

ASHURST AND COLBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes for approval at the meeting on 18th November 2014

Present Cllr Sopowski (Chairman), Cllr Arnold, Cllr Coaker, Cllr Hubbard, Cllr Sturgess, Cllr Thomas, Cllr White

In attendance Cllr Puttock (NFDC), the Clerk Mrs S Gale

Also present 23 members of the public,

Date Tuesday 21st October 2014

Opened at 7.30pm Closed at 8.49 pm

Subject Ashurst & Colbury Parish Council Monthly meeting

135/FC Public Participation. Sue Arden of Ashurst & Colbury Community Group (ACCG) requested that it be noted that in the minutes for July the Community workers and Community Group referred to under item 115/FC is the Community Payback Scheme operated by the Probation Service and not the Ashurst & Colbury Community Group. The ACCG requested that in future full names of both groups be used to avoid confusion. It was noted that Item 142/FC refers to Ashurst & Colbury Community Group Apple Day event.

Alistair Hutchins spoke of the increase in traffic including HGVs over the past few years that has been diverted through Ashurst. He said that he had discussed this with Cllr Puttock (NFDC) and that a sign diverting traffic through Ashurst, which can be opened or closed depending on traffic conditions, at an M27 junction remains permanently open. Mr Hutchins requested that this issue be taken up by the Parish Council and the Chairman agreed. (PS)

Carol Quinney a resident of Chestnut Drive spoke of a meeting she had attended with Cllr Arnold and others regarding the appearance of the development at 9 Chestnut Drive. She asked if the Parish Council had studied the planning application prior to its approval by the NFNPA and whether Councillors attend NFNPA planning committee meetings. She said that Cllr Arnold had listened to residents and been supportive and she felt Cllr Arnold was a loss as Chairman. She went on to say that a 9" high fence at the property was planned that borders a cut way between Chestnut Drive and Lakewood Road and that the fence would have an impact on light as the cut way had no lighting of its own. Ms Quinney mentioned damage to the road and pathway caused by the development and the potential cost to residents of Chestnut Drive. The Chairman responded that he had not received any comments from residents during the application process and that if Ms Quinney would like to write to him he will respond.

Karen Oliver, Neighbourhood Watch asked if a decision had been made with regard to a question raised at a previous meeting: will the village fete reimburse Neighbourhood Watch for its stall, as it is a non-profit making organisation with no products to sell. Cllr Sturgess responded that a meeting of the fete committee is planned for December and a decision will be made then.

Malcolm Winch of the ACCG gave a short précis of the history regarding the question of opening the recreation ground to all, including wheelchair and double buggy users. (See Item 145/FC) Cllr Coaker said that the ACCG proposals have been considered and it will be suggested under Item 145/FC that locks should be removed and that the two pedestrian gates can remain open for use. Cllr Coaker said that as the gates are 121cm wide this will allow access to all. It will also be proposed that a "Please close the gate" sign be posted to prevent children running into the road and that Ash-felt may be needed under the gates. Cllr Coaker said that this would come with a caveat that if issues of vandalism re-occur in the future, the gates may have to be closed again to maintain the unique, tranquil setting. Mr Winch added that the ACCG will be happy to support and work with the Parish Council on this matter.

The Chairman extended the usual 15 minutes of Public Participation due to the number of people wishing to speak.

Michael Bone a resident of Foxhills spoke regarding the planning application at 12 Foxhills (to be considered under Item 150/FC). He said he had objected to the application as the proposed development is limited in design, occupies all of the width of the plot except a narrow path and is set back from the current line of houses. Mr Bone said he felt that the Village design statement had not been considered and that he was most concerned about flooding as there is currently poor drainage and flooding during periods of hard rain. He added that the development would increase traffic and that photographs included in the planning application were taken during the school holidays when there was significantly less traffic around.

Bryan Pass welcomed the locum clerk on behalf of the residents of the village and wished her well in the position.

Mrs Dee 8 Foxhills spoke to say that she seconded all the points raised by Mr Bone and had also objected to the application.

