

Minutes of a meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council held at the Church Rooms, Colbury on Tuesday, 8th February 2005, at 7-30 p.m.

Present

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

In Attendance:-

Mr. D. Hawkins, Clerk to the Council  
County Councillor F. Bright  
District Councillor L. Puttock  
29 members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Parish Councillor W. Kewley  
District Councillor D. Tipp  
Ben Craig of the Lymington Times  
PC Lisa Woodcock  
PC Lynn Adams

The Chairman opened the meeting by saying .... *Good evening and welcome. We do have a heavy agenda this evening, so I will keep my opening short! I must express my thanks to all the residents who came to the Council's rescue and assisted with the renovation work in our park. It looks fantastic and we have received many congratulations on the results. Another point is the appreciation this council has for residents who regularly attend our meetings. Some parishes have no members of the public in attendance. We are really proud to be able to quote our attendance numbers at association meetings. I know that some of you were here tonight hoping to speak to our Community Beat Officer, unfortunately her duties have changed and she is unable to attend, but she has sent a statement for me to read out in Public Participation.*

**(1) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*A Letter from PC L. Woodcock ..... Firstly I would like to send my apologies for not being at the meeting this evening. Secondly I would like to thank you all for the response and help you have put in to try and apprehend the people responsible for causing the damage within the community. I would like to add and hopefully reassure you all. I have been tasking patrols, in your area at the times the damage has been caused. Also over the last weekend we have received three response calls from local residents to which I personally responded to within five minutes. There have been a number of damage reports taken from other beat areas over the last few weeks so feel Ashurst is not being individually targeted, also that the local pubs are not responsible, however I do feel that the juveniles are local Ashurst residents, from the information and details I have gathered. Please stay positive and let's continue to work together.*

The Crime figures over the last 30 days are as follows: -

Damage -12 reported incidents, Indecency -1 reported incident, Theft -2 reported incidents

Vehicle Crime -2 reported incidents, (1 incident 3 detained at scene.)

I would like to add good work done by all in clearing the park area.

A Parishioner, Ms. Biffin, wished to enlighten other Parishioners on what had occurred near the recreation ground recently. She had witnessed three youths running up and down Lakewood Road (without trousers) Cooper Road residents having to sweep up glass in the recreation ground, youths banging "house for sale" signs on car roofs. She wished to know how long she had to put up with this sort of anti-social behaviour, and thought it "silly" that the police could not apprehend a group of youths. Councillor Judd

replied that she had received a telephone call today from PC Woodcock, who said that she was pursuing the matter, but waiting on proof before she could act.

A Parishioner, Mr. Ward of Wood Road commented that the village used to suffer from petty vandalism, but now there was serious damage occurring. Damage to his brick wall would cost one thousand pounds to rectify. He went on to say that he had stayed up from 11-30pm to 3-30am on Sunday night. (The night damage had occurred on two weeks running) during that time he had not witnessed any police patrols or any police presence in the area. He did not believe that the matter was in hand with the police.

A Parishioner, commented that he had witnessed the vandalism at first hand on the Lyndhurst Road. He had seen a group of youths about 16 years old causing damage to road signs on the Lyndhurst Road. This party had split into two, half going into Ashurst Estate, the rest walking towards Totton. He felt that police in plain clothes could be out looming for these people who appear regularly in the village.

A Parishioner, Mrs. Oliver, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, said she knew what it was like to be burgled, she wished to say in defence of the police that "obvious police patrols scared away offenders it did not catch them". She went on to say that she knew it was frustrating, but you must leave it to the police, they do know how you feel. Councillor Arnold commented that the Community Police officer had a large beat to cover for one person.

A Parishioner, Mr. Bridgeman, reported that about two years ago there was trouble with youths in the Woodlands Road area. The police erected a covert, temporary CCTV camera to observe what was happening. As a result of what they were able to learn from the camera the trouble stopped. Perhaps Inspector Moore could do the same?

A Parishioner, Mr. Lawrence, reported that the two 40mph signs had been torn down. He then said that almost every Friday evening when he walked to Totton from Ashurst at 6-30pm he passed groups of youths walking the other way carrying bags of drinks. Where were they going in the village?

District Councillor Puttock reported that the Netley Marsh Parish Council meeting was attended by 23 Parishioners from Ashurst Bridge Estate who complained about similar vandalism to their properties.

