

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council, Tuesday, 18th April 2017.

Held at The Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury, at 7.30pm.

Present; Cllr C Hubbard (CH), Cllr Clive White (CW), Cllr Ann Sturgess (AS), Cllr Emma Lacey (EL), Cllr Ian Hobbs (IH), Cllr Heather Richards (HR), Cllr Mike Thomas (MT)

Clerk; Helen Klaassen (Clerk)

HCC; Cllr Keith Mans

New Forest District Council; Cllr Derek Tipp

Members of the Public; 9

The Chairman welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

Action

698/AGM Election of Chairman

The Chairman handed over to the Clerk who asked for nominations for the position of Chair. Cllr Thomas nominated Cllr Lacey, Cllr Richards seconded. There were no further nominations. A vote was taken and Cllr Lacey was duly elected Chair. Cllr Lacey then signed her Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Clerk.

699/AGM Election of Vice Chairman

The Clerk asked for nominations for the post of Vice Chair. Cllr Lacey nominated Cllr Thomas, Cllr Hobbs seconded. There were no further nominations. A vote was taken and Cllr Thomas was duly elected Vice Chair. Cllr Thomas then signed his Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Clerk.

700/AGM To Fix the Amount of The Chairman's Allowance. As per section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1972. Resolved; That the Chairman's allowance remain at the current rate of £400.

701/AGM To Appoint Members to Parish Council Committees. Resolved; That the committee members should be thus; Highways and Transport; Cllrs Sturgess, Hobbs, Lacey. Planning and Development; Cllrs Hubbard, White, Thomas, Hobbs. Open Spaces; Cllrs Sturgess, Thomas, Hubbard, Richards. Community Engagement; Cllrs Sturgess, White, Thomas, Lacey, Richards. Finance and Resources; Cllr White and Committee Chairs (as and when elected).

702/AGM To Appoint Representatives to "Other Bodies" Resolved; That Representatives should be thus; NFALC (New Forest Association of Local Councils) – Cllrs Hubbard and Sturgess. New Forest Consultative Panel – Cllr Thomas. New Forest Passenger Transport Forum – Cllr Hobbs. Parish Plan Working Party – Cllrs Lacey and Richards (Cllr White considering). Ashurst and Colbury Community Group – Cllr White.

703/AGM Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. To review the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations with a view to vote upon any changes required.

The Clerk proposed some changes based on the new Committee Structures, these were; Financial Regulations; 2.3 To add in 'The Finance and Resources Committee shall review the budgets and make its recommendation to the Full Council who will...'. 3.4 Adjust 'Council' to read Finance and Resources Committee. 4.2 Add 'Clerk'

Standing Orders; 2.2 Delete as repetition. 4.1 Add 'quarterly'. 6.4 To add in 'The Finance and Resources Committee shall review the budgets and make its recommendation to the Full Council who will...'. 7.1 Adjust 'Council' to read Finance and Resources Committee.

15.5 discussion took place regarding whether this needed changing to reflect the Clerk's new working hours. It was decided to leave it as it was.

Resolved; To accept the changes suggested.

Clerk

704/FC Wild Play Project. To hear a presentation given by Suzi Shilling, NFNPA Wild Play Project Officer and decide whether to take the project forward and agree next steps.

Ms Shilling's presentation outlined the purpose of a Wild Play project and the reasons for inception. Members were informed of the drop in children playing outside, these days favouring screens instead. Today's children watch an average of 17 hours television per week and between 1974 and 1999 there has been a significant increase in child mental health issues.

The Wild Play project aims to bring nature back to children. To encourage to play in and with the woods making dens, climbing, building and using their imaginations. Play England, the RSPB, the Forestry Commission, the National Trust and the National Park Authorities across the country are focused on promoting this project.

Councillors then asked questions of Ms Shilling, including how much space was needed. The answer being not much, but it was important that the space was properly outdoorsy and an area that was easily accessed, that parents could easily take their children to.

Volunteers would be needed to keep an eye on the area and occasionally re-arrange what was there. The site on the corner of Woodland and Lyndhurst Road was discussed, but there were concerns raised about its suitability. Other areas suggested were land near the old cricket pitch and an area of the BME copse at Deerleap Lane currently used by the Scouts.

Councillors were keen to encourage the project and **resolved** that it should be carried forward. Ms Shilling was asked to further it on our behalf, including looking into suitable spaces and providing criteria for the project.

705/FC Public Participation.

