

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF
LYNDHURST HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 17
MARCH 2009 AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Mr G Bisson (Chairman)
11 Parish Councillors
County Councillor M Kendal
Mrs M Weston, Clerk to the Parish Council
25 members of the public

The Chairman, Mr George Bisson, introduced himself and welcomed everyone present. He introduced the Clerk, Margaret Weston, District Councillor Pat Wyeth (also a Parish Councillor) and County Councillor Mel Kendal.

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Charlesworth and Mrs Sally North.

(2) MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18 March 2008 were approved.

(3) MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council no longer had a Bypass Committee.

A SID trial had taken place. It was considered that the method used has not been satisfactory. Mr Herbert suggested that a hard wired device for monitoring HGVs should be used. The Chairman said that the Parish Council had received notification that the Police would be conducting a survey but to date no feedback had been received.

PC Andy White gave his report and stated that the Safer Neighbourhood Scheme had now been in operation for eighteen months. He reported on crime statistics for the previous year and said that the Beat Team wanted to tackle rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour. PCSO Lisa Quinn had joined the team in August 2008.

(4) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairmen of Committees presented their reports as follows:-

(a) Planning

Mr Mark Abbott, Planning Committee Chairman introduced the members of the Planning Committee. He explained that Councillor Wyeth attended planning committee meetings to give advice but did not take part in decision making as it would prejudice her position on the Planning Committee of the NFNPA. The Committee had met eleven times since the previous APM and had dealt with 49 applications (half the number of the previous year) which he felt was almost certainly due to the present financial situation.

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Community Centre and members of the public were welcome to attend. An application had been submitted to

demolish Knightwood Lodge Hotel and replace it with flats but this had been withdrawn and a new proposal to change the existing building into flats had been submitted. Further developments with regard to South View were awaited although the Parish Council is concerned at the deteriorated condition of the existing building. Proposals for the site at the corner of the High Street and Gosport Lane do not seem to be ongoing at the present time due to changes in circumstances.

Other larger applications dealt with during the year include an application for a two storey extension and eight extra car parking spaces at the Forest Lodge Hotel (awaiting a decision), an application by NFDC made in order to make best use of their sites at Lymington and Lyndhurst. This has been approved and as had an application for alterations to the building lighting and car parking at Fenwick 2. Coxlease School had submitted an application for continued use of temporary classrooms – the Parish Council have always pressed for a permanent solution. An application from the Baptist Church for alterations to cater for increasing attendances was turned down by the NFNPA but revised plans are to be submitted.

Mr Abbott extended his thanks to members of the Committee and to the Clerk.

(b) Recreation

Mr Mark Rollé, Vice Chairman and Recreation Committee Chairman reported that during the past year the Recreation Ground budget had been used to fund fixed costs such as rent, safety surfacing, signage, maintenance and clearance and strimming and grasscutting. A major scheme had been embarked on last summer to make the park a better place and a new play trail had been purchased. Thanks were expressed to Mr Anthony Todd, one of the Parish Council's handymen, who had played a major part in making this happen. A grand opening day had taken place on 7 August and this had been combined with the NFDC Recreation Roadshow.

Looking to the future it would be necessary this summer to scrap the large piece of play equipment in the other children's play area and it was planned to replace this with a buccaneer ship. A similar opening day would take place to that organized in 2008.

It was also hoped that a sustainable cycle track could be put in place. Work for this would take place in conjunction with ideas from local youngsters using materials sourced locally and would be the first of three phases to this project.

Mr Rollé expressed thanks to the Committee, the Clerk, the Police, Anthony Todd and, of course, the children (and their parents).

(c) Cemetery

Mr Paul Boyes, Cemetery Committee Chairman, introduced the Cemetery Committee and thanked them for their efforts during the previous year. He also extended thanks to Mr Anthony Todd, one of two Parish Council handymen, who had contributed a large amount of effort in helping to bring the Cemetery up to a better standard during the year. The road and car park were once again in a poor condition, although remedial work had taken place. The seats and lych gate had been renovated. The interior of the Chapel had been renovated. Work had taken place to the war memorial and war graves. Unfortunately, some cremation plaques had been stolen. Mr Boyes drew attention to the fact that although dogs could be taken into the Cemetery they should be kept on leads at all times. Headstones are checked regularly and some have had been laid down

for safety reasons. Areas have been cleared and thirty graves have been found – clearance continues. The Probation Service has contributed through unpaid workers in the community, although supervision remains a problem but it might be possible to use them on a one-to-one basis. During the coming year the plan is to carry on with clearance and maintaining the graves and provide a new notice board. The Chapel will be advertised as a venue for weddings and other religious services and is at present used for services by the Anglican Independent Communion.

(d) Allotments

Mrs Anne Butcher reported that, in the main, the allotments are looking good. It was hoped that as plots became available they could be converted into smaller, starter plots in order to accommodate more people on the waiting list. Fees would be increased in October 2010 as follows – starter plots £20; half plots £30 and full plots £60. The Allotment Terms and Conditions had been rewritten and thanks were expressed to Miss Helen Palmer for her assistance in this matter. It was hoped that re-fencing would be completed this year. Mrs Butcher stressed that only six chickens would be allowed per tenant. Allotment holders Peter Timmis, Adrian Wiltshire and Brian Lewis were thanked for the voluntary work they had undertaken to drainage at the Westwood Road entrance. A prize will be given in the coming year for the best allotment on site.

