

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH APRIL 2006 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk L. Griggs, District Councillor D Tipp, County Councillor M Kendal and 11 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Councillors S. Arden and P. Sopowski, District Councillor L Puttock

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to this monthly Council Meeting. She reminded everyone that this meeting will be followed by a short interval when wine or fruit juice would be available before commencing the Annual Parish meeting. The Chairman also welcomed County Councillor Mel Kendal and District Councillor Tipp.

Public Participation

The Chairman invited members of the public to raise any issues they had and residents raised the following issues.

a) It was noticed that a resident was using the verge as a car park, others were parking partly on pavements causing an obstruction to pedestrians while others were using a turning area as a permanent parking bay. It was agreed to put this question to our local WPC.

The Clerk also undertook to notify the local Parking Officers.

Disclosure of Interest

None

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on March 14th having been previously circulated, Councillor Bryant proposed, and Councillor Kewley seconded, that they be approved and signed. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that they be approved and the Chairman signed the minutes.

Matters arising

The Chairman advised that Mr Trotter would be making a presentation on the NPA at the AGM next month.

Councillor Bryant reported that a quotation for the new Notice Board should be with the Clerk very shortly.

Parish Plan update

There was no report for this meeting but it was reported that the questionnaires had been issued and many had been completed and returned.

Highway Matters

The Clerk said that having reported at the last meeting that no further work would be carried out until the new financial year, he found two days later that work was being carried out on the block paving in the parade. He therefore would refrain from giving dates/times in future!

Recreation Ground

Councillor Oliver reported that:

- a) the four new signs in the recreation ground had been vandalised and destroyed.
- b) he had carried out inspections on 22nd March, 5th April and 15th April.
- c) He had removed a great deal of graffiti both in the park and elsewhere in the village.

He also proposed that Wicksteed Leisure, who had installed the new equipment, be asked to carry out the annual inspection and risk assessment for which the cost would be £75. That was agreed unanimously.

Planning

In the absence of Councillor Sopowski the Clerk gave a report on planning matters arising since the last meeting. He also advised that 14 enforcement orders had been transferred from NFDC to NPA. However one of those listed had subsequently been resolved.

The Lengthsman

Councillor Judd wished to thank the Chairman and Councillor Oliver who with their spouses had cleaned up the bus shelters and removed the graffiti.

Totton Glass had been instructed to remove the broken glass from the vandalised bus shelter and replace it with toughened glass.

Accounts

The list of cheques issued since the last meeting had been circulated to all and on a proposal by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Kewley, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the list be approved.

Grants

As shown in the list of Correspondence a letter of thanks had been received from New Forest North CAB for the grant approved at the last meeting.

The Clerk reported that the application expected from Christ Church Colbury Youth Group had not been received.

Reports from Representatives of Other Bodies

Councillor Judd reported she had attended the New Forest North CAB Management Committee Meeting on 3rd April. The Management have undertaken a considerable amount of extra work at Totton due to the sudden death of the Deputy Manager Bernie Charlton. The Management Committee were very appreciative of the Grant they had received from the Parish Council. She had also attended the Ashurst and Colbury Community Plan Group meeting on 4th April.

Councillor Holdsworth reported that vandals had again broken the day centre windows. If it carries on the Insurers will not continue to provide cover and the centre may have to close.

Councillor Arnold attended a seminar on transport organised by HCC. The County Council was looking to maintain and strengthen existing ties with organisations representing the local community's rights and traditions to protect the culture of the New Forest. Lyndhurst Parish Council heard that no action can be taken for 5 years as funding has already been allocated, they would be looking at tens of millions of pounds for this project. Unfortunately for Ashurst they are considering message signs on the M27 which will react to traffic conditions on the A337 north of Lyndhurst should traffic queues become problematical. She sent a clear message to the Chairman of HCC that our Parish only supported the A326 right hand turn on the strength that no signage would indicate diverting traffic away from the A337 and through Ashurst. The HCC Chairman asked her to send in a report to him. She had also attended a meeting of NFDC and the Executive of the NALC and noted the following points:

- a) I put to the committee this Council's desire to have Tree applications restored to the monthly list of planning matters. She was advised that applications could be taken off the internet but pointed out that not everyone has access to this technology.
- b) Hampshire has retained its authority for the Police Force.
- c) John Maskell gave a report on waste collection. This area has a 25% record for recycling and the aim for 2010 is 40%.

- d) There will be a review on waste collections in the New Forest which include the options of Wheelie Bins, alternate fortnightly collections and what is best for the forest and the garden waste scheme. The survey will be operated by community callers.
- e) The NPA was on the agenda, where they will be working towards an electronic web site for residents. This would mean that all planning applications would be accepted by email and it would be up to Clerks to download these for individual planning committees. This was met with a very strong disapproval and will be debated.
- f) Sewers infrastructure – the water authorities are going to try and persuade developers to use soak-aways and not go into sewage. At the change of ownership all homes will automatically be fitted with meters – likewise new buildings.
- g) The dividing up of fields for barns is another top issue. It appears very complicated when you have to ask yourself if the animal is an agricultural horse, a leisure horse or a grazing horse. Depending on the horse per acre this will establish if you need planning permission to erect barns. Observation and measurement will have to be undertaken by the planning officer.

District Councillor Tipp said that the issue of Wheelie Bins was under consideration but there may be a referendum. One concern was that larger bins may encourage more waste. He also commented on the lack of NHS dentists in the New Forest and referred to the new dental contract which came into force on 1st April. He pointed out that the new patient charges meant that an initial examination and ‘clean’ would cost £15.50 and for other basic work £42.40. The cap for all treatment was now £189; no one would have to pay more whatever treatment they had.

Correspondence

The Clerk had circulated a list of correspondence which was available at the meeting. He drew attention to two letters in particular, one from DEFRA (item 11) and the other from NPA (item 13) regarding Community Involvement with a questionnaire. As that had to be returned by 3rd May the Chairman would take soundings and give the Clerk a summary to enable him to complete the questionnaire and send it in.

The Chairman said she had received a copy of the Forest Tour 2006 bus charges which were £9 per adult, £4.50 per child and £22.50 for a family of 2 adults and 2 children. The fares were for an all day ticket enabling passengers to board or alight at any stop throughout the day.

Items for discussion at the next meeting

The Chairman reminded everyone that the next meeting would be the AGM on Tuesday 9th May at 19.00 and she hoped for a good turnout to hear the NPA representative.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm.

Signed S.R. Arnold Chairman Dated 9th May 2006