

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council on 17th March 2015, held at the Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury.

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

242/FC The Council heard a presentation given by John Lynn, Cycling Projects Manager, NFNPA and Nick Farthing, Area Manager SusTrans, on Improving the Signage for Cyclists within Ashurst.

John Lynn; Last year, former Parish Councillor Ken Kershaw and Ashurst resident Richard Barnett came to the NFNPA with concerns regarding the cycling signage within Ashurst and Colbury village, they had produced a documented audit showing missing and inaccurate signage to illustrate their points. Their proposal also gave consideration to a more direct route for cyclists along the A35 Lyndhurst Road.

Since then it had been agreed that the NPA would allocate funding towards improving signage. The report presented by John Lynn and Nick Farthing presented ideas showing how the two routes could work and the signage that would be put in place; although the full plan will still have to be put before Hampshire County Council for their approval from a road safety perspective.

Nick; The National Park Authority commissioned them to create this report. They started with Ken Kershaw's report and built on that. He had started by having a good look at local signage and roads, safety being a major consideration. The plan formalised the current route, decluttered the current signage and replaced it where needed.

The timescale would be approximately June / July for implementation, provided there are no problems.

Nick and John then took questions from the assembled public and councillors and discussion ensued on the merits and sticking points of various routes and areas within the parish and cycle routes.

It was discussed that the best way to get comments from residents would be to make the plan available on the parish council's website, with John Lynn's details, with a view to close the receipt of comments on 30th March.

It was resolved that;

The clerk would make John Lynn's contact details available by emailing them out to councillors and the plan would be made available on the parish council's website to encourage comments from the public.

That John Lynn and Nick Farthing would come back to the April meeting to update the council.

243/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.

Emma Lacey from Keep Ashurst Green (KAACGG) asked the council what the procedure would be in respect of the plans that the Barker Mills Estate had put in recently, and would the residents of Ashurst have their chance to make their opinions known to the council. It was confirmed to Ms Lacey that once the council have received the Parish Briefing Note from the Officers in the

Planning Department at the National Park Authority, there would be an extraordinary Planning Committee meeting, which would be advertised in the normal way via the parish notice boards and website, detailing the date, time and place of the meeting.

Susan Hutchins spoke regarding the commercial waste bins by the New Forest Hotel by the station, saying that they were unsightly and frequently overflowing. She asked could anything be done about this?

The Council agreed that they would follow the matter up with the Hotel and that Cllr Marchetti would do so.

244/FC Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Mans (HCC) and Cllr Puttock (NFDC).

245/FC Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Arnold declared an interest in agenda item 256/FC, stating that her interest was neither personal nor prejudicial.

246/FC Police / Neighbourhood Watch Report.

The Council received a report from Karen Oliver. She reminded councillors that the Beat Report has now ceased, so there will be no more printed reports and that alerts can be received via the Hampshire Alert website. Also that the 0845 contact number had ceased and that people should now contact the police using 101 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies.

Beat Surgeries were now being held in Lyndhurst and the details thereof could be found both on the Parish Council's website and in the Parish Magazine.

Karen also reported that police were warning people to be on their guard when parking in New Forest car parks and not to leave valuable in their cars, as theft from motor vehicles was on the increase now that the weather was improved.

247/FC Approval of Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 17.2.15.

The minutes of the meeting on 17th February 2015 were approved as a true and accurate record of proceedings. Cllr Marchetti proposed, seconded by Cllr Sturgess. All agreed.

248/FC Matters Arising.

The chairman clarified to councillors the procedure for promulgating the minutes to councillors and the general public going forward. The minutes would be typed and passed to the chairman for comment, after which the draft copy will be forwarded out to councillors and placed on the parish council's website, clearly marked as a draft.

221/FC The matter concerning the footpath had been logged with Network Rail and was being looked into.

228/FC Cllr Sturgess reported that an article regarding the Village of the Year competition had gone into the April edition of the Parish Magazine, asking for groups and individuals in the village to come forward if they were interested in joining the task force.

226/FC The Chairman said that confirmation had now been received that the Bluestar no 6 route was included on HCC's list of routes exempted from bus pass restrictions, but that it was unclear whether the route listed included the section through Ashurst.

It was agreed that the Clerk would pursue this matter.

Cllr Sopowski reported back that the matter of the car wash signage in Ashurst was being dealt with by way of a letter from the Parish Council to the owners to pass on the resident's concerns regarding the poor state of the signage.

Cllr Sopowski had also pursued the matter of parking and Lorry issues at the Co-Op Welcome

Store, in response to Mrs Sue Arden's He said that he had spoken to a neighbour opposite who said that the lorries were now using his verge too, especially if there were cars outside Sue's house.

Cllr Sopowski suggested that given the issues facing the surrounding houses and roadways that it would be advisable to ask Hampshire County Council for dragon's teeth on the verge and double yellow lines on the roadway.

It was therefore agreed that;

The parish council should seek further advice from HCC highways and request double yellow lines and dragon's teeth be installed.

249/FC Accounts. To consider accounts paid and payable since the last meeting.

Accounts payable and paid were presented with an additional overdue payment not on the list to Mark Bridle, for hedge cutting in the allotments for £168.

250/FC Correspondence.

An email had been received from Sue Arden regarding an error in the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 15th January 2015, in that, under minute 203/FC Public Participation, it was not she who raised the issue of the verges in Knellers Lane. The parish council acknowledged this mistake and thanked her for bringing it to their attention.

251/FC Protocol for Public and Press Reporting at Meetings. To consider adopting the Protocol for Reporting at Meetings as an appendix to Standing Order 3.5.

The proposals were discussed and Cllr Arnold proposed and Cllr White seconded that;

The Protocol should be adopted and become an appendix to the standing orders and that the accompanying notice should be placed in notice boards forthwith and in the Signing In Book at every meeting.

