

**Minutes of the Meeting of Ashurst and Colbury Parish Council.**  
**Held at the Church Rooms, Deerleap lane, Colbury on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm.**

**In attendance;**

**Parish Council;** Cllr M Coaker (Chairman), Cllr C Hubbard (Vice Chairman), Cllr S Arnold, Cllr S Jenkins, Cllr E Lacey, Cllr A Sturgess, Cllr M Thomas, Cllr C White.

**NFDC;** Cllr Les Puttock

**Clerk;** Helen Klaassen

**Members of the public;** 18

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**Cllr Coaker called the meeting to order and informed those present that Councillors Jenkins and Thomas were making an audio recording of the meeting for their own private use.**

**377/FC Public Participation.**

Cllr Coaker started by thanking David White for his efforts in getting the speed limit reduced to 30mph throughout Woodlands Road. He noted that a letter had now been received from HCC Cllr Sean Woodward, and MP Julian Lewis confirming that the speed limits would not be changed. Cllr Coaker expressed disappointment at this and said that the matter would have to be left for the time being.

Alistair Hutchin spoke regarding the cycle signage within Ashurst. He stated he considered it to be confusing and misleading, not to mention dangerous in the routes it directed cyclists in. He said that the NPA had failed to address most of the issues raised previously in the report done by Ken Kershaw. He noted that, for example, if cyclists were to access Lyndhurst from Ashurst the signs directed them to cross at the pedestrian crossing outside the shops, go over the bridge on the north side of the main road and then attempt a dangerous crossing using the island near to the bus shelter on the lay by to get back to the main cycle path.

Another point of note was that the other route, going via the pavement following the cycle path and crossing Woodlands Road using the pedestrian island was overgrown and narrow.

Mr Hutchin also brought the Council's attention to the need for a continuation of the pavement between the bus stop and the campsite.

The PC pledged its support, Cllr Arnold stated that she had off her own back organised a meeting with Sustrans and the NPA and would report back.

Ian Oliver spoke regarding a few matters;

Regarding sitting on the allotments committee; he was under the impression that having been voted on at a committee meeting held, in private, at a council member's house he was therefore on the committee and wished the matter to be clarified. The clerk replied, reminding Mr Oliver that she had addressed this issue and clarified the situation when responding to an email he had sent on the subject recently. The situation remained therefore, that his sitting on the committee should have been renewed at the AGM in May, as all Councillors' memberships of committees were. The clerk said that she had never been informed that he was, or wished to be, a committee member, only that he was the 'Allotment Holders Representative'. The clerk stated that it was indeed possible for Mr Oliver to sit on the allotment committee, but noted that if they allowed Mr Oliver as an allotment holder then would also have to allow Cllr Thomas as he had requested membership of the committee at the AGM but had been refused on those grounds.

**It was agreed to add to the next agenda an item allowing Mr Oliver and Cllr Thomas the opportunity to sit on the allotment committee.**

Mr Oliver then passed on the news that;

Mike from the Totton Allotments had cleared their side of the drainage ditch. Mr Oliver had strimmed plots 24 and 40b. That there would be separate judging and prizes from next year for half plots, full plots and a special award for children's plots.

Mr Tony Barron spoke, reminding councillors that they were in danger of eroding elector's goodwill if the matter of drainage at the allotments was not dealt with soon. He stated that allotment holders

were upset at the time it was taking to complete the project  
Cllr White spoke, agreeing with Mr Barron, but said that the committee were keen to gain technical advice to ensure the job was done properly the first time and to ensure they had gained suitable quotes.

**378/FC Apologies for absence.**

Cllr Keith Mans, Cllr Derek Tipp.

**379/FC Disclosure Of Interest In An Agenda Item**

Cllrs Thomas and Sturgess declared in interest in matters to do with the Allotments, as they were tenants.

**380/FC Approval of Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015.**

Cllr Arnold noted two amendments to the October minutes, that under minute 357/FC it should be 'thought' not 'brought' and that the email read out from Tim Jobling, BME Trustee was the complete email not an excerpt.

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

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

There was discussion on the issue of the closure of the Post Office in Ashurst. Various options for actions were discussed and it was noted that under the Localism Act some parish councils had taken over the supply of PO services. It was agreed that Cllr Lacey was authorised to contact the branch and the local HQ to find out what the situation was, do some research into which services would be most useful to maintain and to ascertain whether every business in the village had been contacted with a view to taking in the counter services and what stage that was at.

**382/FC Accounts.**

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

No comments, councillors were happy with the accounts presented.

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

The Parish Council received a report from Karen Oliver who noted that there was an issue on October with bikes being stolen from the train station and that the reported problems with catalytic convertors being stolen from vehicles was not so much of an issue in Ashurst.

She noted that PC Rachel Gallimore had recently sent out an email with some advice to householders regarding Christmas presents. Namely; people should remember to keep presents out of sight, keep their properties secure and make an effort to cover or hide boxes left out for rubbish/recycling so people can't see what you've got.

Karen also noted that thefts from outbuildings and poaching were ongoing issues and encouraged people to report, via 101, anything they thought was suspicious.

