

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th APRIL 2008 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk L. Griggs, District Councillors L. Puttock and D. Tipp and 20 members of the public.

The Chairman said: Good Evening and welcome especially to the Heads of Groups who have taken the trouble to come and give their annual report to the Annual Parish Meeting later on.

Before we commence the meeting I have two reports to make

1) It is good to see Councillor Holdsworth with us this evening, she has had a hard time and has a mountain to climb but am sure with her stamina and determination she will reach the top. To embarrass her further I am proud to announce the two awards that she has recently received [1] Community Spirit 2008 from Hythe and Dibden Parish Council and [2] Certificate of recognition for voluntary activity with Age Concern given by Community Action First, New Forest.

Congratulations to you Ann from us all.

Councillor Holdsworth thanked the Chairman for her kind words and said she was very pleased to be back at a Council meeting again, and displayed the Shield and Certificate for the two awards she had received. She also asked the Chairman if she could comment on the very noisy freight trains passing her bungalow during the night. The Chairman said an email had been received from another resident about the noise and said the Clerk had looked into the matter. The Clerk reported that there was not a lot that could be done as from previous records it seemed that the Railway took the view that the railway line was there first. Mr Oliver said that there had been an undertaking to keep the speeds down to 50mph. The Clerk asked that if residents would let him have details of the number of night freight trains he would have better ammunition for talking to the railways.

The Chairman continued, the second announcement is the change in the Annual Parish Meeting Agenda. I have attended other APMs and they always included the Neighbourhood Watch team so I felt that Ashurst should follow suit, and while we thank Karen Oliver (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, for accepting the invitation, we are sorry that she is unwell and not able to attend. Her husband, Ian Oliver, is standing in for her tonight.

Our local Beat Officer Andy White is with us again tonight and I am going to bring his report forward. It is his night off, and should be spent with his wife.

Apologies None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr George raised the matter of the new bus passes which were only usable after 9.30am whereas the bus left Ashurst at 9.15am and with only one bus an hour that caused problems and enquired if anything could be done to change the usage time. District Councillor Tipp said that costs of providing this nation wide pass were considerable particularly in this area where usage by visitors was as yet unknown. District Councillor Puttock wondered if it were possible to pay for the journey time between 9.15 and 9.30. Councillor Holdsworth said it had been noticed that pensioners were asking for afternoon appointments at surgeries due to this matter.

Mr Arthur Jeffery gave apologies for absence from Bryan Pass, Chairman of the Community Plan Group, and gave a brief update on the Group's activity. He said the 'Community Plan steering group' would be finishing, and a new group would be formed to follow-up the 'Actions' where possible.

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

The Chairman said "Before we deal with the minutes I offer my sincere appreciation to our temporary Clerk for the March meeting in Len's absence. Not knowing the area I feel she did well to remember names and places.

On a proposal by Councillor Bryant, seconded by Councillor Sopowski, the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March, which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

a) A35 Crossing. Mrs Clare Olsen gave the following report:

I have been trying to find out the current position regarding the controlled crossing at Colbury since the HAT meeting on the 18th March during which the committee supported the need for a controlled crossing. I was able to speak on the telephone directly to Councillor Kendal on the 11th April and this is my understanding of our conversation:-

He has been delayed in updating us as he has been waiting for the conclusion from the Road Safety Team to the suggestion of moving the crossing west of the current position. They have recommended that the controlled crossing is sited at the current position of the crossing point, because of their concern that the cars are likely to accelerate once past the roundabout when ascending the hill.

As we are aware, if the controlled crossing is to be sited at the current position of the crossing point there will be a necessity to alter the access to Colbury Hall car park for which planning approval will need to be granted from the National Park Authority. The cost of the crossing will be greater at this position rather than further west, requiring careful accounting to provide the funds which may necessitate spreading the cost over 2 financial years - Councillor Kendal is awaiting the recommendations from the accountants at the present time. It may be some months before a decision is made regarding the above, but it is highly likely that the recommendation from the HAT committee will stand and we hope, therefore, that the crossing will be in place by the end of the year or possibly the summer depending on the funding and planning processes being completed successfully.

I would like to thank Councillor Kendall for keeping me up to date with this important matter to enable me to update the community who have been so supportive.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Olsen for that report and her continued drive to get this matter resolved.

b) Other matters. The Chairman said "I will just read part of a letter to me and this will answer two issues, the sign post that was placed in the middle of the pavement and the milestone on the railway bridge. Thanks to Mieke Tieleburg and Rob Miller they have been achieved.

