

## **ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2006 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY**

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

**In Attendance:** Parish Clerk L. Griggs, District Councillors D Tipp and L Puttock and 12 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Kewley.

#### **RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR OLIVER**

The Chairman formally asked the Clerk to register the resignation of Councillor Ian Oliver and that has been done. I have placed on record in the newsletter our appreciation of the work carried out for the village by Ian and Karen and this council wishes them every success for all that they wish to achieve in the future.

Confirming the dedication of the members of this council to our village, the posts which Councillor Oliver held were very quickly filled.

Councillor David Bryant is willing to take on the post of Chairman of the Park committee.

Councillor Sue Ardern and her husband Stuart have volunteered for the distribution of the newsletter.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands for acceptance of those changes and they were approved unanimously.

The Clerk was asked to give details of the procedure following Councillor Oliver's resignation and he said "In accordance with the Statutory Requirements a Notice of the Casual Vacancy has been placed in the Notice Boards, and sent to the returning Officer. The Returning Officer has advised that the period within which a Poll may be requested ends on 20<sup>th</sup> October. If no poll is requested the Council will have to co-opt a member to hold office until the elections next year".

In response to a question from the Chairman the Clerk confirmed that if no one called for a poll it would be necessary to co-opt a member for the remainder of the year.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public asked when the missing street name signs were going to be replaced. The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken with NFDC who had said they were being ordered but so far nothing was forthcoming. The Chairman asked the District Councillors to talk to the department concerned to get some action.

#### **DISCLOSURE OF AN INTEREST**

There were none.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the September meeting, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were approved unanimously and the Chairman signed them.

### **Matters arising**

- a) The Clerk reported that a request for a new litter bin at the corner of New Road/A35 had been rejected by NFDC on the grounds that a daily litter pick took place in Ashurst. Councillor Judd had provided photographs of the rubbish on a daily basis and they were being sent to NFDC with a request that the matter be reconsidered. NFDC were also advised that there was no daily litter pick during the time the photographs were being taken.
- b) The Chairman reported that the returns from four Councillors showed that the third Tuesday in the month was an acceptable alternative to the current meeting day. As no response had been received from the other two Councillors she inquired if it could be taken that the third Tuesday would suit them? They confirmed it would. After some discussion it was agreed to make the change from May 2007.

## **COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE**

Councillor Ardern reported as follows:

- a) Monthly meetings had been held for 12 months
- b) Grants had been secured from NFDC and CAH
- c) The Love it/Hate it survey had now been analysed
- d) Sub committees had been formed and they had compiled questions to put into the full questionnaire and meetings had been held to put together the final questions.
- e) The Corporate Consultations & Support Officer and the Community Planning Officer from NFDC had been engaged and had provided helpful advice and liaison.
- f) The Questionnaire had now been put together and will be circulated in the village in the next three months.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Ardern and said she looked forward to receiving the questionnaire. The Chairman reminded the meeting that all those involved in the Community Plan team were volunteers.

## **HIGHWAYS**

- a) The Chairman said that the “walk through” the village with Rob Millar of HCC Highways would take place on 18<sup>th</sup> October starting at 9am from Whartons Lane entrance to the recreation ground. She asked all Councillors who were available to come with their lists of work required in the village.
- b) The repair work mentioned at the last meeting had now been carried out.
- c) Both the monitoring “tubes” on the A35 in Ashurst and one of those approaching Lyndhurst had been severed. The Clerk had reported it to the appropriate authority and they were now repaired.

## **RECREATION GROUND**

- a) The Chairman said that as mentioned earlier Councillor Bryant had accepted the position as Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee. She then inquired if

- he would also act as village Tree Warden. Councillor Bryant accepted the appointment.
- b) The Clerk said that the issue of an Alcohol Free Area or a Dispersal Order covering the Recreation Ground was a long, involved procedure. He would continue to follow it up but it may be some time before any further comment could be made. Councillor Judd pointed out that the vandalism was spreading beyond the recreation ground with plant pots and other items being damaged.
  - c) The Clerk reported that he now had two quotations for installing CCTV equipment in the park. One was just over £9,000 and one just under £4000. Neither included the electrical connections or the concrete base for the pole. He asked for approval from the Council to undertake further discussion with the lower quotation and to come back to the Council with more precise total costs. That was agreed.
  - d) The Chairman said that last year several councillors and neighbours had made a very good job of cleaning the park. However this is not always possible and perhaps money should be spent on the park using more experienced professional people. Cutting back the bamboo worked well for a while but the new shoots coming through the ground make this a safety hazard. Although the children have great fun in the bamboo, for safety reasons and to assist the police with observing the vandals, I ask members of the Council if they would be in favour of removing the bamboos and clearing that piece of ground and leave just the trees. The Chairman invited comments from the Councillors or the public. After some discussion it was agreed to have the work carried out by a commercial firm.

## **PLANNING**

The Chairman said she would like to thank Councillor Sopowski for giving his time attending a very important and what can only be described as a 'break through meeting' at the National Park.

