

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council on 16<sup>th</sup> February 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, Cllr Clive White.

**Clerk;** Helen Klaassen

**NFDC;** Les Puttock.

**Members of the Public;** 20

---

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

**433/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 Rita Judd spoke regarding the state of the grass verge in front of 12 New Road. The occupants had widened their driveway without widening the tarmac area between the verges. She asked could the PC push for them to finish it properly.

The PC agreed it would speak to NPA regarding whether or not the driveway required planning permission.

A resident asked could the matter of a disabled space in front of the shops be pursued again?

**The PC agreed it would look into the matter.**

Mrs Pat White spoke regarding the speed limit issues in Woodlands Road. There was to be a demonstration on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 10.30am by the 40mph sign, just before the dangerous double bend. The Southern Daily Echo would be coming to report on the demonstration.

Mrs White said that Hampshire County Council had been dismissive of the problems and quoted an excerpt from their letter.

Cllr Lacey confirmed that the issues had been highlighted on Streetlife and had received a number of responses.

Paul Marsh spoke regarding the damage to verges in Ashdene Road. He had spoken to a Highways engineer who was doing a survey in the area and whose opinion was that since the issues were aesthetic and not safety related that it was unlikely that anything would be done to resolve it.

Mr Marsh wished to know could the PC introduce a Byelaw to stop people parking on or driving over the verges and put up signs to that effect.

**It was agreed that the PC would investigate the matter and also that the CPS would be asked if they could do work to repair the verges.**

**The magazine would also be used to promote parking in driveways not on verges.**

Mr George asked could the PC write to the bus company Bluestar to ask them to change the times of the no 6 service in the morning so passes can be used on the early route.

**The PC agreed they would ask.**

**434/FC Apologies for absence.**

Cllr Keith Mans, Cllr Derek Tipp.

**435/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.

None.

**436/FC Approval of Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

Minute 413/FC; Cllr Jenkins and Cllr White had a discussion regarding whether or not there existed guidance as to whether or not a Councillor could record a meeting.

It was felt that the statement in the minutes presented Cllr White's statement as fact and may have been misleading. It was decided that the '.' should be replaced with 'and' to rectify this.

Minutes 428/FC; Cllr Thomas felt that the use of the word 'rounded' was a somewhat emotive and he would prefer it to be changed to demanded. After some discussion it was agreed that this could be done.

Minute 432/FC Cllr Lacey said that she had in fact asked for a copy of the updated travel plan to be forwarded to the PC as soon as one was available.

**Notwithstanding the above, Cllr Hubbard proposed and Cllr White seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. All Agreed.**

**437/FC Matters Arising Not on the Agenda.**

Cllr Lacey updated the PC regarding Lyndhurst NeighbourCare, that she had spoken to the Manager and that the service provided assistance for anyone who could not drive, not just the elderly. Mainly for doctor and hospital appointments, but noted that users must be registered at Lyndhurst Surgery to use it (NeighbourCare Contact No; 0845 0945 818). As they have 48 drivers already they don't need any more volunteers and mainly service the areas from Fritham to the edge of Ashurst. There is however a Totton Service whom Cllr Lacey would approach to see if they covered Ashurst. Cllr Lacey said she would add the issue as a question in the Parish plan.

Cllr Coaker then made a statement regarding Minute 428/FC and asked that it be minuted.

'To conclude the item 'Matters Arising', I personally, and no doubt the other Councillors, condemn the comments made by Cllr Arnold at the PC meeting of January as being totally inappropriate, unwarranted and unprofessional. These comments questioned the Clerk's handling of allotment quotes and inferred wasting Taxpayers money.

The clerk, Helen Klaassen, makes every effort to ensure all matters are conducted correctly with great openness to ensure we as a Council are beyond reproach in all of our dealings. Since joining the Council in 2014 Mrs. Klaassen has been instrumental in improving the way we conduct business to be correct, open and involve the public whenever possible to promote understanding and engagement.

Cllr. Arnold has had every opportunity to resolve this issue but so far has chosen not to. '

**438/FC Accounts.**

1. To consider accounts paid and payable since the last meeting (Appendix 1). Including clerk's salary and expenses of £792.78.

**Cllr Hubbard proposed and Cllr Lacey seconded that the accounts be accepted. All agreed.**

2. External Audit Procedures. To receive an update and any action required.

The Clerk explained the situation regarding internal and external auditors and what would be required from the PC in due course and that the item would remain on the agenda for potentially the next year or so to allow action to be taken if required.

**439/FC Police / Neighbourhood Watch Report.**

In the absence of Mrs Oliver the Chairman read out a report submitted by her;

Incidents.

In the weeks towards the end of January – 3 x non-dwelling shed breaks occurred. Tools were taken, no suspects identified.

On the night of 24<sup>th</sup> a van in Peterscroft Avenue was broken into and tools stolen. No suspect was identified and property not recovered however, tools from a different offence were discovered at the scene but the owner of these has not been identified.

Quad Bikes.

There have been 4 x Quad bikes stolen since Christmas up to the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month spanning this area and Alton. It is suggested the use of ground anchors, trackers and motion sensors are fitted to ANY

moveable piece of equipment – recreational or commercial to minimise theft opportunity.