A Parishioner, Mrs. McKay, read out a letter she had written to the Parish Council regarding the proposed development at 213-219 Lyndhurst Road. (Copy associated with these minutes). She put forward observations on the size on the project, parking and road access, children's safety and privacy issues, and the Parish Council's role. She went on to pose several questions to the Parish Council regarding their actions over the application. In reply Councillor Sopowski advised Mrs. McKay that Kingfisher Homes had not been in discussion with the Parish Council for many months. The formal application to build on the site had come out of the blue.

A Parishioner, Mr. Bridgeman, commented that he had put many of the points raised by Mrs. McKay directly to Kingfisher Homes at the last meeting they had with the Parish Council. He reiterated that he had sold a parcel of his land to the Crown Estates in order to allow a road to be constructed to the rear of the existing railway cottages. He had been advised that this would allow another pair of cottages to be built on the site. He felt that the covenants surrounding the agreement had been reneged. He felt certain that the plans accompanying the application had not been laid out correctly as NFDC Planners could not satisfactorily explain to him the grid lines, which showed access to his property. He went on to say that it was "Social Housing" that was being built, not affordable homes, the police had told him that a similar development in Totton had led to an increase in crime. He thought that double the number of children quoted on the application would occupy the site. He told the Parish Council that noise disturbance and lack of privacy should be the reasons why they should refuse the application.

Councillor Sopowski said he was very pleased to hear parishioner's views of the proposals at first hand. Councillor Bryant reported that the proposal to build on the site was not new, informal discussions had been going on since the late 1990's. The "Railways" had been informed on what was occurring. At that time NFDC Planning had said they wanted to see cottage style development to match the village. However Councillor Bryant had never seen any such cottages in the village! The council had been assured that occupiers of the units would be residents of the village or adjacent villages. A Parishioner, Stacy Reynolds, had concerns on how the development would affect their business and their car parking arrangements. At present she could not tell if the proposed development was showing her land for their car parking arrangements. She felt that if they have 16 car parking spaces around their development it would restrict access to the station car park. She could foresee the children from the development using their grounds as their play area.

County Councillor Bright said it was unfortunate that HCC has no input into these proposals other than road access. He said that social housing was not the best type of development for any site. He had recently seen density's of 100 to 150 units per hectare in both rural and urban situations. He said the rural minimum was 50 units. Councillor Arnold observed that NFDC had been instructed to build high density's of social housing.

County Councillor Puttock said that it was up to residents to express their concerns to Parish and District Councillors. He reminded everyone that density's were imposed by Central Government.

The Clerk suggested to Mrs. Mckay that parishioners form their own committee if they wish to object to the development. This action had recently been successful over the proposed dwellings off Whartons Lane.

A Parishioner, Mrs. Hutchings, enquired if other villages were having social housing built in them?

District Councillor Puttock replied that almost every village in the area was seeing similar developments. Netley Marsh and Copythorne were examples.

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

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

#### **(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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2005 were approved.,

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

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted

#### **(4) HIGHWAY MATTERS**

##### **a/ Commuter trains to Ashurst Station**

The Clerk read out two letters addressed to the Parish Council from a Parishioner, Mr. Sucharov, concerning the poor service he was receiving from South West Trains. He was seeking the support of the Parish in his attempt to get a reasonable train service during the rush hour from Southampton Central to Ashurst. The late arrival of the London trains in Southampton meant that no interconnecting service to Ashurst was available between 1700 and 1900. Councillor Sopowski proposed that a letter should be sent to SouthWest Trains asking them to give Parishioners the service that they paid for.

And it was

RESOLVED: Clerk to write to SouthWest Trains regarding the loss of local services.

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

Councillor Bryant requested that the former "rumble strips" on Hunters Hill be re-tarmac'd to make them smoother to traffic.

Councillor Judd commented on the proposed Ashurst to Lyndhurst Cycle route, she hoped that cyclists would make good use of the route as the cost to Parishioners was very high. She had concerns about lorries and the width of the road surface after it is narrowed in places to make room for the cycle path. She was concerned that the road would not be wide enough.

Councillor Sopowski reminded those assembled that he did not want to see urbanisation of this route. He said that he had used the current path as a cycle route for many years. It was fine, but then became un-maintained and too narrow. He said that "blank tarmac is ugly" and he does not want any part of the forest becoming an "urban landscape".

A Parishioner, wished it known that the white lines at the junction of Whartons Lane, Foxhills Close and Foxhills had worn out.

Could they be re-painted? The Clerk was directed to write to Rob Millar on the subject.

