

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council held on 20th October 2015 at 7.30pm, at Colbury Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury.

Present; Cllr M Coaker (Chairman), Cllr C Hubbard (Vice Chairman), Cllr S Arnold, Cllr E Lacey, Cllr A Sturgess, Cllr M Thomas, Cllr C White.
Cllr D Tipp, Cllr K Mans
12 Members of the public.
Clerk; Helen Klaassen

Cllr Coaker called the meeting to order and informed those present that Councillor Thomas was making an audio recording of the meeting for his own private use.

353/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.

Mr David White updated Councillors on the progress regarding speeding on Woodlands Road. He had received a letter from HCC, regarding the petition that had been submitted, advising him that his correspondence had been passed to the relevant department and that he should expect a reply within the next 20 working days, which he noted had just expired and no response received. HCC also advised him that his petition had been published on their website.

Ian Oliver spoke regarding minute 359, the matter of putting a footpath through the allotments for the children of Foxhills School to use and stated that allotment holders were not keen for this to happen.

Derryn Hinks also spoke on the same matter; she questioned the purpose of the path as a pavement existed on the other side of the road and noted that children would then have to cross the road to access the school having already crossed once on a blind bend to access the footpath. She mentioned that Allotment Holders were concerned at the possibility of having to move plants, sheds and compost bins etc.

Heather Richards spoke, disagreeing that Allotments Holders would be upset by this, a sentiment echoed by Cllr Thomas.

Ms Richards also raised the matter of Quality Parish Status, a subject which she had raised a few months ago and spoken to the Clerk on. She wished to know, would the council be pursuing it?

Councillors responded that the clerk would have to be CiLCA qualified for this and that as the qualification cost circa. £2000, it was felt it was an unjustifiable expense, for something it was felt was a 'box ticking' exercise with no real benefit to the parish.

Mr George brought up that the bus timetables would be changing again shortly and would the PC be able to see if anything could be done to include the Ashurst section of the route in the free bus passes. *The clerk mentioned that they had been given a firm no last time she asked but that she would be happy to ask again and if the answer were to be no, ask for a response that could be given to the public.*

Ian Oliver asked about the drainage on the allotments, whether there had been any progress. *It was reported that the matter had been moved forward for discussion at a meeting of the Allotment Committee.*

354/FC Apologies for absence.
Cllr S Jenkins, Cllr L Puttock.

355/FC Disclosure Of Interest In An Agenda Item
Cllr Thomas declared an interested in agenda item 359/FC as he is an allotment holder.

356/FC Police / Neighbourhood Watch Report.

Pc Rachel Gallimore introduced herself as the Beat Officer for Ashurst and Colbury and Netley Marsh; she lives locally and attended local schools when she was younger. She reported that she had been working with Karen Oliver on the Neighbourhood Watch.

Pc Gallimore spoke about Hampshire Alerts and that most information now came through this forum. She noted that most of the incidents reported didn't happen in Ashurst. In regards to the recent non-dwelling burglary where tools were taken and damage and another incident where a Labrador puppy was stolen from a farm, the police have an idea of who is responsible and have been patrolling in hope of spotting the vehicle connected with it. Other incidences were; a vehicle broken into at the White Horse public house, a bike stolen at the station and shoplifting.

She reported that all three pubs in Ashurst were members of Pubwatch (a forum where landlords shared information on banned individuals and other matters concerning their establishments), a scheme which is run from Totton.

Pc Gallimore reported that they are patrolling Foxhills School and are have a 3 strikes and out policy; if someone parks on the zigzag lines outside the school they get three warnings and then taken to court. Photos were taken of offending cars.

Karen Oliver reported that she had been advised of one person who, on ringing 101 to report a suspicious vehicle, had found themselves inexplicably cut off. KO advised that should anyone finds that happens to them and if they cannot get through to 101 after trying again, it is all right in those circumstances only to ring 999.

KO also mentioned that Hampshire Constabulary had produced a 'No Trick or Treating here' Halloween poster that could be downloaded from their website for those who did not wish to receive Halloween visitors.

Pc Gallimore then gave her apologies and left the meeting.