Mrs Oliver; Foxhills footpath; were there plans to follow up, as after the railway line there was no actual path, which may make it hard for wheelchair users to access.

Cllr Lacey said that plans were underway to upgrade the access and a letter had been received from Barker Mills Estates giving permission to change the gates, but with restriction on gate type. The same permission was being awaited from Network Rail.

Mrs Baker; Thanked Cllr White and Cllr Richards for their help and assistance with the 170th Anniversary of the Railway Station.

Mr Barron; Congratulated the Council on the new drainage in the allotments, the fence and that the rats were now under control. He expressed concerns about the unkempt state of some surrounding plots and the weeds that grew which then seeded onto his plots.

Cllr Lacey assured him these matters would be looked into by the Open Spaces Committee immediately.

Mr Ruffel; Would the Parish Council be holding a Fete this year?

Cllr Lacey answered that the fete would fall under the Community Engagement Committee and although a fete wouldn't be held this year, there were plans for a smaller event on 9th September.

Mr Oliver; Wanted allotment holders to be aware that adders have been seen in the allotments and to inform the PC that the ditch needs strimming. Would the allotment inspections continue?

Cllr Lacey replied that this would now come under the Open Space Committee who would arrange for the work to be carried out. Also that the message regarding adders should be communicated to Allotment holders via letter or an article in the magazine.

**OSC
CEC /
Clerk**

706/FC Apologies for Absence.
Cllr Puttock.

707/FC Disclosure of Interest in an Agenda Item.
None.

708/FC Approval of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 18th April 2017 as a Correct Record of Proceedings.

It was noted that in minute 681/FC 'using' should be altered to 'applying for'. The Clerk corrected the paper copy and made note to adjust the electronic copy.

The Minutes were then signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Clerk

- 709/FC Matters Arising Not on the Agenda.**
 Clerks Actions;
 677/FC Regarding the issue on Spicers Hill Roundabout, the Clerk had been in contact with HCC who would pass it on to their Traffic Dept.
 677/FC Knellers Lane issues had been reported to HCC.
 681/FC Regarding the Foxhills footpath. Still awaiting a response from Network Rail.
 681/FC 2. The trackside gate had now been replaced.
 684/FC The Church Rooms were now booked for the Carols on 12th December.
 688/FC The Clerk had contacted HALC regarding Performance Management and their response emailed to Councillors.
 691/FC The Clerk had spoken to HCC who informed her that NFDC were responsible for cutting the grass within the 30 and 40mph speed limits. The Clerk would contact NFDC to ascertain their thoughts on wildflower planting on the verges. **Clerk**
- 710/FC Accounts and Clerk's Report.**
 1. To consider accounts paid and payable (Appendix 3)
Resolved; To accept the Accounts as presented.
 2. Clerk's Report
 The clerk reported that she had meet Hampshire Country Council highways representative Jon and have gone on a drive around the parish. Matters discussed included;
 Verges in Ashdene Road. These verges are owned by HCC, who do not want to see any obstructions on them for health and safety and their liability for accident or injury occurring because of any obstruction. In addition to this services to each property ran under the verges and damage could be caused to pipework if, for example, stakes were put into the ground.
It was agreed a piece regarding the verges should go in the magazine and on noticeboards. **Clerk**
 Following her meeting with Jon, the Clerk then attended HCC's Hounslow depot to follow up on some matters. Whilst there, and perusing HCC's mapping tools they discovered that HCC did indeed have responsibility for the precinct area outside the shops. The Clerk discussed with Jon that the PC were keen to rejuvenate the area and he agreed that some arrangement could be come to regarding this.
 The Clerk also took this opportunity to search out the ownership of several other pieces of land in the Parish. Regarding the allotments; the Clerk reported that she had recently let two plots and that there were two now remaining.
- 711/FC Police / Neighbourhood Watch Report.**
Mrs Oliver;
 There had been no more thefts from local houses, and investigations into those that had occurred were ongoing.
 Recently some bikes had been stolen from the Station, those with cable locks, which had been cut through. Those with D-locks had been left. Mrs Oliver had received a message from the Clerk to contact PC Rob Forder who was with the British Transport Police (based in London Bridge), who had diverted to the Station having picked up the message regarding the thefts. He remained at the Station until well after 7.30pm doing frame numbers on the bikes. Frame numbers are unique to each bicycle and on the frame permanently. For more information contact 0800 405040, or text 61016.
Article on Cycle thefts for Magazine. **Clerk**
- 712FC Correspondence.**
 Letter from Victim Support for funding assistance; It was decided to politely decline their request for funding.
 HALC Quadrant Elections; Cllr Thomas indicated he would like to stand on behalf of the Parish Council and it was **Resolved; that Cllr Thomas be nominated for election to the North East Quadrant.** **Clerk**
- 713/FC County Councillor's Report.**
 Cllr Mans reported that HCC had yet to meet following the recent elections and that when they do so he will ask to remain as National Park Authority and Business Partnership representative.
 Cllr Mans suspected that HCC would have to continue to bear down on costs. He also informed those present that the main contractor for HCC would be changing from Amey to Skanska.
 Both Cllr Mans and Cllr Tipp gave their congratulations to the new Chair and Vice Chair and acknowledged the work and superb job done by the outgoing Chair and Vice Chair.
- 714/FC District Councillor's Report.**
 Cllr Tipp reported that NFDC had recently had their Annual Meeting, where they arranged committees an voted the chairs of each committee in.

