

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 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: District Councillor L. Puttock (after attending an NFDC meeting), Parish Clerk L. Griggs and 8 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: None received.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. She expressed her thanks to all those who had assisted in making the “20 years on” celebration so successful, and said it was a wonderful weekend which concluded with a celebration service in Christ Church Colbury. That service had been attended by neighbouring Parish Councillors, our District Councillor and former Parish Councillors. Mrs Arnold then presented to Councillor Judd a photograph taken of her entering the “20 years on” celebration as the first paying customer. The Chairman also asked if the members of the “20 years on” Committee would remain as members for any future event that may take place. Those present all agreed to do so. The Chairman also said that in August she had attended a Road Show for children in our Recreation Ground which had been well attended and reminded everyone that the next Parish event was the Pumpkin Carving Competition for children at the Happy Cheese on 28th October. She concluded, “we can now look forward to future events in our Parish where we will endeavour to keep up the good community spirit that has been so profoundly evident”.

1. Public Participation

The Chairman asked if there were any matters which members of the public wished to raise.

In response to a question regarding the possible redevelopment of the railway cottages it was confirmed that there was no further news. However when District Councillor Puttock arrived he was able to confirm that further discussions had taken place between Kingfisher Housing Association and NFDC but the matter was still being reviewed and no formal plans had been submitted.

It was reported that following the recent rains a large puddle had formed in the car park area adjacent to the A35, opposite the Happy Cheese. During discussion on this it was also pointed out that the paving stones in that area were very uneven and needed attention. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Highways Authority requesting action.

The Council was reminded that, as raised at the last meeting, the hedges on the field bordering Whartons Lane were so overgrown that it was becoming almost impossible to walk on the path. Bearing in mind there was no footpath on the other side of the road it was dangerous for pedestrians. Although the Council did not own the land the Clerk was asked to try to find out who was responsible for the hedges and request action to cut them back.

2. Disclosure of interest.

None

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2005, having previously been circulated, were approved and signed.

Matters arising not covered by agenda items

- a) Cessation of bus service. No further news available but it was reported that County Councillor Kendall and District Councillors Puttock and Tipp were currently at a meeting on the matter.
- b) Kingfisher Housing. See comments above.
- c) It was confirmed that in normal circumstances a hedge would need to be over 8 feet high before any complaint could be raised.
- d) Speeding in Woodlands Road. It was noted that a hand held camera had been operating in the area during August.

4. Highway matters

- a) Traffic Flow. It was agreed that the NFDC survey was unreliable having been carried out immediately after the school holidays. The Clerk suggested that, to provide hard evidence of the unreliability of the original survey, the Council might consider carrying out their own survey if sufficient volunteers could be found. Councillor Sopowski suggested the use of video technology and Councillor Oliver advised that, at a recent Traffic Management Control (TMC) meeting at NFDC, County Councillor Kendall had mentioned that a new survey might be carried out. After further discussion it was agreed to raise the matter at the Parish Plan meeting to see what reaction there was from parishioners.
- b) The Chairman advised that at the recent TMC meeting she had raised the matter of reducing the speed limit on the A35 from 50mph to 40mph. On being advised that getting new speed limits was difficult and time consuming but that stretching restricted areas was easier, she requested that the 40 mph be stretched on the A35. She was also able to obtain confirmation that the gateway feature would be incorporated in the new cycle path scheme.
- c) There was considerable discussion on the very poor standard of workmanship during the pavement repairs on the A35. The work was very badly done in many places, not only the tarmac surfacing but also kerbs badly fitted and in some cases dangerous, particularly by the bus stops, and there had been little regard for passing pedestrians and cars when spraying the tar covering. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Highways Authority to point out the poor standard and to find out who the contractors were. He was also asked to enquire if the Council could be notified in advance when such work was to take place and request that a schedule of works be issued.
- d) Councillor Judd had passed on to the former Clerk details of cleaning materials and contractors for cleaning bus shelters. The Clerk was asked to find out more about costs.

5. Recreation Ground

- a) Councillor Oliver advised that the installation of the new equipment was well underway. The old equipment had already been removed and some of the new already installed. He also advised that throughout the year he checked the whole area every two weeks to ensure the area was safe, that bushes were cut back as necessary and it was generally in good order.
- b) The Chairman advised that some children had taken a horse into the ground and had been so rude and uncooperative that the police had been called. Access had been possible through the Lakewood Road entrance because the central bar of that gate had been removed to enable access for the disabled. After discussion it was agreed that signs should be erected covering the restrictions applicable to the area.
- c) The Clerk advised that a teacher from Foxhills School had sought information about the recreation ground as part of a geography project for her class. The children would be visiting the area in due course.

6. A new “Village Open space” under Parish Council control.

The Chairman reported that:

- one of the oldest residents had written urging the Council to take on responsibility for the site as “too good an opportunity to be missed”.
- while many groups had expressed interest at the 20 years on celebration there had been no follow up

from them at all.

- current advice was that if the Council did not take it over it would remain as grazing land open to the public.
- the Forestry Commission needed a decision soon because under their lease the Cricket Club was responsible for removing the pavilion if we were not taking it over.

There was considerable discussion on this issue principally on cost and maintenance in the absence of any commitment from other groups to use the facility. It was noted that with the recreation ground, the Church Rooms and Colbury Memorial Hall there were few events that could not be handled with present resources. It was agreed to include this as an item for the Parish Plan meeting and the Clerk was instructed to ascertain outline costs for installing electrical power in the recreation ground. A member of the public commented that if the Council lost the opportunity now it would be lost forever and, unlike the other areas, it is in the hub of the village.

