

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21st DECEMBER 2010 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

Present: Councillors S Arnold (in the Chair), D. Bryant, M. Coaker, P. Frost, C. Hubbard, K. Kershaw, P Sopowski and A. Sturgess .

In Attendance: Parish Clerk L. Griggs, County Cllr K Mans, District Cllrs L. Puttock, D. Tipp, PC White, PCSO Quinn and members of the public.

Apologies None

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and added I always look forward to the December meeting as the Parish Council has a chance to thank all the volunteers who deliver our newsletter irrespective of the weather. So from us all a very big thank you for getting our village paper to everybody.

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.

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) **Cllr Sopowski** requested an amendment to the minutes under Section 8 being the addition to his report of "A decision to be made at the next meeting." Subject to that amendment the minutes of the last Meeting, which had been circulated to all Councillors, were approved and signed.

b) Matters arising. The Chairman said

(i) 18 Parishes attended the inaugural meeting of the New Association. District Councillor Goff Beck was elected Chairman and Councillor John Kirby Vice Chairman. Topic groups were proposed and the first topic to be discussed will be the manner in which the four parish councillors are elected to the National Park. Authority. The Association would also like to have two councillors volunteer from each Parish as attendees to the New Association. At present it is myself and Councillor Sturgess. However, all councillors are invited to attend meetings and I feel it would be beneficial if you could all make the effort to attend at least one of the quarterly meetings.

(ii) Complaint concerning the fact that NFDC is asking those who want to participate in the garden waste green sack scheme to set up a direct debit in February 2011 although the scheme does not start until May. As requested at the last meeting District Cllr Tipp made enquiry and the reply was. NFDC are trying to slim down the administration of this service as it has to be a break even service financially, and fuel costs alone have gone up by 17% this year. Using a direct debit will help with cutting down on the administration. We wanted to set up in February so that we can reschedule the rounds and send out licences etc as this scheme renewal date is 1st April each year.

District Cllr Tipp said he had received confirmation that although it was requested that the Direct Debit be set up in February no payment would be taken until the new financial year.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident reported that the gravel laid outside 64 Ashdene Road a long time ago in place of the grass verge had still not been removed. Also block paving had been laid outside the new building at 12 Wood Road which extended all the way to the kerb where previously the grass verge had been.

The Clerk responded that he had recently chased up Highways on the 64 Ashdene Road issue and also on vehicles parking on the grass verge in that road but had not received any positive response. Highways said they could not stop people parking on verges and did not seem to want to pursue the gravel issue.

After discussion it was agreed that an article should be put in the Newsletter to point out that damaging the verges ruined the rural appeal of the village and should be discouraged. **Cllr Mans** also offered to talk to Highways on this matter.

A resident reminded the Council that subsequent to the heavy snow falls in the spring the Council had recommended that the parish bus routes and in particular the 56A route should be gritted prior to other roads. Unfortunately this had not been undertaken during the recent snow falls with HCC gritting Whartons Lane rather than the Ashdene Road bus route. This had meant that some residents had effectively been cut off for upwards of 5 days. The Clerk said he had raised the matter with HCC and **Cllr Kershaw** reported that the issue been discussed at the recent New Forest Passenger Transport Forum. Comment was made about the new grit bins. Although the placement of these was welcomed by the Council it appeared that some bins had been misused. Additionally a resident said the grit bin near his house was empty and when he phoned the number shown in the lid of the bin he only heard a request to email HCC. **Cllr Mans** said that was probably due to a volume of calls in the bad weather and they were trying to help people to report the matter without having to hold on for a long time."

4. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

The Chairman advised that Hampshire County Council has confirmed that it is illegal to use the contents of the grit bins on residents' property, and they will take action against offenders. The Clerk was asked to put an article on this in the Newsletter.

Cllr Bryant said the work carried out by HCC in Deerleap lane was excellent but a stretch of some 50/60 yards at the end had been left in a bad state.

5. RECREATION GROUND

a) **Cllr Bryant** reported that the tree work required following the recent survey would be dealt with as soon as the weather allowed.

b) **Cllr Bryant** reported that he was looking for a suitable notice board to buy and install in the recreation ground.

6. PLANNING

a) **Cllr Sopowski** gave a report on planning activities since the last meeting.

b) **Cllr Coaker** reported that the Friends of the Park planning application had been approved so work would be commencing as soon as possible. Notice would be given when dates were agreed.

7. ACCOUNTS

- a) The cheques issued since the last meeting were approved.
- b) It was noted that the Precept for 2011/2012 was agreed at £25,000.

8. GRANTS

The Chairman noted that Cllr Mans had enabled a grant of £500 to be paid to the Neighbourhood Watch Group. Mrs Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, thanked Cllr Mans for his generous support.

9. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Cllr Coaker had attended the NPA Quadrant meeting and the parish carols evening.

Cllr Hubbard had attended the NPA Quadrant meeting, Fete Committee meeting and the carols evening.

Cllr Bryant had attended the NPA Quadrant meeting and various meetings on the allotment project

Cllr Kershaw attended the HCC Transport Forum

Cllr Sturgess attended the NPA Quadrant meeting, the inaugural meeting of the New Association and the Affordable Housing exhibition.

Cllr Arnold had attended the following:-

18 th November -	The Launch of the new Association.
22 nd November	Affordable Homes public meeting
22 nd November	Precept meeting for the year 2011
25 th November	Planning meeting at West Wellow
30 th November	Constructing Allotments at Basingstoke.
1 st December	Quadrant meeting for National Park
6 th December	Meeting at Reading concerning Allotments
7 th December	National Park Topic Group for The Association
10 th /11 th December	History Exhibition for the Village
13 th December	Meeting with the Friends of the Park
16 th December	Meeting with Chairman of The Association
21 st December	National Park Planning Committee

Cllr Puttock said that Localism was an important issue and the Council should keep an eye on coming government pronouncements

10. CORRESPONDENCE

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

11. COMMUNITY PLAN

Cllr Coaker said he had no comments until the next group meeting which was on 6th February

12. VILLAGE DESIGN AND CHARACTER APPRAISAL

Cllr Hubbard said she was waiting for the collated results and would have more news in January

13. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised that the SDF application had been successful subject to two points. NPA would not fund sheds or a brick built toilet. They would fund 75% of the other work and also 75% of a sustainable composting toilet. The Planning Application had been submitted and specifications for the work should be out in January.

14. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Letter from Mr. Bridgeman.

The Chairman said you will have all received a copy of this letter, and at this stage I feel we cannot take the matter further until the plans are published **Cllr Sopowski** said many people had told him of their concerns with the proposals and wondered whether they

should write to NPA at this stage. The Clerk said NPA had indicated in other cases that letters received before the plans had been submitted were not considered as objections. Only letters after the planning application was registered were taken into account. However there was no reason why they should not write to the Developers.

15. CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The Chairman said although bitterly cold residents and councillors enjoyed the evening outside the Happy Cheese. The band was certainly happy with the amount of light, and our Clerk has asked residents to write in with their views of the change of venue. We are most grateful to the staff from the Cheese for their help in setting up the location and providing the mushrooms and onions free.

16. OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS IMPORTANT

None

17. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

- Review of polling districts and polling places
- Essential guide to the decentralisation and localism bill
- The governance of the National Park
- Paper from NALC on the localism bill

There being no further business for this meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm

Signed S R Arnold - Chairman

Dated 18th January 2011