

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF LYNDHURST HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2016 AT 7.30 PM**

**Present:** Mr M Rollé (Chairman), Mr G Bisson, Dr E Chell, Mr T Dunning, Mr Kaljura, Mr J Lock, Mr S Se-upara, the Revd Dr C Wilkins, Mr A Wiltshire and Mrs P Wyeth.  
County Councillor Keith Mans (part of the meeting)  
Mrs M Weston, Clerk to the Parish Council  
1 member of the public

The Chairman, Mr Mark Rollé, introduced himself and welcomed everyone present, thanking them for attending.

**(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Klaassen and Mrs Trend.

**(2) MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 March 2015 were approved.

**(3) MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**(4) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Mrs Wyeth reported that the Council had said goodbye to several long serving officers and have now reorganised at all levels. There is one Chief Executive and a Senior Management Team of four working with the Cabinet. This team will continue to look at making savings and cutting costs where possible, whilst maintaining essential services. As the Government reduce their grants Councils have to remain strong and forward thinking. The Council Tax has remained at the same level for six years but unfortunately has increased this year in order to balance the books. This will be an approximate increase of £3.05 a week or £158.60 a year on a Band D property. Parking clocks will remain unchanged.

With regard to housing delivery the District Council has built as many homes and they have sold in the past year. However, with over 5,000 on the waiting list many more are required. In planning terms brownfield sites will be visited first.

Both the Parish Council and Mrs Wyeth lost the argument regarding boundary changes. We are now part of a Lyndhurst/Fordingbridge Division with a larger electorate and area than most of the large towns, with 15 parishes stretching from Lyndhurst to Martin and Rockbourne, with one County Councillor looking after an electorate of 14,935. This area is divided by the A31 and has a large number of forest roads that have high numbers of animal casualties. So much for local democracy.

Regarding the National Park and Planning, Mrs Wyeth was pleased to report the cycle lane between Lyndhurst and Ashurst had now been resurfaced and was being well used. One of Mrs Wyeth's next challenges is to get a cycle track between Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst to connect between Southampton, Ashurst, Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst.

The Boltons development is now almost finished and is a well designed and attractive building. This enhances this part of Lyndhurst. South View was completed last year and won the first Building Design Award in the larger category, presented by the National Park Authority. This is a new idea to encourage high quality buildings within the National Park. The Government is now including low cost starter homes under their affordable homes to rent. This is to help young people purchase homes in the areas where they grew up. In Lyndhurst we will be looking for any suitable brownfield sites or sites specific to or near the existing boundary. This is felt to be preferable to altering our boundary. The National Park Authority favour small residential developments of up to 10 dwellings. To date there is no update on the former Lyndhurst Park Hotel. Mrs Wyeth, the Parish Council and NFNPA Officers have offered to meet with Pegasus Life, but so far no date has been fixed. The erection of hoardings was refused as this could

become an unsightly flyposting area with no end in sight. This is a Conservation Area so the building cannot be demolished until the replacement is agreed. Whatever goes here must be of a high quality design as it stands in one of the main gateways into the village. Mrs Wyeth said she did have ideas of what she would like to see but cannot, of course, make any predetermined suggestions before applications are submitted.

With regard to the viability of shops in Lyndhurst, Mrs Wyeth reported that she felt there was a good mix of shops. Some people feel we have too many coffee and eating establishments but they all offer attractive and well used units. A planning application is now registered for a new retail shop that will fill in the gap between the shop next to Fells Gulliver and the Chemist. This is of good design and will tidy up the back of Cooper's Yard. Under the proposals the archway into Cooper's Yard will be retained and the two units refurbished.

Each year Mrs Wyeth is awarded a Community Grant from the District Council. This is given to assist or promote groups and organisations with small projects. She has been able to assist all the youth organisations over the years as well as clubs, groups, etc. This year she will match fund £300 to the Parish Council to give union jacks and bunting to decorate the High Street to the Lyndhurst Village and Decorations Committee to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mrs Wyeth will give £150 to the Junior Football Club for new footballs and £150 to Cranleigh Paddock Dementia Group to use towards one of their projects.

Dr Chell asked if Lyndhurst was likely to become a town. Mrs Wyeth, supported by other Councillors, said this would not happen.

The Revd Dr Wilkins asked how much of possible house building would be council and how much would be private. Mrs Wyeth stated that the Planning Authority would allow some market housing on brownfield sites, but usually not more than 10 units. However, there would also be some development at market price.

## **(5) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

County Councillor Keith Mans presented his report, starting by reporting that it had been a busy year with the County Council but he was pleased to say that resurfacing of the cycle path between Ashurst and Lyndhurst had now been completed. The cut in grant had equated to £40,000,000 and the equalisation reserve had been used to balance reserves. A further 2% had been added for adult social care.

High Speed Broadband was coming through slowly and ways in which everyone could be connected were being investigated.

With regard to devolution (local government reorganisation) the County Council were still looking at the process regarding adoption of a mayor. The devolved budget would be implemented from June.

With regard to the Parish Council's investigations into the possibility of having permanent SIDs within the Parish boundaries, Councillor Mans was speaking to Stuart Jarvis on this subject.

