

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH OCTOBER 2005 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

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

In Attendance: District Councillor D Tipp, Parish Clerk L. Griggs and 18 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: District Councillor L Puttock. It was noted that Councillor W. Kewley was on holiday.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and then gave a few words in memory of Geoff Spikins, a former member and Chairman of this Council, who died recently. She then invited all present to stand for a minutes silence in his memory.

The Chairman then introduced Councillor John Charlesworth from Lyndhurst Parish Council, with his colleagues Councillors Barber and Rollé, who had come to give an update on the plans for a by-pass around Lyndhurst. Councillor Charlesworth gave a presentation covering the history of the by-pass proposals, the reasons for moving on the issue now and the route proposed. The proposal is to commence the by-pass from the A337 Councillor Professor Barber briefly covered the ecological issues, particularly dealing with those that had been raised at the last attempt to get a by-pass, and also commented on the benefits to other villages where a by-pass had been introduced.

The proposal was generally welcomed although concerns were expressed regarding the junction with the A35, a poorly designed junction could result in lorries still using the A35 through Ashurst and also traffic from Southampton continuing on the A35. Councillor Barber said it was up to the HCC to engineer the junction so that traffic was naturally directed to follow the by-pass. Concern was also expressed that residents of Clayhill were unlikely to see any benefit from the scheme. It was also suggested that all Parish Councils involved in the traffic flow issues should be included in meetings on the matter to get a good consensus of views. Copies of the October Progress Report to the LPC By-Pass Committee and the By-Pass Route Recommendation were issued to all present and are available from Lyndhurst Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Charlesworth and his colleagues for giving their time to prepare and make the presentation and wished them well in their work.

1. Public Participation

- a) In the light of the Kingfisher attempts to build houses/flats near the Station and New Forest Hotel, the Council was asked to try to have the footpath through the forest close to that area registered in order to protect it. The Clerk was asked to write to NF Access Forum requesting them to take up the issue of registration
- b) The difficulties facing the younger generation trying to find property in Ashurst were raised. It was suggested that the population was already aged and that would get worse if young people who wanted to live in the village could not find a place to live. In particular the difficulty in getting planning approval for building houses within the current residential area was raised. Councillor Sopowski pointed out that NFDC had considerable areas of land around the village which had not been released for development, and infill development was not favoured by NFDC who made the planning decisions. The Parish Council Planning Committee could only

make comments on planning applications; it was not the decision maker. Residents had the right

of appeal against any refusal to grant planning permission and could make their views known directly to the decision makers. District Councillor Tipp added that if a planning application complied with the NF Plan it would be approved.

2. Disclosure of interest

None

3. Minutes

There was an amendment to the minutes on page 4 under item 14. In the first line "Planning Liaison Committee" was incorrect and should read "NF Consultative Panel". Subject to that amendment the minutes were unanimously approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Highway matters

- a) a) Traffic survey. On a Proposal by Councillor Sopowski, seconded by Councillor Judd it was **RESOLVED** that the Council should carry out its own survey on traffic flow through the village and the Clerk was asked to organise that.
- b) A resident had written pointing out damage to the road each side of the railway bridge on the A35 and wondered if the bridge was man enough to take the increased traffic. The Chairman said that on receipt of the letter she had spoken to Mr Millar of the Highways Department who had said he would have it inspected.
- c) There was no further news on the Cycle Path or the Gateway Sign
- d) A drain had collapsed in Chestnut Drive and the Chairman had again notified Highways Department.
- e) Councillor Oliver said he had also been in touch with Mr Millar regarding missing speed signs and had been advised there was a two month lead time before they could be replaced.
- f) There was also a big pothole on the left hand side of Whartons Lane just off the A35. The Clerk was asked to advise HCC Highways Department

5. Recreation Ground

Councillor Oliver said he had signed the satisfaction note for the installation of the new equipment and it all appeared very satisfactory. A formal inspection of the ground had been carried out on the 29th September and 8th October and the necessary actions taken.

However there were still a number of incidents arising, mostly late night disturbances, and on occasions the police had to be called. In one case the ringleader had been apprehended. There were a number of occasions when bottles, cans, glass etc had been left lying around and had been cleared up by himself and the Chairman. A vote of thanks to Councillor Oliver for his work on the new equipment and his care of the Recreation Ground was proposed by Councillor Judd, seconded by Councillor Holdsworth, and passed unanimously. The question of the signs for the ground was raised. The Clerk said that the matter was on hold pending a decision about the posts marking out the perimeter area for walking dogs. Several had been torn out by vandals and a decision was needed on whether to replace them and, if so, how to make them secure. It was agreed they should be replaced and Councillor Bryant agreed to arrange for the work to be done.

6. A new "Village open space" under Council Control

The Chairman said she had received a letter from CATS saying they would be interested in using the facility but had received no other expressions of interest. All Councillors had a copy of the letter from Will Parke of the Forestry Commission and a decision now needed to be made as to whether or not the Council should proceed.

Councillors Bryant, Sopowski, Oliver and Judd voted against proceeding and Councillors Arden and Holdsworth voted to proceed.

The Chairman said she had intended to vote to proceed but with 4 to 2 against already, the decision was made. She felt this was an opportunity lost but the Council could not proceed and the Clerk was asked to advise Mr Parke accordingly.