136/FC Apologies Cllr Marchetti, Cllr Tipp (NFDC)

137/FC Declarations of Interest Sally Arnold declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 150/FC as a member of the NFNPA planning committee. She made a statement to say that she had "the authority to remain in the meeting but to take no part at this early stage in the debate. She will be able to debate on behalf of the residents

at the NPA when or if the application goes to the full committee.” There were no declaration of interest forms for her to sign. However the Clerk confirmed that the declaration would be minuted as a record.

138/FC Matters Arising and Approval of Extraordinary Meeting Minutes held 25th June 2014 Resolved– that the Minutes of the last Meeting held on 25th June 2014 having been previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

139/FC Matters Arising and Approval of Full Council Meeting Minutes held 15th July 2014

Resolved– that the Minutes of the last Meeting held on 15th July 2014 having been previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record with the following points noted:

The venue of the meeting was The Church rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury and not Colbury Parish Hall

There is a missing minute of formal approval of the minutes from the meeting held on 17th June.

Cllr White noted that in Item 113/FC Cllr Arnold declared during the Full Council meeting that she was resigning from the magazine committee.

140/FC Matters Arising and Approval of Full Council Meeting Minutes held 16th September 2014

Resolved– that the Minutes of the last Meeting held on 16th September 2014 having been previously circulated, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

141/FC Financial Matters and Clerk’s report

Agreed: The Annual Return, with Section 3 having been signed by the external auditor BDO was approved and accepted (The Chairman proposed, all agreed.)

As shown in the clerk’s report the balance of the current account on 1st October was £3729.72, and the balance of the Interest bearing account was £43812.76 This was confirmed by Cllr Sturgess who signed the bank statements. The payments detailed in the clerk’s report were approved and the cheques signed; with the exception of cheque 1935 that had already been cancelled.

Agreed: Payment for three additional Councillors to attend (Cllr White having been previously approved) a HALC training course at a cost of £75 each.

142/FC Contribution to Community Group Apple Day event The Chairman said that a £20 donation had been suggested following the voluntary taking of minutes by Stuart Ardern at the meeting on 16th September, however he proposed a donation of £30.

Agreed: payment of £30 was approved to the ACCG Apple Day Event and a cheque was signed. (All in favour)

143/FC Bus Shelter The Chairman said that Cllr Arnold had reported the bus shelter had been hit; however it was not clear whether criminal damage was involved. The Chairman said that as this stop was not currently on a bus route there was a question over whether to repair or remove the bus shelter. Cllr Arnold said a decision over whether the stop would be on a bus route is expected on 3rd November and suggested deferring the decision until this is known. The Chairman said that as the insurance excess is £250, a claim must be submitted within a month of the damage and the renewal cost may be affected, it may be best to make good and keep the shelter. This was **Agreed by all. (PS)**

144/FC Staffing Committee Cllr White reported that a locum clerk was in place with a temporary contract and that 10 applicants had been received for the permanent position. Cllr White said a short list will be interviewed by the staffing committee and then full council will interview those successful applicants. He stated that he expected the permanent clerk would be appointed by the end of November.

145/FC Recreation Ground (Also see Public participation)

Cllr Arnold requested that the Clerk check the insurance to confirm whether removing the digital locks would affect the insurance premium. (SG) Cllr White commented that even if the insurance premium increased the park should still be open to all. PC Andy White said that since the gates had been locked the incidence of vandalism and drug taking had improved. Cllr White asked whether there were figures to back this up and commented that locked gates will not stop drug taking as the park is still accessible to pedestrians. Cllr Arnold asked if those in favour of opening the park would pay for any resulting damage. Cllr Arnold commented that the incidence of motorbikes in the park had decreased since the gates had been locked. Cllr Coaker said that the issue of access was becoming indefensible unless vandalism reoccurs and that a trial would move the issue forward.

Agreed: To remove the locks and open the gates for a trial period of 3 months. To place a sign requesting the gate be kept closed at all times. (6 for, 1 abstention)

Cllr Coaker said that there would be some costs involved to tarmac under gates and erect a sign, with possible additional fencing in the future, however there are budgeted funds for the Recreation Ground that could cover this.

