

Minutes of a meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council held at the Church Rooms, Colbury, on Tuesday, 14th of June 2005 at 7-30 p.m.

Present

S. Arnold (in the Chair)
S. Ardern
D. Bryant
I. Oliver
W. Kewley
A. Holdsworth

In Attendance:-

Mr. D. Hawkins, Clerk to the Council
Mr. L. Griggs, Clerk to the Parish Council
District Councillor L. Puttock
District Councillor D. Tipp
8 members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from:

Parish Councillor R. Judd
Parish Councillor P. Sopowski
County Councillor M. Kendall

The Chairman, Councillor Sally Arnold opened the meeting by saying:

Good Evening and welcome.

I apologise for any villager expecting to hear Councillor John Charlesworth speak about the Lyndhurst By-Pass, but for some reason known only to himself he chose to cancel the talk. Since the last meeting we have been interviewing candidates for the position of Parish Clerk. We had 22 applications and from those we interviewed 4. At the first interview 7 councillors were in attendance where one candidate was put on hold, and then 5 councillors interviewed Mr. Leonard Griggs. The 5 councillors in attendance felt that we needed an established experienced person at the helm and this is the reason that Len was selected. He does live a little further away than David, but it is our duty as Councillors to support Len and give him all the help he may require. He has assured us the distance will not affect his duties and therefore I welcome you Len to the Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council.

I know that David does not want a fuss so before the meeting I am just going to say David will go out as he came in -a gentleman and a master to his profession.

(1) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman asked if there were any other matters that the public wished to discuss?

A Parishioner, enquired what was happening on the subject of traffic along the A35 through the village? Had there been any further meetings since Councillor Judd had attended the Lyndhurst Parish Council meeting?

Councillor Arnold replied she "believed" that Councillor Charlesworth would be attending on another occasion to brief the village on traffic flow and developments over a Lyndhurst By-pass. Councillor Puttock wished it known that recently a lot of work had been carried out on traffic flow and speeds within the forest area. He said that "hard decisions" would have to be made in the next few months and speed limits will have to be changed. At present the proposals are lodged with the police for them to consider the changes suggested. After further discussion Councillor Arnold asked the Clerk to write to the Chairman of Lyndhurst Parish Council and request an update from them on any known developments.

And it was

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to write to the Chairman of Lyndhurst Parish Council and request an update from them on any known developments.

A Parishioner, had read in the New Forest Post that Totton Town Council had placed an alcohol ban on all their play areas. He asked what precautions are there in our play area? Councillor Arnold replied that she too had read the article and was concerned that alcohol drinkers may migrate back to Ashurst. She said that our safeguards were the strong watch that was kept on the park by residents of Lakewood Road. As an example, it had been recently reported to her that a local boy had damaged the picnic table. His name and address had been given to her. She asked if she should confront the parents of that boy, or indeed take the matter to the police? It was decided to monitor the matter and not report the person involved. Councillor Bryant agreed to remove the damaged picnic bench from the recreation ground.

And it was

RESOLVED:

- Councillor Bryant to remove the damaged picnic bench from the recreation ground.

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

(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 10th May 2005 were approved.

Councillor Holdsworth, seconded by Councillor Oliver, 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/ **Verge obstructions Woodlands Road, a letter from the Forestry Commission.**

Prior to the meeting commencing at 7-27pm Councillor Kewley declared a prejudicial interest in this agenda item and withdrew from any discussion.

The Clerk had previously circulated to all Parish Councillors a copy of a draft letter from the Forestry Commission to residents of Woodlands Road. The letter asked residents to review any obstructions that were placed on the verge to ensure that pedestrians did not have to walk in the road.

Councillor Arnold commented that it was a good letter, but she could also see and understand both sides of this problem. She felt sorry for residents who tried to maintain the verge only to have it damaged by inconsiderate car parking. After discussion it was agreed the draft letter should be accepted, and that the Forestry Commission be informed that they could send the letter out.

And it was

RESOLVED:

- Clerk to write to Mike Seddon of the Forestry Commission, informing him that the Parish Council was in Concurrence with his draft letter.

(5) **RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with Mark Wigley of Wicksteed Leisure and had negotiated a reduction of three and a half percent on the quotation given to the Parish for new play equipment in the recreation ground.

Councillor Oliver proposed that the quotation be accepted with such a reduction. The figure of £19,229 being close to the monies provided by NFDC funding. This proposal was unanimously agreed.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

(6) **A NEW "VILLAGE OPEN SPACE" UNDER PARISH COUNCIL CONTROL**

Some of you may have read the rather premeditated article in the Lymington Times concerning the Ashurst Cricket Club and its use in the future.

