

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JUNE 2007 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

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

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Holdsworth and District Councillor Puttock

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman referred to correspondence in the Newsletter and to a letter from one resident suggesting that asking for a 30 mph limit through the village is, and quoted his words, “a unilateral idea proposed by a do gooder minority.”

She said after the two accidents on Wednesday 6th June and the one on Friday this puts that remark in a rather different light.

This Council has already agreed to try for a 30 mph through the village, do any members of the public have an opinion or comment?

One resident reported yet another accident and the general view was that a 30mph speed limit was appropriate to the A35 through the village.

A resident pointed out that over-growing briars and bushes made walking on pavements difficult. District Councillor Tipp said that NFDC would write to householders if it was drawn to their attention. Residents were asked to advise the Clerk of any specific places and he would notify NFDC or other appropriate authority.

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 Bryant, the minutes of the AGM held on 15th May, which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Ardern reported that the Editorial Committee was currently very busy dealing with the drafting of the Plan and sub committees were also very busy. The timetable was as published in the Newsletter.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

a) Councillor Judd reported as follows:

I have today spoken to Martin Wiltshire at HCC to find out the up-to-date position. He confirmed that the initial assessment had been carried out and now informs me that the

feasibility study is to take place sometime in Autumn 2007. This, you will notice, is later than I was told in May when it was stated to be planned to take place before the end of the Summer term.

I have a copy of the Guidelines and Rules for Children who cycle to School giving road safety details which is issued to all pupils of Hounslow School. Section D states 'Cyclists are forbidden to cross the A35 other than by using the School Crossing Patrol near Colbury Hall or the underpass near Players Crescent. In both cases cyclists should dismount before crossing'

I am in process of asking HCC under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. Have HCC carried out a risk assessment since September 2006 on the safety of school pupils crossing the A35 at Colbury Hall after school in the afternoons when no Crossing Patrol Person is in attendance?
2. How many times has HCC advertised for an afternoon School Patrol Person for the A35 Colbury crossing since July 2006 and in what publications?

I have been in communication with Mr. Weller, Assistant Head teacher of Hounslow School, and he has informed me that he has asked the School Councillors if they will agree to a petition slip being published in their end of term magazine.

I have also been in touch with Dr. Julian Lewis's office in the hope of seeing him. I was asked if we had requested help from Councillor Mel Kendal. I confirmed that we had, and also that of our District Councillors. I have been requested to send in the details of where we are at present and what we have done so far, and then we can arrange an appointment probably late in July.

b) The Chairman reminded everyone of the re-routing signage trial and invited comments.

The main points mentioned were:

- i) the report is not well written
- ii) there are many anomalies some of which arise from the many 'escape routes' drivers have once on the A326
- iii) the report may not have provided the outcome HCC were expecting
- iv) HCC had promised there would be no signage on the M27 diverting traffic through Ashurst when they proposed the A326 right turn.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mel Kendal and Dominic McGrath asking if the issue had now been dropped.

c) The Chairman mentioned the Ashurst Garage change to a Car Wash and said the Council is not aware of any application for change of use. However the NPA have this matter in hand.

c) Councillor Bryant said the steps leading off the railway bridge to the footpath to Totton were in a dangerous state and suggested we ask Highways to include the necessary repair work when putting up the new barriers.

The question was also raised regarding the diversion of traffic when there was an accident on the A35. Diverting traffic down New Road was of no point as drivers did not know which other road to take. It had created considerable confusion in recent incidents. The Clerk was asked to write to the Police suggesting that Wood Road, Ashdene Road and Whartons Lane were the obvious solution requiring only officers at the one junction.

The Chairman spoke of the plaque commemorating the Queens Silver Jubilee. She said the Plaque had been removed from the tree planted at the Happy Cheese. To make matters clear - the tree was planted in 1977 for the Queens Silver Jubilee. It is on Forestry Commission land and was planted with their agreement. The Forestry Commission lease this land to the brewery and the lease allows the right of the Jubilee Committee to maintain and tend the plaque. That is clear in an email sent from Michael Seddon Deputy Surveyor of the Forestry Commission.

The brass plaque has been removed so I am asking this council if it wishes to have it replaced and to fund the replacement.

After some discussion it was agreed to replace it but the Clerk was first asked to obtain a quotation. Councillor Bryant undertook to obtain the original wording from a colleague.

RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Bryant said there were one or two things to be done which he would follow up when the Lengthsman returned from holiday. He asked the Clerk to remind NFDC of the spraying work that still remained to be done to clear the bamboo shoots.

Councillor Judd said talking of spraying NFDC had again sprayed against residents walls destroying anything growing there although they had previously promised not to do so. She asked the Clerk to write again to NFDC.

