

Minutes of the Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council on 17th February 2015, held at the Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury.

Present; Cllr. M Coaker (Chairman) Cllr. P Sopowski, Cllr. A Sturgess, Cllr. S Arnold, Cllr. C White.
Cllr. D Tipp (NFDC)
Cllr. K Mans (HCC)
Clerk to the Council; H Klaassen.
10 Members of the public.

221/FC Public Participation

Mrs Karen Oliver spoke regarding the footpath leading to the train station. She said that the section of path on the east side was in a bad state of repair; poorly lit, prone to flooding in bad weather, and unevenly surfaced. She stated that she had brought this up before and wished to know if the parish council had followed it up. Cllr Coaker stated that so far it had not and the council agreed that;
The Clerk would contact Network Rail and/or NFDC to determine who had the responsibility for repairing it and ask them to do so.

Mr Peter George said that he had seen a notice regarding preventing KFC and other fast food outlets opening at the Ridgeway Cars site on the roundabout at the junction of the A35 / A326 Marchwood bypass and was wondering if the parish council were aware of it as he thought planning had already been granted.

Mrs Patricia Bascombe said that the information Mr George had seen was just the rider on the poster and that the issue that they were trying resolve was to get the entrance and exit to the development changed as it was considered to be dangerous and that the group in question were trying to get the public involved in pushing for these changes.

Cllr Arnold stated that there had been some discussion on the matter at the Planning Committee meeting she had attended at the NFNPA that morning and that it was generally felt that, despite all agencies being against granting the proposed planning, it had been granted by an inspector who had no real knowledge of the area and the problems that such a development could cause.

222/FC Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Marchetti, Cllr Hubbard, Cllr Thomas and Cllr Puttock.

223/FC Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Arnold declared an interest agenda item FC/233 as she is a member of the NPA Planning Committee.

224/FC Police / Neighbourhood Watch Report.

Mrs Karen Oliver presented the Beat Report of behalf of PC Andy White who was unable to attend the meeting.

The figures for Ashurst and Netley March for January were;

Anti-Social Behaviour	- 1 (reports of a suspicious vehicle)
Assaults	- 2 (both domestic related)
Burglary (non-dwelling)	- 7 (outbuilding and shed burgled in both parishes)
Criminal Damage	- 1 (incident in a care home)
Public Order	- 1 (incident in Woodlands)
Road Traffic Collisions	- 2 (minor collisions in Ashurst)
Road Traffic Incidents	- 3 (2 summonsed for speeding, 1 for no insurance)
Theft	- 1 (logs stolen from outside an address)
Theft from Vehicles	- 0

Speedwatch; it was requested that those present should please contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team if they would like further details of the recorded data and the action taken by Police.

Mrs Oliver also noted that the Constabulary is undergoing major changes over the next few months, which includes the way they share information. Details of crimes and incidents of note are being circulated by Hampshire Alert. Those wishing to receive the alerts for crimes and incidents of note should go to www.hampshirealert.co.uk and sign up.

There will also be changes to the Beat Surgery as the ones held at the Welcome Store were not very well attended or very private for people wishing to discuss sensitive matters. Therefore the team were looking to hold the Beat Surgery in Lyndhurst library, where they would be able to talk to people with a improved degree of privacy and in inclement weather would be warm and dry. Cllr White mentioned that the matter had been put into the A&C Parish Magazine to see if anyone had any alternative suggestions within the parish.

Mrs Oliver finished by saying that the police would, going forward, have to devote more time to dealing with incidents and crimes and that throughout these proposed changes they would need and appreciate support from both the Parish Council and members of the public.

225/FC Approval of Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20.01.15.

Cllr Sopowski proposed and Cllr White seconded that the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting of 20.1.15 and it was **unanimously agreed**.

226/FC Matters Arising.

215/FC Highways – there will be an article in the March Magazine which gives details of how to access the Hampshire County Council website to report highway problems.

203/DC Public Participation – the Clerk reported that Swan Gan Marsh of NFDC had been contacted regarding SIDS /SLR deployment and that she had emailed back to confirm that various locations in Ashurst would be added to the provisional lists for the next year from April.

The matter concerning extending bus passes was being pursued and an email had been sent to Cllr Mans, HCC and the Bluestar Bus Company to request that two stops within Ashurst (one at 0909 outside the post office and other at 0914 at Foxhills) be included for use with passes. Cllr Coaker quoted that under the Passenger Transport Review & Hampshire Concessionary Travel Scheme 2015/16, Page 6, Para 8.2 Moving Start of Concessionary Fares 0900 to 0930, states 'where passengers currently have a departure between 0900-0929 and would not have another departure until 1031 am these specific journeys could be listed for passes to be accepted from 0900' which implied that these changes should be possible.