The minutes had not been proved so the paper was jumping the gun a bit by printing such an article. It was simply a consideration of this council to keep this area as open ground now that the cricket club had vacated. We had met with a Forestry Commission Officer (Will Parkes) who was speculating that the area should be fenced. Not wishing to see the whole area fenced away from the public, the suggestions for the council to take over the lease was mentioned.

From very good authority I understand that this piece of ground was once part of the open forest grazing, but was left out of the perambulation by the 1964 New Forest Act of Parliament, which allowed the roads to have grids and some fencing to stop animals straying outside the forest. All the land has an S.S.S.I. status [sites of special scientific interest] and needs to be grazed to retain its ecological importance.

It could be left open for common land with a permanent gate at the entrance and maybe just a few picnic tables to give a service for the community. The ponies and horses could then roam freely, which of course would mean no payment for grass cutting. If the land is not looked after either mechanically or by the animals in 3 years it would be scrub land and in 5 years no different from the rest of the forest.

In my view and my view only, if this land could be left open for all to share, then the possibility of open air functions would still be viable.

Councillor Arnold went on to say that the article in the Lymington Times had the effect of bringing both the Commoners and Verderers into play. The Cricket Club pitch was on both their agendas for their next meetings. Parish Council decided to leave discussion on the cricket pitch to the three main parties concerned.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

(7) **PARISH PLANS**

Councillor Arnold announced that an article had been placed in the Newsletter asking Parishioners for their ideas on what they would want to see in a Parish Plan. Unfortunately there had been no response. There would now be a drive at the 20-Year Celebration Event to gather village opinion. This is in the form of a short questionnaire, which will be widely distributed on the day asking villagers to write down what they did or did not want to see in their village. If this action did not bring forth some meaningful information and volunteers - the idea of producing a plan would be abandoned.

Councillor Tipp put forward the information that other Parishes were worried what a Village Plan meant. If people could look at a completed plan they may warm to the idea of joining in and producing their own plan. And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

(8) **20 YEAR CELEBRATIONS**

Councillor Arnold reported that the preparations were going superbly. She showed the assembled Parish Councillors a document she had produced which detailed all the insurance and licenses that had been obtained in order to be "legal" at the event. This included providing First Aiders and Police attendance on the day. She finished by saying that a great deal had been achieved by the committee to enable the event to take place. Len Griggs the new Parish Clerk offered his services on the day, Councillor Arnold will enquire if Councillor Judd can also help on the day.

Councillor Arnold went on to say that on Sunday the 17th a Parish Council Church Service had been arranged with the Reverend Tom Johns for 10-00am. She asked if any of the Councillors would volunteer to read a prayer at the event with herself and Councillor Oliver. None were forthcoming.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

(9) **A NEW WALK FOR THE VILLAGE**

Councillor Arnold announced that a letter had been sent to Amanda Barker -Mills personally, asking if she would allow a new village walk to cross her land. The Council was waiting on a reply before proceeding any further.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

(10) **PLANNING**

a/ Monthly report from the head of the Planning Sub-committee.

A report prepared by the Clerk on planning matters within the Parish for the last month was read out.

Councillor Arnold advised the other Parish Councillors that she had received written evidence from a Parishioner wishing to build a dwelling in the back garden of a property in Wood Road. She announced that she would discuss the application with all the Parish Councillors when the plans were received from NFDC.

Planning Application information for the month of May / June 2005.

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

Application No - 84757 - 13, Dene Way, Haddow - Loft Conversion, various extensions

Application No - 84986 - Ashurst Nurseries - Smith - Replacement roof and windows

Application No - 84988 - 5, Fir Road - Dineen - Side extension

Application No - 84989 - The Scout Hut, near Colbury Memorial Hall - 3rd New Forest Scouts - Replacement hut

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

None

(c) Planning permission granted since date of last meeting

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

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

Application No - 84366 - 4, Wingrove Road - Robinson - Alterations to roof

Application No - 84419 - 88, Lyndhurst Road - Hollystone - Office / utility building

Application No - 84499 - 35, Ashdene Road - Morgan - Retention of Conservatory

Application No - 84510 - 30, Ashdene Road - Wheeler - Rear Extension

Application No - 84617 - 19, Chestnut Drive - Cooke - Rear conservatory

Application No - 84630 - 12, Peterscroft Avenue - Warren - Glazed doors with railing at first floor level

(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 - 84282 - The Barn, Ashurst Farm - Bryant - use barn as offices.

