

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.30pm, held at the Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury.**

**Present:** Cllr M Coaker (Chairman), Cllr Caroline Hubbard (Vice Chairman), Cllr Sally Arnold, Cllr Emma Lacey, Cllr Stuart Jenkins, Cllr Ann Sturgess, Cllr Mike Thomas (for part of the meeting), Cllr Clive White.

**Clerk;** Helen Klaassen

**HCC;** Cllr Keith Mans (for part of the meeting)

**NFDC;** Cllr Derek Tipp.

**Members of the Public;** 23

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The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting and the New Year. It was noted that Cllr Jenkins would be recording the meeting.

**413/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.

Mrs Sue Ardern spoke regarding the agenda item 425/FC Parish Plan. She said the Parish Plan had been done via Questionnaires to every resident in 2008 and that it had been a massive success; something she would like recognised.

The PC agreed with her statement and assured her it would be.

Mrs Karen Oliver spoke, wishing to know if the PC still sent the Welcome Pack out to new arrivals in the village. Upon being told that it was not she enquired whether it could be reinstated and perhaps be made available on the website. Cllr Arnold stated that she had all the information including covers at her home and would be happy to work with Mrs Oliver to re-instate it.

It was felt that the Welcome Pack should come from the PC and that Mrs Oliver could work with the PC to achieve this.

Mr Charles Marchetti asked why it was necessary for Cllr Jenkins to record the meeting, was that accepted practice and if so, why? Cllr Jenkins replied that he felt it was useful to him to have this in order that he may review what has been said should he so wish.

Cllr White stated that he did not think any individual Councillor should record the meeting and There was no Guidance or Authority allowing such a practice, and that in principle he completely disagreed with it. However, providing the recording was used solely for a Councillors own use, he was not going to make an issue out of it.

Mr Mike Craig asked the council if they would consider varying the day of the meeting in order that others who cannot make Tuesdays could attend, potentially maximising participation.

Cllr Coaker replied that he felt that to do so would cause mayhem and confusion as the meetings were known to be on the third Tuesday each month.

Mr Craig challenged that perhaps the matter should be investigated and people asked their opinion.

Cllr Hubbard stated that moving the meeting day would cause conflict with other meetings that are held on Thursdays and Mondays, such as the NFALC meetings and would make it difficult for people to attend.

Cllr Lacey stated that she had herself missed a class to attend PC that evening.

After some debate it was agreed that the question could be asked of residents via the parish plan.

**414/FC Apologies for absence.**

Cllr Puttock. Cllr Thomas had notified the Chair that he would be late. Cllr Mans had notified the Chair that he would have to leave early.

**415/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.

Cllr Arnold declared an interest in Agenda Item FC 426 as she was on the NPA Planning Committee.

Cllr Coaker declared an interest in Agenda Item FC 426.

#### **421/FC County Councillor's Report.**

*As Cllr Mans had to leave early to attend Bransgore PC's meeting the Chairman brought Agenda item 421/FC forward to facilitate this.*

Cllr Mans reported that next month the County Council would be setting the Council Tax for the county and it looks like for the first time in 6 years it will have to rise. This is mainly because the grant they receive from Central Government has been cut from £49 million to £20 million. It will be voted on in February, though Cllr Mans noted Hampshire still has the third lowest tax in the country and that the rise will not be as much in real terms as 6 years ago.

There would also be an increase by 2% for Adult Social Care. There is a mismatch between what the NHS, who have had no overall reduction in funding, can provide and what was / is needed, so HCC will be filling the gap.

Cllr Mans spoke regarding the devolution package put together by HCC, IOW and Southampton and Portsmouth CC. It is hoped that this will give them more control over highways, housing in urban areas and education. It is also hoped that by doing so it will enable those councils to devolve more powers to district and parish councils to enable local decision to be closer to those they affect.

Cllr Mans mentioned that he would be giving £500 from his devolved budget towards the defibrillator for Ashurst. Regarding the devolved budget; that he had £8000 per annum allocated to him to give to local charities and projects that he would like to support, with the minimum of bureaucracy.

He also spoke regarding the attendance levels mentioned earlier in the meeting to say that he attends seven parish council meetings and that Ashurst & Colbury has the best public attendance of them all.

#### **416/FC Approval of Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015.**

**Cllr Hubbard proposed and Cllr White seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record. 6 in favour with Cllr Arnold abstaining from the vote.**

#### **417/FC Matters Arising Not on the Agenda.**

Cllr Lacey updated those assembled saying that she had left three messages with Lyndhurst NeighbourCare regarding Mr George and the Parish Magazine and was waiting for a response from them. Cllr Coaker stated that there would be a meeting regarding the Cycle Path signage on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm with Mark Holroyd, Richard Burnett (ACCG), SusTrans, Cllr Arnold and himself.

