

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk L. Griggs, District Councillor D. Tipp and 10 members of the public.

The Chairman then opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Holdsworth, who is unwell and District Councillor Puttock.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Olsen asked to speak on the A35 crossing and the Chairman said as that was an agenda item she would call Mrs Olsen at that time.

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

Matters arising. The Chairman said regarding Plastic-bag-free-Ashurst, the Clerk had sent a letter to Mr Richard Barnett but we have no further update.

COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE

Mr Ramsey Neseiyif said a number of amendments had been carried out and the comments from the Council discussed. The Steering Group would like to hold a meeting with the Council to finalise comments on the 'Actions' as soon as possible and proposed 18th, 22nd or 25th January at 43 Whartons Lane. As not all Councillors had their diary it was agreed that they would advise the Clerk of their availability and he would notify Mr Neseiyif of the most suitable date. Mr Neseiyif left some additional pages for the plan for each Councillor. He added that it was still hoped to achieve the publication date of March.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

- a) A35 Crossing. Mrs Olsen said she had received notification that the feasibility study had been completed and was with Mel Kendal. He had commented that the total cost was high at £208,000 because of the need to change the entrance to Colbury Memorial Hall. All involved had given approval for that change but the study had suggested that alternatives should be considered. He had referred the matter to HATS and would await their response. The Chairman said she had phoned Peter Fox (HCC) who said that all parties had supported the change of entrance. Councillor Sopowski said he had a report from the A326 right turn saga which supported a crossing and would forward it to Mrs Olsen. Councillor Judd asked if a protest should be organised to the HATS but Councillor Sopowski said that from experience sending each member an information pack would be preferable.

- b) Councillor Sopowski said he had noticed a great deal of litter by the railway bridge most of which appeared to have been deposited by the workers erecting the new barriers. He also pointed out that the milestone which had been removed for the work was just left lying on the ground and he enquired if the plans for the work should a reinstatement of the stone.
- c) Councillor Bryant said while it was outside our boundary the new island on the A35 by the bus stop just east of Lyndhurst was dangerous. Lorries had great difficulty in manoeuvring past it and when buses stopped there some vehicles were swerving past on the wrong side of the road. It affected people from the parish heading towards Lyndhurst and ask if the Clerk could write to the Clerk at Lyndhurst expressing our views.

RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Bryant said it had been relatively quiet since the last meeting. The maintenance work had been carried out and the workman had drawn his attention to sheared bolts on the swings which needed to be completed for safety reasons. He was impressed with the work and the attention to detail. The firm had quoted for carrying out monthly or quarterly inspections and asked the Council if that should be taken up. In response to Councillor Judd he confirmed the firm had all the necessary qualifications and approvals. It was agreed to have quarterly inspections costing £40 per quarter. The Chairman referred to her comments at the last meeting when she advised that the Police had told her that a local youth had been apprehended who admitted causing the damaged to the new notice board in the park. She said she had now received a letter from the Court Justice Department saying the CPS had decided not to prosecute and the case withdrawn. The Council expressed their dismay that the case had been dropped when the charge had been admitted and the Clerk was asked to ascertain more details and also see if a Civil Action could be taken to recover the costs the Council had incurred on the notice board.

PLANNING

Councillor Sopowski gave a report on planning issues since the last meeting. The Chairman said she had attended the Planning Committee meeting earlier in the day and spoken against the appeal for the removal of Condition 5 on the property at 84 Lyndhurst Road. She was pleased to advise that the appeal had been dismissed. There was a further appeal hearing on 6th February when the appeal against the refusal of an application for houses behind 36-40 Foxhills would be heard. She was unable to attend due to a prior engagement but felt that someone from the Council should attend and speak for the Council. Councillors Sopowski and Kershaw agreed to organise that.

LENGTHSMAN

Nothing to report

ACCOUNTS

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

GRANTS

The Council considered a request for a grant from Hampshire County Youth Band. On a proposal by Councillor Sopowski, seconded by Councillor Kershaw, it was agreed to give a grant of £150. The Chairman advised that a cheque for £158 had been given to St. Josephs from the collection at the carol concert and the donations from Councillors in lieu of Christmas Cards.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER BODIES

Councillor Bryant had attended a meeting at NAFLC primarily about flood control but had been surprised to learn that NFDC proposed to go electronic with planning applications. So instead of sending a copy to the appropriate parish costing one stamp they now proposed to give each parish a laptop, projector and screen and send applications electronically. In addition each piece of equipment would require an annual electronic test; there would be annual maintenance costs and training costs. He considered this to be a waste of taxpayers' money particularly when some of the smaller councils only get two or three applications each year.

Councillor Arnold had attended the following:

20th December – NFALC

We went especially to hear the speaker on Flood Incident Management but most of it had been heard before.

11th January - Longparish Parish Council

There had been a demonstration of the DFS700 Traffic Safety System. The system gives a display which tells drivers how fast they are going to encourage them to moderate their speed. It also records details to provide information about the volume and speed of vehicles. The system is portable, which would enable several Parishes to share one piece of equipment. Minstead Parish Council attended this meeting and would be interested in sharing and I have spoken with Lyndhurst who would also consider this when they had more information.

Costings. The Clerk said the cost would be about £3,000 depending on whether you had such things as a solar panel or a 5 day battery. The annual maintenance was £270.

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should pursue the matter and by sharing keep the Council's contribution to about £1,500.

15th January – New Forest National Park Planning Committee.

District Councillor Tipp apologised for late arrival but he had been attending a Crime and Disorder Panel meeting. He reported that the NFDC CCTV system was to be overhauled at a cost of £250,000 and as that is over the EU limit of £220,000 the tender had to go Europe wide. It had already cost £21,000 to put the EU style document together. He also said that the 101 non emergency phone system was currently financed by the Police but they had given notice that they would be unable to do so after the current year. The question was who would take it up? While some councils would contribute, others were deterred by the silly nature of some calls.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Clerk said that following the theft of the transformer it was necessary to see if a more secure housing could be provided and he or Councillor Bryant would talk to the Lengthsman. He also asked for Councillors views on leaving the lights in situ and had provided comments from the supplier. After comments from Councillor Bryant it was agreed to leave the light in place for 2 years then have them removed for cleaning and inspection.

WITHDRAWAL OF FREE SCHOOL BUS

Councillor Kershaw said that while the users were residents of Totton Council there would be knock on effects for this Parish particularly from more vehicles. The company intended to charge for the service and a ticket for the year would be £81 which was a lot of money particularly if more than one child in a family was affected. He felt that the higher authority who had withdrawn funding should be made aware of this Council's feelings. After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to NFDC and HCC.

SCHOOL PARKING

The Chairman asked for comments on the letter from Longdown Management in regard to using one of their fields for parking for parents taking children to and from school. Some Councillors felt that

parents would not use the field and continue to park by the school which would be a waste of money. Also the school might not be willing to undertake a 21 year lease and other commitments. There was also the question of the Council and residents wishing to maintain the rural atmosphere and converting a field into a large car park did not tally with that desire.

It was greed that the Clerk should copy the letter to the Chairman of the Governors seeking the Governors views.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

The Chairman said that at the February meeting Mr Peter Frost and Mr Neil Sanderson will be giving a presentation on “A proposal for Grazing the Costicles Area and completing the Life II Project”. It will be advertised in the February Newsletter and be of special interest to residents living in Woodlands Road

Councillor Bryant said he would like to discuss the replacement of the vandalised notice board.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.04pm

Signed S R Arnold - Chairman Date 19th February 2008