

Minutes of the meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council, 19th July 2016, 7.30pm.
Held at the Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury.

Present: Cllr Max Coaker (Chairman), Cllr Caroline Hubbard (Vice Chairman), Cllr Sally Arnold, Cllr Emma Lacey, Cllr Stuart Jenkins, Cllr Ann Sturgess, Cllr Mike Thomas, Cllr Clive White.

Clerk: Helen Klaassen

NFDC: Cllr Derek Tipp

Members of the Public: 8

Cllr Coaker opened the meeting and welcomed everyone attending. It was noted that Cllrs Thomas and Jenkins were making a recording of the meeting for personal use.

524/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.

A representative of the WI; The WI are having a talk on the 14th September at 7.30pm to which a member of South Central Ambulance Service is coming and would provide a demonstration of an AED. The WI invited 2 Parish Councillors to attend.

Ken Kershaw; Regarding Agenda item 536/FC and his subsequent email to councillors.

The Council moved to bring Agenda Item 536/FC forward for discussion at this point.

Mr Kershaw drew the PC's attention to past issues regarding traffic issues and an article in the Newsletter in 2013. He noted that although the major issues had been addressed, the issue surrounding a 20mph speed limit still remained unresolved.

Mr Kershaw quoted a number of facts in support of lowering the speed limit, namely;

During term time approximately 500 children use one or more of the roads as pedestrians twice each day.

Government statistics have shown that if a pedestrian is hit by a car doing 20mph, 1 in 10 will die, at 40mph it is 9 in 10 that die.

Some 5 years ago a Speed Indication Display unit was positioned in Whartons Lane during term time on a number of occasions and recorded the average vehicle speed at just over 36mph i.e. nearer the 9 out of 10 deaths statistic. This shows that the current 30mph speed limit is not working; a 20mph speed limit might reduce the average speed to below 30mph.

Many Parish children attending Foxhills school also need to cross Whartons Lane on their way to and from the school, the majority at the junction with Ashdene Road. Parking for the school regularly extends to this part of Whartons Lane requiring the children to cross between parked cars which give poor visibility. A continuous single line of cars travelling past these parked cars at an average of 36mph is not a good place to cross.

Discussion then took place amongst the councillors and it was agreed that;

The issue would be brought to the wider attention of the village to ascertain whether there was support for a 20mph speed limit village wide.

The Clerk would contact HCC to understand the process that this would need to undergo.

The Clerk would look into creating an online survey and a link to this and an article and questionnaire would be placed in the next Magazine.

The Clerk would look into the possibility of more 'Twenty is Plenty' roadside signs.

525/FC Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Keith Mans, Cllr Les Puttock, Mrs Karen Oliver.

526a/FC Disclosure Of Interest In An Agenda Item

Councillors are reminded that under the Code of Conduct if they have a personal or pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda they must declare it now.

Cllrs Thomas and Sturgess declared an interest in agenda item 538/FC as allotment tenants.

526b/FC Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on 21st June 2016.

Moved; That the Full Council minutes of 21st June 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a True and Accurate record.

527/FC Matters Arising Not on the Agenda.

None.

528/FC Accounts and Clerk's Report.

1. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk reported that she had received delivery of the AED and cabinet and that it would be installed soon. That she had met recently with Steve Grove of the Community Payback Scheme to devise a programme of works for the bus stops and recreation ground.

That she had met with Jonathan Bambridge of Hampshire County Council and carried out a tour of the village to highlight areas of concern that need HCC's attention.

2. 1st Quarter Accounts (Appendix 1).

The clerk confessed that these were not complete and asked that it be brought to the September meeting during which intervening time she would email them out.

3. To consider accounts paid and payable since the last meeting (Appendix 2).

These were presented to Councillors.

4. Banking Arrangements. To consider removing the sweep or raising the resting amount in the Current Account.

The clerk explained that their NatWest Current Account had a 'sweep' on it which returned the balance to £5000 at the end of each month, with monies taken from the second, Standard Interest Bearing, account. This had caused considerable trouble recently as several large cheques had needed to be paid out and, despite letters to NatWest asking them to transfer money / keep a recently paid in large cheque in the current account, the amounts had been automatically swept out again causing the account to go overdrawn. The clerk would pursue this matter to recoup the charges, which she felt were unjust but requested that councillors agree the resting balance of the current account be raised to £10,000.

