

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015, held at the Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury.**

**Present;** Cllr. P Sopowski, Cllr. A Sturgess, Cllr. S Arnold, Cllr. C Marchetti,  
Cllr. M Coaker, Cllr. C Hubbard, Cllr. M Thomas, Cllr. C White.  
Cllr. L Puttock (NFDC)  
Clerk to the Council; H Klaassen.  
11 Members of the public.

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**201/FC Election of Chairman**

Voting took place to elect a new Chairman, Cllr Max Coaker was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Arnold and seconded by Cllr Marchetti and the vote showed he was unanimously elected to fill the position.

**202/FC Election of Vice Chairman**

Voting took place to elect a new Vice Chairman, Cllr Charles Marchetti was proposed by Cllr Hubbard and seconded by Cllr Sopowski and the vote showed he was unanimously elected to fill the position.

**203/FC Public Participation.**

A representative of the Neighbourhood Watch gave thanks to the Village Fete Committee for the decision to negate the Neighbour Watch from paying a pitch fee at the village fete.

A resident raised concerns that the verge in Knellers Lane, just before the junction, had become very damaged by heavy vehicles. There was concern that vehicles may end up in the ditch.

**It was resolved that the Parish Council would have a look and if necessary, inform highways.**

Pat White of the Women's Institute gave thanks to Cllr's Sturgess and White for coming to their recent 100 year celebrations.

A member of the public gave thanks to the Parish Council Planning Committee for recommending refusal of the recent proposed development at 84 Lyndhurst Road. It was noted that the application had also been refused by the NFNPA.

A resident from Ashdene Road, spoke regarding the bus stop on the corner of that road, he stated that when buses stop on the opposite side of the road, cars use his verge in front of his property to overtake. He wished to enquire, 'Could there be another sign on his side to stop this?'

A resident, Mr P George, wished to enquire if people were aware of the effect of bus pass changes. He stated that older people cannot use the bus (no. 6) with their pass before 9.30am. Currently there is an exception in place for the 9.14am bus to Totton, but when the rules change it will mean there will not be a bus available until 10.27am.

Cllr Arnold stated that previously the ruling over the 9.14am bus had been challenged and the bus company had lifted it.

**It was resolved for the parish council to engage with the bus company to see if that rule could be lifted once again.**

Mr George also spoke to request a Police presence in Foxhills at 3.30pm on schooldays. He stated that people collecting children from school use the passing place just past the school as a parking bay, despite it having double yellow lines. PC Andy White suggested contacting the traffic wardens at NFDC as police no longer have the powers to enforce no parking on double yellow lines. Upon being told that NFDC's traffic wardens operating hours seem to be outside of school hours PC White agreed to try to get there to speak to offenders.

**204/FC Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Keith Mans and Cllr. Derek Tipp.

**205/FC Declarations of Interest**

Regarding Agenda Item FC/216, Cllr Arnold wished to declare an interest as she is a member of the NPA.

**206/FC Police Report**

PC Andy White spoke regarding the upcoming changes to Policing in the local area. He said that they are currently unsure how the changes will impact Ashurst and Colbury and that they have not yet been told who the beat officer is going to be. He stated that it could remain with him, but potentially Ashurst and Colbury could come under Totton.

PC White stated that there would be many changes; the main response area will be Lyndhurst, so they will be based from there. Their team is called 'Heart of the New Forest' and will consist of himself, PCSO Lisa Quinn and two other colleagues covering from Ashurst and Colbury to Brockenhurst. The way the Beat Report is received is also changing; it will now be made available to download from [www.hampshirealert.co.uk](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk). The new system will be much more flexible, enabling anyone who signs up to it to receive email updates on specified areas of interest. One result of this new system is that the delay to residents in finding out about crime spates will be greatly reduced.

PC White also spoke about irresponsible parking on the zigzag lines outside of Foxhills School. He stated that parents were putting their own and other children's lives at risk by parking stupidly. It also poses a danger to cyclists leaving school, who are at risk from vehicles overtaking them as they are trying to pass parked cars. Consequently, the school have had to employ someone to prevent this problem. PCSO Lisa Quinn will shortly have the power to issue tickets to people stopping on the zigzag lines, which it is hoped will help to alleviate the problem.