252/FC Parish Elections 2015. To receive an update from the Clerk.

The clerk reported that she had attended NFDC's presentation on elections recently and gave a brief précis of the presentation including salient points of the process to councillors.

253/FC County Councillor's Report.

None.

254/FC District Councillor's Report.

Cllr Tipp reported that council tax was once again frozen for the sixth year in succession, this despite £3million in cuts from the government grant.

NFDC has these last four years built or purchased 80 affordable homes and provided 100 affordable homes via partnering with other providers.

255/FC Highways. To receive a report from Cllr Sopowski regarding parking and delivery lorry issues at the Welcome Store and to decide on a course of action to take the matter forward. (Item discussed under agenda item 248/FC Matters Arising).

The Chairman reported that under Operation Resilience HCC will be resurfacing Ashdene, Wood and New Roads and that the work would be scheduled for April / May. HCC would advise the bus companies of this and buses would be re-routed to avoid the works.

256/FC Planning and Trees. To receive an update and decide on responses to recent planning applications:

Application Number: 15/00150/FULL

Address: New Forest Hotel, Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7AA

Proposal: Partial change of use C1 (Hotels) to create 10 hotel rooms; creation of courtyard; creation of additional parking; external alterations.

The committee recommended Option 1, Permission but with delegated powers to NPA officers, as they felt that the development would be beneficial as it would provide for extra hotel provision which would be an added attraction for the village and that the designs would be an acceptable addition to the building. However, they expressed concern regarding the new parking arrangements stating that they felt there was an issue with the large size of the turning area and that it may give rise to being used for more than the six allocated spaces. The committee expressed dissatisfaction that the parking provision extended past the current building line created by the terrace, as they felt this was too far and should be brought closer to the existing access road and the Ash tree with the TPO.

Trees;

Tree Preservation Order No: TPO/0011/15

Site: Peterscroft Avenue, Ashurst.

Cllr Sopowski also mentioned that at the extraordinary Planning Meeting the committee would also be discussing the plans that had recently been submitted to site mobile homes near to the railway station.

257/FC Recreation Ground. To receive an update from Cllr Coaker, Recreation Committee. Cllr Coaker reported that the situation with the Fields in Trust remained the same; that he was still waiting for Andy Groom to sign the paperwork. Otherwise there was nothing else to report.

Cllr Sopowski asked Cllr Coaker to consider the 'No Cycling' signs in the recreation ground. He said that a resident had brought up the signage as some youngsters are concerned that they are breaking the rules. It was agreed that it would be brought up at the next committee meeting.

258/FC Allotments. To receive an update from Cllr Marchetti, Allotment Committee. Cllr Marchetti reported that the renewals were complete, apart from a few who were still being chased and would be given a deadline of the end of March. The probation service had been approached regarding hedge cutting and digging ditches and they were awaiting a response.

Recently, with significant help from Ian Oliver, a survey had been taken amongst circa 80% of allotment holders to ascertain their feelings towards allowing bees on the allotments. 11 plot holders responded; 10 in favour and 1 neutral. On this basis, subject to a suitable addendum to the allotment tenancy agreement being finalised, allotment holders would be allowed to keep bees. The addendum will include provisions to cover Health and Safety aspects for other allotment holders, as well as adopting recommendations from the relevant bee keeping associations. There is currently one plot ready to proceed, and it is hoped to have the finalised addendum ready for the tenant by the end of next week.

259/FC Fete. To receive an update from the Fete Committee Working Party. Suggestions have been forthcoming from various villagers regarding ideas for entertainments / stalls. Two ladies were keen to organise some children's races and this has been left with them to do so. Cllr Marchetti is going to do off road children's tractor rides, which will be called The Enchanted Forest Ride and Liberty's Owl, Raptor and Reptile Centre will be doing a falconry display in the arena. The alpacas and alpaca weavers are also confirmed. Cllr Sturgess also said she had managed to get a drum band with a difference, but said it would be a surprise. There are still a few stalls left to be filled.

260/FC Foxhills Working Party. To receive an update from Cllr White.
Ann Arscott, Chair of the Governors and the school have now withdrawn. There is a new member joined from the school PTA. The police are still pursuing the matter of ticketing powers. Cllr White reiterated his intention to act as liaison between the group and the parish council. There had been an article in the magazine this month regarding the one-way system that operates at school drop off and pick up times.
Cllr White was also looking into the procedure to ensure property and landowners kept their hedges trimmed back from overhanging footpaths on Foxhills.
The group are still looking at trialling drop off places, a lollipop person and more school buses. The next meeting will be on 2nd April 2015.

261/FC Urge Cycles Project. To receive an update from Cllr Thomas. Cllr Thomas confirmed that at this stage the project was looking to receive our support for this project as they were going to go for funding in order to implement it.
The plan, should they be successful, is to allow them to set up their van and gazebos in the Recreation Ground, on the Lakewood Road side. It was suggested that the summer holidays would be the best time for this. It was also mentioned that they would need the project to be advertised and it was discussed that the magazine would be a good place to do this, but only if the advertising supported the event, not their business.
It was resolved; **to support the project at this stage. The parish council will not charge to use the recreation ground and would allow the advertising space in the magazine for the event only.**

262/FC Reports from Representatives of Other Bodies.
Cllr Arnold stated that she had attended various meetings in the last month, and should anyone want more details they could approach her for same.

263/FC Items That the Chairman Deems Important.
The chairman brought up that he and the vice chairman would not be here for the July meeting. However this item would be raised again after the elections.

264/FC Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting.
The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Arnold was organising James Brown from the Heritage Project to come and speak to the council.
Each committee is also being asked to report on their activities this past year.

At circa 9.30pm, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____