

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council on 17th May 2016 at 7.30pm, held at the Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury.

Present: Cllr M Coaker (Chairman), Cllr Caroline Hubbard (Vice Chairman), Cllr Sally Arnold, Cllr Emma Lacey, Cllr Stuart Jenkins, Cllr Ann Sturgess, Cllr Mike Thomas, Cllr Clive White.

Clerk; Helen Klaassen

NFDC; Cllr L Puttock.

Members of the Public; 16

Cllr Coaker opened the meeting and welcomed everyone attending. It was noted that Cllrs Thomas and Jenkins were making a recording of the meeting for their own personal and private use.

Cllr Coaker also took a moment to Congratulate the Clerk, who being a Councillor for Lyndhurst Parish Council had just been elected to Chairman of that council.

484/AGM Apologies for Absence

Were received from Cllr Keith Mans and Cllr Derek Tipp.

485/AGM Election of Chairman

Before the nominations for Chairman Cllr Coaker made a statement;

The past year has been very arduous and time consuming causing many conflicts with my own time when I have many personal activities taking place.

I would like to say therefore should I be proposed for the position of chair and be elected, I would wish that some changes be made to make the position easier.

Nominations for the post of Chair were received. Cllr Arnold nominated Cllr Coaker, Cllr Sturgess seconded. Vote; 7 in favour, 1 abstention.

Following his reinvestiture as Chairman, Cllr Coaker made a statement; You are all well aware of past issues and although some have been resolved, in my opinion the majority of work is being done by the few putting an unnecessary burden on those individuals.

In my view Cllr Lacy has been very active in sharing the workload however I will be candid and I believe with the exception of the recent arrangements for celebrations in the park Cllrs Jenkins and Thomas have brought very little to the Council which I am sure they must agree with.

Therefore I would like to see the committees better balanced with a spread of the workload and bring the Council to where it should be by being more harmonious and therefore bringing greater benefit to the community.

We also need to update the Standing Orders and bring the Clerk into the proceedings with regular reports, update and advice.

Cllr Coaker also took a moment to remind councillors that the clerk was not a filing clerk but the council responsible financial and proper officer.

486/AGM Election Of Vice Chairman

Nominations for the post of Vice Chair were received. Cllr Arnold nominated Cllr Hubbard and Cllr Lacey seconded. Vote; 8 in favour.

487/AGM To Fix The Amount Of The Chairman's Allowance

Cllr Coaker informed those present that he had spent approximately £150 of the chairman's allowance on the Christmas meeting, Christmas carol evening and had allowed for some on the older peoples tea party that would be taking place soon.

It was proposed to fix the amount of the chairman's allowance at £400 per annum and that any unspent allowance should not roll over. Cllr White proposed, Cllr Hubbard seconded, All Agreed.

488/AGM To Appoint Members To Parish Council Committees (Appendix1)

i. Allotments

Cllrs, Thomas, Sturgess and Arnold.

Ian Oliver as sitting as Allotment Holders representative.

The Clerk advised that as both Cllrs Sturgess and Thomas were allotment holders themselves they would be restricted in voting on financial matters and that she would advise as appropriate.

ii. Fete

Cllrs Coaker, Hubbard, White, Lacey, Sturgess and Arnold.

iii. Magazine

Cllrs White, Lacey, Sturges and Thomas.

iv. Planning

Cllrs Hubbard, Jenkins and Thomas.

v. Recreation Ground

Cllrs Coaker, Sturges, Jenkins and Arnold.

vi. Staffing

Cllrs White, Thomas, Coaker, and Arnold.

489/AGM To Appoint Representatives To Other Bodies.

NFALC (New Forest Association of Local Councils) – Cllrs Hubbard and Arnold.

New Forest Consultative Panel – Cllr Hubbard and (Amendment 21/06.16) Thomas.

Flooding - Cllr Arnold

Transport – Cllrs Coaker and Jenkins.

490/AGM Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

To review the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations with a view to vote upon any changes required. (Appendix 2)

It was agreed that the Clerk should update the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations with suggested changes and that they would be presented for approval at the June full council meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the inclusion of councillors being disallowed from recording meetings.

Cllrs Jenkins and Thomas did not agree that it should be included and requested that the Clerk enquire from HALC what would happen if a Councillor disobeyed a standing order.

Agreed, that the clerk would contact HALC to ask what action could be take if a councillor deliberately flouted a standing order and that Councillors would contact the clerk with suggested changes to the standing orders and financial regulations.

Cllr Coaker suggested some additions;

2.4 That it be 'April' be amended to read 'March' for the APM.

3.5.4. Additional wording should be included to disallow councillors recording meetings.

3.17. That an ongoing list of outstanding items be produced. That debate by email should be discouraged and, where appropriate, matters discussed in meetings.

7. That there should be less councillors needed as signatories as there had, of late been issues with the banking that required all signatories to sign, which had impeded arrangements. It was suggested four signatories including the clerk would be sufficient.

9.5. That all contractors should produce, to the satisfaction of the RFO, insurance and competency documents before undertaking a contract. Thus enabling the clerk to set appropriate levels of Public Liability Insurance.

3.1.5 That following any amendment to the minutes, the clerk would re-distribute the amended minutes.

That Quotes for proposed works / contracts be made available before the meeting at which they are to be debated.

Financial

1.4. For the appointment of an advisor who need not be a councillor.

As The Standing orders to reduce the number of councillors who are signatories.

8.2 to correct the spelling error contract not contact.

10.4 To add wording to clarify the position regarding contractors public liability insurance.

491/FC Disclosure Of Interest In An Agenda Item

Councillors are reminded that under the Code of Conduct if they have a personal interest in any item on the agenda they must declare it now.

Cllrs Sturges and Thomas on matters regarding the allotments.

492/FC Public Participation

Members of the Public, with the approval of the Chairman, will have the opportunity to ask questions relating to matters of community interest, which fall within the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Charles Marchetti spoke to give his position, as ex-chair of the Allotment Committee, on the agreement to provide gravel to allotment holder Tony Barron. He told councillors that the plot that Mr & Mrs Barron had taken on was in a very poor state to begin with, but they had been desperate for a plot. Mr and Mrs Barron had put in a

great deal of work. A conversation had taken place between Mr Marchetti and Mr Barron regarding the drainage channels that were to be installed and Mr Barron enquired whether he could have some gravel from that. Mr Marchetti had replied that Mr Barron had done a great job so he didn't see why not, and that there was always bits left over from jobs like this. Mr Marchetti said that this was a sympathetic gesture made on the understanding that there was gravel left over and that it was not his intention that any should be bought in or allowed for specifically.

Mr Mike Craig spoke regarding the flooding at Fletchwood Lane. He reported that the Forestry Commission had said they would take action to prevent any further flooding.

Mrs Karen Oliver enquired If any one knew anything about a new magazine purporting to cover Ashurst and Totton.

The PC replied that it was a business enterprise that was nothing to do with the PC so they had no control over it.

Heather Richards; enquired about the deer fencing in the allotments and whether it was likely to be installed soon.

Cllr Arnold replied that, due to its size, the fencing would need planning permission, but that the matter would be discussed at the next Allotment Committee Meeting.

Cllr Sturgess reported that the temporary fencing in the Recreation Ground had been knocked over.

Cllr Coaker reported that it would soon be replaced with the finished fencing as a few uprights had gone missing so RM Smith were having to make new ones. The clerk would ring them to see how they were progressing.

Cllr White also noted that there was a kink in the first part of the panel, perhaps where it had been stored. The Clerk agreed to look at it and see what remedial action should be taken.

Cllr Arnold produced a note she had received from a parishioner regarding the increase of dog fouling on the footpath beside the A35. It was discussed whether or not another dog waste bin would be required.

493/FC

To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19th April 2016.

Cllr Sturgess proposed and Cllr Hubbard seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record. All agreed.

494/FC

Matters Arising not on the Agenda.

Cllr Lacey gave an update regarding the Youth Matters in the magazine. She reported that Mr and Mrs Hall, who used to run the youth club, had come to see her son Dan to help him set up one in the village, together with PC Carlin. Cllr Lacey also reported that on 22nd June she and Dan were going to visit the youth club run by Hythe and Dibden Parish Council.

Cllr White thanked Cllr Lacey for the work she had done on this and other things on behalf of the Parish Council and also thanked her son Dan for his input to the magazine too.

495/FC

Accounts. To consider accounts;

1. Paid and payable since the last meeting (Appendix 3).

Cllr Lacey proposed, Cllr White seconded, All Agreed.

Cllr Arnold mentioned that the key she had given to Mr and Mrs Beecham was not working and she still had the £5 deposit they had given it, she wished to know what she should do about the situation. She was advised to take the key back and return the £5 deposit to the Beechams and return the key to the clerk who would take it to be re-cut.

2. Year End Accounts for the Year 2015-2016.

Councillors were happy with the summary present by the clerk, who informed them that the internal auditor would be coming to the office on Friday to audit the full accounts, which she hoped to present at the June meeting.

496/FC

Police / Neighbourhood Watch Report.

PCSO Richard Williams introduced himself to councillors as part of the new beat team covering the 'Heart of the Forest' which Ashurst and Colbury were within.

He told those assembled that Hampshire Constabulary had wanted to recruit a team of officers who were prepared to stay a long time.

PCSO Williams talked about the nuisance caused by dog fouling and said that should anyone know of any repeat offenders to let him know and he may be able to issue a ticket.

He also spoke regarding the youth club saying it was an area of interest to him. The team wanted to get in contact with as many people as possible.

Incidents;

3 assaults, 2 domestics and an occurrence of a carrot being thrown from a car window for a nearby horse to eat, which the driver in the car behind took umbrage at and things got a little heated. PCSO Williams pointed out that an assault does not necessarily mean physical violence but includes threatening behaviour too.