Goff Beck stepped down as chair having raised £78,000 for his nominated charities and his place as leader was taken by Cllr Christine Ward of New Milton.

Chris Elliott was stepping down as Head of Planning and his replacement had been recruited from outside of NFDC.

715/FC Minutes of Other Committee Meetings.

Planning – 18.04.17.

716/FC Defibrillator Training.

Cllr Thomas reported that the date for the training was 21st June, two sessions one at 3.30pm and one at 6.30pm. 20 people each session. The sessions will focus on basic heart massage and using a defibrillator on the event of a heart attack.

The sessions will be free to the council and more could be booked if the initial two are oversubscribed.

Places can be booked through the Clerk via email or phone.

717/FC Speedwatch.

Resolved; That the Clerk obtain quotes for the equipment and enquire whether it would need regular maintenance, e.g. calibration, and the cost of that.

Clerk

718/FC Green Space Designation.

An article would be placed in the magazine. The Clerk reported that she had communication with David Illsley who had suggested that the moment had passed for designation.

The matter was discussed and Cllr Lacey agreed to contact DI to ascertain the way forward.

EL

719/FC Lengthsman Scheme.

The Clerk reported that the Clerk from Nursling and Rownhams was on holiday and she would speak to him when he returned. In the meantime, Ashurst and Colbury PC would act as the lead council.

720/FC Reports from Representatives of Other Bodies. To receive feedback of information relevant to the parish from Councillors who attended those meetings.

Cllr Hubbard – AGM for the Parish Outreach Group

Cllr Richards and Cllr White – Attended and helped out at the 170th Anniversary of the Railway Station and associated meetings.

Cllr White Ashurst and Colbury Community Group AGM and the Parish Outreach Group AGM – their next event being on 14th June.

Cllrs Hobbs, Thomas and Lacey also attended the Station's Anniversary celebrations.

Parish Plan update from Cllr Lacey; Parish Councillors had received the minutes and themes for the questionnaires. It is planned to have a draft questionnaire by 31st May to circulate to councillors at the next PC meeting.

721/FC Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting.

1. Timetables of committee meetings needed before next meeting
2. Projector for use during meeting to be investigated.

Agenda Item 710/FC 1. Accounts Paid and Payable

Payments Received Since Last Meeting		
Date	Details	Amount
11.04.17	Mag Ad; MD elec	60.00
13.04.17	Mag Ad; Skin Co	36.00
13.04.17	Mag Ad; Slim World	220.00
20.04.17	Mag Ad; Lynd Bap	110.00
25.04.17	Mag Ad; MJ Woodman	60.00
28.04.17	Mag Ad; Maids of the Forest	110.00
28.04.17	Mag Ad; C Chauffeurs	22.00
	Total	£618.00

Payments Made / To be Made				
Date	Details	Payee	Chq	Amount
26.04.17	Water at Allotments	Southern Water	2177	117.22
16.05.17	July mag, Dom name 2 years,web, email, hosting	TLC Online	2178	584.00
16.05.17	Lottery Licence	NFDC licensing	2179	20.00
16.05.17	Waste clearance & equipment repair	Weed It and Reap	2180	100.00
16.05.17	Donation	Parish Outreach Group	2181	100.00
16.05.17	Clerks Sal & expenses	H Klaassen	2182	748.13
			Total	£1,669.35

Signed: _____

Date: _____