

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk L. Griggs, District Councillor L. Puttock and 16 members of the public.

Apologies None

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly District Councillor Les Puttock following his recent hospitalisation. The Chairman also said that Councillor Holdsworth had received another award at Westminster for her work with Age Concern and congratulated her on her continued involvement in voluntary work despite serious health problems. She suggested that the photo album commemorating the event be circulated. Councillor Holdsworth thanked the Chairman for her kind words and said that her attendance at the House of Commons had only been possible by the combined efforts of her doctors, carers and friends for which she was most grateful.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident raised the issue of the clash of old fencing and new at the railway bridge. The Clerk advised that the matter was in hand and he hoped to report at the next meeting.

A resident raised the issue of a pile of gravel left on the grass verge outside 18 Peterscroft Avenue which had been there for some months. The Clerk was instructed to raise the matter with Highways.

A resident raised the issue of flooding yet again on Peterscroft Avenue. The Chairman said that while the installation of forge valves at various properties solved the problem for them it was likely it was only moving the problem elsewhere. However she understood that Southern Water was intending to install a new pumping station at Peterscroft Avenue which should provide a permanent solution.

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. None were offered.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk explained that following a recent incident at another Council's meeting it had been ruled that Public Participation was part of the meeting in so far as the Code of Conduct was concerned. While it had not been an issue for this Council in the past it was essential to ensure Councillors did not inadvertently breach the Code. Therefore at future meetings Disclosure of Interest would come before Public Participation and should anyone raise an issue in Public Participation in which a Councillor had an interest they should immediately ask the Chairman to halt proceedings while they declared their interest and completed a Form C.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th June, which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

HIGHWAY MATTERS

- a) Quotation for additional work on the railway bridge. The Clerk reported that he now had a date to meet the Highways representative to discuss the Council's requirements on site following which the quotations would be sent to him.

- b) Councillor Judd asked if the Council would seek to have one of the parking spaces in the Parade marked for disabled use. There was general support for the proposal. Councillor Bryant suggested that a lorry park be established on the waste ground opposite the car showroom so lorries could be prohibited from entering the service road. Councillor Sopowski expressed concern that the lorry park could be used as a permanent park for local vehicles. He reminded the Council that there was already one lorry which used the lay-by as a permanent parking spot. The Clerk was instructed to raise the matter with Highways and report back.
- c) The Chairman read an email relating to the 30 mph Speed Limit Initiative in which it was anticipated that the scheme would be rolled out in Ashurst later this year. Councillor Ardern asked what proposals were in place to enforce the new limits. The Clerk advised that the sites for the proposed SID which the Council wanted to purchase was proving more difficult than expected. He had provided a list of the lampposts he wanted to use but was still awaiting a response. The weight of the SID (8.5kg) appears to be an obstacle.
- d) The Chairman read a notice relating to funds now available to Highways for repairing potholes and kerbs. Everyone was asked to get information on such problems to the Clerk as quickly as possible so we could be first on the list with Highways.

RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Bryant reported that the necessary repairs had been carried out by a local firm to a high standard but the work on the swings still awaited attention from Wicksteed. He had just received the tree survey carried out by NFDC and would comment at the next meeting.

PLANNING

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

ACCOUNTS

On a proposition by Councillor Bryant, seconded by Councillor Ardern, the list of cheques paid since the date of the last meeting was approved.

GRANTS

The Clerk reported that he had received the accounts for Vitalise with a request for further support which he would submit at the next meeting.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Councillor Holdsworth reported that discussions were still in progress with Fenwick2 over the possibility of a foot care clinic in their premises. She also mentioned the Waterside Good Neighbours scheme which provided help to the elderly. Her concern was that with more organisations providing support there could be duplication and that could be a waste of resources.

She also mentioned the Hospital Car Service. There was a shortage of volunteer car drivers due to the high cost of fuel compared with the rate of 40ppm paid to them. Councillor Puttock said while 40ppm had been reasonable when petrol cost 70 ppl it was not adequate with petrol now at £1.20 per litre. He was sure Central Government would address that issue but not sure when that would happen.

Councillor Ardern reported that the litter pick organised by the Community Action Group had been very successful. There had been lots of volunteers and a considerable amount of litter had been removed from the village.

Councillor Sopowski had attended the New Forest Consultative Panel Meeting when there had been considerable discussion on conservation areas and how to maintain them. The Ramblers Association had given a presentation seeking to gain more access to forest areas but that had been dismissed. The next Forestry Commission Tour would take place on Thursday 11th September at 3.30pm. If anyone wished to attend he would be happy to give contact details.

Councillor Judd gave a report on the Ashurst & Colbury Community Group Meeting of 1st July 2008 held at Longdown Activity Farm.

- **Penny Velandar of NFDC** presented a post plan Partnership working paper to all members, and gave full details of the working relationship between the Community Group and Parish Council. A question and answer session followed..

- **Formal constitution.** We need to have a new formal constitution.

