

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17th DECEMBER 2013 AT THE CHURCH ROOMS, DEERLEAP LANE, COLBURY

Present: Cllrs S. Arnold (in the Chair), M. Coaker, K. Kershaw, C. Marchetti, and A. Sturgess

In Attendance: County Cllr K. Mans, District Cllr D. Puttock, Parish Clerk Len Griggs and 17 members of the public.

Apologies: District Cllr L. Tipp, Cllrs P. Sopowski and C. Hubbard

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST IN AN AGENDA ITEM

Councillors are required to declare any interests they may have in relation to items on the agenda for this meeting. When verbally declaring interests, (including during Public Participation) Councillors are also required to complete the Disclosure of Interests at Meetings Form.

Cllr Kershaw declared an interest in Planning Application No. 99027.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the last Meeting, which had been circulated to all Councillors, were approved and signed. Approval of the minutes of the Precept meeting was deferred until January.

Matters arising not on the agenda

Cycle paths. **Cllr Kershaw** reported that he had now heard from NFDC.

There is an NFDC Cycling Facilities Fund which we might be able to tap into and which covers lots of subjects. Also the fund needs to be spent by 15th March 2014.

He asked the council to permit him to determine costs for the existing 7 point plan and ascertain which parts might attract grants. For us capital expenditure of the "Map boards" up to 75% is at least one item already identified by NFDC as a possibility for grant. A further meeting on cycling matters was scheduled for 22 January. The Council and Community group might like to consider adding to our plan.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

4. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Kershaw attended the HCC New Forest Passenger Transport Forum and reported:-

On buses, HCC spend £4.7m last year on subsidies of which £540k was services in New Forest. The No. 6 Route is part subsidised and consultation will take place in the New Year

On trains, the possibility of passenger trains using the waterside track between Southampton and Hythe had reached the 3rd stage of 8 in consideration. To go ahead it will need cost benefit ration of 2:1. Currently it is only 0.66:1 so it is unlikely to proceed.

5. RECREATION GROUND

Cllr Coaker reported that:-

a) the vandalised Notice Board had been repaired and the staples used in the public section had been removed. He requested that residents use drawing pins as staples were hard to remove and broken staples were sharp and dangerous.

b) he had completed a Routine Inspectors Course run by NFDC and was now accredited for that work.

6. PLANNING

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

7. FINANCIAL ISSUES

- a) The cheques issued since the date of the last meeting were approved.
- b) **Cllr Coaker** proposed and **Cllr Marchetti** seconded that Precept for 2014/5 of £26,500 be approved. The resolution was passed unanimously.
- c) The Clerk advised that it was necessary to amend the Bank Mandate to reflect the resignation of Cllr Bryant and the retirement of the Clerk and the appointment of Cllr Marchetti and Mrs Luscombe.
- The Chairman** proposed and **Cllr Kershaw** seconded the following resolution to amend the Bank mandate:- the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in Section 2, be replaced in accordance with Sections 5 and 6 and the current mandate will continue as amended.
- The resolution was approved unanimously

8. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Cllr Coaker attended the Routine Inspectors Course

Cllr Kershaw attended the HCC New Forest Passenger Transport Forum

District Cllr Puttock reported that the two major issues were Council Tax and Planning changes. NFDC was still waiting for Central Government to decide how much funding would be provided. Until that was known the Council Tax and related benefits changes for next year could not be finalised. It was still hoped to hold council tax unchanged for a third year.

Changes to planning requirements were being made to encourage people to build but it seemed the impact on neighbouring areas was not addressed. Planning control in the New Forest was very necessary.

Cllr Mans said HCC is in the middle of budgets and it was hoped to hold council tax at the same level but the funding from Central Government was still not known. The consultation on Care Homes in Hampshire had been well conducted and was now finalised. The Lyndhurst home would remain open. The overall strategy of providing the right care for and meeting the needs of people at home remained the same.

PC Andy White reported that November and December had been quiet months with a house burglary in Ashurst. Thefts were still taking place in forest car parks and also one in an Ashurst shop. There was still very good support from NHW on things like suspicious cars etc. On speeding issues, between 1 January and 30 November 337 tickets were issued from cameras and 42 from speed guns. This remained a priority issue.

9. A&C COMMUNITY GROUP

Cllr Coaker had nothing to report.

10. 70th ANNIVERSARY OF D DAY JUNE 2014

The Chairman reported she had spoken with other Parishes close to us and asked if they would like a joint effort. Copythorne is the only one that has responded.

11. BARKER MILL FOXHILLS DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

The Chairman said she had spoken with Turley Associates for the results of parents/public opinions but this has not been collated as yet. Further consultations are expected when that information is announced.

12. RURAL HOUSING

Cllr Kershaw had nothing to report.

13. CODE OF CONDUCT AND ICO CASES

The Chairman said you will recall that a resident complained to New Forest District Council that I had not complied with the requirements of our Code of Conduct.

I am pleased to tell you that the New Forest District Council has decided that there is no evidence that I have failed to comply with any provision in our Code of Conduct and therefore no action is required.

The Clerk advised that the 1st ICO case was still waiting for the appointment of an assessor. In regard to the 2nd case the formal response was now finalised and subject to final approval from the council would be submitted tomorrow.

The Council approved the final submission

14. ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS IMPORTANT

Adderbury Parish Council in Oxfordshire has written to the Prime Minister with regard to some local planning issues in Oxfordshire and the PC would like to share its thoughts with other PC's in England, as some of them may be in the same position.

The main issues the Parish Council has are:

1. How much weight will be given to a local plan after approval by its authority but prior to its formal adoption and what level of protection will be afforded to Parishes?
2. What protection will be afforded to Parishes after adoption of the Local Plan but prior to the referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan?
3. What will the Government do, to provide ongoing protection after a Local Plan is adopted and a Neighbourhood Plan is approved when a downturn in the market results in a five year shortfall for housing supply?

15. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

Cycle routes

The next Parish Council meeting will be in the Church Rooms on Tuesday 21st January at 7.30pm