

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council on 16th December 2014, held at the Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury.

Present; Cllr. P Sopowski (Chairman), Cllr. A Sturgess, Cllr. S Arnold, Cllr. C Marchetti, Cllr. M Coaker, Cllr. C Hubbard, Cllr. M Thomas, Cllr. C White.
Cllr. D Tipp (NFDC)
Clerk to the Council; H Klaassen.
20 Members of the public.

Item;

182/FC Public Participation.

Sue Arden spoke in regard to the planning permission for 84 Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst. She wished to urge the parish council to refuse the application as, in her opinion the building was, at 3 stories, significantly larger than other existing flats within the village. She also strongly felt it was against the village design statement.

Karen Oliver spoke regarding residents concern over the awful state of the footpath from the car park to the railway station. She stated it was, on the down side, flooded after rainfall, uneven and that there were streetlights broken. She wished to urge the council to look at the matter.

Jacqueline Marsh spoke regarding residents concern over the matter of vehicles parking too close to junctions, making it difficult for long vehicles to turn causing damage to verges, specifically in New and Ashdene Roads. In response Cllr Coaker suggested the parish council advise HCC highways and that a more permanent solution needed to be looked at.

Mrs Marsh also spoke regarding the poor state of the signage at the Ashurst Car Wash. She mentioned that another in the area had undergone refurbishment and that the result was very much smarter and requested that the PC look into the matter. The parish council confirmed that it would do so.

183/FC Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence received.

184/FC Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations received.

185/FC Police Report for November 2014

Presented by Karen Oliver, on behalf of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, who reported that;

There were 4 incidences of antisocial behaviour due to fireworks, nuisance motorcycles and noisy youths.

There were 2 assaults, both at care homes in the area.

No domestic burglaries, but 1 from a commercial premise.

There was 1 incidence of criminal damage to an underpass wall.

No drugs or public order offences.

There was 1 road traffic collision where a passenger suffered minor injuries and 1 road traffic incident whereby a driver was summonsed for a speeding offence.

There was 1 theft in which building materials were stolen, but no theft from vehicles.

A total of 2990 vehicles were checked by Speedwatch volunteers in October / November. Of those, 1490 (49.8%) were recorded exceeding the speed limit.

There were 6 animals killed or destroyed through hit and run accidents during the week 24th November to 3rd December. It was reiterated that during these dark winter evenings drivers should please keep to the speed limits and slow down for animals on forest roads.

Mrs Oliver also reported that Beat Reporting was due to change at the beginning of next year and that beat reports would now be forwarded via email. PC Rob Morant, who will be the new SN Team Leader, is happy to come and give a talk on the new Alerts in the New Year.

The Chairman, Cllr Sopowski, wished to thank Karen for taking up a resident's complaint about speeding down Woodlands Road. Cllr White suggested the possibility of a SID on the A35 in response to speeding, a discussion ensued and Karen Oliver confirmed she would action this.

186/FC Approval of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 18th November 2014.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

187/FC Matters Arising and Clerk's Report.

Regarding item 163/FC; a decision on internal audits will be deferred until the New Year.

Regarding item 169/FC; Cllr. White felt declarations of interest could be recorded in the minutes, Cllr. Arnold felt that Form C should be retained for those who to use it, as the are a signed document by the member making the declaration. Cllr. Sopowski proposed a compromise in that both systems could be used according to individual councillor's preference. The council agreed and voted unanimously in favour.

Changes to the Allotment Committee. Cllrs. Sturgess and Thomas stated an interest in joining the allotment committee, but it was felt, in order to avoid conflicts of interest that councillors could create a working party should an issue arise and come to the full council for a decision. Cllr. Sopowski noted that those same councillors would be on the full council and Cllr Marchetti stated they would have to declare an interest. It was noted that guidance from the Councillors Training day stated that it could be done via a working party as there would be a conflict of interest.

188/FC Decision on Precept for 2014/15

As the matter has been discussed previously, it was decided to request a precept amount of £26,450. Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hubbard. Cllr Arnold stated that the drop in the NFDC grant would be 1/3 less and the reduced amount would mean a drop in tax of approximately 27p per person.

189/FC Approval of Changes to Bank Signatories

It was resolved to add the new Clerk, Helen Klaassen to the bank signatories list and the chairman proposed that the statements should forthwith be sent to the clerk's home address. This was unanimously approved.

190/FC Staffing Committee Update

Cllr Marchetti confirmed that after second interviews on 22nd November that they had hired a new clerk and that they were pleased with their decision.

191/FC Clerk's Training

That the clerk be allowed to attend the HALC training course 'Officer Development; What You need To Know' Cllr Sturgess proposed and Cllr Hubbard seconded. It was requested that the clerk ask during training whether the Charles Arnold Baker 'Local Council Administration' book would be the best reference book for the council to have a copy of.

192/FC Recreation Ground

Cllr Coaker gave an update and stated that the Queen Elizabeth trust had stalled a little, they were waiting for the title deed to be changed and it was taking some time so things had gone a bit quiet.