7. Parish Plan

The Chairman had circulated a list of those residents who had expressed an interest in taking part in preparing a Parish Plan. There were originally 9 volunteers but two had withdrawn. A former Councillor, Brian Pass, had indicated his interest in participating so there were now 8 volunteers. The Chairman said Councillor Oliver had decided he could not give sufficient time to continue his participation in the plan and that as Chairman of the Parish Council it would be inappropriate for her to actively participate, two Councillors were needed to join the Steering Committee. Councillors Arden and Judd volunteered to join the team.

Councillor Arden said that the web site was now able to carry out polls, hold a discussion forum on issues such as the Parish Plan and generally enable villagers who were unable to attend Council meetings to express their views on a range of issues. She proposed to put forward some questions to see what response was forthcoming.

8. 20 Years on - disbursement of funds

Carol Service - the Chairman said this was the final part of the celebration and would take place on 14th December by the Parade. She had already spoken to the local beat police who felt there would be no objection to the proposal. A brass band would take part and be in the centre of the island leaving plenty of room for villagers to stand around. She also proposed that people invited over previous years to the December meeting, but who had never attended, should be dropped from the list of invitees. They should be replaced with those volunteers who deliver the Newsletter and the members of the 20 years On Committee, and were always working in support of the Parish and had helped in the 20 years celebrations. That was agreed without a vote

The following suggestions for using the funds were made:

- a) Another notices board by the Bus Shelter at the Colbury end of the village.
- b) There were two lamp posts by the Parade, one was modern and the other a black old coach lamp style. It was suggested that the modern one outside the "Ultimate in Car" shop be replaced by a similar old black coach style to the existing one in the brick paved area.
- c) The "seat" by Alldays was old and rather low so replace that by a proper bench.

The Clerk was asked to get some costings on the suggestions

9. Planning

Councillor Sopowski gave a report on matters processed since the last meeting (see annexe 1)

10. The "Lengthsman"

The Chairman confirmed that the street furniture had now been repaired and painted. However some work was needed to clear the grass and weeds from the area. Any help would be appreciated.

The lengthsman had also reported that the wooden posts were rotting and needed to be replaced and that electric wires protruding from the notice board needed attention. It was also noted that the block paving needed attention. The Clerk was asked to get quotations for that work.

Councillor Judd reported that the Manager of Alldays agreed that cars park too close to the shop was prepared to have a white line painted in front of the shop as an indicator to drivers. Councillor Sopowski undertook to carry out that work.

Councillor Oliver asked if the wasteland behind Ashdene Road could be cleared and used as an open space for villages. It was agreed that the ownership of the land had been discussed before with no conclusion.

Councillor Bryant said that SEB must have a way-leave over the land to get to their sub-station so they may be able to help. The Clerk was asked to pursue the matter.

11. Accounts

A list of cheques issued since the last meeting and of those now due for payment, was given to all Councillors. The Clerk advised that two further cheques had been prepared just prior to the meeting, cheque 808 for the Lengthsman (work carried out at the Parade), and Cheque 809 for Frost Printers for the Newsletter. On a proposal by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Bryant the list and two additional cheques, was approved unanimously.

The Clerk advised that the Annual Report had just been received back from the Audit Commission and, as shown on Page 4 Section 3, the Auditor had no comments to make on the report nor any suggestions for improvement.

The Clerk also advised that the Precept meeting would be on 25th October at 7 pm in the Chairman's house. Papers would be with all Councillors shortly and if there were any queries on any of the figures it would be appreciated if he could be advised before the meeting.

12. Grants - None

13. Reports from representatives of Other Bodies

Councillor Holdsworth reminded the meeting that the AGM of Age Concern would be held next week but as there were already more attendees than chairs it may not be sensible for anymore to attend!

Councillor Judd attended the NF North Management Committee of the CAB at Fordingbridge on 3rd October. It was decided that further discussions were needed before any decisions are taken on merging the various NF Management Groups and there was a need to recruit more people to train as advisers. The AGM will be on 9th November at Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood, at 7.30. The speakers will be Lt. Colonel Letchworth of NF Magistrates Court and Mr Cummings Chairman of the Joint Leadership Group. **Councillor Oliver** attended a Liaison meeting with New Forest District Parish and Town Councils. A resume of the discussion is attached as Annexe 2.

Councillor Arnold attended the Annual Service at Winchester Cathedral, a Meeting with the Heads of Departments and Executive of NFLC at Appletree Court and the Public Meeting with Penny Velandar and Jo Dixon on Parish Plans.

District Councillor Tipp reminded the Council that some funds were available from NFDC for certain schemes and he would be happy to push for anything the Council wished to propose.

14. Correspondence

The Clerk advised that a list of relevant correspondence had been given to all Councillors and that he had the documents for perusal by any Councillor.

15. Items for the next meeting

The Chairman advised that following an incident at the Recreation Ground a discussion had taken place with an individual and his parents at which she had suggested that a group of youngsters may wish to be more involved with Parish matters by forming their own Youth Council. A format was in existence for such a group and she had downloaded information and examples of the appropriate type of constitution and meeting minutes for them to consider. It had been hoped they would attend this evenings meeting to move matters forward but as they had not attended the matter would be held in abeyance until they were able to attend.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm

Signed.....Chairman

8th November 2005