

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF LYNDHURST
HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 20 MARCH 2012 AT 7.30 PM**

Present: 10 Parish Councillors
District Councillor Pat Wyeth
County Councillor Keith Mans
Mrs M Weston, Clerk to the Parish Council
5 members of the public
PC Andy White and PCSO Lisa Quinn

The Chairman, Mr Mark Rollé, introduced himself and welcomed everyone present. He introduced the Clerk, Margaret Weston, District Councillor Pat Wyeth (also a Parish Councillor) and County Councillor Keith Mans.

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mrs Trend.

(2) MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 March 2011 were approved.

(3) MATTERS ARISING

None.

(4) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Wyeth presented her report and said that Council Tax was held for the second year; further savings would need to be found for the following year but it was hoped no front line services would be affected. Considerable savings were made by reorganising the refuse collection rounds, yet still providing a weekly service. Although some outlying areas had initial concerns it would seem that no problems had arisen. People are encouraged to recycle as much as possible and the garden waste collection service is well supported.

With regard to Lyndhurst, traffic continues to present problems with rat running in residential roads and speed continues to dominate the village. It was noted that the left hand filter at the lights is now on for longer periods due to detection being in place for larger lorries.

There have been a number of changes in the shops in the High Street, some are still empty but it is understood that interest is being shown in most of them. No doubt there will be extra visitors this year with the Jubilee Celebrations and the Olympic Torch coming through the village.

A close eye was being kept on possible developments in the village to guard against it becoming urbanised. There were sites that had remained dormant for many years and although it had been anticipated that fourteen affordable homes to rent for local people would be gained, developers had produced viability tests resulting in only five units. There should be movement at South View and Stag Yard soon and plans were under way for Hill House Nursing Home.

The bus service to Ringwood and Bournemouth had been axed, although there is a public taxi service that can be used with a bus pass that goes to Ringwood. It is operated by HCC.

NFDC and NFNPA have published their Core Strategy and the NFNPA has published a design guide, which will govern our planning policies. The NFNPA has moved to Lymington Town Hall, sharing premises with NFDC and this is working well and is financially beneficial.

(5) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Mans stated that the County Council had made significant savings, which had only resulted in 16% redundancies. Council tax had been frozen. HCC have maintained the amount available for care of the elderly although costs for those that can afford it had been increased.

There are continuing problems with traffic and action taken should hopefully stop them getting any worse. In order to consider large scale improvements there must be a consensus of agreement although not necessarily 100%.

Councillor Mans stated that his devolved budget of £8,000 had been spent and had had been allocated the same amount for the coming year. There was also a budget of £200,000 available to widen and broaden the scope for community projects in some areas.

Mr Herbert enquired about superfast broadband connection and Mr Mans reported that money was now in place to ensure 20mb availability to 90% of the population and the other 10% would have at least 2mb.

PC Andy White asked how people should apply for community project grants and Councillor Mans said this was easy in urban areas but the Parish Councils will play a big role in rural areas.

(4) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairmen of Committees presented their reports as follows:-

(a) Planning

Mr Mark Abbott, as Planning Committee Chairman, introduced the Committee and said that the Chairman also attended as an ex officio member and Mrs Pat Wyeth attended to give advice but did not take part in decision making or voting as it could prejudice her position as Chairman of the Planning Committee of the NFNPA. The Committee had met twelve times since the last Annual Parish Meeting and had dealt with 82 applications, compared with 74 in the previous year. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre and members of the public are welcome to attend, although they are limited to a maximum of five minutes in which to speak.

There had been four applications during the year to reduce the amount of affordable homes or contribution towards them on properties/sites where permission has already been granted – Stag Yard - Gosport Lane, South View, Knightwood Lodge and Linwood, Princes Crescent. Larger applications had been Wymering House – change of use from residential to residential care home, which was initially refused by NFNPA officers due to unsatisfactory exit onto Sandy Lane. However, it was resubmitted with the exit agreed with HCC Transport officers. It was not thought suitable by the Parish Council and was submitted again, this time being turned down at Committee. There was strong local opposition regarding its unsuitability for the purpose. The Old Police Station in Southampton Road had been changed into the Small School. This listed building was turned down on the first application, mainly due to an external disabled persons lift, has now been passed and is in use. Work has commenced at Hill House after reapplication to correct some minor details. The application at Springwood Cottage, Bank was turned down but after alternation the application was resubmitted and passed. Other notable applications included 10 Park Close, Clay Hill, 62 The Meadows and Three Gables, Sandy Lane.

