

## ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2013 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS, DEERLEAP LANE, COLBURY

**Present:** Cllrs S. Arnold (in the Chair), D. Bryant, K. Kershaw, P. Sopowski and A. Sturgess

**In Attendance:** Parish Clerk L. Griggs, County Cllr K. Mans, District Cllr D. Tipp and 6 members of the public.

**Apologies:** District Cllr L. Puttock and Cllr Coaker

#### 1. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST IN AN AGENDA ITEM

**The Chairman** reminded Councillors that if there was any item on the agenda which would warrant a Councillor submitting a Form C they should do so now.

**The Chairman** also reminded Councillors that if any item arose during Public Participation which warranted a Form C they should declare it immediately.

#### 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the last Meeting, which had been circulated to all Councillors, were approved and signed.

##### **Matters arising not on the agenda**

None

#### 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident said that during the recent road works buses had reverted to using the A35 instead of through the village but no notice had been given. **Cllr Kershaw** said he had noticed that but it appeared to be a random decision by individual drivers. He would speak with Bluestar to ensure a consistent decision was made, adhered to and notices put up to advise passengers.

The same resident raised an issue about the Cocklydown junction. Vehicles approaching from Marchwood were often two abreast, travelling at 70mph and if a driver from the other direction was waiting in the right turn lane it was very dangerous. Although this was outside our parish perhaps the Council could raise it with Highways.

The **Chairman** asked the Clerk to contact Highways.

A resident asked if action could be taken to cut back the overgrown shrubs on Whartons Lane and Foxhills which impede pedestrians. The Clerk was asked to write to Highways.

**Cllr Bryant** noted that some road signs were now obscured by overgrown trees and shrubs on the A35.

#### 4. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

a) Buses.

**Cllr Kershaw** reported as follows:-

So far no responses have been received from residents following the article published in the Newsletter.

The Council continues to vigorously pursue the following items:-

- a 20mph limit through the village

- repairs to the roads which is now well in progress
- reduce the number of double deck (DD) buses on the No. 6 route.

This last item became a serious issue early in 2012 when the number of DDs increased. We now discover that this was the current HCC policy, possible with origins from when residents complained that people in the village were unable to board buses because they were full. Bluestar have not carried out a survey of passenger loads so the Council carried out a survey of passenger loads on the whole route Lymington –Southampton in both directions. This indicated that throughout the whole journey buses were less than 52% full. Therefore there appears to be no need to use DD buses. This has been reported to HCC with a request to change their policy.

b) SID. There was no further progress because although NFDC had confirmed we need not be part of Speedwatch and had promised to send some documents, nothing had been received so far.

## 5. RECREATION GROUND

a) **Cllr Bryant** reported that the issues raised in the Inspection Report were being dealt with. The additional woodchips had been laid in the Timberline area and quotations were being requested to carry out the repair work.

b) fence replacement. Legal advice showed that no right had been established for the adjacent residents to have a gate in the fence. The contractor had been asked to carry out the work and the residents notified.

c) disabled access to the ground. The Clerk reported that it had come to light that NFAFA had been to the ground at the request of FoP prior to the project being approved to ensure the path would be suitable for wheelchair usage. NFAFA had then raised the need for RADAR locks to ensure access was available to everyone. The grant would have been granted on that basis so the Council had no choice but to use RADAR padlocks.

## 6. PLANNING

**Cllr Sopowski** gave a report on the planning applications received and decisions made since the last meeting.

## 7. ACCOUNTS

The list of cheques issued since the last meeting was approved.

## 8. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

**Cllr Bryant** attended the Recreation Ground Committee

**Cllr Sturgess** attended the Fete Committee and Recreation Ground Committee meetings.

**The Chairman** attended the meetings of the Fete and Recreation Ground Committees.

**Cllr Tipp** reported that NFDC was considering the possibility of reducing the current number of district councillors (60). It would not take place until 2019 as no plan could be put in place prior to the 2015 elections. The Committee were considering two possibilities, 45 or 40. The view of the Electoral Commission that two Councillors were needed for each ward was no longer held so that may give some opportunities but it would mean more work for the single councillor or attending less parish/town council meetings where dates clashed.

**Cllr Mans** said he was pleased to have been kept in the loop on the bus issue and had asked why HCC were supporting the use of DD buses.

The Public Expenditure Statement was due soon which would give some idea of Central Governments plans and the impact for HCC. His new area of responsibilities included care for the elderly. Discussions were taking place with Residential Carer home operators to see if Extra Care homes could be set up to provide extra services which many elderly persons need. It could enable them to retain their independence for longer.

#### **9. A & C COMMUNITY GROUP**

Nothing to report

#### **10. VILLAGE FETE**

**Cllr Sturgess** said all stalls were now taken. Some excellent arena items had been booked. All the details would be in the Newsletter together with details of the competitions.

#### **11. VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT**

**The Chairman** reported that the VDS should be approved at a meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **12. OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS IMPORTANT**

a) New recycling boxes are currently being delivered ahead of the start of household glass collections in July. This is the first of three phases and includes part or all of our area. Residents will be able to recycle all their glass bottles and jars from home with a four-weekly collection service.

There is an open evening for all Councillors to attend at St. Andrews Centre, Beaulieu road, Dibden Purlieu to meet with Staff from New Forest District Council to answer your questions about the new collections and how the glass will be recycled. Doors open from 16.00 to 18.30.

b) Payment of allowances to Parish/Town Councillors. NFDC wish to enquire whether this council wishes to start paying, or to make changes to existing allowances to its councillors. After a short discussion it was agreed hat no allowances would be paid other than to the Chairman.

c) The AGM of NFALC takes place on 11<sup>th</sup> July and the Agenda contains three items which councillors may wish to consider.

i) To confirm the new Constitution. As the only change was the name that would be agreed.

ii) Dual and triple hatted Councillors. Under the Localism Act 2011 parish/town councillors who were also District and/or County Councillors needed a dispensation to remain in meetings when items relating to the other council were being discussed.

iii) Freedom of Information Act. If a councillor acts on behalf of residents outside the control of the Council then it is possible that documents would not be disclosable.

#### **13. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

**The Chairman** asked Councillors to consider for the July meeting whether the Council should arrange a celebration in June 2014 for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D Day landings.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.36 pm

**Signed S. R. Arnold - Chairman**

**Dated 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013**