(e) Amenities

Mr Mark Böckle thanked Mr Frank Alexander for all his work as Amenities Committee Chairman during past years and explained that activities included bulb planting, bench and bus shelter refurbishment and repairs, maintenance of noticeboards, and during the last year a bus shelter at Pikes Hill had been replaced and an official opening held following a road traffic accident. Daffodil bulbs had been planted near all the entrances to the village. A five year budget/refurbishment programme had been formulated. Planning was also taking place for Great Mead which had recently come into the ownership of the Parish Council.

A Circular Parish Walk had been devised and a map board would be placed in the car park and leaflets distributed to all households. An opening ceremony would take place on 19 April in conjunction with fund raising activities organised by the local Scout group.

(5) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Parish Council Chairman, Mr George Bisson, introduced fellow councillors and thanked them for their hard work during the course of the last year.

He said that residents had previously queried the location of the Recreation Ground but he stated that there were no other suitable sites. It was felt that residents would be looking for entertainment at home during the present economic climate and the Parish Council would try to provide this.

The Lyndhurst Area Plan would be holding an Alice Festival and support for this was requested.

Due to an increased workload the Clerk's hours of work had been increased from 20 to 25 per week and this, added to a national pay award, would lead to increased administration costs in the coming financial year.

With regard to traffic problems, the bypass efforts had failed but there remains a traffic problem. A meeting of the Lyndhurst Traffic Scrutiny Review Group had been postponed so Mr Bisson was unable to report but it had been rescheduled for later in the month. Neither the Parish Council nor residents wanted an inner route.

Mr Bisson stated that he hoped residents had made comments on the NFNPA draft consultation. As well as making an individual comment, Lyndhurst Parish Council had combined with three other parish councils that were being designated as service villages.

The Community Centre had been trialled as a meeting venue. This had proved successful and had gained some public support so the meeting venue had been moved here on a permanent basis. Information can be obtained from the Parish Council website and hard copies of minutes, etc are available from the Clerk for a small administrative fee.

(6) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Pat Wyeth reported that the District Council were very aware of the difficult financial position the country was experiencing at present. To this end they had brought in a Council Tax rise of 2.7%. It was hoped to avoid job losses but they were looking at ways to implement savings whilst still helping residents and the business sector. Free swimming for over 60s and under 17s from 1 April would hopefully encourage people to use the leisure centres and improve their health. The Government scheme for free bus passes for the over 60s had been enhanced by allowing people to travel at any time. At present paper and glass was still being taken for recycling although income from this source had dropped dramatically. The green garden waste sacks were very popular and more economical than visiting the tip at Marchwood. Mrs Wyeth had organised the Air Ambulance clothing bin in the car park and all the recycling bins are well used.

Ongoing improvements were taking place in the car park, with surfacing commencing the following day and planting of more easily maintained landscaping beginning in April.

Mrs Wyeth stated that she was trying to secure the use of the building at the top of the car park for a youth club and the Baptist Church have secured a youth worker who is prepared to organise and run the youth club. This is mainly due to one of our new parish councillors, Ian Clark. He deserves our support.

With regard to planning and the National Park Authority Councillor Wyeth reported on Knightwood Lodge Hotel, Stag Yard and South View as well as National Park consultation with particular emphasis on service villages. Traffic issues still dominate.

This year Mrs Wyeth had given her Rural Grant to three youth organisations – Lyndhurst Brownies, Lyndhurst Junior Football Club and 1st New Forest Scouts.

Councillor Wyeth invited members of the public to consult her on queries relating to planning, housing, refuse or recycling collection and any other function for which the District Council was responsible. She also thanked County Councillor Mel Kendal for his work during the preceding 12 years.

(7) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Councillor Mel Kendal stated that this would be his last report representing this area and thanked the Clerk for her work. He reported that £4,000 of his community grant had been given to Lyndhurst by way of the Scouts, children's play equipment and the New Forest Museum.

He had chaired meetings of the Lyndhurst Traffic Management Strategy Group which would be meeting again on 26 March.

The HCC Council Tax for the coming year would be 1.9% as a result of savings made this year. The Audit Commission has announced very good results from their audit assessment making HCC a top performer in the UK. There is a need to look at climate change and to address the problem of people living longer thus enabling elderly people to continue to live at home.

Councillor Kendal thanked Councillor Wyeth.

(8) PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

Mr Herbert and the Clerk gave details of the following charities:

(a) Lyndhurst Welfare Charity

(b) Saltarn Treat Fund

(9) NEW FOREST GOLF CLUB, LYNDHURST

It had been previously reported that there was a move from the NFNPA and the Verderers to reduce the number of holes allowed at the Club to nine. However it has now been ascertained that the NFNPA do not share this view. Generally it was felt that the Club is an important part of the village.

(10) RESOLUTIONS

No resolutions had been received.

(11) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Concern was expressed by Mr Wilding, Mr Grant and Mr Herbert regarding the increase in the Parish Council's precept and the view was expressed that this should not continue at such a rate in the future.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and closed the meeting.

Chairman _____

Date _____