#### **418/FC Accounts.**

1. To consider accounts paid and payable since the last meeting (Appendix 1).
2. To receive 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Accounting Information from the Clerk (Appendix 1).

Cllr Lacey requested that 'totals' be added to the Quarterly Income and Expenditure figures. The Clerk agreed to do this.

Cllr Arnold queried the accuracy of the Allotment figures and requested that Clerk forward a breakdown to her. The Clerk checked her records and responded saying that the figures were completely correct.

**Cllr White proposed and Cllr Sturgess seconded that the accounts be accepted. All Agreed.**

#### **419/FC Police / Neighbourhood Watch Report.**

Karen Oliver updated the PC. Although most information regarding Crime Figures was received via Hampshire Alerts now Mrs Oliver noted that there was a number of Quad Bikes being stolen in the Hampshire region recently and that there had been a recent theft of an expensive Makita wrench. Mrs Oliver also reported that the numbers of people being breath tested in December had risen from 6918 in December 2014 to 7606 in December 2015.

#### **420/FC Correspondence.**

All correspondence had been forwarded by the Clerk during the preceding month.

Cllr Coaker spoke about correspondence he had received regarding the verges in Ashdene Road and the issue of vehicles causing damage to them. Discussion took place regarding placing grass matting on verges to prevent this happening, but it was felt that the matting would only sink down too and was perhaps not a suitable measure however it was agreed to speak to HCC regarding the matter.

It was also agreed to note if there were 'hotspots' where the damage was occurring and to investigate why it was occurring where it was and possible solutions. It was also noted that some parents were parking on the road when they dropped the children off to school and this was forcing buses to have to go onto the opposite verge to go round them.

**422/FC District Councillor's Report.**

Cllr Tipp updated the PC that the District Council had considered the boundaries at a recent meeting and their response to had been to request that the 11<sup>th</sup> division be re-instated in the New Forest. It is unsure whether it will be granted because it would mean an extra councillor would be needed. However the rural nature of the forest means that extra councillors are needed.

*During this item Cllr Thomas arrived.*

**423/FC Defibrillator.** To consider how best to take the matter forward.

Cllr Coaker stated that the Co-op had now raised £350 towards the defibrillator and that it should now be moved along.

It was agreed that the clerk should get prices for the device and a lockable box.

There was some discussion regarding siting of the device. It was agreed that the general area it would be placed was in the vicinity of the Co-op and the telephone box was suggested as a possible site, but this was discounted since it was still in active use.

**424/FC Junior Parish Council.** To discuss and consider the matter of forming a Junior Parish Council.

Cllr Lacey spoke regarding the possibility of forming a Junior Parish Council (JPC) she stated that population of young people in the village was growing and that there were many benefits to both them and the PC of having a JPC.

It was possible that the JPC could be linked to Hampshire Police Youth Service via Neighbourhood Watch. The PC agreed that in principle it was a positive idea and was worth investigating further.

Mrs Oliver said she would support the initiative and Cllr White and Cllr Hubbard also offered their assistance.

**425/FC Parish Plan / Questionnaire.** To discuss taking it forward.

Cllr Lacey updated the PC and passed round a timeline of estimated dates and actions over the period 2017-27. The idea would be to engage with the community via feedback from a questionnaire in shaping the village in the next ten years and give them a chance to comment on how they would like to see it evolve.

Mrs Hutchins from the ACCG spoke saying that it would take much longer than the timeline allowed and that last time they had a high response to the questionnaire of 77% but only after much encouragement to householders to complete it.

Cllr Lacey said that she was more than happy to collaborate with ACCG and would take their advice on the timescale which was open to adjustment. She asked for volunteers to help with the task.

The PC were happy with progress so far and agreeable that Cllr Lacey should continue.

**426/FC Planning.** To consider a response to Application 15/01012, 19 Peterscroft Avenue.

*Cllr Coaker handed the meeting over to the Vice Chair Cllr Hubbard for this Agenda Item as he lives next door to 19 Peterscroft Avenue and would therefore be excluded from discussion and the vote..*

Mr Alan MacLean the architect for the applicants spoke outlining the proposals and plans.

Clive Turner spoke, representing Mr and Mrs Bowen at no. 17 Peterscroft Avenue, who he said found the process very stressful. Mr Turner started by saying that the Bowens had several objections;

- Size; that should plans be granted their small bungalow would become sandwiched between two big houses.
- That the addition of extra kitchens and bathrooms would exacerbate the current sewerage problems and that it would result in a surface water increase, the proposals for disposing of this into Bartley Water were unsatisfactory and possibly not lawful.