8 Speeding offences.

Suspicious incident of youths playing in woods.

PCSO Williams said that visitors to the forest found it unusual to see animals on the road and he had received calls regarding that already.

Speeding 8 offences.

There had been an incident of someone spitting at another.

In another amusing incident PCSO Williams received a report from some campers that their neighbour had had his tent and all his camping equipment stolen, but in fact he had packed up and checked out before they had woken up!

They would be continuing the Beat Surgery and enquired if anyone could think of anywhere else they should hold it other than the Co-op. A place with high footfall was needed so they could reach as many people as possible.

They are speaking with someone from Help the Aged who is arranging a workshop to educate the elderly about the danger of being scammed.

497/FC

Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations / Recreation Ground Dedication Day.

To receive an update and to consider allocated funds for the day.

Cllr Jenkins reported that A Picnic in the Park was the title and would include; a bouncy castle, coffee van, beer tent (by the New Forest Hotel), ice cream, free cake, art table, crown competition and face painter.

They had yet to set up location plan but would do so shortly and would be utilising the FIT 'Field Day' goody boxes. They were working on getting music and promotion would be by way of posters and a write-up in the magazine. Posters would be put on the notice boards and around the village.

Bryan Pass was kindly donating loos.

They would be using two marquees one from Cllr Sturgess and one from the PC.

Cllr Sturgess reported the Ukulele group were coming.

It was also suggested that since the majority of the pupils at Foxhills were not resident in Ashurst that it would be inappropriate to pass out flyers to the school.

So far costs totalled £331.

Discussion took place on whether that amount could increase and it was proposed that the amount should be increased to £500.

Resolved; that the amount to be spent on the Dedication Day Event be raised to £500. All agreed.

Cllr Coaker reported that Alf Baker was doing a great job on the plinth and thanked him for his hard work. He would be finishing it soon with flint on the sides and top and the plaque in the centre.

498/FC

Verges in Ashurst.

Following correspondence on the subject to discuss the matter and decide on a way forward.

It was noted that Jonathan Bell had installed concrete edging along the bottom of the verges outside his property.

It was acknowledged that more should be done to support the residents in taking action against vehicles damaging the verges.

499/FC

Electoral Review of Hampshire.

No comments.

500/FC

Fete. To receive an update.

Cllr White reported that everything was going well and that there had been an increase in the uptake of stalls.

Cllr Sturgess noted that stallholders should be aware that even if you weren't paying for stall you still needed to complete the form.

501/FC

Recreation Ground. To receive an update.

That the Chair and Clerk were looking into a 'free trees' scheme administered by the NPA.

502/FC

Minutes of Other Committee Meetings.

1. Planning Committee – 19.04.16

For information.

503/FC

Reports from Representatives of other bodies. To receive feedback of information relevant to the parish from Councillors who attended those meetings.

District Councillor's Report;

Apologies as the Clerk forgot to put it on the main agenda.

Cllr Puttock; The new NFDC Chair was elected at the last meeting. Cllr Goff Beck would take over from Cllr Alison Hoare.

HCC are looking at Waste Recycling facilities to save money, one such is Marchwood Tip and were considering the possibility of shutting an hour earlier to save money. The idea of charging a small sum for deposits had also been considered but the government had vetoed that. It had been noted that in closing recycling centres or significantly reducing the hours, that it would prompt an increase in fly tipping.

There had been discussion about creating a unitary authority including NFDC, IOW and Portsmouth as UAs attract more government grants. The difficulty would be trying to find an authority of operated in the same way as NFDC. Currently no decisions had been made.

Cllr White; Ashurst and Colbury Community Group AGM (Congratulations to Alister Hutchin on becoming Chair the PC looks forward to maintaining a good working relationship with ACCG),

Cllr Arnold; NFALC, NPA Meeting.

Cllr Thomas ACCG AGM and numerous mini-meetings with Cllr Jenkins regarding the Dedication / Fun Day

Cllr Hubbard; NFALC

Cllr Coaker; various activities involving the plinth for the Dedication Day.

504/FC

Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting.

Should the parish council consider funding for the elderly group's future events? How we can support it as a PC – elderly strategy?

Standing orders.

Cllr Lacey enquired about the travel plan, Ann Arscott, Chair of Governors at the Junior School answered; The schools have met with the transport manager from HCC and First Bus. First Bus is prepared to provide a service but it must be commercially viable with seats full and parents must pay upfront for each term. Parents have been able to pay as you go up until now but unless the bus is full and paid for up front it won't happen. The consultation is ongoing.

It was noted that parents at Hounslowdown have to pay for their bus service, but pupils at Foxhills have never had to.

Cllr Coaker remarked that normally the parish council would not get involved with the school's travel plan, but that since a decrease in bus services meant an increase in local traffic it was an area of concern.

The matter of the parish logo would be looked at by the Magazine Committee and brought back to full council for a final decision.

There being no other business, Cllr Coaker thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.28pm.

Signed; _____ (Chairman)

Date; _____