PC White also spoke about the Beat Surgery, which is currently held at the Welcome Store on the first Wednesday of the month, at 2pm. He mentioned that they don't get many people and were wondering if residents could be asked via the magazine if there was a better time or place to encourage higher attendance.

In response to the upcoming Police changes Cllr Puttock suggested Cllr Coaker contact the Chair of Netley Marsh and together write to the Police and request that Ashurst and Colbury stay within the Forest as both parishes are rural.

Cllr Sopowski asked PC White if lorries should be reversing off the main A35, Ashurst Road, into the side road, when they make deliveries to the Welcome Store. PC White said he will have a word with the store and advise delivery drivers not to do it.

It was noted that the figures recently released from SpeedWatch only cover Lyndhurst, not Ashurst. The council were advised that Swan Guy Marsh of NFDC has access to the SIDs – which needs a pole to attach to, and will advise of the cost of it if contacted.

**It was resolved for the Clerk to contact Swan Gan Marsh to ascertain the cost of a SIDs pole.**

#### **207/FC Approval of Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were approved unanimously and signed by the chairman as a true and accurate record.

#### **208/FC Matters Arising and Clerk's Report**

Cllr Sopowski said that he has not yet spoken to the car wash company located on the Ashurst Road, opposite the shops, to enquire about renewing their signage, along the lines of the Totton car-wash as he wanted to first verify the signage overload of the other shops. Cllr Arnold stated she has the owner's contact details which she will pass to Cllr Sopowski in order that he may follow up with him.

Cllr Coaker asked the council if they would consider passing his expenses despite losing a receipt for £48 for consumables at the Parish Council's Christmas Meeting. It was agreed that since said consumables were very much in evidence on that night he could proceed with the claim.

#### **209/FC Correspondence**

The Parish Council considered a letter from Sue Ardern regarding Lorries reversing over the verge to park outside the Welcome Store.

**It was resolved that the Parish Council would follow up the matter with the Welcome Store.**

Considering an email from Rural Services Network, regarding a sounding board; does the Parish Council wish to answer the questionnaire? There was a possibility that the deadline for this was on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

**It was resolved that the Chair and Clerk would respond as the deadline was a short one.**

#### **210/FC Standing Orders and Financial Regulations** To consider both documents, with a view to making amendments and/or adopting.

Cllr Marchetti spoke to inform the Parish Council that he, with assistance from the Clerk, had produced the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, which had been created using Lyndhurst Parish Council's as a template, and that they were very much a working document. Both documents were now at a stage of being ready for comments from Councillors. It was suggested that possible amendments and comments should come in via email from Councillors, and that the document would be amended as required and resubmitted to the council.

Cllrs Sopowski, Arnold and Sturgess stated that they were happy with the document as it stood and would be happy to consider adopting it. Further discussion ensued and it was;

**Resolved, that all Councillors should look at the final version, and comments and suggestions should be emailed to Cllr Marchetti and the Clerk who would consider and reformulate the documents.**

**211/FC Reserves** To consider the Parish Council's monetary reserves.

Discussion took place surrounding the issue of the money held in reserve in the Parish Council's second account and whether those monies should be considered for spending at this time.

Cllr Marchetti stated that he felt it was too early to look at the reserve as both he and the Clerk are too new to the Council to accurately state what exactly is held in reserve. It was suggested that the reserves could be a way of raising funds over a longer period of time. Cllr Arnold said that she had asked NFALC at their recent meeting for their advice and their response was to go with the Parish Council's auditor's recommendation.

Cllr Thomas stated that he had gained information from HALC who stated that any reserve over 100% of precept needs to be justified. He stated that as the Parish Council only had a recreation ground, allotments and bus stops that not so much of reserves was needed and that the Parish Council could consider consulting the local residents to ascertain their thoughts on how the excess should be spent. Cllr Coaker suggested that Cllr Thomas should consult the village plan as it covers exactly what the residents would wish to see in the village if money were available.

