

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH JULY 2007 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk L. Griggs, District Councillor D. Tipp, and 15 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from District Councillor Puttock

The Chairman said that Councillor Holdsworth was unable to stay for the whole meeting and had asked if item 7, Planning, could be taken early as she particularly wished to participate in that item. It was agreed by all Councillors

PLANNING

Councillor Sopowski gave a report on planning issues since the last meeting.

At the request of Councillor Ardern he also gave details of Enforcement Orders currently in place relating to our Parish.

After discussion it was agreed that these notices should be displayed in the notice boards and on the web site.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public raised concerns over the possible development of a site on the corner of Wood Road and the A35. It seems that developers wished to knock down the current four bedroom family house, currently occupied as 4 flats, acquire adjacent properties and erect 10-12 two bedroom flats. She said this was a busy junction, close to the shops and the only area in the village with double yellow lines. The development was out of keeping with the area and she hoped the Council would oppose it. Bearing in mind that once the plans had been lodged there was only a 21 day window, could something be done now.

Another resident living in an adjacent property added that he had been approached by the developers to sell his property to them but had refused. He also objected to the proposed development

Councillor Sopowski, Chairman of the Planning Committee, said while he would be opposed to a block of flats facing the main route through the village it was difficult to make any statement until plans were received and studied. NPA were looking for more accommodation and tearing down one house to provide additional accommodation would probably be acceptable to them. The Parish Council could only make a recommendation; it was the NPA who made decisions.

The Chairman added that it was possible for the Council to ask for an extension to consider any contentious applications.

Councillor Holdsworth asked if Blackberry Homes could be approached to see what their intentions were.

After further discussion it was agreed to wait for the plans and the Clerk was asked to establish if there were any TPOs which applied to the site.

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 Sopowski, the minutes of the meeting held on 19th June, which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

The Chairman enquired of Councillor Bryant if the wording for the Jubilee Plaque was available and Councillor Bryant said it would be available shortly.

COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Judd reported as follows:

The Community Plan Group met on 3rd July discussing and refining the draft of the opening pages and layout of the Parish Plan and modifications were recommended. The historical section is virtually complete thanks to the hard work of Mr Arthur Jeffery and the historical team. Further house groups are to be arranged where necessary before the next meeting. Two graphic designers have offered their services and Bryan Pass is in the process of discussions regarding what is required of them.

One of the Committee members has had to resign and we are hoping to recruit another member who had earlier offered to join us if a vacancy arose.

It has been agreed that several proof readers will be used to ensure a high quality document.

A further notice of the photo competition details should be in the August Parish Magazine.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

a) A35 crossing. Councillor Judd gave a report with the following main points:

i) Dr Julian Lewis was involved and in contact with County Councillor Mel Kendal.

ii) In response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act the responses from HCC were:

- A risk assessment had not been carried out by HCC on the safety of school children crossing the A35 at Colbury during the afternoon at any time since September 2006.
- There had been no advertisement for an afternoon School Crossing Attendant at any time during September 2006 to July 2007 as it was not considered safe to employ a person on such a busy road. It was also stated that the morning Crossing Attendant was formerly employed by the Education department and the new department had retained him as they did not wish to make people redundant. However he would not be replaced if he were to resign.

In a conversation with Mr Rayment, Senior Engineer of HCC, the following information was given:

A feasibility study is being carried out during which engineers will work out how to get a safe crossing either by underpass, bridge or Toucan crossing, taking into account the speed of the traffic and the layout of the road. The report is expected in November and if agreed the work could be programmed for 2008-2009.

b) Re-routing trials. The Clerk advised that he had received an email from Dominic McGrath saying no specific further investigation was proposed. The Parish concerns were noted and they undertook to report these when a report on the project goes to the Executive Member. There is currently no planned reporting date.

c) The Clerk said a letter had been received from HCC indicating that Ashurst and Colbury was on the first tranche of villages where the use of a 30mph speed limit would be addressed.

d) The Chairman noted that the new five barred gate was in place at the western end of the village.

Councillor Judd said that the Chairman was to be congratulated on her tenacity in ensuring the promise made by HCC was not forgotten.

e) The Chairman reported that HCC had advised that the work on the barrier over the railway bridge will commence in October. The barriers will be as shown in the photographs displayed at a previous meeting. No planning permission was required as this is a safety issue.

It was agreed that the Council had no use for the old posts.

f) The Chairman asked the Clerk to arrange with the appropriate authority to have the vegetation on the south side of Foxhills Close cut back.

g) Councillor Judd reported that the manhole cover outside Alldays was in a dangerous state and asked the Clerk to write to BT

h) Councillor Sopowski proposed that a letter be sent to HCC saying:

i) Congratulating them on the new cycle path

ii) Asking them to congratulate the contractors for their care and consideration during the work

iii) Requesting them to ensure the brambles and vegetation bordering the path were trimmed regularly.

The Clerk was asked to send a letter.

RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Bryant reported that the annual inspection had taken place and the report showed only minor issues to be corrected.

The spraying of the bamboo shoots would take place when the weather was dry as rain only undid the work.

The Lengthsman should be back shortly and further work would be undertaken as required.

LENGTHSMAN

Nothing to report

ACCOUNTS

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

b) After some discussion on the merits of Unity Bank as against National Westminster Bank it was agreed to stay with National Westminster. It was RESOLVED that:

National Westminster Bank Plc be requested to act as bankers of the Organisation

(i) The Bank is requested to continue an Account in the name of the Organisation and is authorised to accept instructions (a) for operations on the Account and (b) to release items held in security or safe custody in the name of the Organisation from any three signatories from the list of signatories supplied on behalf of the Organisation.

(iii) The Bank should send statements of account to the Clerk at the following address:

“Whisperwood” Cullwood Lane, New Milton, Hampshire BH25 5QJ

(iv) The Bank is to be given:

1. A copy of the rules and regulations of the organisation and any amendments made thereafter, certified as correct by the Clerk

2. Authorised signatory sheets certified as correct by the Chairman and the Clerk.

The Clerk shall notify the Bank of resignations and retirements of those authorised to give instructions.

This Authority shall continue notwithstanding any change in the constitution or membership of the organisation and until receipt by the Bank of a certified copy of a later Resolution amending or rescinding this Resolution.

GRANTS

A letter of thanks had been received from Victim Support.

Information circulated regarding the charity It's Your Choice did not include any financial data. The Clerk was asked to obtain that information for consideration at the next meeting.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

Councillor Sopowski reported on a meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel. There was matched funding of £2m available for such things as landscaping and the development of local skills. While one Parish could not put up £2m if Councils worked together it should be possible. He intended to put up notices and try to generate interest.

District Councillor Tipp said he had attended the Crime and Disorder Review Panel meeting when it was reported that although crime had reduced the target of 17% reduction had not been achieved. The panel was in the early stages of considering the extension of the CCTV scheme although it was noted that CCTV did not necessarily reduce crime. The original investment had been funded by a Government Grant of £1m but the running costs of over £200k had not been anticipated. The panel had decided to meet at various locations in the district to try to improve public participation.

Councillor Arnold reported the following:

22nd June – Executive Meeting of NFALC

25th June – Heads of Department meeting

28th June – National Park Authority General Meeting

- Clive Chatters was re-elected Chairman and Barry Rickman Vice Chairman.
- Flight Path. A strong letter has been sent to the Christchurch Borough Council concerning the proposed flight path. No proper assessment had been made and is contrary to guidances [section 62]
- Planning – 93 % of household applications were determined within 8 weeks. There are currently 300+ outstanding enforcements.
- Signage in the National Park – It was agreed to progress on the Sign Rationalization Action Plan and approve in principle the removal of signs where agreement has been reached amongst stakeholders. On this matter I feel that all Parish and Town Councillors should be allowed a view and strongly recommend that the New Forest Association of Local Councils is informed.
- Education – They wish to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation by young people of the special qualities of the New Forest National Park by going into Schools.
- Accommodation Assessment for Gypsies and Travellers. - They have agreed to liaise with the neighbouring authorities to identify potential sites for gypsy and traveller accommodation in or around the National Park. There were confidential papers given to NPA members. This pink paper issued by SEERA will be made public in due course. A major item that must be remembered is that the NPA is not a Housing Authority, only a Planning Authority.

