accumulating in the 'cut throughs' and gutters and again requested action to clear them before further rain exacerbated the situation.

5. Recreation Ground

Councillor Oliver reported as follows

a) Fourteen new posts marking the perimeter for walking dogs had now been erected at a cost of £185.50.

b) There was no progress to report on the signs.

c) A quotation of £867 had been received for replacing the wicket gate at the Lakewood Road entrance to the Recreation Ground. Councillor Ardern said it had been removed to enable access by disabled people and questioned why it was being replaced bearing in mind the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. The Chairman said it was necessary to stop horse and motor cycles being taken into the park. A further quote was being obtained and progress would be reported at the next meeting.

6. Planning

a) Councillor Sopowski gave a report on planning matters (see annex 1). He also reported that an application was in process to demolish the Alldays premises and replace it by a two storey building with flats over a shop. The plans had just been handed to him but no Case Officer Briefing Notes were yet to hand. The Consultation period ends on 13th January.

The Chairman said that in view of the possible impact on the community the details would be placed in the Newsletter. Councillor Ardern reminded the meeting that there was a link on the Council's web site to the NFDC Planning Applications where the plans could be seen. It was suggested that the plans might also be put in the Newsletter but the Clerk pointed out that because of their size the detail would be lost in reducing them to A4 size. It was noted that the plans could also be seen at NFDC, Appletree Court in Lyndhurst.

It was noted that as Councillor Ardern may have a personal interest in this application she would be replaced on the Planning Committee for this item by Councillor Holdsworth.

b) Parish Plan. The Chairman invited Mr Brian Pass, Chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group to give an update on progress.

Mr Pass said:

Back in 2001 the Rural White Paper was launched which included a proposed 'community plan' where local people were to be encouraged to run their own affairs, and to set out a vision for their village to guide its future development. To date there are only eight completed Parish Plans in Hampshire, with another 45 being developed and other villages taking interest in this community led planning. Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council launched the Parish Plan at the 20 Years On fete and from that start 13

villagers have volunteered to get involved. Although the Parish Council is very interested in the Plan and will support the project in anyway possible, it must be prepared by villagers so the Council is represented by two Councillors, Sue Arden and Rita Judd. At our first meeting the proposed plan was discussed and its objectives determined:

- Identify local problems and opportunities and the community assets.
- Set out achievable and long-term vision for the future of the village.
- Prepare a plan of actions and projects to achieve this vision.

Some of the possible topics to discuss are facilities for the young people of the village, local character and design, transport and traffic, assessing services, leisure and recreation, and housing concerns. It is important that the entire village is involved, as the future of our village could depend on this plan. The group will work very closely with the Parish Council and put forward suggestions from information that we collect. We hope to send out a detailed questionnaire to all residents of Ashurst and Colbury during March 2006. Your opinions and ideas are of the utmost importance. Our thanks go to Sally Arnold and Ian Oliver for all their preparation work to get this project off the ground. If you are interested in getting involved with the formulation of this plan, please contact our Secretary, Rosemary McKay, or me. Arthur Jeffery is currently working on the history of the village and wants to talk to people with local knowledge. Although NFDC work on a 12-15 month time frame we envisage the plan will take us some 18 – 24 months.

7 The Lengthsman

Nothing to report

8. Accounts

A list of cheques issued since the last meeting had been circulated to all Councillors and was approved unanimously.

9. Grants

Nothing to report

10. Reports from representatives on other bodies

Councillor Sopowski had attended a meeting of the National Park Authority. Discussions lead to a decision on which four areas of work the NPA should concentrate upon in their first year.

Councillor Holdsworth had attended a meeting of the Hampshire Area Age Concern on 23 rd November which had noted that complying with the DDA was costing a lot of money. At a meeting at Crossfield Hall a talk had been given by Community Staff of the PCT on the need to keep warm. Some older people were so in the habit of turning the heating down that even though they could afford to have the heating on they still sat in the cold. At the Voluntary Sector meeting at Lyndhurst Community Centre on 25th November emphasis was given to the need for better press and media cover for the services available through Disability Associations

The foot clinics were proving very popular and a new brochure had been issued.

Councillor Judd said she had attended the AGM of the Management Committee of the Citizens Advice Bureau on 9th November at Ringwood. The Speaker was Lt. Col Charles Letchworth JP, a Magistrate and Chairman of the New Forest Bench who gave a very interesting talk about his work as a Magistrate. One point he clarified was why there are different fines or sentences for a similar offence. One case could be a motorist driving at 10miles over the speed limit and receiving a low fine and another travelling at the same speed receiving a high fine. He explained that if a driver is going 10

miles over the speed limit on a straight wide road with no bends, they are considered less likely to cause a serious accident, although breaking the law. A driver doing the same speed in a 40 mph road which has bends and is a single carriageway and known as a hazardous road would be a case of dangerous driving.

Councillor Judd also attended the CAB Management Committee meeting on 5th December held at Colbury Memorial Hall. A report was given by Mr Mike Williams on the work which is being undertaken by representatives of the various CAB Management Committees in the New Forest Area to consider the pros and cons of amalgamation.

Councillor Arnold had attended the following meetings:

- a) 18th November - NFALC Executive meeting with NFDC Heads of Department when the issues discussed were reducing traffic, including HGVs using unsuitable local roads, Car parking Charges, Tree preservation and Orders of Enforcement.
- b) 21st November - Executive of NFALC
- c) 22nd November – Parish Plan meeting
- d) 26th November – switch on of Parish Lights
- e) 28th November – NFDC seminar A New Approach to Planning
This grand title covered Special Planning, Community Strategy and National Park Management. In other words three departments for one new local development framework and it was felt necessary to have three separate plans because they are each defined under separate legislation.
- f) 29th November - Direct Contact Exhibition at the Rose Bowl showing the latest techniques in safety for the park and surrounding areas, which included building and construction.
- g) 1st December – NFALC meeting. Amendment to Constitution. Members not joining HAPTC and an amicable fee so that members not belonging to HAPTC can still be a member of NAFLC
- h) Attendance at the Recreation Ground to give access to the workmen putting in the poles for dog walk perimeter.
- i) Carols in the Dark tomorrow 14th December.

Councillor Bryant advised the Council that the New Forest East Sports Council had been disbanded.

12. Correspondence

The Clerk had given all Councillors a list of correspondence received since the last meeting. He particularly drew the attention of the Council to the 80th Birthday of the Queen and the reception to which those born on the same day may be invited. Any local residents who are 80 on the same day as the Queen should be nominated to attend the reception if they so desired.

13. Items for discussion at the next meeting

Councillor's expenses

The Chairman then said

"Before I close this meeting I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors who have supported our 20 Years On celebrations and the 20 Years On Committee who have worked tirelessly throughout the year. The privilege of being Chairman at this time has been a great honour and I feel so proud of our village and our residents. Without you this year would not have been so special for this Parish and it's Council.

The Carols in the Dark tomorrow will be our eighth event for the village and without your support and help none of this would have been possible. Tomorrow evening will have a twofold meaning, one the commencement of Christmas together and, two, the celebration of the 100th edition of our Parish Newsletter. This of course is down to the dedication of one person, being Mrs Margaret Weston. Without her and Peter Frost, who prints the newsletter, the enjoyment of seeing this paper drop on our

doormat each month would not be possible. Then we have the volunteers who, no matter what the weather, are ready each month to deliver it. On behalf of the Council I thank you all.
So to my Council Colleagues, the volunteers, my friends and that rock of mine, my husband, I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

I now close the meeting and we will continue together as a private party”.

Signed...S. R. Arnold..... Date 10th January 2006