357/FC Approval of Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15.09.15

Cllr Arnold brought that 'Probation Services' did not like to be called 'Probation Services' and preferred the term 'Community Payback Scheme' and also that as far as she was aware minutes of a committee meeting could only be ratified at a full council meeting not signed off.

Cllr Arnold proposed the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record, Cllr White seconded and all agreed.

358/FC Matters Arising Not on the Agenda.

It was noted that the insurance was still within its 3 year period and was therefore not up for renewal yet. Also that Parish Council insurance is specialist and there are no 'comparison sites' such as are used for car insurance for example and that the broker used by the PC provides a thorough and excellent service.

359/FC Allotments letter.

To discuss and vote on the matter concerning a footpath through the allotments and the covenant on the land, following the letter from the Chair of Governors, Foxhills Schools (Appendix 1).

Cllr White proposed and Cllr Arnold seconded that the Allotment should not be used to provide a footpath for children accessing Foxhills Schools. The Vote stood at 5 for and 2 against.

Cllr Arnold then read out an excerpt of a letter she had received from Tim Jobling, BME Trustee, after writing to him from a personal perspective to ask whether, given the development taking place in the local area and the pressure it would put on the schools locally, BME would consider re-submitting their plans for the Foxhills area;

"I suspect that the Government Statements on Affordable Housing will have little influence on NF National Park Planning Members.

I am afraid the Trustees have no appetite for another attempt at planning.

We are taking the route of attempting to dispose of our interests in the Foxhills area.

We are in discussions with a Developer who believes there will be development needed in the medium to long term and it is now a question of trying to agree a reasonable option agreement.

The locals may come to regret their opposition to our proposals.

*We will not be supporting, through the Barker-Mill Foundation, **any** projects in Ashurst and Colbury. We wasted over £200,000 on our recent project to provide parking and safe access – it is time to move on to other areas.*

Cllr Coaker expressed his disappointment at BM's decision to withdraw support from the village and that, despite this, the Parish Council would still be opposed to large scale development on that site.

360/FC Accounts.

1. To consider accounts paid and payable since the last meeting (Appendix 2).
2. To provide a half yearly update of the various committee financial statements (Appendix 2).

Cllr Arnold enquired whether a £50 cheque had been sent to St Josephs as payment for them allowing their car park to be used during the Fete.

The Clerk confirmed that it had not, but that she would do so.

361/FC Correspondence.

All sent via email previous to the meeting.

362/FC County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Mans reported that there would be a County Council meeting on Thursday at which a new CEO would be appointed as Andrew Smith would be retiring. The recommendation from the appointing committee was to appoint John Coughlan

Once again HCC are trying to save money, £98 million. Save 98m, transformation,

They are trying to find better ways of Social Work staff having more time with clients and less time filling in paperwork. This would be in the form of a new computer system, which would allow Social Workers to record and make voice reports which would enable verbatim discussions to be recorded and saved on file.

Cllr Mans also reported that Hampshire had the largest school building programme in the country; £248m towards building and refurbishing primary schools to accommodate 9000 places and £401m for secondary schools to accommodate 8000 places, he said that the CC expected a lot of this money to come from central government.

Cllr Mans also told those assembled that HCC, Southampton City Council and IOW Council were looking at proposals for combining to create a large unitary authority that would enable them to bid jointly and have greater power on some of the things that are currently decided by the government. This could include highways (motorways etc), education (the case of Totton College could have had a different outcome if they had more control over it). Local powers would remain though.

363/FC District Councillor's Report.

Cllr Tripp reported that at the NFDC meeting on Monday they would be undergoing a change of CEO as David Yates was retiring and Bob Jackson taking his place.

Barry Rickman has received a long service award.

The districts new housing plan would result in more house building.

There was no final decision on council tax yet, but there would potentially be a small rise as they had to take into account that council staff have received no raise in salary for some time.

They were considering an increase the council tax contributions of those who were on benefits; currently they contribute 10%. The unitary authorities ask for 20% and even raising this 2% would provide extra income of £60-70k

364/FC Parish Office. To receive an update.