It is vital that the planning officers understand the problems faced by the Parish with planning applications, especially retrospective issues and enforcements

Councillor Sopowski gave details of Planning Matters over the last month.

## **THE LENGTHSMAN**

### **a) New Notice Board**

The Chairman said that the new Notice Board had been installed last Saturday but by Sunday morning it had been vandalised. Councillor Bryant said he had been to the site with the manufacturer and removed the damaged section which would be replaced in due course.

### **b) Appointment of a Second Lengthsman**

The Chairman said "I feel this really needs to be addressed to the public as well as the council. What is needed is someone that can be called on for maintenance and repair work around the village, so if you know of someone who has spare time for small work then please let the Clerk know".

## **ACCOUNTS**

- a) The Council approved the list of cheques issued since the last meeting.
- b) The Clerk said he would hand out papers for the Precept meeting at the end of this meeting.

## **GRANTS**

No applications had been received.

## **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

**Councillor Ardern** had attended the meetings of the Community Plan Group.

**Councillor Holdsworth** said would attend the AGM of Age Concern in Hampshire next week and spoke of the changes in the PCT structure. She also would be looking into the effects of the closure of Stocklands and the day centre.

**Councillor Judd** reported on the meeting of the Management Committee of New Forest North CAB on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Sue Gibson had been appointed Deputy Manager at Totton. Thanks were expressed for the huge work contribution voluntarily undertaken by Mrs Kerston Marsh at Totton after the sudden death of the previous Deputy Manager and until the appointment of Sue Gibson. One Councillor commented that voluntary work hours should be accounted for in a Business Plan so that a record is kept of how much this work would cost CAB if not undertaken by volunteers. The Auditor confirmed that this was the case and should be recorded in future.

Ringwood reported a large increase in enquiries from the East Dorset area and debt seems to be the main concern of clients. A Ringwood Councillor enquired if grants were received from East Dorset Councils and was assured that East Dorset Councils were up-to-date and generous with their grants to CAB.

Training Courses for Management Committee Members were being arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> November at Greyfriars, Ringwood.

The 2007 Business Plan was circulated and discussed in detail.

The AGM would be at Greyfriars on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Councillor Arnold** reported as follows:

**27<sup>th</sup> September** – Meeting at NPA with Councillor Sopowski and the Clerk

**7<sup>th</sup> October** – AGM of HAPTC plus presentations.

First was the presentation of the Village of the Year plaques and then the AGM. She pointed out that the plaque and certificate awarded to Ashurst and Colbury were on display, and added it was very encouraging to see so many Parishes taking an interest. The main point in the AGM being the resolutions which will affect us all.

- 1) To disapprove of the proliferation of inappropriate road and traffic signs. Passed 58 to 4
- 2) Question the authority of SEERA to act for the people of the region being an unelected, unaccountable body. Passed 59 to 6
- 3) Problems of double taxation Lost 25 to 31
- 4) Future viability of rural Post Offices as village hubs will be assured. Passed 53 to 6
- 5) To increase the parking provision for new housing developments with all communities Lost 20 to 29

**9<sup>th</sup> October** – Executive of NAFLC

1. Neighbourhood Policing Officer has informed us that the whole structure of the Police Force is changing. Ashurst should be receiving a Community Officer. At the

next NFALC meeting [9th November] we have suggested that Clerks and Chairman of Parish Councils plus the representative attend the meeting as Ann Wakefield Chief Superintendent will be speaking about the problems we face in our parishes and how to handle them.

At the crime disorder meeting it was reported that the 1 to1 parenting is working well, and likewise the community workers.

**District Councillor Puttock** reported that he was now serving on the Leisure Committee, Planning Committee and the Crime and Disorder Committee. He advised that:

- changes by Central Government meant that Land Charges, for searches etc, would no longer be received by local councils. In the case of NFDC that would mean a loss of profit of some £400,000
- there was a huge response against wheelie bins. It was important that people recycled as much as possible using the clear and pink bags if they wished to avoid having wheelie bins. Although the cost of wheelie bins and the necessary new collection vehicles was high there was great pressure from Government to have them.
- the costs of maintaining the NFDC CCTV system was running way over budget and was being reviewed. It had been useful and solved crimes but what was needed was some contribution from the Police as it was carrying out part of their work.
- there were changes in the beat areas coming into being.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A list of the main items of correspondence received by the Clerk was available at the meeting.

### **NEW FOREST GUIDE**

After discussion it was agreed not to participate in the New Forest Guide as all our events were primarily for local people. The same applied to the Hants Fish list of activities for children and families.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

No one proposed any items.

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the following dates:

17<sup>th</sup> October - Precept meeting for Councillors. 7.30pm at the Church Rooms

30<sup>th</sup> October – Pumpkin Competition. 6.30pm at the Happy Cheese

The Chairman added that once again the Happy Cheese was providing considerable support for this event.

14<sup>th</sup> November – Council Meeting at 7.30pm

The Chairman asked the Councillors to remain for a Closed meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Signed **S.R.Arnold**

Dated 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006