It was agreed that the resting balance be raised to £10,000.

529/FC Police / Neighbourhood Watch Report.

In the absence of Mrs Oliver, PCSO Richard Williams forwarded a report to be read out;

2 incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour. One was a complaint made about the behaviour of some of the horse and carts at Sunday's ride out, and the second was a small group of youths in the recreation ground in Ashurst on Sunday evening between 23.00 and 23.15. The youths didn't cause any damage or offense but were just noisy. Apparently the caller to us said this very rarely happens, if ever. **We will keep an eye out in the area especially during the summer holidays.**

3 Burglaries other than a dwelling (sheds, garages and outbuildings). On the same night at the end of June, 3 garages were broken into in Ashurst. Two of the garages were next to each other and expensive bicycles were stolen from them, one of them was an electric hybrid bicycle. The other garages were on the other side of the railway line, on the Woodlands Road side, where garden tools were stolen. **We thought that this night's "action" was going to be the start of something major but I'm delighted to say that we have had nothing since, at all. Night time patrols of the area will continue when myself and PC Norris are on duty.**

4 shoplifting offences. These have all happened at the Co-op on the main road. **Enquiries are ongoing.**

1 Theft from Motor vehicle. A car parked on the side of Woodlands Road was broken in to while the owner walked in the Forest. Again items were left on display inside the car. **Please tell as many people as possible to make sure they leave nothing valuable in their cars when they leave them un attended. I am spending a considerable amount of time touring the area passing this message on. Thieves only break into cars that clearly have items worth stealing on display inside them. The good news is that one of our more prolific car thieves has been arrested and charged for several offences in the Forest and is about to be sent back to**

prison.

5 motorists were caught speeding on the main road through the village.

530/FC Correspondence.
All sent via email.

531/FC County Councillor's Report.
None.

532/FC District Councillor's Report.
Cllr Tipp updated councillors on the recent waste consultation; No Waste Recycling Centres were to be closed, but opening hours would be reduced, with the possibility of closure one day a week.
Devolution; There was nothing concrete to report but lots of 'behind the scenes' activity was going on. Cllr Tipp stated that he didn't believe the new Government would change any part of devolution.
HCC had recently had a report commissioned from Deloitte which stated that district councils should be abolished. They would be consulting on that report in the near future.
NFDC was commissioning its own independent report from PricewaterhouseCoopers at a cost of £20,000 per authority.
The Local Plan is currently out for comments from 15th July to 16th September and Cllr Tipp encouraged Councillors and the public to put their views forward. The current plan would have covered from 2009 to 2026 but because of reviews to local housing and an increase in required housing numbers it was being reviewed now.
The increase on housing would mean more cars on the road and more pressure on facilities and infrastructure.
Projections showed an increase in the local population of 22,000 most of whom would be in the 65+ age bracket. There would be a 2200 decline in the working population in the area.
Various sites in the near vicinity; Totton, Waterside, had been proposed as potential development sites. By 2036 it was expected to see an increase in housing of 20-30,000 houses in the area, about which not much could be done as this came direct from central Government.

533/FC Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
To consider and debate upon amendments to the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in order to approve them.

Standing Orders;

Discussion took place and the following changes were proposed;

1.5 - Incorporate 'highest standards of behaviour' into 1.2.

3.1 – Add; At a Meeting of the Parish Council to which the public are invited.

3.7 - Add 'Vice Chair'.

3.16 – 'A Councillor will move to the public area – to make their statement and then leave the room'.

4.3 – Add that at the time of the agenda being published all information required to authorise expenditure should be made available to Councillors.

6.4 – Add 'the Parish Council recognises the advice of the internal auditor in that respect'.

7.2 – 5 signatories and Clerk/RFO.

9.4 – Split and add following 'consultation with either two of the Chair, Vice Chair or Committee Chair'.

18 – After some debate and vote it was agreed to leave this as is.

Following these changes being incorporated it was agreed that the Standing Orders should be accepted.

Financial Regulations;

Discussion took place and the following changes were proposed;

1.4 – Change 'appointed' to 'nominated'.

9.2 – Add 'and distribute to Councillors with the Annual Accounts'.

