

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2006 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, District Councillors L Puttock and D Tipp, and 11 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: None

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the February Council meeting. She continued “I have been asked by members of the public if Councillors could speak up at meetings, as in this big hall they do not hear all that is said. I feel that if residents take the trouble to come to our meetings we owe it to them to make ourselves clear. If during the meeting members of the public miss any comments or explanations please raise your hands and I will ask that particular Councillor to speak again”.

1. Public Participation

A lady who cycles to Lyndhurst said that overgrowing brambles made the ride painful as well as ripping clothes. When was the work on the new cycle path going to start? District Councillor Puttock said that the work was out for tender so it should be started fairly soon. In response to other questions he commented that the width would depend on the road width but it would be between 2 and 2½ metres and would be a green edge as far as possible. There would not be any lane markings for cyclists and pedestrians. Dependant on the usage it was possible that at a later stage a footpath would be provided on the opposite side of the road. Attention was requested to the litter on the Woodlands Road corner. It was suggested that perhaps a litter bin by the camp site bus stop might help.

2. Disclosure of Interest

Councillor Arnold said that she had offered to indicate an interest in a planning application for a nearby property but the Chairman of the Planning Committee had indicated it was unnecessary.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the January meeting having been circulated prior to the meeting, on a proposal by Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Kewley it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be approved and were then signed by the Chairman.

4. Parish Plan Update

Mr Bryan Pass, Chairman of the Community Plan Group, gave an update from the minutes of the Group’s last meeting. It was agreed that the minutes should form an annexe to the minutes of this meeting so that everyone could see the detail.

5. Highway Matters

a) Referring to the matters raised at the last meeting the Clerk reported that the Cockleydown/Foxhills/A326 roundabout concerns and the parking at the second slip road entrance to the hospital had been referred by HCC Highways to NFDC Transport Section who were looking into the issues.

HCC Highways had advised that the speed restriction signs had been ordered by HCC and would be installed as soon as they were received. The loose kerb stones in Wood Road had been reset and the block paving at the

Parade would be dealt with in February.

b) The Chairman mentioned that in 2001 work had been carried out on the lighting column in Knightwood Close but the surrounding area had been left without any tarmac and had now sunk and was unsightly and attracted rubbish. Despite reminders to Highways the area had still not received attention. The Clerk was instructed to write to Highways to have the matter dealt with.

c) District Councillor Puttock advised that the Speed indicator Device (SID) will be deployed in all the requested areas. Because it could gather information on how many vehicles were speeding it would indicate where safety cameras could prove beneficial. Two more SIDs had now been purchased.

6. Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that all four signs had been installed but the two smaller signs had already been displaced. Some better form of post or fastening would have to be used.

Councillor Oliver said inspections had taken place on 24th January and 9th February. He also advised that he had not been able to remove the fallen tree {January minutes 5(a)} because it was too heavy for him to move until a friend with a chain saw was able to cut it into smaller pieces. However although it could be considered a potential hazard it was large enough to be clearly seen.

7. Planning

Councillor Sopowski presented a report on Planning matters (Annexe 1). A member of the public said an oak tree at the corner of the service road had been removed, but there was no prior indication or reason provided. The Chairman said it was important to keep an eye open to ensure that any tree work was authorised and the work carried out was in accordance with the authorisation. The difficulty was that NFDC no longer gave notification of tree work authorised but as shown by a recent case they would take action against unauthorised tree work.

District Councillor Puttock said that the NPA take over planning matters on 1st April and from views expressed at a recent meeting it appeared they may well be stricter than NFDC on planning matters.

8. Lengthsman

The Clerk reported that there had been no progress on the replacement of the Whartons Road Notice Board. The possibility of having one fabricated which Councillor Oliver had been following up had not proved possible. Application had been made to NFDC for funding as proposed at the last meeting by Councillor Puttock and the matter would be pursued when an answer was received. Councillor Judd said the graffiti situation was getting worse. In addition to further graffiti on bus shelters the sand box had also been damaged. The Clerk said he had asked the Lengthsman to see if white spirit would remove the graffiti on plastic areas and Councillor Oliver said he would use the graffiti remover on the sand box and any other metal areas. She also expressed concern over the damage caused to the grass verges as a result of the gas board work being carried out.

