

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015, held at the Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury.**

**Present;** Cllr. M Coaker (Chairman) Cllr C Hubbard (Vice Chair), Cllr. A Sturgess, Cllr. S Arnold, Cllr. C White, Cllr. M Thomas, Cllr E Lacey, Cllr S Jenkins.  
Cllr D Tipp (NFDC)  
Cllr K Mans (HCC)  
Clerk to the Council; H Klaassen.  
**12 Members of the public.**

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The Chairman opened the meeting by reminding assembled Councillors of their duty to act within the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.

**300/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.

None.

**301/FC Apologies for absence.**  
Apologies were received from Cllr Les Puttock.

**302/FC Disclosure Of Interest In An Agenda Item**  
Councillors are reminded that under the Code of Conduct if they have a personal interest in any item on the agenda they must declare it now.

Nothing declared.

**303/FC Police / Neighbourhood Watch Report.**  
It was noted that Karen Oliver was on holiday. The Chairman advised those assembled to be on their guard as there had been many reports recently of sheds being broken into and valuables taken.

**304/FC Approval of Minutes of the AGM / Full Council Meeting held on 19.5.15.**  
Cllr Lacey raised that she did not agree that the discussion which took place with regards to herself, Cllrs Jenkins and Thomas joining the planning committee (minute FC/286) was reflected accurately in the minutes.  
Cllr Lacey then stated that it was her belief that the Localism Act, which the Clerk had originally mentioned in the minutes, showed that it was possible for her, Cllr Thomas and Cllr Jenkins to join the planning committee.  
A discussion ensued and concluded with the Chairman, Cllr Coaker reminding those assembled that a vote had taken place on this issue at the last meeting and that at this present time, there would be no more discussion on the matter.

Cllr Thomas raised, also on minute FC/286 that he accepted that he couldn't be on the Allotment committee, but in fact queried his inclusion on a working party, he stated that he hadn't asked to be on the committee, but only in a working party. Cllr Arnold clarified that it was unlikely that a working party would be needed for the normal running of the allotments as on many occasions matters needed to be referred to a full committee for action.

The Chairman then asked for a vote to be taken to approve the minutes, if all other councillors felt that they were accurate. So it was agreed on a vote of 5 for, 3 against that; **The minutes of the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 be accepted as a true and accurate record.**

305/FC

**Matters Arising Not on the Agenda.**

Cllr Lacey wished to raise the issue of the School Travel Plan Team. She noted that the Chair of Governors has asked assembled councillors at the end of the last meeting whether the council had formalised the chosen representative. She mentioned that she had been contacted by the School to meet with the Head and CoG to discuss with them the Working Party's plans to assist in the situation surrounding the traffic at the school. Cllr Lacey explained that although she was Chair of KACCG she did not run the WP as part of KACCG. She wished to clarify whether she would be attending this meeting as a representative of the PC of just the WP.

The Chairman clarified that Cllr White would be representing the PC as he had been invited to do so and that Cllr Lacey would be representing the WP.

Cllr White then clarified that he had been invited in his capacity at councillor to the Travel Plan Team because he had previously expressed to the CoG a desire to become more involved with the school. He stated that although he was on this team, that he would still be accountable and report back to the PC and would not acting autonomously.

306/FC

**Accounts.**

1. To consider accounts paid and payable since the last meeting (Appendix 1).

Cllr Hubbard proposed, Cllr Arnold seconded that they be approved. **All agreed.**

2. Audited Accounts for BDO

The Clerk presented the documentation that was required of the Parish Council and her as Responsible Financial Officer by BDO for the Annual Audit.

It was discussed that to a certain extent councillors not involved directly in the financial processes would have to 'take on trust' the information that the clerk provided. The clerk iterated that she did indeed follow proper practices, such as the signing of cheque by two councillors other than herself and countersigning of cheque stubs and invoices. The Clerk also pointed out that the accounts and processes had been audited to ensure compliance and that the auditor Paul Reynolds was satisfied with them and the clerk's correct administration of them.

Cllr Thomas enquired whether the figure of £37,890 indicated available funds. The Clerk responded that although that was the figure cumulatively of both accounts that there was not the fullness of information to accurately say how much of it was available as 'spare' funds.

It was decided after some discussion that a review should be set for September, by which time it was hoped a fuller picture would have emerged of specific council spending for this financial year.

307/FC

**Electoral Boundary Review.** Following the letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission dated 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015 (Appendix 2), and their email forwarded to Councillors on 27.5.15, to review their proposals and provide comment / views.

All comments from councillors should be forwarded to the clerk who will formulate a reply. It was noted that the date for receipt of the comments was 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

Cllr Arnold stated that she had already responded and read out her response to the assembled councillors.

308/FC

**NFDC Licensing Policy Review.** Following the letter/email from Paul Weston dated 22.5.15, to give consideration to the review of licensing policy and forward any recommendations or suggestions to NFDC.