And it was

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to write to Rob Millar of HCC Highways and ask for the white lines at Foxhills to be re-painted.

#### **(5) LITTER BIN SACKS**

The Clerk read out a letter from NFDC Commercial Services advising that all litter bin sacks in Ashurst would in future be black.

Councillor Judd was not convinced that this reply from NFDC would be translated into action by the operatives for Ashurst. She requested that the item be left on the agenda until next month.

And it was

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to leave item on agenda for another month.

#### **(6) VILLAGE WALKS**

A Parishioner, Mr. Jeffery wished to allay Councillors concerns over car parking requirements for his proposed village walk. He felt that as the walk was designed for parishioners use, no cars would be needed to gain access to the walk. He went on to say that he had discovered that part of the proposed walk was inside of the boundary of Denny Lodge Parish and that we would have to gain consent from them. (The Priors Bushes area) He asked if the next step could be a consensus of villagers on his proposals?

Councillor Arnold replied that she, and the other Parish Councillors needed to know the exact route of the proposed walk before they could proceed any further.

Councillor Sopowski felt that there were many other "bodies" that should be consulted prior to any walk being opened. He thought that the Forestry Commission and the Verderers would be want to know what was proposed.

Due to time constraints at this meeting it was agreed that Mr. Jeffery would contact the Parish Clerk and obtain a copy of the exact route. This could then be duplicated and passed out to the Parish Councillors.

And it was

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to arrange a meeting with Mr. Jeffery
- Clerk to copy details of walk route to Councillors.

#### **(7) RECREATION GROUND**

Councillor Arnold wished to thank all those who turned up for the work party in the recreation ground. She said that she felt the task had improved the area a great deal.

Councillor Oliver enquired if the Clerk could chase up NFDC on the funding request that was lodged last year. He was concerned that the quotations on play equipment would not be valid much longer.

And it was

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to liaise with NFDC on funding request.

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

Councillor Arnold reported that the committee needed work parties to set up and clean down after the event. Some of the static stalls had already been sold. A PT instructor had been found to run the children's races. She felt that it would be a great day for the village.

The Clerk announced that a request to "Trants" for sponsorship had resulted in them sending a cheque for £150 to the committee.

Councillor Judd reminded the committee that there should be a mention in the Newsletter every month of the event in order to keep it fresh in Parishioners minds.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

#### **(9) PLANNING**

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

The Clerk read a report on planning matters within the Parish for the last month.

##### **Planning Application information for the months of January / February 2005.**

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

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

Application No - 83694 - Kingfisher Housing Association - 213-219 Lyndhurst Road - Construct 14 units

Application No - 83752 - Burden - 28, Ash Road - PVC entrance Porch

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

None

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

Application No - 82799 - Brown - 167, Lyndhurst Road - Use as shop & workshop

Application No - 83236 - Neseyif - 43, Whartons Lane - Rear Extension / roof alterations

Application No - 83333 - Caton - 163, Lyndhurst Road - retention of pole sign, fascia sign

Application No - 83387 - Gustar - 8, Chestnut Drive - Rear extension / roof alterations

Application No - 83409 - Fuller-Smith Ltd. - "The New Forest inn" - various advertisement signs

###### **(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**

Application No - 83255 - Hooper - 181, Lyndhurst Road - two storey rear extension

Application No - 83333 - Caton - 163, Lyndhurst Road - "A" board

Application No - 83409 - Fuller-Smith Ltd. - "The New Forest inn" - various other advertisement signs

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

Application No - 82742 - King - 17 Cecil Ave - pair of semi's / demolish existing  
Application No - 82899 - Bryant - The Barn, Ashurst Farm, Lyndhurst Road - use as offices/ additional windows

**(h) Appeals granted since the date of the last meeting**  
None

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

Application No - 80806 - Smith - Ashurst Nurseries - 4 Bedroom house  
Application No - 81570 - Smith - Ashurst Nurseries - Side Extension

**(j) Tree Preservation Orders issued since the date of the last meeting**  
TPO 60/04 - Land of 54 Whartons Lane, 4A Foxhills - Various trees

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

**a/ 17, Cecil Avenue, Ashurst, The Planning Refusal Appeal**

Councillor Sopowski had previously prepared a letter to send to the planning appeal inspector over the building of two semis at 17, Cecil Avenue. He wished the Councillors to agree the wording and allow the clerk to send the letter forward. Councillor Judd commented that Cecil Avenue was a very narrow road and she would be sending in her own observations on the application. The Parish Councillors unanimously agreed that the letter, as composed, be sent forward to the inspector. And it was

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to forward letter to Planning Appeal Inspector in Bristol.

**b/ 213-219 Lyndhurst Road, The Kingfisher Homes Planning Application**

It was decided that as the matter had been discussed in Public Participation, no further discussion would take place with the Parishioners present. It was agreed to hold a closed session at the end of the meeting. The decision made at the closed session would then be made public. And it was

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to forward decision to NFDC Planners.

**c/ Tree Work Applications, a change of process.**

Parish Councillors debated a decision by NFDC Tree Team to cease sending out weekly E mail lists of applications to prune or cut down trees within the Parish. It was felt that the instruction to "look on the web site" was taking "E" Government" too far. It was agreed to write to Bryan Wilson asking him to reinstate the E mail system. And it was

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to write to Bryan Wilson asking him to reinstate the E mail system.

**(10) THE "LENGTHSMAN"**

Councillor Holdsworth enquired what was happening with the process of getting the street furniture in the Parade of Shops re-painted?

After discussion on the topic it was agreed to take the quotation for the work from the Ashurst Painter of £800. Councillor Judd asked if County Councillor Puttock could assist with the costs? He replied that the "Rural Assistance Grant" may be available, and the Parish should apply to him. And it was

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to advise the Ashurst Painter that he has the contract.
- Clerk to ask County Councillor Puttock for a Rural Assistance Grant.

**(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 359.46

IRD, Clerks PAYE PO Ltd	86.24	
Mrs. M. Weston, Newsletter Editorial Costs issue No 91	223.79	
Frost the Printers, Newsletter Printing Costs issue No 91		417.00
Carousel, Computer consumables	21.96	
Queensbury Shelters Ltd , Repair bus shelter opposite 1 Ashdene Road	802.53	
SEC Ltd, Erect and take down Xmas lights December 2004	446.50	

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

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

**(11) GRANTS**

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted

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

**Councillor Sopowski** - attended the New Forest Consultative Panel at which he learnt that people now like the National Park Concept. Defra has supplied a sizeable sum of money to get the authority started. The interim Executive officer for the Authority is a nice person and Councillor Sopowski believes that the Authority will lessen Planning Problems in the Area.

**Councillor Holdsworth** - was shocked to hear that at the Age Concern, Wednesday nail clipping session held at 2-30pm in the afternoon two of her clients were abused and pushed by youths just outside of the building. She could not believe that such a thing could happen in broad daylight. She said that it took the police 20 minutes to arrive from their police station next door! She has now learnt the lesson that vandalism happens at any time of the day.

**Councillor Oliver**- attended the work party in the recreation ground.

**Councillor Arnold**- attended the work party in the recreation ground.

**Councillor Ardern** - none

**Councillor Judd** - attended the CAB meeting at Ringwood, where she met the two new trainee advisers. She was pleased to announce that Esso had donated one thousand pounds towards new computers for CAB.

**Councillor Kewley** - none

**Councillor Bryant** - none

**District Councillor Puttock** - announced that next month the new licensing laws commence. He urged parishes to keep up to date with the new laws and attend the training events. He was certain that the new system would take up a lot of council time. He reported that the National Park Authority would take up temporary accommodation at Appletree Court, with initial funding of three point six million pounds. A document on "speeding" in the forest considered setting local speed limits lower in a lot of cases from 40mph to 30mph. He felt that the limit through Ashurst may be case in question. He announced that like reporting criminal offences to the police added the direction of resources, reporting traffic accidents aided considerations for lowering speed limits.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted

**(13) CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence received :- January 2005/february 2005**

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • NFDC                        | Local Plan Monitoring report   |
| • Regional Assembly           | Leaflet "Your Shout"           |
| • Hants Playing Filed assoc.  | The Playing Field Winter issue |
| • NFDC                        | Information Bulletin Feb. 05   |
| • Hampshire Countryside Forum | Annual Report 2004             |
| • Regional Assembly           | South East Plan - Consultation |

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

None

The public meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9-30pm.

(15)

**An “in camera meeting “ then took place to decide the Parish Council’s decision on the planning application for 213-219 Lyndhurst Road, Application No 83694**

The decision reached was ...

The Parish Council recommends refusal of the application on the following grounds.

- The majority of Ashurst & Colbury Parish Councillors originally objected to the inclusion of the three-storey block in this development.
- The majority of Ashurst & Colbury Parish Councillors still object to it.

The "in camera meeting"closed at 10.00pm.