Application No - 84347 - Rear of 30 Foxhills - Drew Smith - 7 houses

Application No - 84507 - 20, Woodlands Road - Cornick - 2 new houses / demolish bungalow

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

Application No - 82531 - 5, Foxhills - Benham - First floor additions

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

Application No - 82742 - 17, Cecil Avenue - King - new pair of semi-detached houses

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

None

(j) Applications withdrawn

None

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

None

(I)
None
And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

(11) **THE "LENGTHSMAN"**

Councillor Oliver said that the public seat at the top end of Whartons Lane was damaged. He agreed to investigate the seat in daylight and if necessary confer with the Clerk on repairs.

Councillor Bryant wished to know why the furniture in the Parade had not been painted as agreed. The Clerk was directed to contact the contractor and ask him to carry out the work ASAP.

And it was

RESOLVED:

- Councillor Oliver to investigate the broken seat at the top of Whartons Lane.
- The Clerk to contact the painting contractor and ask him to carry out the work in the Parade ASAP

(12) **ACCOUNTS**

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

Ace Liftaway Sanitation Services , portable toilet 20 th Anniversary	164.50	
King Jim's Castles, 20 th Anniversary	60.00	
Post Office ltd , Quarterly telephone account	68.62	

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

D. Hawkins, Clerks Salary and Expenses	544.71	
IRD, Clerks PAYE/nics + employers nics PO ltd	198.54	
Mrs. M. Weston, Newsletter Editorial Costs issue No 95	239.79	
Frost the Printers, Newsletter Printing Costs issue No 95		417.00
Mrs S Arnold, 20 th Anniversary Goods	11.05	
Mrs S Arnold, Chairman's Allowance 2005	300.00	
Mrs S Arnold, Newsletter Accounts April –may 2005	21.10	
Mrs S Arnold, 20 th Anniversary Goods	113.88	
Post Office ltd, Postage Stamps for Clerk	12.60	

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

c/ To amend signing powers at Natwest for the new Clerk & Parish Councillors

The Clerk (L Griggs) asked the assembled Parish Councillors to sign documents which would allow him to become a signatory on the Parish Council cheque book.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

(13) **GRANTS**

None received this month.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted.

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

Councillor Sopowski – Absent

Councillor Holdsworth – Attended a meeting run by Community First New Forest. She said that this was a workshop on how to recruit volunteers for the future, as all voluntary organisations in the New Forest are desperate for volunteers. The workshop was worthwhile but Councillor Holdsworth did not hold out much hope that its output would result in greatly increased recruiting to the voluntary sector.

She was attending on Wednesday the 15th at Romsey Plaza a regional meeting of Age Concern at which the Duchess of Wellington would be giving recognition to two New Forest Volunteers.

Councillor Oliver- Attended on the 11th of May the New Forest Business Partnership forum. Attended the 20 Year Celebrations Committee Meeting.

Councillor Arnold – Attended on the 11th May Question Time at Hanger Farm.

13th May Phil. Broffey -view the park for trees with damage

16th May Executive Committee Meeting NAPTC

19th May Site visit with Mr. Page

23rd May Meeting with Chief Executive David Yates

24th May NFDC Executive Committee Meeting NAPTC

27th May NFDC meeting for Standards Board

13th June Meeting of '20 years on'

Councillor Bryant - Attended a meeting of the Primary Care Trust where the Fenwick Hospital at Lyndhurst was discussed. He said that he was concerned that the person running the meeting on behalf of the Trust was un-aware of the services offered by his own hospital. He gathered from the meeting that the hospital would not be closed, but used "cost effectively". This would include mothballing wards. In his opinion the Trust was waiting for the new hospital at Lymington to open, hoping that this would solve many of the Trust's problems. The actions carried out by the Trust did not leave Councillor Bryant with a "warm feeling".

Councillor Kewley – Attended the 20 Year Celebrations Committee Meeting. She said that a great number of fantastic prizes had been obtained from the local businesses for the event

Councillor Ardern – None

Councillor Judd – Absent

District Councillor Tipp – Said that he wished to add to the discussion on local hospitals. He announced that all the local hospitals are under threat, not just the Fenwick. However there will be consultation before any plans are put into action.

District Councillor Puttock – He believed that the Primary Care Trust were uncertain what changes they needed to put in place to reduce their over spend, but they only had a short period in which to reply to Central Government with firm proposals.

And it was

RESOLVED: That this information be noted

(15) **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence received :- May June 2005

Hampshire Constabulary

Your Police

NFDC

Information Bulletin June 05

SE Regional Assembly (un-elected)

Update on SE Plan

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

None

The meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 8-30pm

Signed.....Chairman

12th July 2005