Operation Holly.

At Januarys' Parish Council meeting, Cllr Jenkins asked for specific numbers regarding drink/drug driving arrests. 69 men and 16 women were arrested between 1<sup>st</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December. In total, 61 of those arrested have been charged with 16 bailed and 8 released with no further action. These figures were published on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

**440/FC Correspondence.**

Councillors had received correspondence by email. No comments.

**441/FC County Councillor's Report.**

None.

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

Cllr Puttock reported that many changes were being proposed at present and that it would be some time before this state of flux would subside.

He said that the message should go back to central government that cutting money meant cutting services and that they should not expect provision not to suffer. NFDC would not be able to continue to hold the rate of Council Tax in these circumstances.

**443/FC Defibrillator.** To receive prices for an AED and Lockable Cabinet.

Cllr Coaker reported that a cheque for £350 had been received from the Co-op and that hopefully £500 would be forthcoming from Cllr Mans, any outstanding monies required would come from money raised at the Fete last year.

The Fete Committee would decide which device and cabinet to go for.

It was suggested to provide AED / First Aid training to staff at the Co-op and potentially the wider community. Cllr Sturgess has a contact whom she will contact regarding this and invite them to give a talk at the APM.

First Responders to be offered a stand at the fete to raise awareness of the device and first aid training.

**444/FC Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations.**

The Recreation QE II FiT Dedication day would be moved to the Queens Birthday weekend, so both could be celebrated together. The date would be Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

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

20 stallholders have so far committed, payment is required from some. More stallholders are needed and a reminder would be going out in the magazine.

There would be a Fete Meeting next week 26<sup>th</sup> and prize donation request letters would be going out soon.

**446/FC School Bus Services.** To discuss and formulate a reply to HCC proposals to cease the School Bus Subsidy for Foxhills Schools.

The Chairman invited Ann Arscott, Foxhills junior School, Chair of Governors to speak on the matter.

Mrs Arscott confirmed that HCC are removing the subsidy for non-entitled pupils school bus travel which brings pupils to the school from Totton, Eling, Hounslow and Rushington. The service that covered Foxhills School has been running for 8 years and is a very popular service. There will be a shortfall in funding and HCC had consulted stakeholders and residents (which didn't include the school) as to what services they considered a priority.

There are two options; either the school, parents or HCC organise a commercially viable bus service, which will likely involve a fare increase, or parents are wholly responsible for getting children to school themselves.

There is not an option to retain the service, however at Cllr Sean Woodward's Decision Day on 16<sup>th</sup> March he may decide on any measures HCC may make to mitigate the effects of the withdrawal of the service based on responses from schools and parents.

The school, with the Governors, are investigating the cost of a private bus service but felt it advisable to alert the PC to the fact that should this be unaffordable parents will have to find another way, probably by car, to get their children to school. The Foxhills area is already under a great deal of pressure at drop off and pick up times and this will only exacerbate it.

**Resolved; The PC agreed to write to HCC regarding the matter; that they have concerns for child safety and worsening traffic.**

**Also that the matter be added to the April agenda following Cllr Woodward's Decision Day on 16<sup>th</sup> March so see if further action needs to be taken.**

**447/FC Recreation Ground.** To receive recommendations from the Committee regarding quotes for play equipment and fencing.

The quotes for both play equipment and fences were discussed and it was resolved that;  
**Playscapes be awarded the contract for the installation of their Beacon Twin Deck Tower in woodland colours. Cllr Jenkins proposed, Cllr White seconded; 7 for with Cllr Thomas abstaining by reason of wanting to consult the community for their preference before making a decision.**

**That the contract for fencing be awarded to RM Smith, for a 1.2m bow top fence in (complementing) dark green. Down the length of the Recreation Ground on the Lakewood Road side. Including removal of the kissing gate. Cllr Hubbard proposed, Cllr Sturgess seconded; 7 for with Cllr Thomas abstaining as he felt the work should have been awarded to a local contractor.**

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

1. Recreation Committee – 18.01.16

**Cllr Arnold proposed and Cllr Jenkins seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record. All agreed.**

2. Planning Committee – 19.01.16

For information.

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

Cllr Arnold had attending a Quadrant meeting where the topics for discussion included the Local Plan Review, road maintenance, and High Stewardship Level Reviews.

Cllr Arnold also attended at course run by the Society of Local Council Clerks, for Clerk on HIOW Devolution.

Cllr Coaker had attended a meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January with SusTrans, ACCG, NPA, Cllr Arnold and the Clerk regarding the cycle path and signage for it. Several signs were agreed to be changed to make the paths and routes more understandable and it was also intended to check the measurements of the south side A35 pavement to see if there was any room make it wider and therefore acceptable to HCC as a cycle path.

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

Cllr Coaker reminded Councillors that next month would be the PC APM and that chairs of committee would need to prepare a report to present at the meeting.

If anyone had any further thoughts on speakers for the event could they let the Clerk know.

That ACCG be invited, also Karen Oliver and Pc Rachel Gallimore.

There being no more business, at 21.08pm Cllr Coaker thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting.