

Minutes of the Annual General / Full Council Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council on 19th May 2015, held at the Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury.

Present; Cllr. M Coaker (Chairman) Cllr. A Sturgess, Cllr. S Arnold, Cllr. C White, Cllr C Hubbard, Cllr. M Thomas, Cllr E Lacey, Cllr S Jenkins.
Cllr L Puttock (NFDC)
Clerk to the Council; H Klaassen.
17 Members of the public.

281/AGM Apologies for Absence
Cllr K Mans, Cllr D Tipp.

282/AGM Election of Chairman
Cllr Arnold Proposed and Cllr Sturgess Seconded Cllr Coaker for the position of Chairman, and it was **Unanimously Agreed.**

283/AGM Election Of Vice Chairman
Cllr Arnold Proposed and Cllr White seconded Cllr Hubbard for the position of Vice Chairman.
Cllr Jenkins proposed and Cllr Thomas Seconded Cllr Lacey for the position of Vice Chairman.
A secret ballot was taken and the votes counted by the Clerk and the result with 5 votes to 3 was that Cllr Hubbard was elected to Vice Chairman.

284/AGM Acceptance of Office and Register of Interest Forms
The forms were duly signed in the Clerk's presence and returned to her.

285/AGM To Fix The Amount Of The Chairman's Allowance
As per section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.
After some discussion Cllr Hubbard proposed and Cllr White seconded that the amount should be set at £400 and it was **unanimously agreed.**

286/AGM To Appoint Members To Parish Council Committees (Appendix1)
The chairman asked the assembled councillors, of those that were re-elected, if they wished to stay on their respective committees or move to others. As it was those councillors were happy with their current positions and therefore Cllr Arnold proposed and Cllr White seconded that existing members should stay on the committees and it was **unanimously agreed.**

Discussion then ensued to bring the new councillors onto committees. Thus the committees now stand at;

i. Allotments; Cllr Arnold, Cllr White, Cllr Hubbard.

Cllr Thomas stated a desire to join the Allotment Committee. He was reminded that the matter had been discussed before and that as he was an existing Allotment Holder his being on the Allotment Committee would represent both a personal and pecuniary conflict of interest, therefore, despite Cllr Thomas' disagreeing with that statement, the request was denied.

ii. Fete; Cllr Sturgess (Chair), Cllr Coaker, Cllr Hubbard, Cllr Arnold, Cllr White.

iii. Magazine; Cllr White (Chair), Cllr Sturgess, Cllr Coaker, Cllr Lacey.

iv. Planning; Cllr White, Cllr Hubbard, Cllr Coaker.

Cllrs Lacey, Thomas and Jenkins stated a desire to join the Planning Committee. Discussion ensued and all the Councillors were advised by their Clerk, that as Cllrs Lacey, Jenkins and Thomas were active members of an action group (Keep Ashurst And Colbury Green Group) that sought to influence opinion, especially in matters of housing and development within the village, that their inclusion on the planning committee would constitute a conflict of interest; in accordance with the Code Of Conduct and the Standing Orders. It was felt that, in addition to the obvious conflict of

interest, to allow them onto the committee would leave the Parish Council susceptible to legal challenge from parishioners should a situation arise where Cllrs Lacey, Thomas and Jenkins were perceived to have a predetermined view. They did not accede to this interpretation, stating they believed that their membership of KACGG should not preclude them from sitting on the Planning Committee as, in their opinion; they were not of a predetermined viewpoint.

Thus the matter was put to the vote; to allow Cllrs Lacey, Thomas and Jenkins to join the Planning Committee. The vote stood at 5 members against and 3 for and the motion was carried that **Cllrs Lacey, Thomas and Jenkins would not be permitted to join the Planning Committee as their membership of Keep Ashurst Green was considered to be a Conflict of Interest in direct contravention of the Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.**

v. **Recreation Ground;** Cllr Coaker, Cllr Arnold, Cllr Sturgess, Cllr Jenkins.

vi. **Staffing;** Cllr White, Cllr Arnold, Cllr Coaker, Cllr Thomas.

The Parish Council would also retain Charles Marchetti in an advisory capacity due to his background in finance to assist the clerk when required, and it was; **Unanimously agreed.**

287/AGM To Appoint Representatives To "Other Bodies" (Appendix1)

NFALC (New Forest Association of Local Councils) – Cllr Arnold, Cllr Sturgess.

New Forest Consultative Panel – Cllr Hubbard, Cllr Thomas

Flooding – Cllr Coaker, Cllr Sturgess

Transport – Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Coaker

288/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.

Cllr Arnold declared an interest in Agenda item FC/297 as she is a member of the NPA.

289/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.

Resident David White spoke regarding the cycling group he ran through the Ashurst and Colbury Community Group. The group undertook leisurely bike rides in and around the parish.

He wished to make two points; firstly that it was a disappointment that there was no longer any cycle hire within the village as this was something that people had relied upon.

Secondly, the matter of the 40mph limit on the section of road by Fletchwood Lane / Woodlands Road, as this was a route frequently used to access the forest by the group. He stated that as well as the high speed limit, visibility was poor and it was well used by buses and children, all adding to issues in that area.

It was noted that the proposed Ashurst link cycle path was the 'missing link' in terms of the cycle path from the main A35 Lyndhurst to Southampton route.

Resident Heather Richards spoke on the same issue, she also felt that the limit of 40mph was too high and would like to see the limit reduced to make the road safer for other road users.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Hampshire County Council Highways to ask them to investigate reducing the speed limit and make Cllr Mans aware of the issue.

Resident Owen Gibson spoke. He asked if the Parish Council would be keeping an eye on the resurfacing of Ashdene and New Roads, as some of the asphalt was already breaking up.

The Council responded that they had expected some disruption of the surfacing as it was known that the under-surface of those roads was pocketed and unstable, but that the re-surfacing team were

aware of that now and were working to correct it.

Mr Gibson asked if the other roads in need of repair would now be given consideration, such as Whartons Lane.

Cllr White responded to remind Mr Gibson and others that all matters pertaining to highways could now be reported direct to HCC via their website and that reports can be gained to ascertain the progress of reported items.

It was agreed that the clerk would seek from HCC an updated report of items within the parish.

Mr Gibson also asked, given the recent issues with the planning within the village, and the turbulent times in 2014 the Chairman mentioned in his piece in the March Magazine, if the Parish Council has any intention of changing the manner in which they received comment from the electorate?

Cllr Coaker answered that this forum of public participation was the PC's method of hearing from the residents and also referred Mr Gibson to the recent election as a way of villagers choosing who they wish to represent them. Cllr Coaker also pointed out that it was the nature of democracy that when issues were addressed and courses of action decided upon that not everyone would agree with the decisions made.

290/FC Minutes

To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings;

Annual Parish Meeting – 21st April 2015. Cllr Thomas proposed and Cllr White seconded that the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and it was **unanimously agreed**.

Full Council Meeting - 21st April 2015. Cllr Arnold proposed and Cllr Hubbard seconded that the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting and it was **unanimously agreed**.

291/FC Matters arising not on the Agenda.

FC/291. The PC could now confirm that they had confirmation that the bus route for concessionary fares did not fall within the criteria listed by HCC and would therefore not apply for an earlier start on concessionary bus passes. However, given that this section was mid route it was agreed that;

The Clerk would contact the bus company and HCC to ask again if these two times could be included.

Cllr Coaker also mentioned that there was a new bus service operating during the summer months called New Forest Bus, but on closer inspection the routes through Ashurst were the same as the Blue Bus no 6 route and not in addition to them.

Cllr Thomas reported back that further to Cllr Arnold's enquiry at the last meeting that the staff undertaking the Urge cycle projects would be DBS checked. He also mentioned that Urge had yet to secure funding but that we would continue to keep in contact with them.

292/FC Accounts. To consider accounts paid and payable since the last meeting (Appendix 2).

The clerk presented the accounts payable and monies received since the last meeting and noted in addition to these there were;

£10 – HALC - Postage for dividers.

£51 – TLC – Website maintenance for April, May June and email provision.

£20 – NFDC – Fete Lottery Licence

£11.25 – Cllr White – Mileage expenses for NPA Planning Meeting.

Cllr Arnold proposed and Cllr Hubbard seconded that the accounts be accepted and it was **unanimously agreed**.

293/FC Correspondence.

1) An invoice from NFDC for the next year's provision of the GIS mapping service. Discussion ensued surrounding the fact that the Parish Council had never used the service provided as they had found it

technically too difficult to use and had never had the need to anyway. Therefore, it was decided that;
The Council would discontinue their subscription to this service and that the Clerk would contact NFDC to advise this.

2) HALC email regarding New Councillor Courses. Cllr Lacey and Jenkins, requested that the clerk obtain more information regarding the content of the course and further dates.

3) Hampshire County Council's Annual Service. Cllrs Hubbard and Sturgess to attend.

4) Quadrant elections to NPA. It was **unanimously agreed** that Cllr Arnold should be nominated for this.

294/FC County Councillor's Report.

There was nothing further to report from Cllr Mans than had been heard at previous meetings.

295/FC District Councillor's Report.

Cllr Puttock thanked the electorate in Ashurst and Colbury for voting him and Cllr Tipp back in as NFDC Councillors. He noted that he had served as a district councillor for more than 12 years and on Parish Council for more than 20 years and should therefore know how to interact with the electorate on matters pertaining to Planning, Traffic and Flooding.

Cllr Puttock informed the Parish Council that NFDC has the lowest parking charges in England. They have gained subsidised funding for recycling and despite the government having with drawn more the £3million in grant aid, have still managed to hold council tax.

Brand New Forest continues to grow in popularity, but Cllr Puttock encouraged councillors to get themselves a card and to promote the scheme to others. To date 5000 cards have been sold which give a variety of discounts in shops and restaurants across the New Forest.

Cllr Puttock also told assembled members that £5million in grants had been raised towards the Lymington Museum Trust and the refurbishment of Eling Tide Mill.

The Town and Parish Clean Up day on 21st March had been a success.

NFDC had raised £2.5million from the sale of offices and two cottages on Dibden Golf Course.

The Forest Bus, Open Top Tour was a success, with in excess of 46,000 visitors last year.

296/FC Planning and Trees. To receive an update and for the committee to decide on responses to recent planning applications:

APPLICATION NUMBER: 15/00242/FULL

ADDRESS: 3 Woodside Gardens, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7BY

PROPOSAL: Creation of gable dormer

The committee recommended Option 1, Permission but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.

Post Meeting Note;

For Information, the response sent to the NPA Planning Officer was:

Reasons;

The Committee state that the extension does not seem unreasonable and that the design is in keeping with the existing property and the character of the area and neighbouring properties and is therefore not out of place.

In line with issues raised by a neighbouring property, the Committee also expressed a concern that the windows in the gable dormer would cause overlooking issues on neighbouring properties. They have requested therefore that, if it is appropriate, they would like to see a planning condition that the windows, which are bathroom windows anyway, could have opaque or frosted glass.

APPLICATION NUMBER: 15/00302/FULL

ADDRESS: Brierley, Knellers Lane, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7EB

PROPOSAL: Outbuilding (demolition of existing buildings)

The committee recommended Option 1, Permission but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.

Post Meeting Note;

For Information; the response sent to the NPA Planning Officer was:

Reasons;

Overall the committee are in agreement with the plans to demolish and re-site the outbuildings. The design of the outbuilding is in keeping and in character with the surrounding areas and the committee are satisfied that it provides only for incidental use.

Concern has been raised however over the land to the rear of the bungalow. This land clearly belongs to the owners of Brierley, but the committee is concerned whether it, firstly, falls within the residential curtilage of Brierley and in addition to this whether it is intended to use that land at a future date to build an 'infill' property.

297/FC Reports from Representatives of Other Bodies. Councillor's feedback from meetings with information relevant to the parish.

None.

298/FC Items That the Chairman Deems Important.

None.

299/FC Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting.

The Chairman noted that the June Meeting would incorporate the individual committee meetings and advised residents to watch the notice boards for further information.

At 8.50pm the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed; _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1.

Committees

Allotments;

Sally Arnold

Fete;

Ann Sturgess (Chair), Sally Arnold, Caroline Hubbard, Max Coaker, Clive White

Magazine;

Clive White (Chair), Ann Sturgess, Max Coaker

Planning

Max Coaker, Clive White, Caroline Hubbard

Recreation Ground

Max Coaker (Chair), Sally Arnold, Ann Sturgess

Staffing

Clive White, Sally Arnold, Max Coaker

Representatives of Outside Bodies.

Flooding

Max Coaker, Ann Sturgess

Transport

Max Coaker, Clive White

New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC)

Sally Arnold, Ann Sturgess

New Forest Consultative Panel

Caroline Hubbard

Appendix 2

Payments Made

15.4.15	DD	Tesco	Clerks mobile	7.50
25.4.15	197 7	J McFarland	Key Deposit Return	20.00
25.4.15	197 8	R Oakley	Key Deposit Return	20.00
25.4.15	197 9	TLC	June Magazine	410.00
19.5.15	198 0	H Klaassen	Clerks Salary and Expenses	691.20
7.5.15	198 1	S Arnold	Expenses for HCC ETE Conf & NFALC MTG	22.76
14.5.15	198 2	NFDC	Tree Survey Recreation Ground	179.76

Payments Received

22.4.15	60.00	RGR Memorial Ad
22.4.15	50.00	Smallprint, ACCG Stalls
29.04.15	132.00	M&I Autos Ad
30.04.15	13,225.00	Precept
30.04.15	132.00	Happy Cheese Ad