**384/FC Correspondence.**

The PC considered the email from Muriel Friend regarding the issues of litter around the Co-op. It was discussed that the council could provide extra rubbish bins and requested that the clerk ask NFDC if the emptying of them would involve extra cost.

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

Nothing.

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

Cllr Puttock reminded all present that the new Chief Executive of NFDC, Bob Jackson, was now in post. Cllr Puttock also spoke regarding devolution and plans currently being discussed for NFDC, Southampton CC, Portsmouth CC and IOW DC to team up with a view to drawing on additional funding

from central government.

Cllr Puttock said also that there were concerns regarding the amount of house building to take place in the NF in the future. We have been fairly well protected and only a handful of properties had been built, but this looked set to change. Central government have said that NFDC will be expected to build a large number of houses, buildings and commercial premises within the next 30 years. He said that figures for home building over the years were minute compared to the number expected in the near future.

Cllr Puttock advised those present to keep up to date with what is happening locally.

Cllr Arnold noted that HCC had, that day, met government representatives regarding their devolution plans, after which the local councils would be asked for their input.

**387/FC Defibrillator.**

It was agreed to bring this forward to precept meeting. It was noted that the Co-op were fund raising towards one. Concerns were raised regarding an article in the Telegraph suggesting emergency calls were given lower priority if there was a defibrillator near.

**388/FC Parish Office.**

The clerk updated the council that the contract was in negotiation and that they hoped to be in from 1st December.

**389/FC Recreation Ground.**

Cllr Coaker updated that the trees had now been trimmed in the precinct, a job which would have needed doing soon regardless of whether there were to be lights hung on them as the Oak especially had a lot of dead wood on it. The old lights had been taken down and the new lights would be put up this coming Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November and the electrics checked on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Community Payback Scheme had been to the Recreation ground to carry out maintenance on 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November. The park has to remain closed whilst they are in there, but people are still coming in. The clerk would be purchasing on behalf of the council a couple of a-boards to prevent entry and remind residents that is closed.

Preparations for the dedication of the recreation ground under the QEII Fields in Trust were still ongoing.

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

Cllr Sturgess reported that a date for the presentation to Riding Therapy had not been set but that it would be soon.

Next year's fete would be on 10<sup>th</sup> September as Tony White was not about on the first Saturday when it was usually held.

Anyone wishing to have a stall would have to complete a Fete Booking form, created by Charmaine Coaker, and send it along with payment to the clerk. The form would be available for downloading for printing from the website. Stands would cost £30 and £75 for commercial enterprises.

Cllr Les Puttock gave his apologies and left the meeting.

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

The annual Tenants meeting was held the previous Saturday as was a committee meeting to discuss the quotes gained from Mark Bridle and Peter Whitehorn. It was decided at that committee meeting to seek further advice regarding a land survey and as a result Farwells were contacted. Their recommendation upon seeing the allotments was that a land survey was not needed but they gave advice as to what was. Two central drainage channels were proposed, with capped, swept 'tee' pipes coming off it at intervals so allotment holders could dig and connect their own drainage and inspections chambers to make sluicing easier should they become blocked. A quote from Farwells had been received and the clerk would be asking the two others to update their quotes to match this. Work would then start as soon as possible.

**392/FC Highways and Transport.**

Concessionary fares; An email had been sent to HCC requesting a reduction in the start time on the Ashurst section of the outgoing route. A reply was awaited.

Grit bins; Cllr Coaker requested that councillors check their allocated bin and break the crust on the salt to make them ready for winter use.

Regarding the letter from Sean Woodward; Cllr Arnold informed everyone that she and David White would be meeting with Sean Woodward to discuss the problem.

SIDs; Copythorne and Netley Marsh Parish Councils had been contacted to see if they would like to come in on the scheme with A&CPC. Netley Marsh replied saying they would only rent one. It was suggested that NFDC may rent them and the clerk agreed to find out.

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

1. Allotment Committee Meeting – 7.11.15.

**Cllr White proposed and Cllr Hubbard seconded that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. All agreed and Cllr Arnold signed them off as so.**

2. Planning Committee Meeting – 20.10.15.

Presented for information only.

**394/FC Dates of Future Meetings.**

1. Precept Meeting 27.11.15

A 6.30pm start was agreed.

2. Planning Meeting 15.12.15

It was also noted that the Christmas meeting would be on 15<sup>th</sup> December and the Carol Service on 18<sup>th</sup> December, both at the Church Rooms.

**395/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 the ETE conference and agreed to forward her notes to councillors.

Cllr Thomas reported he had attended the NF Consultative Panel; which is a good way for parish councils and other groups to feed into the NPA.

The Planning Policy revision was discussed; new policies should be in place by spring and the Parish Council will have the chance to put forth its views.

The LiDAR exhibition was on in the NF Centre in Lyndhurst.

The Volunteers Fair would also soon be held in Lyndhurst.

The NPA were spending 50m on burying cable in the north of the forest.

Regarding the commercial picking of fungi; plans to restrict this has not been as successful as hoped.

Cllr Coaker and Hubbard attended the Remembrance Service.

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

It was noted that a piano player was needed for the Carol Service. If anyone knew of anyone could they please contact Cllr Hubbard.

At 8.53pm Cllr Coaker thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

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

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