

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th JUNE 2008 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk L. Griggs, District Councillor D. Tipp and 8 members of the public.

Apologies None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident raised the issue of appeals to the Planning Inspectorate when NPA refused an application.

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. The Chairman reminded Councillors that there were people acting within the Community Plan group which was item 3 on the agenda. Councillors Ardern and Judd then submitted a Form C in regard to the request for a representative on the Ashurst and Colbury Action Group.

ASHURST AND COLBURY COMMUNITY GROUP COMMITTEE

The Clerk had circulated a request from this group to have a representative from the Council to attend its meetings and report back to the Council.

Councillor Sopowski supported the proposal as being similar to his attendance at the New Forest Consultative Committee. Councillor Holdsworth was concerned that two bodies trying to act for the village could be divisive as no one has said to whom this new Committee would be responsible. On a proposition by Councillor Sopowski to appoint a representative it was agreed by a majority vote. Councillor Ardern was appointed as the Representative.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May, which had been previously circulated to all Councillors, were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Tipp gave apologies for Councillor Puttock who was at an NFDC meeting. He reported that the Chief Superintendent for this area, Ann Wakefield, had moved to another post and her replacement was Richard Roland. The Crime and Disorder Panel meeting had received a report that crime in the New Forest area had fallen by 17% over the last three years. However the Crime Reduction Partnership, which was currently in receipt of government funding in the sum of £240k, had been advised that the funding would not be coming directly to NFDC in future but to HCC. Bearing in mind that HCC has a number of councils and priorities to consider there was concern that the initiatives put in place based on that level of funding may not be sustainable if the funding was reduced.

Other points from that meeting were

- 1) Police funding had increased by £47k.
- 2) The full crime statistics were available on the NFDC web site.
- 3) NFDC had received advice that if the fuel distribution pay issue continued government contingency plans included restricting drivers to 15 litres of fuel per visit to the pumps.
- 4) The 101 number for non emergency matters was likely to be withdrawn next year

- 5) The CCTV coverage provided by NFDC was being extended to Hyde and New Milton

HIGHWAY MATTERS

- a) Quotation for additional work on the railway bridge. The Clerk reported that he still awaited the quotation.
- b) Flooding problems. The Chairman reported as follows:
Sewage was seeping from the drains again in Peterscroft Avenue. From Parish Council records this has been an ongoing problem since 2004. Southern Water Board decided to fit a non return valve in March. This was never achieved. According to the Water Resources Act 1991 Section 85 any person causing any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter to enter any controlled water shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £20,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or both. The Environment Agency have now agreed to visit the site and made this issue an agenda item for its meeting on 11th June.
The Water Board telephoned on 6th June to say they now have permission to fit the valve in two weeks.
New valves and closures undertaken on 8th and 9th June

She added that residents should note that items such as disposable nappies, sanitary products, cotton buds, food waste, hot fat, etc. must not be put down the toilet or sink as there is a risk that they can cause blockages. 'Personal items' such as disposable nappies and sanitary products, should be wrapped up and placed in the bin, not flushed down the toilet. Household chemicals, other than normal household cleaning materials, should not be poured down the sink or toilet.

RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Sturgess said as a new member of the Recreation Ground Committee she had visited the ground on several occasions and had been delighted to see parents and children enjoying the excellent facilities. However she was sorry to have to report that one picnic table had been vandalised. It was a very well made and strong table so considerable effort must have been used to cause so much damage. Also the iron bench in memory of Eric Tucker had been damaged. It was sad that a few youngsters caused so much damage to facilities enjoyed by so many. Some young teenage girls had also been sleeping overnight in a tent in the park which was quite dangerous for them. She called on all parents to take full responsibility for their children's' actions.

PLANNING

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

ACCOUNTS

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

GRANTS

Flowers to brighten up the station. The Clerk reported that the Station Master had said he would use appropriate flowers and shrubs for the station and had some oil drums which he would cut down and paint as containers for the plants. An initial grant of £50 would probably be sufficient. Councillor Sopowski said oil drums were not appropriate and would quickly rust. He would prefer containers made of wood, possibly oak or even old railway sleepers. After discussion it was agreed to make a grant of £50 and that the Clerk would convey the following views to the Station Master:
The Council accepts that if any flowers are to be in place quickly the oil drum proposal may be the only practical answer however the main problem is that they will quickly rust. Therefore for the longer term,

and subject to there being no vandalism, the Council would much prefer to have wooden containers and would be willing to consider additional funding for that purpose. The use of old railway sleepers may be the most appropriate.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Councillor Holdsworth reported on the half yearly Council meeting of Age Concern. While the attendance of Mayors/Mayoresses/Council Chairman etc was very good, there were only a few members of the public which was disappointing.

Government had indicated it wished to get involved with the voluntary sector so a speaker had been sent down to talk to the meeting. His speech was not at all impressive and the question and answer session only resulted in arguments.

Following the presentation on Fenwick2 at the last meeting one of the Age Concern administrators had visited the hospital to see if a room could be used for a foot clinic. Unfortunately the cost of £40 to hire the room when Age Concern only received income of £10 (the balance going to the podiatrists) it was not a feasible option. The next option was a grant from the Hampshire Primary Care Trust but their new approach is to require a great deal of information and one sticking point was the Did Not Attend figure. Because most of the people using the clinics are elderly they miss appointments for many reasons, ill, in hospital or even forgetting so the rate is too high to get a grant. She added that Age Concern experience with HPCT foot care was not good so she did not wish to have them involved directly in the foot care clinics.

Councillor Ardern had circulated a list of actions from the Community Plan which involved the Council

Councillor Arnold had attended the following:

- 29th May Meeting with Councillors Judd and Ardern re the concerns of the Parish Council and the Action Group.
- 2nd June Meeting with the Water Board for action to the flooding in Peterscroft Avenue
- 3rd June Meeting with CAN – Community Action Network.
 - Aim is for the New Forest to become a tourism destination
 - Hoping to secure a Europac Charter
 - Lyndhurst Chamber of Commerce reported that trade had dropped between 30 - 40%
 - Suggestions were put forward to improve tourism
 - The draft policy “Our Future Together 2 - Draft Policies and Objectives - = Planning Policy” was produced and one question arose when Penny Velandar suggested that Community Action Groups be added to Town/Parish Councils. Reports have been sent to Anthony Climpson (CAN Chairman) about Parishes concerns.
- 8th June Annual service for District/Town/Parish Councils at Winchester Cathedral
- 11th June Meeting with Environment at Peterscroft Avenue.
The non return valves have been fitted and testing from the Bartley Water will continue.
- 16th June Meeting with Executive of NAFLC.
 - Parish Plans and consequences. The inclusion of the Community Action Groups alongside Town/Parish Councils on the CAN Policy was strongly refused
 - The 20 is plenty signs have no legal backing.
 - Yellow zig zag lines will be changed to white lines over a period of three years.
 - Bus passes for the elderly - from 27th June residents can use these passes on all buses.
 - Request for the toilets at Calshot beach to be re-opened.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Clerk drew attention to two items which were consultation documents with dates for submitting any comments.

HCC – changes in Adult Services Grants programme. Deadline 28th July

NFDC – Gravel Extraction Survey. Deadline 9th August.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

None

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

Signed S R Arnold - Chairman 15th July 2008