

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 20th MAY 2008 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk L. Griggs, County Councillor M. Kendal, District Councillors L. Puttock and D. Tipp and 10 members of the public.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Judd.

The Chairman said “Good Evening and Welcome, before we commence the meeting I offer this Councils congratulations to District Councillor Les Puttock who has been elected Vice Chairman of New Forest District Council. Welcome also to Lisa Dillane and George Dibben who at very short notice have given their time to speak to us all about the transformation of the Fenwick. I now invite them to give their presentation”

FENWICK₂

Mr Dibben introduced himself as Chairman of The new Community Health & Well Being Centre and Lisa Dillane as the Administrator. He outlined the history of the Fenwick from 1908 through its incorporation into the NHS in 1947 and its threatened closure in 2005 following the withdrawal of funding by HCC in 2003 and withdrawal of support by New Forest PCT in 2004. However the League of Friends of Fenwick (LOFF) with support from all three of the area’s MPs and a new group Save Our Community Hospital held a Public Meeting when the hall was full and overflowing. That and a petition with over 40,000 signatures persuaded the PCT to think again. The LOFF put new proposals to the Hampshire PCT and after many struggles the new Fenwick was opened in April 2008.

Ms Dillane then gave a resume of the many therapies currently available and the plans for the future.

Other activities at the Fenwick₂ include a Patients and Carers Resource Centre and Sensory Direct for those with hearing difficulties.

Following a question and answer session the Chairman thanked Mr Dibben and Ms Dillane for an excellent and informative presentation. She added that there would be an article in the June Newsletter on the new Fenwick

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Clerk advised that Councillor Arnold was willing to continue as Chairman for another year and there had been no other nominations. Councillor Ardern proposed, and Councillor Holdsworth seconded that Councillor Arnold be re-elected Chairman. The proposition was carried unanimously. Councillor Arnold thanked the Councillors for their support.

ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Clerk advised that Councillor Sopowski was willing to continue as Vice Chairman for another year and there had been no other nominations. Councillor Bryant proposed, and Councillor Sturgess seconded that Councillor Sopowski be re-elected Vice Chairman. The proposition was carried unanimously. Councillor Sopowski thanked the Councillors for their support.

CHAIRMAN'S ALLOWANCE

Councillor Bryant proposed and Councillor Holdsworth seconded that the Chairman's allowance be continued at £350. The proposition was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman advised that a resident had complained about the overgrown verges. She had ascertained that whereas verges in urban areas, Lyndhurst being one, were cut every three weeks, rural areas such as Ashurst were cut less frequently.

A resident asked about the damage caused to verges in Peterscroft Avenue by contractors carrying out building works. The Clerk said he had reported this to Hampshire Highways who were aware of the issue and would ensure the contractors reinstated the verges when the work was complete.

REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

The Chairman announced the following:

Age Concern	Councillor Holdsworth
NAFLC	Councillors Arnold and Sturgess
HCC Transport Forum	Councillors Judd and Kershaw
N F Consultative Forum	Councillors Bryant and Sopowski

The Chairman thanked Councillor Judd for her work over past years on the NAFLC

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Planning	Councillors Sopowski (Chairman) Arnold, Holdsworth and Kershaw.
Newsletter	Councillors Ardern, Arnold and Parish Clerk.
Recreation Ground	Councillors Bryant (Chairman) Arnold and Sturgess
Flooding	Councillors Arnold and Bryant
Web Site	Councillors Ardern and Kershaw

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. Councillor Ardern filed a Form C in regard to Planning issues.

MINUTES

The minutes of the two meetings held on 15th April, which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Kershaw asked if Councillor Kendal was able to respond to his many enquiries, so far unanswered, regarding the volume of traffic expected following the introduction of the larger ferry boats at Lyminster. Councillor Kendal said he would deal with that in his report.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

- a) HCC u-turn on domestic trailers at waste disposal unit. Councillor Kendal said he would address this in his report.
- b) Bus Timetable changes. No headway as yet for residents request for bus passes to be used on the 9.15 leaving Ashurst.
- c) Issue regarding yellow lines outside school. All that can be reported at this meeting is that this is under review with New Forest District Council and New Forest Association of Local Councils.
- d) Railway bridge barrier and residents comments.

The Clerk advised that a resident had enquired of HCC if the timber cladding could be continued to cover the metal posts which currently spoiled the look of the barrier. The matter had been referred to Hampshire Highways West. The Chairman asked if it is worth asking the Clerk to write to HH for a

quote to continue the effect of the barriers on the Western side of the Bridge? It was agreed to pursue that matter.

e) Noise on the railway. Residents have not made any further complaints, however one resident said that the noise is much less than when they first moved to Ashurst when the Steam trains rolled along.

f) Meeting of HCC . The Chairman advised that there has been a meeting concerning the re routing of traffic going into Lyndhurst but, and I quote HCC words, “you were unfortunately left off of the mailing list.” This has now been rectified with sincere apologies and will be invited to all other meetings.

REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR KENDAL

With regard to increased traffic volumes due to the larger Lymington Ferries, HCC feel that the total number will be dispersed over many roads so there will not be any major impact on any one road. HCC have requested opponents of the new ferries to bring their statistics and other information to a meeting so discussion is meaningful as against the current ping pong between opponents and proponents.

