

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH APRIL 2007 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk L. Griggs, District Councillors L Puttock and D. Tipp, and 11 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Sopowski.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman then invited members of the public if they wished to raise any issues. One resident said that on a recent visit to the bottle banks he had found them overflowing. Councillor Holdsworth agreed that this was often the case. The Clerk was instructed to write to NFDC to get the bins emptied regularly.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST IN AN AGENDA ITEM

The Chairman asked if there was any item on the agenda which would warrant a Councillor submitting a Form C. There were none.

MINUTES

On a proposal by Councillor Ardern, seconded by Councillor Kewley, the minutes of the March meeting, which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Judd reported that the Committee were currently very busy dealing with the results of the questionnaire and there was nothing to report until that was complete.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

- a) Cycle path. Councillor Bryant said the work would commence once the necessary portakabins had been put in place. The Clerk drew attention to the notices he had put in the Notice Boards announcing a 40mph speed limit along the A35 between Lyndhurst and Ashurst while the work was taking place.
- b) Councillor Judd gave an update on the A35 crossing and said she had been in touch with Mr. Weller, deputy Head of Hounslow School, who gave her an update as to the present situation with HCC. He said the School was very concerned over this situation and offered help in any way he could to get some action on this matter. He offered to have some petition forms at the school which she provided. He also said:
 - i) the children had recently carried out a project on safety within the surrounding area and the crossing came up as a great concern in regard to safety by the children themselves.
 - ii) the underpass route is not a favoured option and is not pleasant especially in winter.Councillor Judd added that she had 155 signatures to the petition so far and hopes that

the number will be much higher next month. A volunteer from the village was distributing forms to parents of children who have indicated their willingness to support it. Petition forms were available if anyone wishes to take some for their family and friends.

- c) The Chairman distributed a summary provided by HCC arising from the signage and re-routeing trials and said this matter would be discussed at the AGM in May.
- d) The Chairman said
 - i) she had made contact with Councillor Goff Beck who at present has responsibility for the Crime & Disorder Portfolio. He has asked her for an update on the vandalism and offered his assistance.
 - ii) NPA have made some progress with the flyposting in the village. They have acted promptly, taken photographs of the offending posters, and contacted the group.
 - iii) Rats are showing their undesirable behaviour again in the village. Excellent diligence by a resident in Lyndhurst Road who has been able to persuade Highways to insist that NFDC foot the bill.
 - iv) Road sign broken - entrance to Dene Way from Ashdene Road end. It is broken from the base so will need a complete new structure.

RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Bryant said he had attended the recreation ground on several occasions and the shrub clearance work was now almost completed. The fence had been repaired and the gate for disabled access put in place.

He added he would like to have a litter pick when the shrub clearance work was completed to remove litter and other rubbish and make the place tidier for the summer. He would set a date and notify the Clerk so notices could be put in the Notice Boards and the Newsletter.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Councillor Ardern said the Community Plan Questionnaire had shown that 746 residents were in favour of CCTV in the village and 572 were against which was a 57% vote in favour. However that was in response to a general question not specifically related to the recreation ground.

PLANNING

In the absence of Councillor Sopowski the Clerk gave a report on planning issues since the last meeting.

LENGTHSMAN

Councillor Bryant reported he would be meeting up with a possible new Lengthsman on Saturday.

ACCOUNTS

On a proposal by Councillor Bryant, seconded by Councillor Ardern, the list of cheques issued since the last meeting was approved.

The Chairman said on behalf of this council I thank Councillor Tipp and Councillor Puttock for including this Council in their annual funding award again this year. For those not at the last meeting this money was equalled by the Parish Council and donated to the Scouts at Colbury Memorial Hall.

GRANTS

The Clerk said no response to the usual grant questionnaire had been received from Victim Support, Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

Councillor Ardern had attended the meeting of the Newsletter Committee and had also met the Copythorne web site co-ordinator to compare notes. She reminded the Council that another web site person was still required to provide back up for her.