Cllr Coaker gave an update; the cost to the parish council would be £60 per week, but there would be a significant saving in terms of room hire to offset this. The clerk confirmed that she would be furnishing the office with second-hand furniture. It was also noted that the office would allow residents of the parish come in and see the clerk by appointment or during surgery hours and that the office could be used for meetings. **Cllr White proposed and Cllr Hubbard seconded that the proposals should be accepted and the new office agreed with the church. It was unanimously agreed.**

365/FC Christmas Carol Service. To receive an update.
Cllr Hubbard updated members that she had received offers of help and that the date had been changed to 18th December at the Church Rooms. Ocean Brass was fully booked but the Rev Holley was in the training section of New Forest Brass and would happily come along with a few other members to play.

366/FC Strategic / Parish Plan. To receive information from the clerk regarding how other parishes approached this and to consider the objectives in taking the matter forward.

It was decided to take the matter forward to the precept meeting.

367/FC Defibrillator. To consider and discuss the matter of providing a defibrillator using funds raised at this year's Fete.

Cllr Mans kindly offered £500 grant from his devolved budget and advised the council to approach Bransgore or Burley PCs for advice as they had successfully installed their own.

It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to Bransgore PC.

368/FC New Forest National Park Local Plan Review. Following the email from the NPA on 09.09.15 to formulate a response to the Local Plan Review.

The matter was debated and it was felt that the PC would not present any comments, preferring instead to let plans progress.

369/FC New Years Eve Party. To discuss holding a Parish New Years Eve Party.

Cllr Lacey had spoken to Tony White who used to host previous parties, but that he was not available on that date. She had also spoken to Mrs Bryant who had agreed in principle for Colbury Hall to be used.

Cllr Lacey said that she thought that the event would breakeven and that there were potentially 150 tickets.

The councillors felt that they couldn't financially support the event and were keen to see more costings.

370/FC Recreation Ground. To receive an update.

More quotes would be gained for the fencing on Lakewood road side.

A stonemason would be quoting provide the stone and set and mount the plaque for the QE II fields.

There would be a presentation event in spring with children's races and food etc.

The committee were addressing the need for toddler equipment and would presenting figures at the precept meeting.

A sign had now been erected reminding dog owners of the need to keep their dogs under close control.

371/FC Allotments. To receive an update.

Cllr Arnold reported that the Community Payback Scheme workers have cleared the ditch of foliage, which Peter Whitehorn would be clearing away.

There would be working party this weekend, 24th / 25th October to clear up the allotments.

372/FC Highways and Transport.

1. To consider the matter of a footpath between the bus shelter and the campsite on the Lyndhurst Road.

Cllr Arnold reported that she had raised the matter with HCC and that they and the NPA were looking into the matter.

Cllr Coaker asked councillors to check the grit bins near to them to see if they needed refilling and that an email regarding locations of bins would be sent out.

373/FC Minutes of Other Committee Meetings.

1. Planning Meeting - 15.9.15.

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

374/FC Dates of Future Meetings.

1. Allotment Holders Meeting - 7.11.15.

Cllr Arnold reported that the annual allotment holders meeting would be held on 7th November from 3-5pm in the Church Rooms, for updates on the allotments and payments of subs.

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

Cllr Arnold;

22nd September – Planning Training with the National Park

24th September – Members Annual Meeting for the National Park

1st October – Developing Tourism

6th October – LiDAR Mapping with National Park

6th October – North East Quadrant – New policies on planning for the National Park

15th October – New Forest Association of Local Councils

20th October – Planning National Park

Cllr Coaker and the clerk attended the HCC ‘Hitting the Cold Spots’ launch event. It was a very interesting event concerning fuel poverty in the HCC area and the efforts of HCC to tackle it. The New Forest has one of the highest rates of people in fuel poverty. The clerk had left out leaflets concerning the service at the back of the room and more information could be found in HCC’s website.

Cllr Arnold informed the PC that there was an interesting exhibition on at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst regarding LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), a light emitting radar system which generates a shadow effect from topographic changes found on the earth’s surface.

376/FC Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting.

None.

At 9.20pm the chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____