

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council, Tuesday, 19th December 2017.

Held at The Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury, at 6pm.

Present; Cllr Emma Lacey (EL) Chair, Cllr Mike Thomas (MT) Vice Chair, Cllr Clive White (CW), Cllr Heather Richards (HR). Cllr John Morris (JM), Cllr Caroline Hubbard (CH).

Hampshire County Council; Cllr Keith Mans

New Forest District Council; Cllr Les Puttock

Members of the Public; 15

The Chair welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Action

FC/813 Public Participation.

Mr Oliver asked why the gates at the Recreation Ground appeared locked and the kissing gate has wire mesh over.

Cllr White confirmed that the smaller gates were unlocked and the kissing gates had been wired up for a while for safety reasons.

Charles Marchetti thanked the Council for inviting him. He noted the increase in council tax and wondered if there was a way to reduce expenses and gave the magazine as an example; that perhaps it could be produced quarterly instead of monthly.

Cllr White countered that the magazine currently makes a profit from advertising revenue.

It was suggested that this fact should be communicated to the residents via the magazine itself.

CE Cmte

Mr Craig asked whether there were any poverty stricken or homeless people within the parish?

It was acknowledged that the PC did not know any exact figures, but that the information could be sought from NFDC or the local policing team.

Cllr Hubbard noted that on a recent visit with FC officers that they were told that homeless people would camp in the woods, but they had been moved on.

Cllr Thomas asked Cllr Puttock if he knew of NFDC's contribution.

Cllr Puttock replied that a lot of time and energy had been spent on helping homeless people within the New Forest.

Karen Oliver noted that recently someone had been living behind the Happy Cheese but they had been moved on.

Cllr Lacey would email PCSO Williams to find out.

EL

Mrs Oliver reported overhanging plants on the corner of Pine Close / Ashdene Road asking if they could be cut back.

A gentleman reported that drains near his property were consistently blocked despite reporting to HCC and that they seem to come and out and inspect it and then not do anything further.

The Clerk expressed surprise that should be the case and asked the gentleman to email her so that she might assist him with the problem.

The Clerk also reported that PCSO Williams had emailed to say he hoped that the Speedwatch project would be ready by the end of January.

FC/814 Apologies for Absence.

Cllr Hobbs.

FC/815 Disclosure of Interest in an Agenda Item.

None.

FC/816 Approval of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 21st November 2017 as a Correct Record of Proceedings.

The minutes were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

FC/817 Matters Arising Not on the Agenda.

The response to the CPRE Green Belt had been sent.

FC/818 Accounts and Clerk's Report.

1. To consider accounts paid and payable

The Clerk presented the accounts and noted her salary of £700.03 was not included.

FC/819 Correspondence.

None.

FC/820 Police / Neighbourhood Watch Report.

Youths were touting IT equipment round the village, they had been videoed and reported.
A communication regarding making more savings by Hampshire Police has been sent out and will impact on the services the police can give.
Mrs Oliver warned people to be extra vigilant and keep presents out of sight.

Cllr White reminded members of the Police Funding Consultation 18/19 survey which could be accessed on the Hampshire Police website.

FC/821 County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Mans reported that he has money left in his devolved budget, he loses it in April as it can't be rolled over so application forms should be in by end of January latest if people want to claim it.

FC/822 District Councillor's Report.

Cllr Puttock reported that the two main things being considered are the possible closure of the recycling facilities. He has taken this up with the leader of the DC. There is no possibility that Marchwood will close but they may make a small charge. There had been no decision yet.
NFDC were still considering their position within the local area regarding merging with other councils. There was not a great deal of movement in this area though.

FC/823 Parish Office. To discuss the response from CCC PCC and decide on costs.

Resolved; to agree the request from the PCC for an increase to £320 and pass the matter back to the F&R Cmte.

Clerk.

FC/824 Parish Council Precept Request for 2018/19. To consider and resolve upon the precept to be requested.

Resolved; CH/EL prop and seconded that the precept be kept the same as last year, £31,520 and the matter be passed back to the F&R Committee.

F&R

FC/825 Parish Council Nominated Charity. To consider the matter of choosing a nominated local charity to receive the patronage of the Parish Council. To consider how this should be done and how long the patronage should run for.

Preference would be for a 'local' charity, project or cause.
An article in the February magazine would be written to ask for applications.
Section 137 could be used for a 'minimum donation'.

CE Cmte

FC/826 South Western Railway Proposed Changes to Timetable. To discuss and formulate a response to SWR.

Line is proposed to change from Weymouth to London to Weymouth to Portsmouth.
Short transfer times for those changing at Southampton to carry on to London.

Points made in the last meeting;

Councillors and the public discussed the consultation and the proposed timetable and agreed to write to SW Railway with the following comments:

1. Concern over the short transfer times from the Ashurst train to the mainline train to London and back, noting that the average seemed to be 6 mins, with some being 4 mins, and that given that the trains from London are usually late it would be impossible to catch the Poole train at Southampton.
2. Request that the Poole train is made a connecting train and therefore required to wait for the London train at Southampton.
3. Request for more direct trains to and from London.
4. Point out that significant numbers of teenagers use the train to reach their colleges.

Once the train isn't direct, the concern is it may denigrate Ashurst's importance we may lose the railway altogether.

Short transfer time very relevant. Major concerns over missing connection, onward train should be 'waiting train'.

FC/827 Reports from Representatives of Other Bodies. To receive feedback of information relevant to the parish from Councillors who attended those meetings.

Carols; 65 residents attended. Interesting programme not just carols. Very positive event, fantastic time enjoyed by all. Cllr Mans thanked them for raising the money for the Oakhaven Hospice at the event.

Parish Plan Meeting. Minutes circulated by Cllr Lacey along with the Community Questionnaire. Keen to communicate with whole community.

Team have worked hard to produce brief but searching business questionnaire, and requested feedback. They will be hand delivered. Councillors stated they were happy for the team to proceed.

FC/828 Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting.

Draft local plan review.

BT Broadband

There being no further business the Chairman took the opportunity to thank people. Cllr Lacey gave thanks to the many people who worked to bring the community together, who helped to make it flourish, acknowledging that these people gave their time voluntarily.

She thanked Councillors too for their commitment and time given, and noted that so often their spouses and families got involved also and she thanked them for this.

Cllr Lacey made it known that most people were unaware of the time being a parish councillor took, until they were one themselves.

She thanked all the groups, teams and individuals in the village who assisted the Parish Council and the village.

Cllr Lacey also thanked the Clerk for all her time and commitment.

Cllr Lacey ended the meeting by wishing everyone a warm and wonderful Christmas and New Year.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____