

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER 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 D. Tipp and 15 members of the public.

Apologies District Councillor L. Puttock and County Councillor M. Kendal

The Chairman opened the meeting and said Good Evening and welcome to you all and a special welcome to my colleague Mr. George Bisson Chairman of Lyndhurst Parish Council.

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 if any item arose during Public Participation which warranted a Form C they should declare it immediately.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident referred to an incident on 11th September when someone was injured in an accident on the A35. Although the Clerk had been advised by the Police that there was no record of any accident the resident asked if the incident could be minuted so a record was in place. It was also suggested that an entry be put in the Newsletter asking for information about the incident. The Clerk was asked to deal with that.

Another resident expressed concern over the references in the draft plan from the NP Non Equestrian and Horse Riding issues. She said much of what was proposed was impractical and if put in place would greatly increase the costs of keeping a horse. The Chairman said that the Council would be meeting to consider the plan shortly and would bear in mind the comments made. Councillor Sopowski added that while he understood the concerns which he would raise at a meeting of the NFDC Consultative Committee. However the issue of a concrete drive being installed down the centre of a field which was then sub-divided into small areas had to be addressed. Many of those small paddocks become very untidy with plastic sheets, sheds, caravans etc which were to the detriment of the forest as a whole. He felt the NFDC had been too lax in this matter but maybe the NP A needed to look again at the detail. He said a balance did need to be found between the two extremes. One resident said the plan had a statement that "there was no other option" which made a mockery of it being a consultation document.

A resident said that since the resurfacing works had been completed on the A35 Ashurst to Lyndhurst road it had become very noisy. Could anything be done about it? Councillor Bryant said that there had been some rippling on the surface and Highways were looking into it. Councillor Sopowski said he would raise it at the NFDC Consultative Panel meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th July, 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 still awaited the quotations. Rob Nicholls of Highways had indicated the cost as being £90 per metre and he was considering other options.

- b) Disabled parking space at the Parade. The Clerk said the matter was in the hands of the NFDC. Because it was already an area with parking restrictions it had to go through the NFDC HAT so that a Traffic Order can be passed and the works scheduled. It was likely to be next year before it was in place.
- c) A35 Colbury Crossing. The Clerk commented on the information given to the Chairman by County Councillor Kendal (and circulated to all Councillors) that approval had been given for the crossing by HCC and plans for the change to the entrance at Colbury Memorial Hall were to be submitted to NP A with a hope the work could commence in April/May next year. Unfortunately the Clerk had been advised by Mrs Olsen that she had received the same information on June 10th this year with a scheduled start date of February/March. He had emailed the Councillor asking if the plans had gone to NP A and, if not, when they were likely to be submitted.

The Chairman mentioned the following issues:

- the HCC 30mph initiative came into effect on 1st September
- the issue of the green/silver safety barriers at the railway bridge raised by a resident at the last meeting had been referred to HCC. However they had informed the Clerk that it was a British Rail fence and they would take it up with BR.

The overgrown hedge in Foxhills Close was the responsibility of the house owners in Ashdene Road whose gardens border Foxhills Close.

A resident in Pine Close had constructed an access to his property from Rye Dale. NP A had advised that no planning permission was required and Highways said that as no dropped kerb was involved they had no jurisdiction. However when advised of previous planning applications they said they would investigate further.

A request had been received from Fawley Parish Council to support their campaign for a dual carriageway on the A326 to make it a safer road. However it was noted that some people felt that would encourage drivers to go even faster and possibly cause more accidents

A letter had been received from Mrs Ann Arscott regarding a new bus service provided by HCC to transport children to and from school at a cost of 50p per journey. It was hoped this would encourage more parents to send their child to school by bus instead of driving them there by car. It was hoped this would reduce the congestion and also parking problems.

RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Bryant reported that the Safety Inspection had shown no major problems and the remedial work recommended had been carried out. A tree survey had been carried out by NFDC under the new Tree Management Agreement and all trees with a diameter of more than half an inch had been identified and numbered. Again the remedial works indicated by the survey had also been addressed. New Government rules required that all trees in public places had to be lifted so that the lowest branch was above eye level. The pile of soil which people had asked about was to fill holes which were appearing in various places. Temporary goal posts had been erected while the goal area was reseeded.

PLANNING

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

The Chairman said that the development at the rear of 36-40 Foxhills had been the subject of an appeal but the Council did not appear to have received any notification from NP A of the outcome. Councillor Kershaw said he had attended the appeal hearing and reported to the March meeting as shown by the minutes. The Clerk said he had not received any advice on the appeal from NP A and they were looking into why no advice had been sent.