- **Communication.** Minutes are to be sent to the Parish Clerk. Minutes must be e-mailed to all committee members within a fortnight by the Secretary. Any queries must be e-mailed back quickly to the Secretary. When Minutes are cleared by the Chairman and Secretary, these will be forwarded to the Parish Clerk. It was decided two months in which to ratify the Minutes, would be too long before information was passed to the Parish Council.

- **Publicity** – every two months to be the aim.

- **AGM.** It was confirmed that we need to hold an A.G.M.

- Various points of the plan were discussed.

- **Welcome Pack.** Brian Pass to contact Councillor Arnold for future discussion.

- **Litter Pick.** Jeremy Hinks discussed in detail his plan for the Village Litter Pick. Dates 6th – 12th July, and Guidelines were being e-mailed to all volunteers. Bryan Pass requested a disclaimer was sent to all people who had volunteered, re: injuries etc. NFDC are providing all the necessary equipment and will deliver and collect this together with all the bags of litter from Jeremy's home.

- **Photographic Competition.** Discussion took place regarding prizes etc. and presentation. Further details need to be worked out as soon as possible, via e-mail etc.

- **Next meeting** will be held on Tuesday 2nd September.

I would like to add that the litter pick has now taken place and the village looks so much tidier thanks to all the volunteers. It is planned to have two litter picks per year and it is hoped even more people will be encouraged to help in future.

Councillor Sturgess reported that she had visited Ashurst station following the decision to give funds to the Station Master to brighten up the area with some flowers. She said it was a lovely display and was being well tended. Concerns over the use of cut down oil tubs proved unnecessary and the whole area looked much better. She congratulated the Station Master on an excellent use of the funds.

The Clerk was instructed to write congratulating the Station Master,

Councillor Arnold had attended the following:

19th June – NFALC Annual General Meeting

25th June – Winchester Archives re History for the Village

Learning about how to develop a heritage project for your community. Oral history is becoming one of the most popular ways of recording history, but do remember to put in a disclaimer with your work to the speaker, that you may be using this in future exhibitions or put on record, if one has no proof of this happening then the company or group using such information is liable for court action. It has the same values as copyright. After 75 years from death of the author the copyright runs out. If it has been bequeathed to a relative or some other body then the copyright remains. However if the recording is to be used for educational purposes and not for profit this rule does not apply.

We were shown a very comprehensive web site but then told it would cost between £2,000 - £5,000 to set up so feel that Ashurst is not quite ready for such technical equipment at present. It was most interesting especially the reconstruction room of archives that have been damaged or just so old they crumbled with age.

26th June – National Park General Meeting – Main agenda was the change in public speaking at planning meetings. For a six month trial period a policy has been passed to allow applicant/supporters to have one minute to reply to the debate. A Planning Policy should arrive end of July and we have only a few weeks to respond. I suggest we have a meeting in August just for this one item. Lyndhurst is happy to meet with us over this policy.

In addition we had the recreation management strategy draft that will also come for public consultation.

8th July – Lyndhurst Parish Council as NFALC representative

9th July – Flooding again in Peterscroft Avenue.

This was at the beginning of Peterscroft and the resident has now applied for a forge valve

14th July – Heads of Department NFDC with NFALC Executive

The Sustainable Community Strategy for NFDC has been approved - hard copies to be sent to Parish Clerk

Planning application for new toilets and catering facilities at Calshot to be presented to NPA

Over flow of bottle banks has been reported and more bins supplied – this shows the increase in recycling

Request for NFDC to lobby British Telecom not to remove telephone facilities at Calshot and Lepe Beach.

Concerns over the usage of Red and White Diesel on tractors also used on roads were left as ‘assume the right judgement’. The NFDC Officer said that none of the paperwork from Central Government made matters any clearer.

Community planning issues including NFALC’s concerns regarding the ownership of plans, and the problems these unelected bodies cause.

Parking outside schools will gradually receive new legislation throughout the district.

District Councillor Puttock said that he had recently been admitted to Southampton General Hospital and had received first class care. Changes had taken place in the NHS and they were very evident at SGH. There was much more patient care such as offering those waiting to see consultants a cup of tea and that sort of thing put people at ease. He had also been able to visit Fenwick 2 and felt that there were excellent staff and very good facilities, some of which were free but some had to be paid for although at lower rates than elsewhere. He recommended residents to visit Fenwick 2 and to use the facilities to get it established otherwise it could be lost.

In his new capacity as Vice Chairman of NFDC he had carried out a number of engagements including the awards to those children participating in the New Design competition for the council’s recycling vehicles. Over 600 children had taken part and twelve prizes were awarded. He had also participated in Duke of Edinburgh awards, attended a concert by a youth orchestra and a steam engine journey.

He also referred to the new free bus service introduced by HCC to ferry passengers from Ashurst and Brockenhurst Stations into Lyndhurst as part of the programme to reduce congestion and pollution.

Councillor Judd asked if he had any news on the A35 crossing. He replied that considerable discussions were taking place but while he felt the scheme would come to fruition it was unlikely anything would be heard in the next few months. A lot of money and many people were involved in the decision process.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

- a) Review/update of the Councils Publication scheme under the Freedom of Information Act
- b) Review/update of the Councils Standing Orders

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm

Signed S. R. Arnold - Chairman 16th September 2008