Councillor Judd had attended the meeting of the Community Plan Group, the CAB meeting at Fordingbridge and the New Forest Transport Forum. The points arising from the Forum were:

- the role of Hampshire Action Teams (HATS) is to take on areas not covered by other parts of the Transport Agenda. They are primarily a listening service and suggestions must be feasible. The point of contact is Sian Campbell, telephone number 01962 845329
- in 2008 Government proposes to change the Concessionary Travel Scheme to a countrywide scheme.
- young people between the ages of 14 and 18, living permanently in the district, are entitled to assistance for travel amounting to £39 annually. Application Forms may be obtained from the Concessionary Travel Section at Lymington Town Hall. She asked the Clerk to put notices to that effect in the Notice Boards.
- Hythe Ferry is receiving assistance from HCC and has started a cycle hire for tourists.
- Assistance with travel costs is available to people who have a large number of hospital appointments.
- there is a scheme for a 6 month loan of a moped to 16-25 year olds to enable them to save up and buy their own moped.

Councillor Holdsworth reported that the Foot Care clinics were over stretched as the NHS were now referring people to the Age Concern clinics and some of their referrals required longer than the standard 20 minute appointment. She was meeting the PCT to assess the need and cost of longer clinics.

Councillor Arnold had attended the following meetings:

14th March – Meeting with Historic Group – re Chapel

22nd March – Liaison meeting for Town and Parish Councils

29th March – Meeting with Southern Water Board – re Peterscroft Avenue

2nd April – Heads of Department and Executive of NFALC

Fawley Parish Council has decided not to renew its membership with HAPTC along with Totton Town Council. Parish Plans need to be in line with NPA plans if they are to be considered in connection with planning applications. The NPA propose to employ their own Compliance Officer who would do the same job as a Building Control Officer. The Ombudsman recently found HCC Highways guilty of maladministration in not inspecting sites for planning. A Community Facility Tool Kit will be prepared for all Parishes. There were complaints about the manner in which Parish/Town Councils receive emails from NFDC. This is being sorted.

4th April – Meeting of Newsletter Committee

This was to discuss the improvement and its professionalism. The new ruling will be printed in the June newsletter.

5th April – General meeting of NFALC

Tree applications will now have the same 28 days for observations as planning.

The NPA are keen to have a close working relationship with NFALC

NFALC still pressing HATPC for funding. Election process for appointments of Parish members to NPA is still in the balance with DEFRA. It was felt by those Parishes present that it would seem pointless after only one year in office and the training they have received to rock the boat at this stage.

CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence had been circulated and copies were available at the meeting. The Clerk pointed out that the email from Steve Avery regarding planning surgeries required a response by 30th April. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to say that no one had any knowledge of these surgeries and they should continue as now with more publicity before any cuts were made. District Councillor Puttock said that other parishes had also commented that they were not aware of these surgeries.

The Chairman said that Langley Cricket Club has asked Councillor Judd if their notices could go in the locked and glazed section of the Councils notice boards and asked for Councillors views. Currently only County, District or Parish Council notices were displayed in this section. There was open space at the boards for other notices to be displayed. It was noted that if one organisation was permitted to use the glazed area others would undoubtedly wish to follow suit. After discussion it was agreed that the current situation should be maintained.

ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk reported that Totton Clerk had declined to provide details of the Ashurst residents with allotments holders because consent had not been given by them to disclose the information under the Data Protection Act. However the numbers of the plots allocated to Ashurst and Colbury were given and are 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 17, 21 and 23.

ELECTIONS

The Clerk advised that NFDC had notified him there were only seven nominations for the eight places on the Parish Council so no election would be required. He had not received the names of the candidates.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reminded everyone that the AGM on 15th May 2007 starts at 7.00pm. She also asked everyone to note that, as agreed by this council, from this date all meetings will now be on the third Tuesday of each month. The speaker for this AGM will be Mr. Steve Avery speaking to us about enforcements and retrospective planning.

The Chairman said that she had seen a report that Swindon Council had offered a reward to anyone giving information leading to conviction for crimes such as vandalism and asked if it was appropriate for this Council to do the same.

The Chairman said that before closing the meeting she wished to mention that Councillor Kewley would not be standing for election for a further period and thanked her for all her work on behalf of the village, and wished her well for the future.

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

Signed S.R. Arnold Chairman

15th May 2007