Mr Abbott extended his thanks to members of the Committee, to Mrs Wyeth for advice on technicalities and to the Clerk.

(b) Recreation

Mr Mark Rollé outlined the improvements that had been made in the Recreation Ground during the year. Mrs Klaassen, the Vice Chairman, had researched the purchase of new equipment for young children and the Committee had planned a new area, which had been fenced and safety surfacing added. A basket swing had also been purchased and old, redundant equipment removed. Fencing had been repaired to the required safety standards.

Another project undertaken had been to supply a comprehensive CCTV system to the Recreation Ground, which had been necessary due to increased vandalism. It was already proving effective and an alarm system had also been added to the Junior Football Club changing rooms.

Because Coles Mead Recreation Ground was now well used and there was no so much more play equipment, it had been necessary to devise a maintenance programme of grasscutting, etc and this was working well.

Looking to the future it was hoped to instigate a much larger project in relation to providing equipment for older children and young adults in the form of structures that could be used for skateboards and BMX bikes.

Mr Rollé expressed thanks to the Committee, the Clerk and the Police.

(c) Cemetery

Mr Paul Boyes introduced himself as Cemetery Committee Chairman and thanked the Committee for their support during the year. He reported that work to the Chapel was now complete and three quarters of the ground clearance has been completed and maintenance to abandoned graves is ongoing. Levelling of the ground is taking place as well as digging up of tree stumps. Indigenous, small ornamental trees are replacing those that have been removed. The approach road has been resurfaced. Mr Michael Grant has been working on new Cemetery maps and records and thanks were extended for the large amount of work completed. Future work will include pointing of the Chapel porch, refurbishment of the incinerator, establishment of the Garden of Remembrance, calming measures for the gravel car park and a wild flower meadow in the Catholic section (new area).

During the past year the Community Payback Service has been used, both one to one and on a collective basis, with varying results, although Mr Boyes believed it the system was now working well.

Mr Boyes thanked the Clerk and also thanked the “watch ashore” (kith and kin” of Councillors) for their support.

(d) Allotments

Mrs Klaassen introduced the members of the Allotment Committee and thanked them for their work. Allotment inspections had taken place on a monthly basis from May to September and had been very successful. They gave the Parish Council and allotment holders the opportunity to meet on site to discuss matters concerning specific plots. The allotment competition saw Keith Causey as the prize winner for the best allotment and best newcomer was Adrian Blake. J and L Sturney had donated a plaque to the best allotment prize winner. Ringwood Pest Control continue to deal with vermin control and have been effective. The track previously laid by allotment holders had been upgraded as necessary and continues to provide an improvement for those bringing vehicles on site. Collection of rents had taken place in October and it had been decided to increase rents next year to

£21 for a starter plot, £32 for a medium plot and £64 for a large plot. Plots would continue to be divided into smaller plots where necessary as these were proving very popular.

It was recognised that drainage was a problem and to this end Mrs Klaassen and the Clerk had submitted an application for a Sustainable Development Grant to NFNPA. The application had been successful and this would allow for drainage work to be undertaken, plus some plot clearance and division into smaller plots. Other clearance work would be undertaken as it was the Parish Council's policy to re-let all plots in a good condition.

Two new noticeboards had been ordered from a local craftsmen and would be made in oak and erected near to each gate. They would be for use by the Parish Council and allotment holders themselves and were seen as a means of communication for everyone. There would also be wooden boxes underneath where surplus items could be placed that might be of use to other plot holders.

