

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH MARCH 2007 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

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

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Holdsworth who was unwell.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman mentioned eleven items of vandalism which had occurred since the last meeting and commented that the problem was getting worse.

The Chairman then invited members of the public if they wished to raise any issues but there were none.

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 Judd, seconded by Councillor Bryant, the minutes of the February meeting, which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Ardern gave the following report:

Penny Velander from NFDC attended our latest meeting to advise us how to take the next steps in the Parish Plan process. This has been very helpful.

One member of the group has recently had a baby, but this isn't stopping her from continuing to help with the Parish Plan!

We have a positive balance at the bank, but we are looking for possible further funding to produce a worthwhile Parish Plan. If anyone knows a possible sponsor please contact the Treasurer – Rita Judd.

The Ashurst Chapel matter is being pursued by one or two members of the team.

The Questionnaire findings have been circulated to the Community Plan Committee, and we thank Debbie Holmes at NFDC for her very useful contribution to the analysis process.

The Sub-committees are now meeting to discuss the written responses to the questionnaire, and we will be using these to help formulate our Action Plan. Tricia Bascombe – our secretary &

Bryan Pass – our Chairman, are doing a fine job co-ordinating the work and keeping us all on task!

For the next phases we will be considering the Community Profile, the Questionnaire results, and the Future Action Plan, to be collected together for the final Parish Plan document.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

- a) Cycle path. The Clerk said that he had received plans relating to the cycle path from HCC and they were on display at the meeting. He also confirmed that the Gateway to the New Forest sign for the approach from the East was included in the plan thanks to excellent archiving by the Chairman which proved this item had been included in the original plans. Due to changes in personnel the original agreement in 2004 to include this in the plan had been overlooked.
- b) Councillor Judd gave an update on the A35 crossing and said that in the light of inaction and procrastination by HCC some direct action was required and proposed talking to the Lymington Times. It was agreed that she would liaise with Brian White on the matter. District Councillor Puttock said he had spoken to HCC who were hopeful of getting a replacement Patrol Officer. It had been pointed out to him that in addition to the greater costs there would be a long lead time if a Crossing were eventually approved.
- c) PC Karen Wright had advised that she was prepared to have a Police Surgery prior to a Council Meeting if there was a need for it.
- d) A resident had expressed satisfaction with the speed of response to the flooding and sewage problem in Peterscroft Avenue.

RECREATION GROUND

- a) Councillor Bryant said he had attended the recreation ground on several occasions including meeting with the NFDC workman when they commenced work on clearing the bamboo shoots and shrubs. They had said that rather than spend a lot of time digging out roots they would treat them with a non toxic herbicide which would kill them off. Unfortunately they had only attended on one day. The Clerk had spoken to them and they would start work again on Friday 16th.
- b) Vandals had broken two of the concrete posts and damaged the fencing. The Clerk had asked for a quotation to repair the fence and replace the posts.

PLANNING

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

LENGTHSMAN

Councillor Bryant reported he had still been unable to contact the possible new Lengthsman and was now pursuing an alternative possibility. The Clerk was asked to notify NFDC.

ACCOUNTS

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

GRANTS

The Clerk said an email had been received from Victim Support, Hampshire and Isle of Wight requesting information on grants and how to apply. He had sent the application form but wanted

to know if the Council wished to consider this grant. The Council confirmed they would discuss it at the next meeting.

The Clerk referred the Council to a letter they had in front of them from the 3rd New Forest North Scout Group requesting a grant to cover the shortfall in funding their new Scout Hut. After some discussion the District Councillors both offered to give their grant allocation of £166 each to the Scouts and on a proposal by Councillor Sopowski the Council agreed to match that sum. A payment of £666 would therefore be made to the Scouts in due course.

District Councillor Puttock also suggested that in appreciation of this help the Scout Group may wish to return the compliment by helping out in the village in some way such as helping to clear up the recreation ground from time to time.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

Councillor Ardern had attended the meeting of the Community Plan Group

Councillor Sopowski had attended the Development Control Meeting and the question of the railway bridge barriers had been raised. The NPA representative had indicated that they would expect to be involved in the design and material to be sure they suited the forest environment. There had also been a presentation on rural affairs and there would be consultations on this issue.

Councillor Judd had attended the meeting of the Community Plan Group.

The Chairman read the following report from **Councillor Holdsworth**. On the 1st March the slipper exchange had 40 clients. The remaining slippers are going to be offered to council controlled resident homes. The foot clinics are increasing and due to this increase they are in need of voluntary receptionists on a relief system.

Councillor Arnold had attended the following meetings:

26th February – Meeting at HAPTC. Collected Election packages.

26th February- Meeting at HCC with the Clerk – re sign for the entrance to the village.

2nd March – collected Christmas Lights from post office after their removal from the tree.

5th March – New Forest Access Forum

At this last meeting it was noted that Light is the biggest pollution in the forest, and the NPA have road lights up for review. There was also a suggestion that cycle maps be available from car parks.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Chairman said she had received several letters of support in regard to Ashurst Chapel. There was a meeting with the PCC tomorrow.

The Chairman had also received a letter from ECOLABS who would provide regular action against rats. The price quoted would be some £10 pa from each resident, and while that was substantially cheaper and more consistent treatment than NFDC's £30 for one series of treatment, it was unlikely everyone would be willing to pay for something which ought to be provided free by NFDC.

ALLOTMENTS

Councillor Ardern said there had been a query via the website from a resident who had been on the waiting list for an allotment for some 3 years. He was 5th on the list when he first applied and was still 5th. The Chairman noted that we pay Totton and Eling Town Council £230 to administer the Foxhills allotments and we were allocated 8 plots from the 29 available. Councillor Ardern asked if we could apply to Totton for a larger allocation. One resident said one person had two allotments which he felt was greedy when others were waiting for a plot. Councillor Bryant suggested that the Clerk write to Totton for an updated plan of which plots were allocated to us

and the names of the people renting them. That would enable us to ensure they were being properly used. That was agreed and the Clerk instructed to write accordingly.

ELECTIONS

The Clerk gave nomination papers for the May election to all Councillors and reminded them that during the period up to the announcement of the election, which was 21st March, they should avoid all publicity which may be construed as electioneering.

Completed nomination papers could only be delivered to Appletree Court from 22nd March to Noon on 4th April. They could not be received earlier and late papers would be rejected.

He also asked that if any members of the public wished to be nominated as a candidate, or knew anyone who so wished, he would be pleased to provide nomination papers and guidance notes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

There were none.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Signed S R Arnold - Chairman

Dated 10th April 2007