Councillor comments should be forwarded to the clerk who will pass them onto NFDC.

309/FC

**Correspondence.**

1. To consider, as per the email from HALC dated 12.5.15 whether the association should remain a part of NALC and forward our recommendations to HALC.

To be taken forward to the next meeting and to send an initial response to HALC of 'don't know yet'.

**310/FC**

**County Councillor's Report.**

Cllr Mans reported that HCC were still involved in cost cutting exercises as there was a suspicion that the grant from central government may go down again and the County may find themselves having to save £98million over the next two years. They would continue their commitment to front line services by ensuring the cuts would have little effect in this area. HCC would be continuing their commitment to spending in schools and hoped to raise some money by selling their support programme to other councils. Cllr Mans said that although it was not a statutory requirement to provide this, HCC had decided to make the commitment to continue to do so.

Cllr Mans also informed the council that HCC had the largest capital investment programme of any council, currently standing at around £250million.

Finally Cllr Mans let the council and assembled public know that this devolved budget was now open. He has £8000 to use at his discretion towards grants. This scheme can be utilised by both parish councils and individual charities, although he noted that he tended to limit donations to under £1000 per request and to spread them out evenly throughout the year. Anyone wishing to apply for a grant can go to the HCC website and look under devolved budgets;  
(<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/grants/county-councillor-grants.htm>).

**311/FC**

**District Councillor's Report.**

Cllr Tipp reported that a similar scheme was run by NFDC, which runs out at the end of the year. Cllr Tipp's fund is for £600 and he said that he was not sure that it would increase in the next financial year.

He noted that NFDC councillors from other parties would like NFDC to put all its employees on the 'living wage' an hourly rate above the government set minimum wage, but that doing so could cost the council at least £100,000 extra per annum. He said that elections had meant the district council was divided up thus; 58 Conservative Councillors, 2 Liberal Democrats and 0 UKIP.

Cllr Tipp ended by saying that each Councillor is only supposed to have one committee and although he had lost the Audit Committee he was still on Corporate Overview and the Appeals Committee.

**312/FC**

**Highways and Transport.**

The Chairman noted that the resurfacing Ashdene and Wood Roads was now complete and that now, with thanks to Cllr Arnold's attention to the matter, the buses were now running back down their normal routes.

The Chairman also noted that he would be attending the Netley Marsh Parish Council Meeting the next evening, to bring to their attention the issue of speeding on Woodlands Road, with a view to encouraging NMPC to join A&CPC in pushing for a reduction in speed limit.

**313/FC**

**Recreation Ground.**

Cllr Coaker reported that the Recreation Committee had received a letter from a resident who had witnessed a child narrowly miss a car after running out into Whartons Lane having spotted a horse on the far side of the road. The resident expressed concern that a child should so easily be able exit the park by nipping through the gaps in the kissing gate and running straight out into the road. Cllr Coaker said he would deal with the issue by putting some wire mesh over the gate and thus prevent access either way. He reminded those assembled that the pedestrian gates were now left unlocked, thus allowing access to all including those less abled and those with pushchairs.

**314/FC**

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

Cllr Arnold informed those assembled that she had attended;

28th May – New Forest Consultative panel – Councillor Hubbard gave her apologies so no direct representative of the Council had attended

1st June – New Forest Access Forum

3rd June – National Park Quadrant Meeting – no representatives from this Parish  
9th June – Field trip with National Park  
16th June – National Park Planning.

Cllr Arnold also advised that she had been advised from the NPA that they would be reviewing their planning policies which would involve consultation with parishes this Sept – October. The reviewed and renewed documents would be presented to the Secretary of State in Winter of 2016/17 with a view for adoption in Summer 2017. Clerks would be advised of action required in due course.

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

- 1) HALC; to consider further their disaffiliation with NALC.
- 2) Licensing policy revision; to report back providing any views were forthcoming in the preceding month.
- 3) Electoral Boundary Review; to report back on formulated views and reply.
- 4) Would the PC be able to get Councillor and other training if they were not a part of HALC? The Clerk to look into this and also to provide a précis on the pros and cons of membership of both SLCC and HALC.
- 5) Cllr Thomas raised regarding the email the clerk had sent from a company specialising in SIDS, after some discussion it was agreed that it should be an agenda item for next month.
- 6) Cllr Lacey raised the question; did the PC have a strategic review in place, for the next 4-5 years? It was mentioned that there had been in 2007 a village plan done by Ashurst and Colbury Community Group and it was noted that whilst they had done everything they could they had left that which was unachievable by them. Discussion took place regarding possible ways of furthering this and gaining residents views. It was left that it should be something to add to the mid term review in September. In the meantime the clerk would do some research to see what other parishes do.

At 8.57pm the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

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

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