Yesterday I met our Resident Engineer on site and he has arranged for the road-sign indicating the junction with Woodlands Road, to be re-located from the footway into the grass verge opposite the Happy Cheese . This location was shown on the construction drawings but was unfortunately overlooked by the Contractor in his efforts to finish the job speedily. Thank you for pointing this out. I have spoken with Councillor Sopowski about the milestone. The stone has been erected practically at its original spot. The estimate for taking up and re-erection at a location further down the road behind the Nature Rail is £1,000. We discussed if the depth of feeling about visibility of the stone even if it was then no longer a milestone in the literal sense was such that it warranted spending this substantial sum. The Councillor felt that since the matter had been brought to his attention by 3 residents and had been raised in the Parish Council meeting this was the case. I have therefore asked the Resident Engineer to arrange for its re-location.

Thank you for your cooperation over the period before and during construction; especially the very effective way in which you have kept the Ashurst residents informed of our proposals. When I carried out the letter drop a few weeks before the start of construction, most of the residents I met were already aware of the scheme through reading about it in the parish news letter.

c) The Chairman said:

a) the Council has received one letter with concerns for the new flight path.

- The intolerable noise and the frequency of the flights
- The inevitable devaluation of his property.

This is just information – The Clerk has responded

b) Lyndhurst By Pass. I should imagine that you have all seen in the papers that the bypass has been rejected once again by HCC. Regrettably I can only see our small roads being clogged with Western/Eastern bound traffic.

RECREATION GROUND

a) Councillor Bryant said a safety inspection was being carried out tomorrow and he would report on that at the next meeting.

b) Tree Group update – The Chairman said “all Councillors have been given a copy of the contract with NFDC for tree management. Before I ask for a vote to accept this contract is there anything of concern that you wish to ask the Clerk”?

There were no questions and on a proposal by Councillor Bryant, seconded by Councillor Sopowski, it was agreed to accept and sign the contract.

PLANNING

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

LENGTHSMAN

Nothing to report

ACCOUNTS

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

b) Accounts for the year to 31st March 2008. The Clerk explained that the accounts were drafts to be submitted to the Internal Auditor and he hoped that they would be returned duly audited by the May meeting when the Council would be asked to formally approve and adopt them together with the Governance Statement. The Chairman said “You have all seen the draft accounts. Are there any questions to the Clerk”? There were none.

GRANTS

Request for a grant from Neighbourhood Watch.

1) The Chairman said that Mrs Karen Oliver and her key workers do work hard for this village and I would like to grant this request. If the council agree I would like to hear an amount please, bearing in mind that they have not had any assistance from this Council since 2003. The last grant was for £100.00 in 2003. On a proposal by Councillor Holdsworth, seconded by Councillor Ardern it was agreed to make a grant of £150.

2) The Rural Grant available to the District Councillors has again been offered to this Council and it has been decided by the Council that it should go to St. Josephs and on a majority vote the Council agreed that it would match the amount donated by the District Councillors.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

The Chairman asked **Councillor Tipp** to speak regarding the waiting list for allotments. Councillor Tipp said he wondered if there were any residents who were unable to look after their garden as well as they would like, and would be willing to let someone else use their garden, or part thereof, to grow vegetables. It was agreed to consider an appropriate advertisement in the Newsletter bearing in mind the need to ensure both sides had an arrangement they were happy with.

Councillor Ardern had attended the Parish Plan Steering Launch and Steering Group meetings.

Councillor Holdsworth had attended the Parish Plan launch.

Councillor Judd had attended the Parish Plan Steering Group meeting and the Parish Plan Launch

Councillor Arnold had attended the following:

20th March NFALC subjects – prejudicial interest in planning decisions, standardised national Planning application forms, tree maintenance contract, parking outside schools, review of statement of partnership, leaders forward plan, double taxation, sustainable community strategy and change of flight corridor.

25th March Representative from St. Josephs subject Grant from District Councillors and Parish Council

26th March Meeting with Clerk to discuss this month's agenda

27th March Lyndhurst Residents Association subject Lyndhurst By Pass.

7th April Heads of Department of NFDC subjects – Parking outside Schools; Tree Maintenance Contract, Access for Parish Councils to GIS Mapping and a background to the new model publication scheme.

The same day meeting with Richard Barnett subject plastic bags and judging the children's entries for the logo.

10th April Meeting with PC Andy White subject new pdf format for police report, correspondence from Witness Service and his report for this evening.

15th April National Park Planning Development Control subjects – Committee decisions; proposed 1APP and Retrospective Planning.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Chairman reported that she had received two letters of appreciation one from the Headmaster of Foxhills School and the other from Hampshire County Council for her service as a School Governor. She had also received an invitation to represent NFALC on the Standards Board. While she was proud to be asked she had decided to decline the offer in view of her other commitments to the village.

LYMINGTON FERRIES

Councillor Kershaw reported that a review of traffic flow in Lymington had concluded there was no significant change in the volume and flow of traffic following the introduction of the larger ferries. However as reported in the Daily Echo the National Park Authority had now realised there was an issue to be addressed.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

None were raised.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm

Signed S R Arnold - Chairman Dated 20th May 2008