

## ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2010 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

**Present:** Councillors P. Sopowski (in the Chair), D. Bryant, M. Coaker, P. Frost and A. Sturgess.

**In Attendance:** Parish Clerk L. Griggs, District Councillor L. Puttock and 1 member of the public.

**Apologies** had been received from County Councillor Mans, District Cllr Tipp and Cllrs Arnold, Hubbard and Kershaw

The Chairman said that Cllr Arnold was still recovering from her operation.

#### 1. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST IN AN AGENDA ITEM

The Chairman reminded Councillors that if there was any item on the agenda which would warrant a Councillor submitting a Form C. they should do so now. None were produced. The Chairman also reminded Councillors that if any item arose during Public Participation which warranted a Form C they should declare it immediately.

#### 2. MINUTES

a) The minutes of the last Meeting, which had previously been circulated to all Councillors, were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

b) The question of publishing the minutes in the Newsletter, as requested by a resident, was considered. It was noted that the cost of four additional pages was estimated at £75 and there would be a considerable delay between the meeting date and the earliest date the approved minutes could appear in the Newsletter. It was also noted that the minutes were put on the web site as soon as they were approved and also available at the Council meeting. It was agreed that it was not good value for money to publish the minutes in the Newsletter but the Clerk was asked to offer to send a copy of the minutes by email to the resident. It was also suggested that the Newsletter Committee consider if any particular item in the minutes which may be of special interest to the public might be noted in the Newsletter.

**Cllr Frost** suggested that the minutes could be sent to Totton Library who maintained a file of minutes of several bodies. The Clerk was asked to follow that up.

#### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

#### 4. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

a) The issue of leaving the grassed areas in the approaches to the village so that wild flowers could flourish was discussed. **Cllr Sturgess** said she preferred the grass to be kept neat and tidy rather than have overgrown and untidy looking areas. After discussion and by a four to one majority the Clerk was asked to contact Highways to see if the first cut could be left until wild flowers had bloomed.

b) Transfer of responsibility for concessionary fares from NFDC to HCC. **Cllr Puttock** said that the proposals from Central Government for this change were not well

thought out. He had attended the consultation meeting in Lyndhurst but many issues were unclear, such as whether the pass would be for the District, County or Nationwide, and the timing of its validity during the day. After discussion it was agreed that the Transport Representatives would prepare a response and forward that to all Cllrs for their views. Additionally it was agreed that:-

- i) The Council view would be that there should be no detriment to users from the changes and that NFDC were best placed to deal with the local issues that were important to users.
- ii) If Cllrs so wished they could send their own individual responses

## **5. RECREATION GROUND**

- a) **Cllr Bryant** reported that the ground was in good shape. Timberline had carried out the rectification works and the Monkey Bars had been lowered to make it easier for children to use. .
- b) **Cllr Coaker** reported that because of the Trees and Ecological surveys requested by NPA the group had requested and been granted a three month extension for submitting final application for the grant. The surveys were now underway. He had visited the ground with a group of disabled people and they had tested the proposals for gradients etc and expressed their approval for the works proposed.
- c) Cllr Bryant reported that the renovated Notice Board in the Recreation Ground should be in place soon

## **6. PLANNING**

- a) **Cllr Sopowski** gave a report on planning activities to the only resident present rather than read it out.
- b) The Clerk reported that the result of the appeal hearing for 84 Lyndhurst Road would not be available for some weeks

## **7. ACCOUNTS**

- a) On a proposal by **Cllr Coaker** seconded by **Cllr Bryant** the accounts paid since the last meeting were approved
- b) Request to publish the annual accounts in the Newsletter. The Clerk said that each year a Notice was placed in the Notice Boards inviting residents to apply to the Clerk to see all the books, vouchers and documents for the year but no one had ever applied. After discussing the matter the Council decided it was not appropriate to publish the accounts in the Newsletter but asked the Clerk to write to the resident saying a summary could be sent free to him by email.
- c) The resolution for the bank mandate, copy attached, was approved unanimously and the Clerk, Chairman and Vice chairman were authorised to sign the certificates on the various documents involved.

## **8. GRANTS**

It was confirmed that the Council did not wish to make any grant to Victim Support at this time particularly since there was public concern over the way such support was provided. The matter could be reviewed after the National Survey on these matters had been concluded.