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3rd July – Crime and Disorder Review Panel

- An enlightening meeting connecting the New Forest Community Safety for Crime and Disorder reduction and their liaison with the Police. There will be a new act in the near future called Police and Justice Act, which basically means the safety group coming out to face the people. District Councillor Tipp said that Ashurst would be an interesting place for such a meeting as the public attend their meetings. The structure and key definitions were explained with funding and their performance targets to meet. They have new methods of trapping vandals and also hope to have a mobile police van. One important message was that the CCTV cameras had not made a noticeable impact on

vandalism, although all evidence was constructive to the Police when such incidents occur.

16th July – National Park Planning Meeting

CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence had been circulated and copies were available at the meeting.

HANGING BASKET COMPETITION

The judging had been postponed due to the indisposition of Tom McKinley.

VILLAGE AMENITIES

Councillor Bryant said that a number of residents had mentioned the need for a doctor's surgery and a pharmacy in the village. With the changes being made to Snowdon House would it be possible to have accommodation there for a surgery with doctors in Lyndhurst and Totton being asked to provide one or more surgeries a week for Ashurst and Colbury villagers. Many did not have public transport so visiting a surgery or getting medication was a lengthy process.

After discussion the Clerk was asked to write to the PCT to see if any accommodation could be provided at Snowdon House and if so to enquire if doctors in Lyndhurst and Totton would provide the service. Also to enquire if any pharmacy at Snowdon House could be available to the public.

CODE OF CONDUCT

On a proposal by Councillor Ardern seconded by Councillor Sopowski, it was **RESOLVED** that the Model Code of Conduct for Town and Parish Councils (published under the Local Authorities [Model Code of Conduct] Order 2007 No. 1159) be and is hereby adopted.

WHEELIE BINS

The Clerk read an email from a resident in favour of wheelie bins and there was considerable discussion on the pros and cons. When asked by the Chairman the Councillors were unanimously opposed to wheelie bins. The members of the public were also opposed with three abstentions. The question of seeking a wider poll of residents was raised. District Councillor Tipp said that he was a member of the NFDC Panel on waste issues and, despite what had been reported in the press, nothing had been mentioned at the panel meetings to give any indication that the matter was to be raised. Certainly recycling was an issue.

It was decided not to pursue the matter until more was gleaned from NFDC but the Clerk was asked to:

- i) put the item on the September agenda
- ii) ask NFDC to provide more clear sacks to improve recycling. If residents had no sacks everything would go in black sacks for landfill.

ASHURST CHAPEL

The Chairman reported that she is keeping in contact with the Primary Care Trust. They have agreed to send an inventory of the artefacts that are in the Chapel.

The Chairman suggested that the Clerk take this item off the agenda until further positive action can be taken.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

The Speaker would be District Councillor Goff Beck on Crime and Prevention.

The Council also agreed to invite a Speaker for the October meeting to talk about the Good Citizenship project being carried out in Marchwood.

The Chairman said I hope that you all have a very good holiday [weather permitting if you are staying in this country], so till then, keep well and we look forward to being back together in September. Just to remind you that Councillors do not go on strike for a month we are always here to help and assist you all we can. We are also still collecting photographs and memorabilia for the Historic Day in October, so please pass them on to me as soon as possible.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.14pm

Signed S R Arnold Chairman Dated 18th September 2007