## **(7) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

In April 2015 Mary Sterry became the third Parish Champion. This was awarded for her work organising Neighbourcare and giving IT tuition at the Community Centre.

We said goodbye to four Councillors who had decided not to seek re-election in May. These were Mark Abbott, Anne Butcher, John Charlesworth and Len Cornell. Their work was very much appreciated and this was shown by the number of people attending their leaving party following the April meeting. They were all given a commemorative crystal award and a present from Councillors which was chosen to reflect their interests.

In May 2015 we welcomed four new Councillors – Sutti Se-upara, Elizabeth Chell, Trevor Dunning and Gerard Burden.

The defibrillator was fitted on the Community Centre external wall. This had been financed by grant aid from Ineos and County Councillor Keith Mans devolved budget scheme.

The Parish Council again took up the matter of obtaining static SIDs which could be financed from Parish Council funds. Unfortunately, this is still ongoing and we are told that our idea does not fit with policy.

In June 2015 the subject of pollution again came to the fore, with particular emphasis on the upper High Street area and NFDC will be attending our April Parish Council meeting to give us the latest information on this subject.

The Electoral Review of Hampshire was first mentioned. The present recommendation is that Lyndhurst will join with the Fordingbridge area and this is not one which we support.

The need for new Welcome signs on the approach roads was discussed and these are now on order for a cost of £2,300. Councillor Mans has given a grant of £300 and the rest will be funded by the Parish Council. The present signs have faded very badly and steps have been taken to ensure that this does not happen with the new signs.

In July 2015 Bob Jackson, NFDC, came to gain our ideas on what we would like to see in the public open space in Lyndhurst car park that would be created as a result of the demolition of the old toilet block. At that time it was noted that we would like commemorations to Arthur Phillip and Alice in Wonderland (Alice Hargreaves), and a public noticeboard. It has since become apparent that the Parish Circular Walk noticeboard would have to be removed and it is hoped that can be accommodated on the site.

Work commenced on the two telephone kiosks which the Parish Council has adopted as Information Points. The first, at Racecourse View, has now been refurbished and work is imminent for the kiosk adjacent to the Oak Inn at Bank

In September 2015 Councillor Burden resigned due to pressure of work.

Our district audit annual return had been accepted and approved with no matters outstanding.

The Community Speedwatch Team continue to use the equipment supplied by the Parish Council and play a valuable part in trying to keep down motorists' speeds within the village boundaries.

In October 2015 Mr Jeff Lock joined the Parish Council.

Residents of the Pikes Hill area attended the meeting to voice concerns about the faded double yellow lines and overgrown hedge adjacent to the Pikes Hill entrance to the Police Station. This has been the subject of much correspondence in the intervening period between the Parish Council and HCC. We have managed to get the double yellow lines repainted but are still having to persevere in order to get the hedge cut back, the responsibility for which lies with the Magistrates Court.

At the same time residents drew the Parish Council's attention to the parking taking place on the green outside the Forest Lodge Hotel when functions took place with a large attendance. The local Police arranged to provide bollards which residents undertook to put out when a function was advertised to take place. The main objection to parking was that it was cutting up the green, vehicles were getting stuck and grasscutting became difficult. The Parish Council did ask HCC if dragon's teeth could be provided round the green but were told that funds were not available for the work. A similar reply was given when we asked if the path between Pikes Hill road and Romsey Road bus shelter could be reinstated.

A sub-committee of the Planning Committee was set up to look at the possibility of doing a Village Design Statement.

The Village of the Year competition was mentioned by George Bisson who undertook to do the work involved.

The Clerk gained Parish Council agreement to organise Paws in the Park on Saturday 11 June in the Recreation Ground.

In November Bob Jackson attended our meeting to update Councillors concerning the public open space in Lyndhurst car park.

Councillor Adrian Wiltshire mooted the idea of the Freedom of Lyndhurst for the Armed Forces, initially from Bulford Camp but latterly Marchwood Military Port. Mr Wiltshire and the Clerk are liaising with the Army regarding this matter and this looks likely to become a Forest wide event, but still centred on our village.

Discussion again took place regarding the fact that the Parish Council could not gain permission to fund and supply their own SIDs to prevent speeding traffic around the villages as HCC criteria apparently could not be met although examples could be quoted in other parts of the country.

December 2015 - This was another well attended meeting when our Councillors, Clerk, residents and business people came along to show appreciation to PC Andy White, who was retiring from the Police Force and subsequently as our Village Community Beat Police Officer. A presentation was made to Andy on behalf of the Parish Council and there was a bouquet of flowers for his wife.

January 2016 – No particular items of merit to mention.

February 2016 – Discussion took place centred around the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and how this should be celebrated in Lyndhurst. The Parish Council decided to provide £300 towards the cost of bunting and flags for the High Street which will be erected by the Village Decorations and Lighting Committee. It was also decided that, as with the Queen's Jubilee, we would provide a number of party boxes to residents and village organisations holding street parties.

The Parish Council has written to NFDC to see if anything can be done about the night time lighting in the car park, which is poor in the centre of the car park. We had previously been told that improvements could not be made as they would affect the CCTV but they seem to have been achieved at Appletree Court where there is also CCTV so we await a reply.