(e) Amenities

Mr John Charlesworth submitted his report and explained that the Amenities Committee covered a wide variety of items around the village. He showed a series of photographs giving examples. Great Mead was an area of open space between Gosport Lane and Shrubbs Hill Road. The Tree Preservation Order had been lifted by NFNPA this year, maintenance of trees had taken place and the Twinning Association had planted a commemorative plane tree. The redundant telephone kiosk at Silver Street, Emery Down had been purchased and insured by the Parish Council and was now maintained by the residents with assistance from a grant from NFNPA. It is used as an information point, is situated on the Parish Walk and local residents offer produce for sale from the kiosk. There are noticeboards at the Community Centre, Silver Street and Bank. Grit bins were installed last winter in liaison with HCC, who have financial responsibility for the bins, although dog waste bins are the responsibility of the Parish Council. Work has taken place on the track at Silver Street which used to be virtually impassable in bad weather.

All the public seating, both on the roadside and within the forest, lying within the parish boundaries is the responsibility of the Parish Council, except for a few, eg the top of Bolton's Bench. All are the subject of an onward maintenance programme. New Welcome to Lyndhurst signage has been completed on the main approach routes into the village, financed by LEADER funding and undertaken by HCC. 25,000 copies of the Parish Walk leaflet have been published with NFNPA agreeing to fund a further 10,000 copies, which have been updated with a new map. Previously they were jointly funded by NFNPA, HCC and the Parish Council.

A new bus shelter will be provided adjacent to Southampton Road in summer 2012 and it will be in keeping with the other shelters around the village, all of which are maintained by the Parish Council. Siting of a bus shelter outside the school was under consideration.

(5) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr Mark Rollé introduced himself as Parish Council Chairman. He reported that there would be no increase in this year's precept for the coming financial year.

Projects completed included the new signage on the approach roads into the village, completion of the village plan, the Jubilee and the Olympic Torch route.

The new signage had been financed by European LEADER funding with assistance from NFDC and HCC had designed, produced and erected the signs. Councillors Paul Boyes and Angela Trend, together with Joan Bisson had worked together, with input from other individuals and organisations to produce the Area Plan and Paul Trend had put in a lot of time on its production. It could be divided into Transport, Environment, Social, Business and Economy. The Chairman emphasised

that it was important to keep this document alive and updated as required. Residents are urged to view a copy which is available in the Community Centre, Library and on the Parish Council's website. With regard to transport – speed issues, parking and local signage were all relevant issues. With reference to the environment noise, pollution and rundown areas such as Le Canard were causes for concern. Sustainability included linking the village and Clerk's Corner was important as a link with residents.

For the future this year would see the Queen's Jubilee and ideas had been mooted for ways to celebrate this event. Lyndhurst was lucky enough to be one of three villages to have the Olympic Torch passing through on 14 July which was sure to unite the community.

Mr Rollé thanked PC Andy White and PCSO Lisa Quinn for attending the meeting and for their support throughout the year. He also expressed thanks to his fellow Councillors and to the Clerk.

(8) PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

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

(a) Lyndhurst Welfare Charity

(b) Saltarn Treat Fund

(9) POLICE REPORT

PC Andy White reported that the community priority for the last year in the village had been anti social behaviour. High visibility patrols in the village had been supported with the Pub Watch Scheme where, with close consultation with the licence premises any merging issues can be monitored and persons causing problems can be banned. It has been decided to change the venue for Beat Surgeries from Budgens to the Library, but dates and times will remain the same. Lyndhurst Chamber of Trade have funded a CCTV facility in the High Street.

PC White reported that he had been on the Beat in Lyndhurst for approximately five years and had been supported by PCSO Lisa Quinn for almost four years. The continuity of both of them on the Beat during this time had enabled them to build contacts within the community. PCSO Quinn had also been responsible for setting up a no cold calling zone in The Meadows.

Crime statistics for the year showed theft of vehicle – 2, theft of bicycle – 5, TFMV – 24, theft – 39, robbery – 2, criminal damage – 53, burglary dwelling – 4, burglary non dwelling – 12, murder – 1, assault – 23, arson – 1, RTC – 59, drugs – 13, deception – 10, rowdy behaviour – 25, public order – 13.

(10) PARISH CHAMPION

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had decided to ask for nominations for a Parish Champion in order to recognise an individual who had made an outstanding contribution. There would be a nomination form and the recipient of the award would be announced at the December meeting.

(11) RESOLUTIONS

No resolutions had been received.

(11) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr John Howard said he would like to record his thanks to the Parish Council for the large and varied amount of work they undertook.

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

Chairman _____

Date _____