Amend Signatories to reflect those agreed under the Standing Orders.

Following these changes being incorporated it was agreed that the Standing Orders should be accepted.

- 534/FC Precinct.** To discuss plans for the precinct area outside the shops on Lyndhurst Road. Some shopkeepers were keen to assist in keeping this area nice. It was decided to move the matter to be dealt with by the Recreation Committee.
- 535/FC NPA Boundary Changes.**
The NPA would be releasing its revised Core Policy document in September during which this matter would be up for discussion. It was decided to leave it until then.
- 536/FC Village Speed Limit.** To discuss the possibility of a village-wide 20mph limit.
Discussed under 524/FC.
- 537/FC Magazine.** To receive an update.
No update at present.
- 538/FC Allotments.** To receive an update and resolve matters regarding the formation of the Committee.
Cllr Arnold reported that the drainage was working. That Mr and Mrs Henning had been presented with the engraved spade at the allotment holders BBQ.
The Open day not been very well attended but those who came were very enthusiastic.

Cllr Hubbard joined the allotment committee and it was agreed that minor allotment tasks would be dealt with on a day to day basis by the committee's working party, and the committee would come back to full council should agreement be needed for expenditure.
- 539/FC Fete.** To receive an update.
Cllr Sturgess reported that stands were still available. Draw tickets had been ordered and would be distributed to interested parties for selling. There would be more fete meetings before the fete itself. A list of tasks would be drawn up for councillors to indicate where they could lend a hand.
- 540/FC Recreation Ground.** To receive an update.
Cllr Coaker reported that the issue with the flooding has been resolved but that further remedial works to the land drain running through the trees to the timberline equipment would be needed. This and the matter of fencing, the precinct and other relevant matters would be discussed at a meeting of the committee on 9th August, 6.30pm at the church rooms.
- 541/FC Other Projects.** To receive an update from Councillors undertaking any other projects on the Parish Council's behalf.

Cllr Lacey reported that she had received about 10 volunteers for the parish plan and would be having a meeting in August.
- 542/FC Minutes of Other Committee Meetings.**
1. Planning Committee – 21.06.16 – For Information Only.
It was noted that minutes were unable to be signed at the planning meeting that evening and would be held in abeyance until August.
- 543/FC Reports from Representatives of other bodies.** To receive feedback of information relevant to the parish from Councillors who attended those meetings.

Cllr Arnold reported she had attended 12 meetings; including NPA Planning, the local plan review, and NE Quadrant meeting.
- 544/FC Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting.**

At this point Cllr Coaker made a statement which he wished to be minuted verbatim;

During my recent holiday abroad I had time to reflect on life and what I want to do and it is with regret that I have decided to stand down both as Chair and the Parish Council in the near future. I have not set a

timetable as I feel it could impose a burden on friends and colleagues, and would honour commitments such as the organising of the fete and other outstanding projects.

I do not think that it is generally understood that being a Councillor let alone the Chair is completely voluntary and my time given of late imposes a serious impact on the rest of my life. Moreover by nature a practical person I turn out and carry out simple maintenance work at a cost in time and sometimes expenditure when this should be done by an employed person. As I have said before I believe the workload is not shared and I was disappointed although not surprised when the obligations of being a Councillor were defined as turning up for meetings.

We are not cohesive as a council so unless there is a change in attitude the position of Chair will remain an onerous one.

My sincere hope is that by the method of co-option rather than the expensive route of electing an unknown, a suitable candidate can be found and the council can move on to a successful future.

Following this, the Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Signed: _____ (Chairman)

Date: _____

Appendix 1

| Payments Received Since Last Meeting | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| 06.06.16 | Fete Stalls | 90.00 |
| | | |

Total £90.00

| Payments Made / To be Made | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|
| 19.07.16 | Mark Bridle - Allotment Drainage Work | £4,608.00 |
| 19.07.16 | Wel Medical - Defibrillator and Lockable Cabinet | £1,658.10 |
| 19.07.16 | Allotment Holders - Repayment of funds raised from Recipe Book | £40.75 |
| 19.07.16 | CLlr Sally Arnold - Allotments - engraving of spade, | £30.00 |
| 19.07.16 | Clerks Salary and Expenses | £760.47 |

Total £7,097.32