Cllr Sopowski reminded the council that the cost of employing the clerk should be considered in the matter, especially in terms of sick cover.

After further discussion, it was agreed to wait until the year end, after which the council will have a clearer idea of what it has spent this financial year and what money remains in the accounts. The councillors agreed that in the future they would like to see clearer financial documents and have more idea of where money is being spent.

**212/FC Agenda** To consider removal of Clerks Reports and have accounts to be considered submitted as a separate agenda item.

The Clerk requested that 'Clerk's Report' be removed from the agenda and that a separate item entitled 'Accounts' be added to the monthly full council agenda during which she would present accounts paid and those which had become payable since the last meeting.

**It was resolved to adjust the agenda accordingly.**

**213/FC County Councillor's Report**

None.

**214/FC District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Puttock remarked that he represents three parishes and says we are all going through similar situations with regard to traffic and / or buses. He said that those parishes represent 6500 members of the electorate, he felt that the parishes would have more success if they came together to tackle these issues and suggested we work with them to achieve desired outcomes.

Councillors agreed that collaboration would be a good way to approach these matters, flooding being a good example. Cllr Puttock suggested the parishes get together to discuss how things are dealt with.

Cllr Puttock also stated that this year was an important one as there would be elections for the country, county, district and parish all at once.

**215/FC Highways**

Changes to New and Ashdene Roads has resulted in flooding. It is now possible to access HCC online to check on problems.

Cllr Puttock remarked that the same problems are occurring in Netley Marsh and that it would be advisable to let HCC know that the issues could be the cause of accidents and to keep on top of the problem with HCC. Cllr Coaker suggested that we work with HCC, Cllr Arnold suggested the reinstatement of the annual parish walk round with HCC Highways.

Cllr Sturgess asserted that in the past there had been blocked drains outside the shops and in Whartons Lane and that when asked to rectify the problem Rob Millar at HCC, was quick to get it actioned, which resulted in the drains being sucked out.

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

**14/01024 Land to the rear of 24 Wood Road, Ashurst.**

There have been complaints from residents that the proposed development is in contravention of several rules; it comes forward of the existing building line, the size of the proposal is more that of a house as opposed to the bungalow it is claimed to be and the site is very cramped. The parish council will recommend refusal for the reasons listed above.

**Tree Work;**

**Case Ref:** TPO/15/0028

**Proposed Works:** Prune 1 x Oak tree

**Site Address:** 42 Whartons Lane, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7EF.

Any comments regarding the tree work application should be forwarded to the Clerk.

**217/FC Recreation Ground** To receive an update from Cllr Coaker, Recreation Committee.

Cllr Coaker told the Parish Council that he had received an email from Fields in Trust for the QE2 fields and that the paperwork had now been changed and signed by himself, Cllr Sopowski and the Clerk, Now that this was done the matter should be able to move forward.

**218/FC Allotments** To receive an update from Cllr Marchetti, Allotment Committee.

Cllr Marchetti reported that the Allotment meeting in 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015 had been successful and a nice event, and that minutes will be published in due course. The main aim of the meeting was to renew tenancies and pay this year's fees. It now required following up those who hadn't attended to collect their fees and renew their tenancy agreements.

Cllr Arnold mentioned that she would also like to give her thanks to Karen and Ian Oliver and Chris and Ann Henning for their help with setting up for the meeting. Cllr Arnold also mentioned that having clarified the position with the NPA, the deer fence discussed at the allotment meeting would require planning permission if it was over 2m high.

**219/FC Reports from Representatives of Other Bodies**

Cllrs Sturgess and White attended the WI 100 year celebrations.

All Councillors attended the carols singing held in the church rooms on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014

Cllrs Sturgess, Coaker, Arnold, Hubbard and White attended the Fete Committee Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2015.

Cllr Sturgess was elected as Chair and a notice stating that the organising of the fete this year has started has gone into the magazine.

Cllr Arnold attended the NFALC Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

Cllr Arnold stated that the next North East Quadrant Meeting was this coming Thursday (22<sup>nd</sup> January).

**220/FC Items That the Chairman Deems Important**

None.

**221/FC Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting**

None

At 8.55pm, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_