- That they property was effectively being divided into two houses and that this sets a worrying precedent for the rest of the road, especially with regards traffic.
- That there was going to be a business which would be run from the property which would entail clients coming to the house and the resultant increase in traffic.
- That a large Oak in the rear garden was not mentioned on the planning application and should have been.
- That the daylight studies should have been taken at the equinox not the longest day and thus did not give an accurate picture.

Cllr Coaker then read out a statement of his own views on the application.

Cllr Jenkins raised that he was uncomfortable with Cllr Coaker speaking against the plans whilst sat in his place as the Chairman of the Council. Cllr Coaker did offer to move and speak from the floor, as well as to leave when a vote was taken. However the rest of the PC did not take this view and Cllr Coaker was allowed to continue.

In response to the surface water issues the architect stated they would be happy to look at other solutions including rain water harvesting and suggested this could be added as a condition for planning.

Cllr Hubbard outlined the Options for recommendation to the NPA. A vote was taken on each option;

**Option 1 (Permission, with delegated powers), 2 (Refusal with delegated powers) & 3 (Permission) - 0 votes**

**Option 4 (Refusal) – 4 votes**

**Option 5 (To leave the matter to the NPA Officers under their delegated powers) – 2 votes.**

The Clerk confirmed she would send this recommendation with comments to the NPA.

**427/FC Fete.** To receive an update.

Cllr White reported that the date for this years fete would be 10<sup>th</sup> September, which would be announced in the February Newsletter. Booking forms for pitches would be required from stallholder this year, available on the website shortly and monies to be paid through the Clerk. Arena events were being decided upon as were this year charitable beneficiaries. Each committee member had been asked to nominate 3 charities, ideally a smaller, perhaps village-based, charity who would really benefit from the money raised. Regular updates would forthcoming.

**428/FC Allotments.** To receive an update.

Cllr Arnold reported that the Clerk had finally phoned Mark Bridle on 5<sup>th</sup> January to ask him to commence work and he would be commencing drainage work as soon as weather allowed. Cllr Arnold stated that the Clerk had not yet sent Mark Bridle his letter confirming this.

Cllr Coaker reminded Cllr Arnold that the council had accepted Mark Bridle's quotation, which included removing soil from site, and unofficial communication should not alter what the council has agreed and that the quotation would stand unless full council agrees otherwise.

Also that she has commenced monthly inspections and that there would be a team meeting soon.

Cllr Arnold then told assembled members that she had recently spoken to Mark Bridle herself, she then ~~rounded on the Clerk~~ demanded the Clerk explain why, when she spoke to Mark Bridle, that she asked him to allow an amount of gravel be left for one of the allotment holders to fill his own drainage trenches with? Furthermore, perhaps the Clerk would also like explain why she had also asked Mark Bridle to provide another inspection chamber?

The Clerk explained that the agreement over the gravel had been reached with the previous allotment chair and that she was only upholding that agreement and that should Cllr Arnold wish to rescind that agreement she should do so, but should inform the allotment holder herself.

Cllr Arnold then accused the Clerk of wasting taxpayer's money.

**429/FC Recreation Ground.** To receive an update.

Following the Recreation meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January the committee had decided to purchase a multifunction piece of equipment for toddlers and three benches. The clerk would be getting two more quotes for this equipment.

The decision had been made to install 1.2m high bow top fencing in green and quotes had been obtained for this.

The committee were awaiting a quote for the stone for the FiT plaque to be mounted in and had a provisional date of 2<sup>nd</sup> May for the dedication day.

The hasp on the gate is being repaired as it has been broken.

The committee were looking at installing a raised walkway between the lower equipment and the timberline equipment as the pathway between the two was often soggy and impassable.

NFDC tree inspection was imminent and the committee would be looking to replace any trees removed with new ones.

Cllr Coaker ended by saying he would like to see more members of the public at the recreation meeting as it was open to the public to attend.

**430/FC Minutes of Other Committee Meetings.**

1. Planning Committee Meeting – 15.12.15. Minutes presented for information only.
2. Recreation Committee – 18.01.16 - Signing these minutes off would be deferred until the February meeting.

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

Cllr Arnold attended 9 meetings, including the recent NFALC meeting.

Cllr Hubbard had also attended this meeting and said that there was an article regarding drones flying over the forest and that the meeting was very interesting.

Cllr Coaker had met with the CPS to let them into do more maintenance work in the recreation ground.

**432/FC Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting.**

Cllr Lacey asked **if for** the PC **would to** receive an updated travel plan for the school. Ann Arscott replied saying that the travel plan remained the same as previous and was on their website.

**There being no other business the Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 9.05pm.**

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