## **9. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

**Cllr Frost** had attended the lunch at the cricket ground and some 60 people had enjoyed a good time together.

**Cllr Sturgess** had attended the monthly NFNPA meeting, the launch of the new New Forest CAB, the concessionary fares consultation meeting and meetings of the Fete Committee.

**Cllr Bryant** attended the meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel when the Deputy Surveyor of the Forestry Commission gave a presentation and warned of the imminent cuts in funding which would require prioritising which works were most essential. Frank Green gave a presentation on the New Forest in WWII and a report was received from the NFNPA who said they were waiting to learn what funds it would have for the coming year.

**Cllr Coaker** had attended meetings of the Fete Committee, the Community Group, the Friends of the Park and visited the park with the disabled group.

**Cllr Puttock** said NFDC were receiving proposals for change from Central Government on a daily basis but the important details were lacking. Residents needed to be aware that NFDC were not receiving monies which had been budgeted for and if that was not forthcoming changes would have to be made.

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence had been circulated and items were available for anyone to see.

The following matters were agreed:-

i) The Council discussed the changes proposed at NFALC and agreed by four to one to support the new proposed association. Concern was expressed that it may result in two or three large councils dominating matters to the effective exclusion of matters of interest to smaller councils. Councillors were urged to attend the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July to get a full picture of the proposals.

**Cllr Puttock** said NFALC had not been able to provide the link with NFDC which it had been set up to do. If Town and Parish Councils could work together they would be able to present a strong voice in discussions with NFDC and NFNPA.

ii) The Local Transport Plan 3 – Strategy for the County. After some discussion the Clerk was asked to prepare a draft response for consideration by the Council.

iii) National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Report. HCC had asked councils to complete a Public Satisfaction Survey and it was agreed this should be done by the Clerk and the Chairman

## 11. COMMUNITY PLAN

**Cllr Coaker** reported that a lot was discussed and the main items were

- All group wished chairman of Parish Council a speedy recovery from her operation
- Allotments on going but will leave to Clerks report later in meeting
- Right of way behind New Forest Hotel/Railway car park is on going , application in hands of HCC
- Community Group Website has seen an increase in hits from 60 in April up to 570 currently
- Several community events were discussed including seed swap , The Big Lunch and picnics in park for children
- Patricia Bascombe and Susan Hutchins have carried out a very good disability access

survey from local shops/businesses with results on A4 sheet which would make a good addition to the welcome pack. With the welcome pack format which can be updated with loose leaf sheets, Natasha Robinson is proposed to liaise with PCC on behalf of the group to update the Pack as and when required.

## 12. VILLAGE FETE

**Cllr Sturgess** reported that it was progressing very well with over 40 stalls booked and a full programme of events. The only thing still unresolved was the Opener; if anyone knew a celebrity who might be available to let her know as soon as possible. A full report would be in the Newsletter.

### **13. VILLAGE DESIGN AND CHARACTER APPRAISAL**

In the absence of **Cllr Hubbard** this item was deferred.

### **14. ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk said he had not yet heard from Simon Barker on this issue.

### **15. NEWSLETTER ISSUES**

The Council confirmed its position that all letters to the Editor must have the name of the sender printed in the Newsletter. If Councillors had any other issues with the Newsletter they were asked to notify the Clerk.

### **16. FOREST WATCH**

The Clerk advised that Bramshaw were arranging a meeting to which all councils were invited but the date was now put back to 31<sup>st</sup> August. After discussion it was agreed the Clerk should try to arrange a meeting to include a NPA presentation some time in October.

### **17. OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS IMPORTANT**

None

### **18. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

**Cllr Bryant** noted that the motorway signs for the New Forest Show were directing traffic from the East along the A326 and through Ashurst which was contrary to the agreement with Highways at Winchester that such action would only be taken when there was a blockage on the A337 Cadnam to Lyndhurst Road. It was acknowledged that it was too late now to make changes for this year but the Clerk was asked to write asking Highways to ensure this would not be done in future years. He was also asked to write similarly to the AA and the New Forest Show authorities.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

**Signed S. R. Arnold - Chairman**

**Dated 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010**