Cllr Coaker reported that goal posts had been replaced at end of September. More posts are available to be erected soon. Weeding was also carried out at end of September by Highways department of HCC and this will become a regular event from next Spring. Cllr Coaker reported that quotes will be obtained to repair fence damage at the south end of Lakewood Road. The reported wasps from a nest are expected to dissipate due to the time of year without any intervention.

146/FC Allotments Cllr Arnold read a report on behalf of Cllr Marchetti saying that the water is usually turned off at the allotments in September but this had been extended due to the weather. Ian Oliver confirmed that the water has now been turned off. Councillor Marchetti has contacted Network Rail explaining the concerns of the tilted fencing along the railway adjacent to the allotments. He has received a holding email giving a job number and he will keep in touch with them.

147/FC Highways Cllr Coaker reported there are ongoing issues with number 6 buses and that he was in contact with the Operations Manager, Gary Rose who had reported a tendering process is currently ongoing. Cllr Coaker and Cllr White will obtain an update on new buses and their increased frequency in due course.

Cllr Coaker, Cllr Arnold and Cllr White confirmed they will attend the next Passenger Transport Forum meeting in November.

Cllr Arnold reported that damage to the road and pavement at Chestnut Drive caused by the works at number 9 will be paid for 50% by the owner and 50% by Hampshire Highways.

148/FC Village Fete Cllr Sturgess reported that on 10th October a cheque was presented to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. The Air Ambulance has submitted a write up for parish magazine to ask for fund raising volunteers. Cllr Sturgess said there will be a Fete committee meeting at the end of the year to discuss next year's village fete and that she had already been in discussion with locals who had submitted ideas for next year's fete. She requested that anyone with ideas come forward.

149/FC Police Report PC Andy White reported that there has been very little crime in the last 40 days. He reported that there will be changes in the police beat due to cutbacks and that after 7 years as beat officer from 1st April 2015 his beat will be changing to cover Lyndhurst, Copythorne and Winsor. PC Morant will be the new beat officer. PC White reported that "Street meets" were being conducted along with police volunteer Karen Oliver from Neighbourhood Watch and that Karen may sometimes address Parish council meetings in his place. PC White reported that a Patrol plan is in place for Halloween and that flyers are being distributed to schools and shops. Currently the priorities for the village are the recreation ground and surrounding roads. PC White requested that in future the Police report be at the beginning of the Agenda as he is often on duty at this time. Cllr Arnold thanked PC White for all his work over last 7 years. PC White added that there would also be a new PCSO from 1st April.

150/FC Planning:

The Chairman reported that having spoken to the NFNPA the Parish Council could submit a late response to the application for 153 Lyndhurst Rd as the papers had only just been received. It was agreed that this item would not be considered at the meeting.

18 Chestnut Drive R2- Recommend refusal but will accept the decision of the NPA officers under their delegated powers.

Land rear of 12 Foxhills R4- Recommend refusal.

4 New Road, Ashurst tree work R5- No objection.

151/FC Reports from representatives on other bodies Councillors listed committees that they had attended but no specific reports were given.

Cllr Puttock (NFDC) reported that NFDC are preparing for the elections next May and considering potential new candidates. He also reported that: NFDC are looking at holding council tax for the 6th year running; car parking charges will be suspended in NFDC car parks on Saturday 6th December to support Small Business Saturday; towns and Parishes can nominate a day to have car parking charges suspended within a 4 week period in the run up to Christmas.

152/FC Correspondence Cllr Sopowski reported that the NFNPA are carrying out their 5 year review of the management plan and that residents should have their say on issues such as the building line around the periphery of the village. He requested that items be placed in the Parish magazine, the website and notice board to this effect. (SG/CW)

153/FC Items that the Chairman deems important The Chairman said that all Councillors had now received draft Standing Orders and Financial regulation documents from the Clerk and that these need to be considered so that they can be agreed at the next meeting.

154/FC Items for discussion at the next meeting See 153/FC

The meeting closed at 8.49pm.

Date of next meeting will be Tuesday 18th November 2014 at 7.30p.m.