

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8TH NOVEMBER 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 and 10 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: District Councillor L Puttock and District Councillor D Tipp.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially in view of the rain and wind.

1. Public Participation

A question was raised regarding the cost and route of the proposed cycle path from Ashurst to Lyndhurst. In particular concern was expressed that if the route was to be along the present path there would be few users because of the proximity of heavy traffic to the cyclists. Councillor Sopowski replied that HCC had completed the plans and they were about to go out to tender. He had been promised a copy of the plans but they had not been received. In response to a suggestion that the route should be through the forest, he confirmed that there had been clear indication from the Forestry Commission that it would not be acceptable to them to have a cycle path through that area. Councillor Bryant confirmed that it was considered a particularly valuable area of flowers and fauna. The question of a petition was raised but the Councillors felt it was probably too late as the decision had been taken. Also the major part of the path was in Denny Lodge and Lyndhurst with only a small area in Ashurst.

1B Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the current document had been prepared by the former clerk and approved by the Council in November 2002. Councillor Ardern noted that since the original document was put in place the web site had come into existence and contained many of the documents referred to therein. After some discussion the Chairman invited Councillor Ardern to propose the amendments she felt necessary for information now available on the web site. They would be considered at the next meeting.

2. Disclosure of Interest

None

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th October were approved and signed by the Chairman. Councillor Judd enquired about the painting of a white line in front of Alldays. Councillor Sopowski said he would get it done shortly.

4. Highway matters.

- Speed signs were still awaited. Councillor Oliver said that there was a two month lead time on new signs.
- The Chairman had received a letter from HCC Highways regarding the bridge but it was not helpful.
- The pothole in Whartons Close and collapsed drain in Chestnut Drive had still not been repaired.
- Councillor Sopowski said the road signs for Busketts Way had been knocked over and need to be put back into place. He asked the Clerk to notify Highways.
- The Clerk advised that Highways had indicated that they were responsible for the brick paving in the Parade

and would look into what needed to be done.

f) Concern was expressed that cars were using the Parade and nearby areas for long term parking which created difficulty for those using the services of businesses in the Parade. The Clerk said he had already been asked to check on the attendance, or non attendance, of the traffic warden. Councillor Holdsworth also commented on the damage being caused to grass verges by vehicles being parked on the verges or parked so as to cause other vehicles to drive over the verges. Skips were also placed on the verges. In addition to the damage caused by cars, skips and dumper trucks on the verges made it difficult for pedestrians to walk in safety.

g) The Chairman said application had been made by the Clerk to close the Parade to traffic for the "Carols under the Tree" which would take place on 14th December. The Clerk said there were still matters to be resolved and many bodies whose approval had to be in place but he was hopeful all would be well for that evening.

5. Recreation Ground

a) Quotations had been received for the signs but were widely different, at £30 per sign and £95 per sign, due to differing materials being proposed. It was agreed that Councillor Oliver and the Clerk be authorised to review the matter and make a decision on which signs should be purchased.

b) Quotations had been received for replacing the posts marking the perimeter for walking dogs. They were for £240 and £265. There was a difference as to how many posts were needed and again Councillor Oliver and the Clerk were authorised to resolve the matter and make a decision.

6. Parish Plans

The Chairman said that all the information and papers which she and Councillor Oliver had prepared since this matter was first raised some time back had been passed to Councillors Ardern and Judd who had agreed to be the Council's representatives on the Steering Committee. She thanked Councillor Oliver for all the hours of work he had put in to this matter over past years and added that while it was not appropriate for her, as Chairman of the Council, to be on the Steering Committee she would maintain a constant interest in the Committee's activities as would the Clerk.

Councillor Ardern advised that the first meeting of the Steering Committee had been called for 22nd November and Penny Velander of NFDC had agreed to be present to help the Committee get underway.

7 Planning

Councillor Sopowski gave a report on planning matters (see annexe 1).

8 The Lengthsman

Councillor Holdsworth noted that there was an accumulation of leaves in the cut throughs from the A35 to Dene Way and Chestnut Drive and enquired if the Lengthsman could clear them away. The Clerk was asked to progress the request.

9. Accounts

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

The Clerk noted that the Precept Meeting had approved a precept of £21,000 for the year 2006/7. Subject to that being accepted by NFDC it was £2,000 lower than for the current year.

The Chairman noted that some Councillors were travelling long distances on Council matters. While all Councillors gave their time freely and without reward, they should not be out of pocket for expenses incurred while on Council business. The Clerk was asked to review the matter and issue guidance to Councillors on expenses which could be claimed.

10. Grants

The Clerk advised that there were some applications in process but no completed proformas were yet to hand.

11. Reports from representatives on other bodies

Councillor Sopowski had attended a meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel. He advised that the Panel comprised representatives from all Councils, the NFU, Verderers, Caravan clubs and other bodies with an interest in the New Forest. Apart from the survey on dogs fouling the New Forest, which had received wide media coverage, the main point of interest was that representatives of the NF National Park Authority had proposed that they need not be on the panel. This move, which suggested that some administrators in the NPA felt they did not need to consider the views of other parties interested in the affairs of the New Forest, was roundly defeated.

Councillor Holdsworth had attended the AGM of Age Concern. Her Grace the Duchess of Wellington had decided to stand down as President after many years service, and Mr Laurie McMenemy, formerly Vice President, had accepted the appointment as President.

Chairman Audrey Howe had also decided to stand down and Vice Chairman Ken Hedges had been elected as Chairman with Caroline Coats being elected as Vice Chairman. Councillor Holdsworth had herself been re-elected as Trustee for Hampshire.

The foot clinic in Hythe was now open. The foot clinics were proving very popular and were receiving a growing number of referrals from GPs.

Councillor Judd said she would be attending the Citizens Advice Bureau AGM on 9th November at Ringwood and if any Councillor wished to go she had room in her car.

Councillor Arnold had attended the following meetings:

a) NFALC Executive meeting where it was reported that HCC had allocated £3m to be spent within NFDC area on highway maintenance and capital projects such as the cycle path from Ashurst to Lyndhurst. Concern was expressed at the condition of roads in Hampshire and the standard of maintenance and response had deteriorated. NFALC requested that the NFDC bear in mind the importance of ensuring that the new parking measures did not affect the viability of town and village centres. There was also discussion on the Licensing Act and Community Hospital strategy.

b) Parish Plan meeting with Councillors Oliver, Ardern and Judd on 21st October to hand over all the information on this matter

c) Precept meeting 25th October to agree the precept for 2006/7

d) Pumpkin competition on 26th October which had been very well supported by The Happy Cheese and would now be an annual event.

e) Church Youth Club Service 30th October which is an annual event organised by the Church Youth Club. The theme this year was 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and it had been a pleasure to see young people taking an interest in the local Church. It was also a pleasure to see the manner in which they had conducted themselves due no doubt to the dedication of their leaders with Dave Hall at the helm. Congratulations to all concerned and thank you for inviting me.

12. Correspondence

The Clerk had given all Councillors a list of correspondence received since he last meeting.

Councillor Sopowski advised that the annual Forestry Commission Tour would take place on 10th May 2006 from 3.30 to 7pm.

13. Items for discussion at the next meeting

Councillor Judd asked that the matter of street cleaning and clearance of drains and gutters be on the agenda.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Signed.....Chairman

Dated 13th December 2005