

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18th JANUARY 2011 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, District Cllr D. Tipp and 11 members of the public.

Apologies County Cllr Mans and District Cllr Puttock

The Chairman welcomed Simon Barker and colleagues of Longdown Management Ltd who are the managing agent for the Trustees of the Barker Mill Estates, and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr Barker outlined the Trustees desire to consult with the Council and the community on areas of land within the parish which may be appropriate for small scale local housing development and to ensure that local views were the driving force behind any scheme that is taken forward. Under the emerging localism legislation tools such as Neighbourhood Development Plans are proposed to give the local community more power. In some cases, if over 50% of the community support a proposed development then planning permission may not be required. The first area under consideration was a circa 2.5 hectare site bounded on the west and south by Knellers Lane, on the north by Foxhills and on the east by the A326 link road.

As an initial idea, Mr Barker and his colleagues suggested that 25-30 houses could be built on the site. These would be built by their own workforce and would have a density of some 11 dwellings per hectare allowing for reasonable size gardens. It is thought at this stage that these properties would be available for rental and retained by the Trustees on a long term basis.

The Chairman thanked the team for involving the council at this early stage.

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 Hubbard** requested an amendment to the minutes under Agenda item 9 adding two other meetings she had attended. **Cllr Coaker** said the date for the next meeting of the Community Group should be 1st February. Subject to those amendments the minutes of the last Meeting, which had been circulated to all Councillors, were approved and signed.

b) Matters arising. None

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman read a letter from a resident regarding the block paving installed outside the new building at 10 Wood Road which extended right down to the kerb. The resident had reported the matter to Highways West who are looking into the matter. The Chairman said the Council had already referred this matter to the NPA but the Enforcement Notice originally issued had been closed without any reference or notice to the Council. The Clerk reported that he had written to Rob Aldred seeking an explanation but had not yet received a reply.

The Chairman said she would refer to this again under Planning.

4. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

a) Grit Bins

Four Snow shovels had been provided by HCC and it was agreed that Cllr Sopowski, Cllr Sturgess, Cllr Hubbard and Cllr Kershaw would all have one for residents to use to clear snow from footpaths etc.

The Clerk read out a notice he had put in the Newsletter pointing out that the grit was only to be used on Highways not on private drives. HCC could remove the bin or refuse to refill it if it was abused.

b) Proposed changes to Bus Routes – **Cllr Ken Kershaw** said there was a severe effect on bus users in Ashurst and more time was needed to consult with users. The Clerk was asked to write to HCC pointing out the concerns and seeking more time for adequate consultation.

c) Flood Protection

[i] It was noted that the Flood Protection Exhibition was on Tuesday 25th January from 2.30 pm – 7pm at the Westgate Leisure Centre Chichester PO19 1RJ. This exhibition is open to members of the public as well as Councillors.

[ii] National Emergency Response Exercise.. It was agreed that the Flood Committee should discuss this matter and respond accordingly.

5. RECREATION GROUND

a) **Cllr Bryant** reported that the dead poplar would be felled on Friday .

b) **Cllr Bryant** showed two possible notice boards to buy and it was agreed to purchase an English Oak Board. **District Cllr Tipp** asked the Clerk to apply to both he and Cllr Puttock for a grant towards the cost.

6. PLANNING

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

b) The Chairman said, with reference to the enforcement cases that are closed, I am totally surprised that the National Park Authority has decided that the block paving access at 10 Wood Road has caused **no breach**. There have been many residents concerned about this matter and I thought the NPA were all for the rural scene. **Cllr Frost** said he would be at the NPA tomorrow and would raise the matter with Steve Avery.

7. ACCOUNTS

a) The cheques issued since the last meeting were approved.

8. GRANTS

None

9. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Cllr Hubbard attended the Fete Committee meetings and the Affordable Housing meeting..

Cllr Coaker Attended the NPA Planning Meeting regarding the FoP application and two Fete Committee meetings.

Cllr Bryant had attended the NFDC Consultative Panel meeting and said it had been too rushed with five speakers and limited Q & A time. The NPA presentation included the news that in addition to reductions already announced there was a further reduction required of some 2.5% over the next few years.

Cllr Sturgess attended two Fete Committee meetings

Cllr Arnold had attended the following:-

5th January – Meeting at Fordingbridge Town Hall relating to the new Association and membership to the National Park

13th January – Meeting of the Fete Committee

CllrTipp said Cllr Puttock had suffered a nasty injury to his knee and was on crutches. He also said the new free transport scheme from HCC allowed travel only from 9.30am. Disabled persons would get free travel all day and where a carer was necessary to allow a disabled person to use the buses the carer would get a free pass but only for use when travelling with their disabled companion. Vouchers were now only available for the disabled but the value would be £32 instead of £40 as before

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 1st February

12. VILLAGE DESIGN AND CHARACTER APPRAISAL

Cllr Hubbard said the deadline for responses had passed so she would now start preparing the first draft.

13. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised that the SDF had also agreed to pay 75% for the composting toilet so the total to be received when all the paper work was completed would be £28,747. Other funding applications were still in process. The Planning Application had been submitted to the NPA and the Schedule of Works was under consideration by the Allotment Committee. Legal documents were still awaited from Longdown Management.

The Clerk also advised that he had been trying to get some S106 funding from NPA but

a recent email from Steve Avery had said no funds were available for Open Space items, they were all specified for Affordable Housing. **Cllr Frost** said he would raise the issue again with the NPA.

14. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The meeting reviewed the comments taken at the public exhibition and after discussion it was decided that the Clerk should write to the Developers and Hyde Housing saying there was considerable concern over things such as the sound barriers, on which no details were available as to size, and the height of the buildings and the Council could not support the proposal shown in an architects drawings at the exhibition. More detailed plans would be required before the Council could give any opinion on the proposal. It was however noted that over 81%% of residents attending the exhibition expressed opposition or expressed concern over the proposals.

15. POLLING STATIONS AND SITES

After discussion it was agreed to recommend that only one polling station was needed at Colbury Memorial Hall as in previous years.

16 LOCALISM BILL AND DECENTRALISATION

It was noted that many of the proposals would require funds to carry out and also funds for legal support if actions were taken against the council. It was agreed that Councillors should send any comments to the Clerk.

17. GOVERNANCE OF THE NPA

The Chairman reported as follows:

- [i] The NPA Focus Group and only that group has recommended that the Association use the quadrants drawn up by the New Forest National Park for electing the four appointees, as the quadrants comprise parish/towns with land in the National Park.
- [ii] The quadrants selected by the NPA are broadly similar in the number of elected councillors.
- [iii] Councils not wholly in the National Park will only be able to put forward a Councillor from the Ward with land in the National Park.
- [iv] Councillors will be nominated by any council in a quadrant which wishes to make a nomination and that nomination must be seconded by another Council in the same quadrant. Only councils within the quadrant may vote for one of the quadrant nominees
- [v] The four successful councillors in the election will be put forward by the Association to the Secretary of State for approval.

This proposal will have to go to the full council of the Association for approval DEFRA clearly states that to be able to be put someone forward as an appointee you must have land within the National Park.

On another matter Councils are able to put forward their views on the DEFRA report by the 1st February.

The report was noted and Councillors were asked to send any comments on the DEFRA report to the Clerk by the end of the month.

18. OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS IMPORTANT

It was agreed that the money donated at the carols evening be added to the charity chosen for this years fete, Help4 Heroes.

19. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

The Barker-Mill housing proposals

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

Signed S. R. Arnold - Chairman

Dated 15th February 2011