With regard to the ban on trailers at waste disposal units it was designed to ensure commercial users paid for their waste. An arrangement is now in place whereby domestic users can buy a permit allowing them 12 visits with a trailer in a year.

With regard to the ‘20mph is plenty’ programme around schools, a campaign will be launched in September when the 20mph speed limit becomes legally enforceable and the signs are in place. It will include stickers, adverts etc. The programme will be given time to bed in then speed enforcement cameras will be used to ensure enforcement.

Regarding the Lyndhurst traffic meeting, now that the by-pass issues had come to an end efforts were being made to discourage the use of cars travelling to Lyndhurst and banning HGVs in the High Street. Work was planned on the approach via Shrubbs Hill and it was proposed to have a Shuttle Bus service from Ashurst Station to Lyndhurst and from Brockenhurst Station to Lyndhurst to encourage people not to come to Lyndhurst by car. It was also hoped to extend the times on existing regular bus services. With regard to signing on the M27 it had been suggested that when the A337 was overloaded traffic for Lyndhurst be routed off at Junction 1 and for Lymington and Brockenhurst at Junction 2.

Councillor Sopowski suggested that traffic flow in Lyndhurst High Street could be improved if the pedestrian traffic lights were set to operate at set intervals related to the vehicle traffic lights at the T junction rather than as now being operated by a push button. Apart from the frequency with which traffic was halted by pedestrians there were many instances where pedestrians pressed the button but crossed before the lights changed leaving traffic stationary at red lights with no one crossing.

Councillor Bryant pointed out that the coloured areas along the road in the High Street should be removed as they were treated by pedestrians as any area to stand while waiting to cross the road. It made it very dangerous when large vehicles were passing.

RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Bryant reported that a safety inspection had been carried out and some remedial work was required. A quotation had been received in the sum of £975 plus VAT. It was agreed to accept the quotation.

The Chairman asked if the Council was willing to allow Councillor Bryant to authorise work in the Recreation Ground under the £1,000 level without need to refer to the Council. She explained that this was an authorisation for David as an individual and not as the Chairman of the Committee in view of his expertise in this area. The Council agreed with that suggestion.

PLANNING

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

LENGTHSMAN

Nothing to report

ACCOUNTS

- a) On a proposition by Councillor Ardern, seconded by Councillor Arnold, the list of cheques paid since the date of the last meeting was approved.
- b) The Clerk presented the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2008. On a proposition by Councillor Bryant seconded by Councillor Ardern the Accounts and Statement of Assurance were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- c) Insurance – the Council noted the premium for the next year and also authorised the Clerk to enter into a three year agreement with Norwich Union.
- d) The Clerk advised that following his note regarding a quotation for a conference speaker system Councillor Ardern had advised that such a system was already in place at the Church Rooms although more microphones may be required. He enquired if the Council wished him to pursue the matter. Councillor Sopowski said he had recently purchased a portable system for under £100 which he was happy for the Council to use. After discussion it was agreed to try the portable system at the June meeting.

GRANTS

The Council considered a request from the Ashurst Station Master for support in providing flowers and plants to brighten up the station. After discussion the Clerk was instructed to advise the Station Master that while the Council was in favour of providing support they need to know:

- who would be responsible for watering and other care of the plants
- what type of plants were envisaged, noting they needed to be hardy if they were to survive
- how much funding was required

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

Councillor Ardern reported on the Parish Plan Group on behalf of herself and Councillor Judd.

Councillor Sopowski had attended the NF Consultative Committee

Councillor Kershaw had attended the HCC Transport Forum and mentioned the following points affecting Ashurst which had been discussed:

- SW Trains. It was noted that there were no longer any ‘stopping’ trains from Ashurst which served the stations at each end of the line. This necessitated changes at Southampton or Brockenhurst which was often difficult for disabled persons and the elderly and infirm. There was also concern over the amount of vibration on some trains. SW Trains were monitoring to see if there was any excessive vibration.

- Bus Services. Councillor Judd had requested that the timetables displayed at bus stops be in a larger font for those with eyesight difficulties.

Even though the take up of the Government free pass scheme was only 50% of the eligible people the cost was rising. From £900k in 2007/8 it was forecast to be £1,900k in 2008/9 partly because of the need to budget for visitors but also because the Government Grant was only £500k.

Councillor Arnold had attended the following:

19th April – The Retirement Party for Rev. Tom Johns.

22nd April – Together with District Councillors Puttock and Tipp she had presented cheques from NFDC and the Council to Monfort Fathers to further their work among the poor and needy.. Father Ronnie and Father Dez offered the facilities at St. Josephs for the next History Exhibition.

25th April – Invitation to Netley Marsh Parish Councils APM. Councillor Arnold added that she believes it is important that local parishes keep in contact and attending such meetings gives a better working relationship.

6th May - History of the Village meeting

15th May - Open day for the Fenwick 2

CORRESPONDENCE

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

The Clerk said he had received a call from Mr Robinson of Community Action requesting to attend and advise the Council on the procedures relating to affordable housing. After discussion it was agreed to decline the invitation but to ask if literature outlining the process could be sent to the Council.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.38pm

Signed S R Arnold - Chairman

Dated 17th June 2008