PLANNING

Councillor Sopowski gave a report on planning issues since the last meeting. He also mentioned that the application from Penrith House to adapt their Care Accommodation into residential flats had given rise to a strange anomaly. The owners had been told by NPA that the couple currently renting a flat would have to leave before the application could be considered. It seemed to him very strange situation and he asked the Clerk to follow up with NPA.

LENGTHSMAN

Councillor Bryant said there was nothing to report.

ACCOUNTS

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

b) The Council then considered the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement covering the year 2007/2008 which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

On a proposal by Councillor Ardern, seconded by Councillor Sopowski, the accounts and governance statement were approved unanimously. The Accounts were signed by the Chairman and the Governance Statement was signed by both the Chairman and Clerk.

GRANTS

The Council considered the request from Victim Support, Hampshire and IoW, and on a proposal by Councillor Sopowski, seconded by Councillor Ardern, it was agreed to make a grant of £250. The Clerk asked the Council to consider letters from Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and Vitalise. The Chairman asked if any member of the public had heard of Vitalise but there was no response. After consideration it was agreed not to consider the WAG but to ask for more information from Vitalise.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

Councillor Ardern attended the Code of Conduct Training seminar.

Councillor Arnold had attended the following:

18th May - Code of Conduct Training

7th June - Visit to the Ashurst Chapel with Rev. Tom Johns

12th June – School Governors Meeting

14th June – NAFLC AGM. Bob Morris was re-elected to the NPA to represent Quadrant 4 which included Ashurst and Colbury. NAFLC also has an urgent need for a Secretary if anyone knows of a possible candidate. Funding is a problem and so far HAPTC is reluctant to provide funds. The Standards Board had asked for two members of NAFLC to be elected to the Board and this was accomplished.

The Chairman also said she would like to express appreciation to Joyce Gorvin who had spent the whole day with her co-ordinating the many photographs and documents that had been received for the Historic Day on 20th October.

District Councillor Tipp said he had attended a Planning meeting at NPA where the lack of affordable housing in the village had been noted. He said he would not be surprised if they required more affordable houses when any area was being developed. He had also attended an NFDC Cabinet Meeting when the auditors had signed off on the NFDC accounts. They had also commented on social housing plus the need for more recycling. It seemed that by 2009 the target would be 40% and it was difficult to see how that could be achieved. Councillor Kershaw asked if NFDC could be encouraged to co-ordinate with other authorities so that similar categories were used for house collection and at tips. If people missed a collection at home and went to a tip they needed to open their bags and re-sort for the available bins. Obviously many would just throw it into the landfill bin.

ASHURST CHAPEL

The Chairman said she had attended a meeting at the chapel with Rev. Tom Johns and Paul Johnson (Primary Care Trust) and reported as follows:

‘The Reverent Tom Johns and I had the opportunity of meeting with Mr. Paul Johnson Head of PFI Estates in the Chapel. He explained in detail the work that has taken place there which could so easily be removed if the day came that the Chapel was brought back for the purpose that it was built. For example, new central heating system, walls have been plastered and decorated, wiring for office equipment has been very tastefully positioned, a special unit to store the ‘artefacts’ of the Chapel and a safe lock on the front door. The memorial stones on the walls have not been removed. We were able to see the artefacts that belong to the Chapel, which will remain in the Chapel.

It appears that the PCT has done everything in their power to accommodate an office and yet retain the dignity of a Chapel, and maybe sometime in the near future the Chapel may well come back to the village.

Reverent Tom Johns made it quite clear that he was not responsible for the Chapel it was in the hands of Tony Beavis – PCT Chaplain at the Western Hospital.’

Rev. Johns then spoke and said he appreciated the way the PCT had been sensitive to the original use of the chapel. He had reminded the PCT that if a birthing pool was set up in the hospital people who suffered a stillbirth or other trauma would probably appreciate a place like the Chapel to rest quietly in the immediate aftermath of their loss. He also felt that as it is in our parish we should have some say in its future use.

NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

After some discussion it was agreed to keep the number of Councillors at eight. It was also suggested that Councillors may wish to put articles in the Newsletter outlining the things they do as many people have no idea what Councillors do on behalf of the village

CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence had been circulated and copies were available at the meeting. The Clerk added that Community First, New Forest were seeking two Trustees and had asked if their advertisement could be included in the Newsletter. The Council agreed that it could. The Chairman circulated a note regarding the widening of the flight path from Southampton airport. It did not appear to impact the village.

HANGING BASKET COMPETITION

The competition would be judged on 13th July and Golden Acres had again kindly sponsored the competition. There would be a small fee for the judge.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

The Code of Conduct would be considered for adoption. Councillor Bryant asked for a discussion on the need for a Doctors Surgery and a Pharmacy in the village. District Councillor Goff Beck would be attending the September meeting to talk about Crime Prevention Co-ordinance.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.49pm.

Signed S R Arnold Chairman

17th July 2007