9. Accounts

a) Councillor Kewley proposed and Councillor Sopowski seconded that the list of cheques issued since the last meeting, a copy of which had been given to each Councillor, be approved and it was approved unanimously

b) It was proposed by Councillor Sopowski and seconded by Councillor David Bryant that “In accordance with the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel set out in their document headed Travel and Subsistence Allowances for Town and Parish Councillors and dated September 2003 the Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council hereby **RESOLVES** to accept and implement those recommendations with immediate effect including the reimbursement rates set out therein.”

The resolution was approved unanimously.

The Clerk advised that in accordance with NFDC regulations the resolution would have to be publicised before it could become effective.

10. Grants

The Clerk had circulated a grant request just received from New Forest North CAB. He was asked to provide details of previous grants to this organisation and the matter would be considered at the next meeting.

11. Reports from Representatives on Other Bodies

Councillor Judd attended the Community Plan Group meeting and reported on two others:

I attended a meeting of the NF North CAB Management Committee at Ringwood on 7th February. There was an in depth discussion on the paper "Recommendations for the way forward" prepared by a sub-committee of Citizens Advice in the New Forest. If implemented it would involve Totton being within a different group i.e. Waterside and Lymington, and removed from its present grouping with Ringwood and Fordingbridge whose offices would regroup with New Milton. There would be two Service Managers responsible for three offices each, with one District Manager responsible for everything. This structure would replace the present four managers employed at present.

A vote was taken at the end of the debate, and the Management Committee voted for the Chairman to take a "No" vote to the NFCAB meeting later in the week. The feeling being that the management structure will be more remote, and that the service at each office will be weakened for the sake of cost cutting, although they could see some benefits from a re-organisation of a different style.

On Thursday 26th January I attended a meeting of the New Forest Transport Forum. The main issues were:

- (a) The introduction from 1st April of free travel on buses for the over 60s
- (b) The Discretionary Scheme vouchers will replace tokens but will only be available to those who are disabled, on benefit or have mobility difficulties. Over 80s will not be automatically entitled to vouchers and will have to take a means test if they wish to have vouchers.
- (c) There was a suggestion to axe the 56 route and replace it by routing the X34 and X35 via Totton. Because of the Totton crossing gates this would mean there would be no fast service from Ashurst to Southampton. It was said that if the Council felt the fast service should be retained because of its benefit to residents we should write in immediately before any decision was reached.

Following a discussion on this last point the Clerk was instructed to write requesting the fast service be retained.

Councillor Holdsworth attended a Patient and Public Involvement Forum and gave a brief summary of the meeting and said her main concern was that management seemed to be taking priority over patients in the NHS.

Councillor Arnold attended the following meetings

16th January the Executive of the New Forest Association

23rd January NFDC Heads of Department and NFALC from which the following points emerge:

- 1 Mr Steve Avery would be Head of Development Control for the NPA
- 2 Mr John Ward would be Director of Planning for the next two years
- 3 There are 70,000 files to be handed over including 500 Enforcement files
- 4 After 31st March there will be no advice available from Appletree Court on planning issues if you are in the National Park
- 5 Lymington Town Hall is the base for the new Safety Officers and Car Parking Wardens

12. Correspondence

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting had been circulated and the file of letters was available at the meeting.

13. Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman suggested various speakers and there was discussion as to whether we were looking for an informative speaker or a humorous speaker. Eventually it was agreed that the April Council Meeting should be held immediately before the Parish meeting on Wednesday 19th April. The Parish Meeting would then only receive reports.

The Clerk was asked to ensure County Councillor Kendall was invited to attend.

14. Items for discussion at the next meeting

The items on the agenda were noted and the Clerk would circulate a paper on them shortly.

Before closing the meeting the Chairman expressed her sorrow that Mrs Spikins, wife of the former Chairman Geoff Spikins who died last year, had died and her funeral would take place tomorrow.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.38 hours.

Signed...S R Arnold.....Chairman

Dated 14th March 2006