7. Parish Plan

Everyone was reminded to attend the meeting on 28th September and to encourage others to attend. At the 20 years on celebration 53 people had completed a survey form and there had been one volunteer to assist with the plan. The survey only had one or two major response items which were:

Under Good - Friendly orientated, Community Spirit

Under Bad - the traffic, noise and litter on Lyndhurst Road

8. 20 Year On Celebrations - disbursement of the surplus

It was agreed to make a donation of £50 to the St Johns Ambulance Brigade for their assistance at the 20 years celebrations and a donation of £20 to the young lad who provided the Punch and Judy show and attended at his own volition and without charge.

It was also suggested that the Council provide a new bench seat, suitably inscribed; plant a new tree such as an oak or beech; use some of the money for the power supply for the recreation ground. It was also noted that the brick paving by the tree area in the shopping parade needs attention. The Councillors were all asked to come up with more ideas for the next meeting.

9. A new walk for the village

A letter had been received from Longdon Management Ltd on behalf of Mrs Barker-Mill advising that she 'was unable to make the land available for a permissive path'. This matter could therefore go no further.

10. Planning

Councillor Sopowski reported on planning matters processed since the last meeting (See annexe 1).

The Chairman reported that in regard to Brimpton Mead she had received confirmation from the agents that the property would remain a nursing home and have facilities for the disabled. All rooms would be ensuite and there would be fewer clients.

11. The "Lengthsman"

The Chairman advised that after several false starts the painting of the street furniture had started today. Councillor Judd asked if the Clerk could request a "litter pick up" by NFDC on the A35.

12. Accounts

A list of cheques paid since the last meeting and also those now due was distributed to all Councillors. On a proposal by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Sopowski, it was **RESOLVED** that the accounts be and are hereby approved.

13. Grants

Details having been previously circulated it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that:

- the accounts of Community First did not merit a grant from the Council
- Ocean Harmony be offered a free advertisement in the Parish Newsletter and a donation towards the costs of the concert. The Clerk to find out what expenses were involved and, together with the Chairman, agree an amount towards those expenses not exceeding £50.

The Clerk advised that others who had made an initial request had not so far provided the financial data requested.

14. Reports from representatives on other bodies

Councillor Sopowski attended a meeting of the NF Consultative Panel on 1st September.

Councillor Holdsworth reported that the Long term Planning for Carers day on 9th August had been well attended and a worthwhile day. She also attended the Age Concern AGM on 7th September when guest speaker had been from Patients Forum. She also reported that it was surprising to learn that while there are 606 Patients Forum around the country, there were only 12 members on each forum to look after the requirements of quite large areas. The Foot Care Clinics, which had been introduced during her period as Chairman, were receiving more calls than ever. A new clinic would be opening in Hythe in November.

Councillor Ardern had attended a Recreation Ground Committee meeting and would be attending a web site update seminar later this month.

Councillor Kewley attended a Recreation Ground Committee meeting.

Councillor Judd reported on the C.A.B/ Management Committee meeting on 1st August. (See annexe 3 for report).

Councillor Oliver attended a Recreation Ground Committee Meeting, a meeting of the Traffic Management Control Group, a discussion on Parish Plans with the Chairman and Penny Verlander (NFDC) and the Children's Road Show.

Councillor Arnold attended a meeting with Penny Velandar (NFDC) to discuss Parish Plans, a Traffic Management Control meeting, a meeting of the Executive of NFALC and Heads of NFDC Departments, a meeting of the Executive of NFALC, the AGM of NFALC and a Recreation Ground Committee Meeting. She was also present at the Ashurst WI Garden Party and the Netley Marsh Conservative Garden party.

District Councillor Puttock reported that in regard to hospital closures, he had attended a meeting where it was stated that future discussions would be with small groups. The spokesman for the Primary Care Trust had said there would be no closures but following questions it appeared that may just mean the hospitals staying open, as NHS properties, but being used for other purposes. It was important that everyone made their views known.

He also reported that:

- as part of a campaign to improve the fitness of older citizens, the NFDC were planning a Young at Heart day, a free festival for the over 50s, on 8th October at Applemore Health and Leisure Centre. (See annexe 4).
- The SID (Speed Indicator Device) could also measure volumes and speed of traffic and would be useful in determining whether certain areas needed a speed camera. If it was found to be effective the NFDC may consider investing in more SIDs. A hand held radar camera was also being deployed for 7/10 days at a time in areas highlighted as being speeding areas. He would press for it to be sited in any 40 mph or under areas the Council wished to nominate. However the take up was already great and there could be some delay in having it deployed in Ashurst and Colbury. He was asked to nominate the 40mph stretch on the A35 in Ashurst.

15. Correspondence

A list of key correspondence was given to each Councillor and copies made available at the meeting. The Chairman reported that she had written regarding the New Forest Summer Bus Service because no one had provided any information in regard to service times in our area. If the information for next year were made available to us it could be published in the Newsletter.

The Crime Report had been received from WPC Lisa Woodcock and it covered the three areas included in Beat 5. There was only one incident in our Parish.

16. Items for the next meeting

The Chairman announced that John Charlesworth would attend the next meeting to give an update on the Lyndhurst by-pass.

Ideas for the disbursement of the “20 years on” surplus.

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

Signed.....Chairman

11th October 2005