193/FC Allotments

Cllr Marchetti gave an update. He stated that the committee were having a Tenants Meeting on 10th January 2015, which was an open meeting to discuss recurrent issues such as drainage, flooding, fencing etc. Plus the opportunity to sign the new tenancy agreement and pay their fees for the forthcoming year. Ian Oliver had kindly sent the majority out via email, but 8 had been posted by the clerk. If tenants cannot make the meeting then they will be followed up afterwards.

194/FC Highways

Cllr Coaker stated that the situation regarding the buses had once again come to the fore and that there were currently discussions with Bluestar and, hopefully an appointment with Gary Rose, the Operations Manager of Bluestar in January to discuss the size of buses and the state of the road. He said that they would continue to keep on top of the matter.

Cllr Thomas enquired as to the procedure for having double yellow lines painted. Cllr Sopowski countered that most are ignored and that it was enforcing the law that was the problem. It was suggested that the parish council should write to HCC to request their attention in the matter.

195/FC Planning and Tree Work Applications

14/00946 and 14/00947 Flint House, Deerleap Lane

Permission sought to replace conservatory. Cllr Sopowski deemed plans an improvement, but suggested that since the property in question was a listed building that it was better left to officers expertise and therefore suggested Option 1, to recommend PERMISSION but to leave the decision to officers. All agreed.

14/00854 16 Fir Road

The general feeling was that the planning requested would not affect neighbours and was in keeping with the local area. Option 3 to recommend permission be GRANTED was suggest and all agreed.

14/00940 84 Lyndhurst Road

Permission sought for creation of 2no blocks of flats totalling 10 new dwellings; garage block; bin store; associated landscaping. The site is on a corner plot adjacent to the Co-op in Ashurst and would consist of a 2 3-storey block of flats with parking underneath. The design statement stated that there was no shading or overlooking, however councillors felt this to be untrue and stated that a number of gardens in Wood Road would be overlooked. It was felt that there would be conflict with the parking issues experienced at the Co-op already and that the design and size of the development was out of keeping with the local area. There was concern that the trees on the site would be lost and there was concern at setting a precedent. Cllr Thomas asked if the trees could be given tree protection orders and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to NFNPA asking them to consider this. Cllr Sopowski recommended Option 4 REFUSAL and all agreed.

It was noted that the bungalow in Knightwood Close had been granted permission to extend into the roof for 4no roof lights and 2no side windows, to facilitate first floor accommodation.

196/FC Consideration of Expenditure for Christmas Carol Concert Refreshments

Cllr Sopowski wished to clarify in advance the amount to be spent on the refreshments at the forthcoming Christmas Carol Concert. Cllr Coaker proposed £100, Cllr Hubbard seconded, all agreed.

197/FC Reports From Representatives of Outside Bodies

Cllr Tipp; Car parking meters that were due to undergo refurbishment and replacement have been postponed due to advancements in technology and the fact that NFDC were considering contactless card payment for them but wanted to see how successful the technology was before committing themselves, so they have put the project back a year. Milford Beach Huts; The refurbishment of the beach huts has also been postponed as the cost is so great that, under EU Law, tenders have to be invited from all EU countries.

Cllrs Thomas, White, Sturgess and Marchetti have attended New Councillor Training since the last meeting. They all considered it to be a very useful and informative session.

Cllr Arnold;

21st November – Meeting with Julian Lewis regarding Woodhaven and the information that more patients would be coming to Calmore from Ravenswood.

24th November Meeting with HCC regarding traffic management, the use of sandbags and guidance for landowners.

1st December – New Forest Access Forum.

3rd December - Site visit to Cranesmoor Heath, this was to discuss and put forward the design plan for the forest. By managing the seedlings of pines it will preserves the mires and in some areas the sand lizards are breeding.

9th December – Task and Finish group with Cycling in the New Forest National Park, followed by a transport meeting. Although HCC have reduced their financial support for the bus service the NPA are putting up £50,000 to keep the rural buses running.

10th December – New Forest Heritage day at Lyndhurst, which included a site visit to Foxbury where the National Trust has bought some land. On the site is ready made classroom where they anticipate building three shelters and a compost toilet. Children will have access to building dens and learning about forest habitats. A new car park will be installed and they will utilise the tracks to improve access recreational access to the forest.

198/FC Correspondence

All items of correspondence had been forwarded to Councillors via email. There was nothing further to report.

199/FC Items the Chairman Deems Important

The chairman Cllr Sopowski welcomed Paul, the new Vicar of Christ Church, Colbury.

200/FC Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting

Cllr Sopowski stated that at the next meeting there would be items on the Agenda for the election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council. Cllr Sopowski stated that he had been the chair since June and would welcome someone else being put forward as Chairman. Cllr Sopowski stated that if there were no nominations, he would be happy to continue in the role.

Cllr Arnold requested that the Accounts be put back into the minutes as a separate agenda item and not through the Clerks Report.

Cllr Thomas requested that a discussion on the Parish Council's reserve and how it should be spent be added to January's agenda.

At 8.14pm and in the absence of any other business, the Chair thanked everyone present for attending and closed the meeting.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____