216/FC Cllr Sopowski stated that as the revised planning application for 24 Wood Road had not been added as an item to the agenda he would like to bring it up under Matters Arising and noted that although that plans had been changed, in the Planning Committee's opinion that they were still in breach of DP1 of the NPA's Planning Policy, that the buildings in Wood Road were getting progressively taller and that residents were still unhappy with the plans, therefore the Committee were sticking with their original decision and recommending refusal.

227/FC Accounts. To consider accounts paid and payable since the last meeting. The accounts were considered and approved.

Cllr Coaker provided an update on the accounts, on behalf of Cllr Marchetti;

- A forensic review for diagnosis/resolution on the financial accounts commenced with a 4 hour session with Helen on 4th February and continued for a further couple of hours on 12th February.
- The system being used has been designed for Council accounts but is adaptable by the individual user for making changes to accommodate local requirements.
- Any accounting/spread-sheet application adapted for the user is always extremely difficult to follow for someone else taking over.

- The Ashurst & Colbury accounting system has unfortunately been “driven” by 3 different people over the last 12 months before Helen took over.
- Accounting entries prior to December, when Helen started, had not been adequately reconciled and the only fail-safe way to proceed was to start again from the opening balances as of 1st April, 2014 which had been agreed, audited and signed-off.
- A detailed re-posting and checking of all receipts and payments was conducted to ensure that all transactions had been captured; some had been omitted.
- Formulas within the calculation matrix were incorrect and had not been adequately adapted to accommodate the reconciliation process; in addition, inter-account transfers seemed to be accounted for as costs and income which threw the whole thing out; they should of course have balanced out to zero.
- Interest on the deposit account (Interest Bearing Account) had not been recognised as income.
- The Accounts are now reconciled for each quarter up to 31st December, 2014 and there are NO discrepancies.
- Further work will be completed on the final period of 3 months from January till March 2015 and the Financial Accounts prepared for submission to our Auditors; this is expected to be done during April and the deadlines for final submission will be checked in the meantime.

228/FC Correspondence. To consider correspondence received since the last meeting. Communication from HALC regarding Fullers Village of the Year Competition. Cllr Sturgess is keen to see the village enter. Cllr Arnold pointed out that entering involves a lot of work. Cllr White has suggested that an item should go in the Parish Magazine asking if individuals and community groups would like to be involved.

It was agreed that Cllr Sturgess will take it forward, contacting village groups to get them involved and publicising it via the notice boards, magazine and website.

229/FC Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. To present for approval and adoption. Cllr Arnold raised a concern about the definition of a committee meeting and that they needed to be held in public. Cllr Coaker confirmed that the idea was to have a yearly public committee meeting to agree plans for the forthcoming year, spending plans and electing a chair. Cllr Sopowski proposed and Cllr White seconded and it was;

Agreed, that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations should be adopted.

Cllr Arnold asked since the Parish Council had agreed it's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, would they now be looking at the Core Class of Information as this had not been updated for a number of years.

It was agreed that the Clerk would look into this and report back to the Chair.

230/FC County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Mans stated he was interested in receiving feedback on the new high speed broadband services. He said he was aware that there were issues with one side of the A35 being done and the other side not. He mentioned that, although BT had paid a significant amount towards the installation of this service, Hampshire County Council had in its turn spent approximately £50 million taking broadband into rural areas. It was noted that connection would depend on whether a properties' telephone line connected straight to a 'green' box or not. It seems that although cabling had been laid into the main road there is some dispute over whether it has been extended into side roads. Cllr Mans suggested that it would be a good idea to invite a representative from BT in to discuss the problems.

On the matter of potholes, Cllr Mans reminded those assembled that if your car is damaged by running over a pothole that had already been reported to HCC, there was the possibility of claiming back the cost of vehicle repairs from HCC, which would, he hoped, incentivise HCC to repair offending potholes more promptly.

Cllr Mans had also recently visited Foxhills School, he had arrived at 830am (as requested by the Head Teacher) to see the worst of their access and parking problems. He conceded that it was a pretty dire situation and has asked someone in his department to look into it.

There is a HCC meeting on Thursday, 19th February to set council tax; presently the cabinet has agreed it should remain at the same level for another year. HCC is using their reserves for some things, in order to avoid having to increase council tax for 2015/16, but that this action was of a finite nature.

Cllr White asked if Cllr Mans knew if BT were allowing other broadband suppliers access to their cabling and servers. Cllr Mans said when bidding started to provide services, BT were the only ones left in the running as Virgin pulled out. He has heard a rumour that BT are prepared to let other providers access to their servers. He mentioned the co-operative in the Lune Valley, Lancashire, whereby in order to get broadband to rural areas villagers across several parishes have formed a co-operative to take it forward. Cllr Mans said he had lost confidence in BT to provide the service they originally said they would,

231/FC District Councillor's Report.

Cllr Tipp reported that NFDC would discuss council tax at their meeting next Monday and that they would be agreeing to keep the cost at the same level as this year.

He had been made aware that another Councillor would be putting forward a motion to have Chinese / sky lanterns banned from use on council or forest land.

Cllr Tipp also brought attention to a small grant he had to give; for £200 towards local community projects, which will be lost if not claimed before 6th March.

Cllr Arnold suggested that the grant go towards the Neighbourhood Watch team.

232/FC Highways.

Nothing to report.

233/FC Planning and Trees. To receive an update and decide on responses to recent planning applications:

Tree Work;

Case Ref: TPO/15/0100

Proposed Works: Prune 1 Oak

Site Address: 69 Whartons Lane, Ashurst, Southampton, SO40 7EF

TPOs;

Tree Preservation Order No; TPO/0039/14

Land of 10 and 12 Foxhills, Ashurst. 3 trees granted TPO, 1x tree on the front boundary, 2x trees on the rear boundary.

It was felt that the addition of a TPO to the land at 10/12 Foxhills was a good idea.

Cllr Sopowski asked that any comments on the aforementioned tree works be sent to him or the Clerk for forwarding to the NPA.

234/FC Recreation Ground. To receive an update from Cllr Coaker, Recreation Committee.

Cllr Coaker stated that the work with Fields in Trust was ongoing and that the committee were soon hoping to have a signed agreement from Andy Groom at NFDC, to meet the requirements of the trust.

235/FC Allotments. To receive an update from Cllr Marchetti, Allotment Committee.

Cllr Arnold, on behalf of Cllr Marchetti, reported that letters had been sent to plot holders who weren't able to attend the January meeting to request payment of fees for 2015 and signing of the new tenancy agreements and that there would be a meeting on 27th February to receive an update on this.

236/FC Fete. To receive an update from the Fete Committee.

Cllr Sturgess reported that the Committee's working group had met and its structure agreed for this year and that there would be an article in the magazine about this year's fete, along with some questions she

would like answered by the general populace of Ashurst. She also reported that there had been a high demand for stalls this year.

237/FC Ashurst and Colbury Parish Magazine. To receive an update from Cllr White. Cllr White reported that, following on from the new format introduced in May 2014, the cost of printing was currently £400 per edition, but would be rising to £410 shortly and that the magazine has advertising revenue of £440 and based on those figures was breaking even. The committee would be keeping to the same 28-page format, 60% content, 40% adverts and continuing its aim of keeping both the content and adverts locally based. Cllr White noted that, for example, the magazine had articles from both the schools and the allotments on a regular basis. In the near future they would be looking at the terms and conditions of placing an advert/article and he hoped that the magazine would continue to prove a useful resource for the community.

238/FC Foxhills Working Party. To receive an update from Cllr White. Cllr White reported that KACG have formed a working group to look at the issues surrounding access for parents and children to Foxhills schools and associated traffic problems. He attended their first meeting along with PC Andy White, PCSO Lisa Quinn, representatives from the school governors and KACG representatives on 22nd January. The working party's aim is to find a scheme to aid the children's safe passage to school and make it easier for parents dropping off. Cllr White said that there will be an article in the magazine letting residents know about the voluntary one way system that is in operation during drop off and pick up times outside the school. The next meeting will be on 24th February 2015.

239/FC Reports from Representatives of Other Bodies Cllr Arnold brought the councils attention to the NFNPA Heritage on My Doorstep Project. It is a volunteer-led project designed to inspire parishes, community groups and interest groups to learn more about their local heritage and encourage them to protect it in the future and involves a number a stakeholders, including NFNPA, the New Forest Centre and the Forestry Commission. Cllr Arnold is keen to lead the project forward for Ashurst and Colbury and confirmed that she had received interest from the Ashurst and Colbury Community Group. The council agreed that it was a good way to preserve local history and make it available for all and that Cllr Arnold should indeed lead it going forward.

240/FC Items That the Chairman Deems Important
None.

241/FC Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting
None.

At 8.36pm, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____