

## **ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 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 G. Beck, District Councillor D. Tipp, and 20 members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting saying “Welcome to you all, and a special welcome to Ian Oliver, who until recently was a valued member of this council, and to Karen Oliver who organizes our Neighbour Hood Watch system. Welcome to District Councillor Goff Beck who will shortly be giving us a presentation on Crime and Prevention”.

Apologies had been received from District Councillor Puttock.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The following points were raised:

- a) In Lyndhurst Road opposite the Forest Inn some houses are set back from the main road on a service road. Between that service road and the A35 are a number of trees which do not appear to have any TPOs. Contact with Bryan Wilson (NFDC) elicited the information that they are on the highway and therefore HCC are the responsible body. Residents are sending a letter to Mr Wilson seeking his assistance to have the trees covered by a TPO and would like that to be supported by the Parish Council. After some discussion the Clerk was instructed to send a letter of support to Mr Wilson.
- b) Whartons Lane pavement is in need of urgent repair. The Clerk was instructed to contact Highways for immediate attention to that and also outside 65 Ashdene Road.
- c) Vandalism in Foxhills. Walls were being damaged, cars broken into and other acts of vandalism.

#### **PRESENTATION BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR GOFF BECK**

Councillor Beck outlined the procedures for dealing with incidents of crime and disorder and gave details of the bodies within the NFDC area who worked together to reduce the incidence of crime. He spoke about CADDIE (Crime and Disorder Data Information Exchange) and PRIME (Problem Resolution In a Multi-agency Environment) and how they discharged their duties. He spoke of the Police Structure covering Ashurst and Colbury and outlined the duties and responsibilities of Police Community Support Officers. He also gave details of ASBOs and how they were used.

In response to questions he confirmed that:

- NFDC Community Safety Co-ordinator, Stephanie Sutton, could provide diaries for people to record incidents of disorderly behaviour and crime which were collated and used to inform the various bodies responsible for monitoring and taking action.
- PCSOs could only arrest people for a period of 30 minutes and then a Police Officer had to be present as with a citizen’s arrest.
- ASBOs could be used in instances of graffiti which included fly posting

- he would see if crime information, normally given as incidents per 1000 in Hampshire could be made available as relevant to the village where we lived and also if it could be made available on the HCC web site.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Beck for his talk and a round of applause followed.

### **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 Sopowski, seconded by Councillor Bryant, the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July, which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

### **COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE**

Councillor Ardern reported as follows:

- 1) At the meeting on Sept 4<sup>th</sup> Mrs Pat White was welcomed to the group as a replacement for Richard Payne who had moved out of the district.
- 2) The Parish Plan Compilation has been continuing, with feedback from sub-committees on Actions to be put into the Action Plan.
- 3) The Picnics in the Park developed in the school holidays and were successful in bringing young families together. This may lead on to other young parents/toddlers events.
- 4) A village coffee morning is being arranged for October, the Parish Newsletter should have the details.
- 5) The Village Cinema continues to need support. On Friday September 28<sup>th</sup> there will be showings of 'Becoming Jane' at 3.30pm and 7.30pm - admission only £4.50.
- 6) Photographs are still needed for the Parish Plan – please send to Ramsey Neseyif – or for the photo competition.
- 7) Newsletter updates will continue.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Ardern for that information.

### **HIGHWAY MATTERS**

- a) Councillor Judd gave an update of the position regarding the A35 crossing. The main points were:
- County Councillor Kendall had advised Dr. Julian Lewis MP that he would be asking his officers “Why, if the crossing was not safe for a Crossing Patrol Officer, it should be regarded as safe for children to cross without a Crossing Patrol Officer or a pedestrian crossing?”
  - Inspector Moore had advised that the police were unable to offer any help
  - The HCC feasibility study is in progress and should be completed by the end of November. However she had been advised that even if that proposed a pedestrian crossing, funding would not be available until 2008/9.
  - HCC had asked if we would like a risk assessment carried out in the afternoon to supplement the one carried out in the morning. (The Council confirmed it should be done)

Councillor Judd also asked the Council to support more direct action and proposed a meeting of villagers who were prepared to support and help organise a demonstration to publicise the situation and press for a pedestrian crossing to be in place quickly. The Council agreed that a meeting should be called and an advertisement placed in the Newsletter giving details of time and place. Councillor Judd said that if the meeting was poorly attended no demonstration would be organised.

b) The Clerk advised that the HCC initiative for 30mph speed limits through villages was going forward in Ashurst. He outlined the proposals and said draft plans were on the notice boards in the hall showing the proposed changes.

Councillor Ardern requested that a reminder be added to the response to the proposals, regarding the lowering of the speed limit outside Foxhills schools to 20 m.p.h.. This had previously been instigated and would necessarily include Whartons Lane which is a part of the school traffic flow, where pedestrians are also at risk.

c) Traffic diversion through the village when accidents occurred on Lyndhurst Road. The police understood the proposal but were unable to offer any real assurance that it would be followed. However they would continue to look at the matter.

d) The Chairman referred to the letter from HCC regarding The Case for prioritising a Bypass for Lyndhurst. She asked Councillors to note that response had to be in by October 12<sup>th</sup> and that it was no good saying “we want it” or “we do not want it”, there must be evidence to support the case although she felt that HCC already had the evidence from routeing trials and monitoring activities.

## **RECREATION GROUND**

Councillor Bryant reported that he had inspected the ground several times and apart from the usual minor issues there was nothing to report.

The Clerk reported that NFDC had organised a Tree Group and they would shortly be offering a tree management service to Town and Parish Councils to ensure compliance with current regulations, thereby ensuring that if any damage was caused by a tree falling there would be no liability on the parish council. The annual fee had not yet been proposed but it should be reasonable if there was a good take up.

The Chairman asked the Council to agree the installation of a disabled access on the Whartons Lane side of the ground similar to that on the Lakewood Road side. That was agreed unanimously.

## **PLANNING**

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

The Clerk advised that Wheatshield had confirmed that the draft plans for developing the station site did not include affordable housing. The Chairman said she was certain that NFDC had designated this site for such housing and asked the Clerk to check with NFDC/NPA. District Councillor Tipp said he was not aware of NFDC designating any sites specifically for affordable housing.

The Chairman also said:

I had the opportunity to speak at the recent NPA meeting about retrospective planning applications as they appear to be becoming the norm. At the meeting they voted to elect a compliance officer. This officer does not have the same qualifications as enforcement officers. Councillor Pat Wyeth said that the appointed person needs to be out in the field and not in an office; she also added “do not underestimate the role of parish councillors – they are our eyes and ears”.

The appointed person will be offered a two year contract with a review after one year.

## **LENGTHSMAN**

Nothing to report

## **ACCOUNTS**

- a) On a proposal by Councillor Holdsworth, seconded by Councillor Ardern, the list of cheques issued since the last meeting was approved.
- b) The Clerk advised that new rates for mileage allowances had been received.

## **GRANTS**

The Clerk advised that no financial information had been received from It's your Choice. After considering the information received from Vitalise the Council decided not to make any grant.

## **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES**

The Chairman asked that when a resident raises any issue with you and asking you to take action, can you please ensure you mention that when making your report at the Council meeting, giving the query and the resolution. It can then be included in the minutes and residents can see that queries they raise have not been forgotten or ignored. Sometimes the issue cannot be resolved but if you state what you have done they can see it in the minutes. Do remember a written note for the Clerk will be much appreciated.

**Councillor Holdsworth** reported that a new foot care clinic had been opened in Dibden Purlieu providing two sessions a month. Another clinic would be opened shortly in Fawley providing a similar service.

**Councillor Ardern** said she had attended a meeting of the Community Plan Group and a Parish Web site meeting.

**Councillor Sopowski** reported on a meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel. He said the Caravan Club were seeking to have shops on the camp sites in the forest. While there were benefits for campers it was likely the Verderers would block it. Councillor Bryant said shops may eliminate the current dangers from gas bottles being carried on the handlebars of cycles or rolling around in the boot of a car.

**District Councillor Tipp** said he had seen the report of rats at St Anthony's. Also a resident had reported to him that the water levels in the ditch running along Whartons Lane were unusually high. He had reported it to Highways but was unsure if it had been resolved.

**Councillor Arnold** reported the following:

I attended the Draft Air Quality Plan for Lyndhurst public meeting. 49% of Nitrogen Dioxide comes from transport due to the narrow congested street with tall buildings either side and the busy junction.

Options

Traffic Lights at Shrubbs Hill Road

A337/A35 Junction improvement

Variable Message System

Enforcement of HGV restriction

Enforcing parking restrictions in High Street

By-Pass

Review of Bus Routes and Services

Investigation to use pollutant absorbing pavements

From the consultation with residents by the Parish Council 78.5% voted for a By Pass, 71.5% for HGV Restrictions, 9.2% Against a By Pass and 12% had no preference.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The Clerk referred to a letter written by Dr Julian Lewis MP to the Consultation Co-ordinator, National Air Traffic Services objecting "in the strongest terms to the proposed changes in airspace". The letter also pointed out that "residents in highly sensitive village and other rural areas .... will also suffer".

The Chairman referred to a proposal to Graze the Costicles area and said:

I have been approached by Peter Frost about this proposal and basically it is to arrange for fencing that finally allows the grazing of Costicles Pond, allowing the completion of the Life Project to restore the pond. In addition to the fencing it would also bring back the lost green along Woodlands Road. Peter

Frost has given me the full document and I understand that Councillor Sopowski also has a copy. It is rather difficult to explain in such a short time but feel the best suggestion would be to invite Peter Frost and Neil Sanderson, the authors of the proposal, to a meeting. It was agreed they should be invited to address the Council.

### **HANGING BASKET COMPETITION**

The results have been in the recent newsletter but will confirm that the first domestic prize went to 9 Foxhills and the commercial to The Happy Cheese. Our usual judge Tom McKinley was taken ill and unable to attend but thanks to Margaret Griggs, who stepped in at the last minute, this competition was still able to continue.

You may wonder how these are judged as you probably say to yourselves “I have seen a better one in the village”. But our hands are tied to the categories to look out for as set out by Tom McKinley. Marks are given out of ten for each different colour, the number of different plants and the overall shape. So you can see that it is quite easy to lose points when you have a huge delightful basket but only one variety of plant and one colour.

However, after all that we do have some splendid displays throughout the village which are appreciated by us all. Thanks again to our sponsors Golden Acres.

### **VILLAGE AMENITIES**

The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting a response from Julia Bagshaw of NHS who had responsibility for this matter.

He also reported that HAPTC had notified all parishes of an offer by Prokill, a pest prevention and eradication company. It was a 25% discount from their “already competitive prices” and wondered if the Council wished to consider this offer in regard to the reported high incidence of rats in the village. Councillor Sopowski said the Parish Council had already paid for ditches to be cleared once and this was a matter for the District Council. After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should enquire as to the likely cost.

### **WHEELIE BINS**

The Clerk reported that there was no further news on this matter. However he had ascertained that clear bags for recycling were available from NFDC at a cost of £1.80 for a roll.

### **ASHURST CHAPEL**

The Chairman said there is no further information about the future of this Chapel. In August I heard that the PCT was moving out of the Chapel but another section has taken its place. I am therefore asking the Clerk to remove this item from the next Agenda.

### **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES**

The Clerk referred to an email from Nick Hunt of NFDC regarding an Initiative to Reduce Speeding and Anti Social Driving. The essence was that locations where accidents were frequent took priority over simple speeding locations. However it suggested that if Parishes were willing to fund part of the costs it may be possible to have more devices made available to those parishes.

After discussing the issue the Clerk was asked to find out more about the likely costs.

### **PRECEPT MEETING**

Councillor Ardern asked if the precept meeting could be moved to another date as the Community Plan Group had a very important meeting on the same evening which both she and Councillor Judd wished to attend.

After some discussion it was agreed to keep the Precept meeting date and that Councillors Ardern and Judd should submit any issues they had on the precept papers to the Chairman who would ensure they were dealt with at the meeting.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

Presentation on Good Citizenship project being carried out in Marchwood.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.36pm

**Signed S.R.Arnold Chairman**

**Dated 16<sup>th</sup> October 2007**