

## ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2011 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS COLBURY

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

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

**Apologies** District Cllr Puttock, Cllr Kershaw

#### 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

The minutes of the last Meeting, which had been circulated to all Councillors, were approved and signed.

#### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident raised the issue of the increasing number of rats in the village and said that while NFDC said they were dealing with the problem nothing was obvious. Considerable discussion followed and it was pointed out that it can take six weeks or more to get rid of the rodents and that the traps are not always visible. **District Cllr Tipp** was asked to make enquiries on the matter.

#### 4. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

a) Old shelter by the station steps. The Clerk reported that he had asked Highways again to look into this problem and would report back when there was any definite news.

b) Grass triangle at Woodlands Road. The Clerk reported that Highways were not hopeful of any action on this due to budgetary constraints.

The Chairman advised that HCC had given a general notice of road closures in the village from 5<sup>th</sup> May. She asked residents to watch the Notice Boards and web-site for the precise details which would be received in due course. The Chairman also advised that the Forestry Commission had issued letters to residents in Woodlands Road regarding the fly tipping of garden waste on their land opposite the houses. As it applied in general terms to all residents the letter would appear in the Newsletter.

#### 5. RECREATION GROUND

a) **Cllr Bryant** reported that some incidents had occurred with youngsters making dens out of branches torn from trees and bushes, but otherwise all was in order.

b) The Clerk reported that the Notice Board for the Recreation Ground should be delivered shortly.

c) **Cllr Coaker** reported that funding was still awaited for the Friends of the Park project.

#### 6. PLANNING

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

## **7. ACCOUNTS**

- a) The cheques issued since the last meeting were approved.
- b) The Clerk presented the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 together with the Annual Return for the same year which had all been signed off by the Internal Auditor.

On a proposal by **Cllr Bryant**, seconded by **Cllr Sopowski**, it was resolved that: the Accounts and Sections 1 (accounts) and 2 (Annual Governance Statement) of the Annual Return be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

## **8. GRANTS**

None. It was agreed that this item would only appear in future if there was any grant to be considered.

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

**Cllr Bryant** had attended various Allotment meetings and discussions.

**Cllr Hubbard** had attended the Committee meeting of the Village Design Plan (VDA) a meeting with NFNPA also on the VDA, a meeting of the NE Quadrant and the Landscape and Bio-diversity seminar at NFDC.

**Cllr Coaker** attended the A&CCG meeting and also the Fete Committee meeting

**Cllr Sturgess** attended the NE Quadrant meeting and also the Fete Committee meeting

**Cllr Arnold** had attended the following:-

22<sup>nd</sup> May – Meeting of Village Design Statement

25<sup>th</sup> March – Allotment meeting at Whitchurch

25<sup>th</sup> March – Netley Marsh Parish Council meeting. They have completed their parish plan on which they should be congratulated with its realistic actions.

26<sup>th</sup> March – Meeting with Totton Town Council representatives for the Museum at Eling. This was to promote our village in the museum

29<sup>th</sup> March North East Quadrant meeting – speakers from the New Forest Land Advice Service and National Park Rangers Team. Presentation on the New Forest Design Guide, Parish Councils asked to take part in the questionnaire.

For general interest it was confirmed that specific rules apply for householders wanting to pave over their front gardens. No planning permission is required if a new or replacement driveway of any size uses permeable block paving or gravel or if the rainwater is directed to a lawn or border. If the surface to be covered by an impermeable surface then planning permission must be sought.

5<sup>th</sup> April - Meeting with Steve Avery advice with a planning application and the Village Design Statement

6<sup>th</sup> April - Fete Committee meeting

8<sup>th</sup> April - Landscape and Bio diversity display and lecture

9<sup>th</sup> April - History Exhibition at Totton Museum – very constructive and informative meeting with former residents of Ashurst and Colbury.

12<sup>th</sup> April - New Forest Land Advice Service at NFNPA

## **10. SAFER NEW FOREST STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

The email from NFDC was noted but no further action was required from this Council

## **11. COMMUNITY PLAN**

**Cllr Coaker** reported that some 35/40 people had taken part in the Litter Pick. The rubbish collected was less than half of that collected last year which was primarily due to action taken during the year, in particular the letters sent to local shops and

businesses regarding litter He also announced the formal invitation to all Councillors from the Secretary of the A&CCG to attend its AGM on 3<sup>rd</sup> May at the Longdown Farm Activity Centre.

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

**Cllr Hubbard** reported that the written text was now well forward and photographs were being selected from a number provided by **Cllr Frost**. Maps were being provided from the Forest Map site available to us under our membership of the NFDC GIS partnership. A meeting was scheduled to finalise the draft for presentation to the Council for approval and, if approved, for submission to the NFNPA.

## **13. ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk reported that the contamination survey had revealed no contamination. The reports were being sent to the NFNPA together with responses to the other conditions imposed by them, and work would commence as soon as possible after Easter.

## **14. ANNUAL PARISH FETE**

**Cllr Sturgess** reported that the site was filling up but some spaces still remained.

## **15. LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

**The Chairman** announced there had been no other residents willing to dedicate their time to this village, and therefore there is no election for this Parish and the existing Councillors are duly elected unopposed for the next four years. Part of me is sorry that there is no election but it does show the assurance and confidence of our residents to allow this election to go through without a vote.

## **16. NE QUADRANT MEETING**

**The Chairman** said this item had been dealt with under agenda item 9. **Cllr Bryant** reminded councillors that they had an invitation to attend the South East Quadrant meeting at Denny Lodge

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

The Clerk advised that the new village sign would be installed within the next few days near Colbury Memorial Hall.

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

**The Chairman** reminded everyone that it was the Annual General Meeting in May and that started at 7pm. The NFNPA Rangers would be the special speakers on this occasion.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.32pm

**Signed S. R. Arnold – Chairman**  
**2011**

**Dated 17<sup>th</sup> May**