(N.B. Following the meeting it was noted that the Clerk had been ill in March and a locum had been present.)

ACCOUNTS

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

PUBLICATION SCHEME UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

The Clerk said he had been notified that a new Model Publication Document was to be issued which Councils would need to adopt by the end of December. He therefore suggested that discussion be left until that draft document was available.

STANDING ORDERS

The Clerk said that apart from one spelling error there appeared to be no reason to change the existing Standing Orders and asked the Council to readopt the document they had received. On a proposal by Councillor Arnold, seconded by Councillor Sopowski, the Standing Orders were readopted.

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY DRAFT PLAN

The Chairman proposed a meeting to discuss the draft. It was agreed to meet on 29th September at 7.30, venue to be advised.

The Chairman said that she and the Clerk had been invited to a meeting of the four Service Villages to consider the implications of the document. However that was after the meeting date just agreed.

GRANTS

The Clerk had distributed documentation from the Vitalise Annual Report. He added that in view of the income disclosed of £ 1. 9m and that several County Council made donations, it seemed unlikely that the Council could contribute any meaningful sum. After some discussion it was agreed that (no grant should be made.

The Clerk said another request for a grant had been received from the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. A previous request had been rejected and after discussion it was again rejected.

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Councillor Sturgess reported that she had again visited Ashurst station there was still a lovely display of flowers which was being well tended. The tin containers still looked good and again congratulated the Station Master on an excellent initiative.

Councillor Sopowski had attended the New Forest Consultative Panel Meeting when the campaign to save the red telephone boxes had been discussed. Apparently local councils can now adopt a box, without a phone of course, for an annual rent. The other major issue discussed was the conservation of the forest areas. He added that having made a train journey with his wife recently they had seen the flower display and agreed it was very good.

Councillor Ardern reported that she had attended the Community Plan Group meeting and minutes would be available in due course.

Councillor Holdsworth reported that she had been trying to get funds from Hampshire PCT for the Age Concern foot clinics. A 32 page application form had been completed and time would tell if she had been successful. The AGM had been well attended and the Hampshire AGM was on 14th October. when there had been considerable discussion on conservation areas and how to maintain them.

Councillor Bryant said he also felt that the station was looking good with the new flower display.

Councillor Arnold had attended the following:

17th July - Newsletter Meeting

21st July - Launch of the Green Bags [see newsletter report]

3rd August - District Councillors Garden Party

7th August - Opening of the Children's play equipment area at Lyndhurst

1st August - Hanging Basket Competition again sponsored by Golden Acres - Cadnam Nurseries - Judged by Roger Grier [Local Orchid Enthusiast]
12th August - Meeting at St. Josephs re History Exhibition
15th August - Roadshow in the Park - Appreciation to Councillor Sturgess who welcomed them on the 1st August
1st September - The Clerk and I met with District Councillor Chris Treleaven Port Folio holder for Parish Plans
8th September - Executive NALFC - main agenda items were NPA Draft Policy, Parish Plans, A326 Road, Defra and Data Protection Act
9th September - Attended Lyndhurst Parish Council Meeting.
11th September - Lyndhurst Traffic Management Steering Group Meeting

District Councillor Tipp said that he had come from a Crime and Disorder Panel meeting which had received a presentation on the issue of drugs. New Milton and Fordingbridge were the hot spots and Ashurst was not one of the problem areas. As usual there was a shortage of funds to support the actions required. There had also been a discussion on the Policing Green Paper but again fine words but no funds to deliver. There was a suggestion that some elected representatives should be involved in addition to the existing Councillors. The green paper is available on the Home Office web site and consultation ends in October.

Finally on Monday there had been a full Council Meeting when Councillor Kendal had announced his retirement as Leader of the Council on 1st November. He would remain as a Councillor. '.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

The Clerk showed Councillors the large package from HCC regarding the launch of the 30mph initiative.

The Chairman said that minutes of the Community Plan Group for July had been received.

She had also been promised a grant of £500 from HCC by Councillor Kendal for the History Exhibition to be held in December.

The Environment Officer was called out to view the rubbish collecting at the Ashurst Garage as this issue came under the Environment Protection Act. They acted quickly and the rubbish was removed.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

Jubilee Tree by the Happy Cheese

South East Plan regarding accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the following meetings:

29th September to discuss the NPA Plan - Venue to be advised

14th October to discuss the 2009/10 precept

21st Next Council Meeting

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

Signed Chairman 21st **October 2008**