March 2016 – A decision regarding the Parish Champion for 2015 has now been made but we will have to keep everyone guessing until our April meeting so come along if you want to find out who we have decided to honour.

We have received a request from Cranleigh Paddock, which is home to residents who suffer from dementia. They are keen to purchase a potting shed and would welcome other suggestions. This will be further discussed at our April meeting.

## **(8) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chairmen of Committees presented their reports as follows:-

### **(a) Planning**

In the absence of the Planning Committee Chairman it was noted that the Chairman intended to ask that a report be presented at the next Parish Council meeting.

Mrs Wyeth stated that there hadn't been a representative on behalf of the Parish Council attending the NFNPA Planning Committee meeting earlier that day. There had been two applications from the parish under discussion and she suggested that if the Planning Committee Chairman could not attend another representative from the Parish Council should be asked to take her place at the meeting.

### **(b) Recreation**

Mr Kaljura presented the report for Coles Mead Recreation Ground. The main recent focus had been on the skateboard ramp and acceptance of a tender for work on the second phase of this project was now imminent. There was also a proposal to extend and refurbish the track leading into the skateboard ramp part of the field as this had become extremely muddy. At the same time some work would be undertaken to bring the car parking area up to a good standard.

The existing play equipment had been the subject of maintenance work this year and was now in a good condition and had passed the safety inspection. There were some plans in hand to provide a fitness circuit which would include some outdoor fitness equipment.

### **(c) Cemetery**

Mr Wiltshire, Cemetery Committee Chairman reported that at long last we are now in possession of all the relevant permissions to install electricity to the cemetery chapel. The only available supply is from the substation on the other side of the Beaulieu road, a run of nearly 450 metres through SSSI designated land. Due to this the cost will be approximately £34,000 and if we are successful in raising this total from various grants the work will take place in September this year. Residents will be aware that the chapel was heated from gas bottles which were stolen on a regular basis and without some heat the fabric of the building is beginning to suffer. With an electricity supply CCTV can also be installed to combat the petty vandalism which takes place on the odd occasion.

Over the winter months repair work has taken place to some of the paths which were lifting due to tree roots. This resulted in the paths being in a poor condition. Recently a skip was hired to remove a lot of rubbish from the cemetery. We have to thank Kevin Bennett and his assistant Bradley for all their work and also for keeping the cemetery in such a tidy condition.

Finally returning to the chapel we are intending to hold an open day later in the year when the weather is warmer and the history and cemetery records will be available for the public to view.

### **(d) Allotments**

In the autumn it was intended to repair the paths in the allotment and fill the large gap under the top gate. Dogs had entered the allotment by this route and killed an allotment holder's ducks and chicken. By the time permission was granted from the relevant authorities it was too wet to undertake the work. It is hoped that with a reasonably dry spell the work will be completed shortly. One of the new allotment holders managed to reverse his car into an internal ditch and it took two days to winch the vehicle out. Unfortunately the necessary repair work to the ditch was not performed in a very professional manner, so it was left to our Allotment Committee Chairman to complete the job. We have quite a few new allotment holders now on site but still have a few plots available so if anyone is interested please contact the Clerk.

### **(e) Amenities**

Mr Bisson presented the Amenities Report. Seats and shelters were the responsibility of the Parish Council with a new seat costing approximately £1,000. Seats were often donated but the upkeep remained the responsibility of the Parish Council. Bus shelters cost £7,500 to replace and £1,440 was allowed in the current financial year to maintain shelters in a good condition. £1,000 was added to the

budget each year to build up a reserve should a new bus shelter become necessary. £416 had been spent in the current financial year on daffodil provision and planting costs. Emptying of dog bins cost £675. The bin at the top of Great Mead was now being emptied more often than previously. A sticker had been added to the litter bin at Emery Down stating that dog waste could be added as well as items of litter.

Councillor Bisson went on to describe the Lyndhurst Parish Circular Walk and showed some photographs of interesting points along the walk. The Parish Council are in the process of updating the Walk which had proved very popular. There would also be new contents in the mapboard in the soon to be created public open space in Lyndhurst car park.

The Parish Council also have responsibility for noticeboards and for Information Points that have been created from redundant telephone kiosks.

## **(9) PAROCHIAL CHARITIES**

### **(a) Lyndhurst Welfare Charity**

In the absence of the Clerk, Mr Tony Herbert, Mrs Wyeth presented the accounts on behalf of Lyndhurst Welfare Charity as follows:

It had been a “good” year for the Charity as there had been sensible requests and the ability to respond to them. A few relatively small amounts had been given to assist individuals, but the vast majority of the expenditure had been towards community/organisation support. There had been some help given to assist another party of Scouts going to Gambia and a £1000 grant towards the refurbishment of the cricket pavilion on Bolton’s Bench.

In the financial year a major donation had been made to the refurbishment of the Boulton Cottages, where the cost of the major kitchen appliances for all units had been covered.

A copy of the relevant accounts appear at the end of the pack.

### **(b) Saltarn Treat Fund**

The Chairman explained that the accounts were attached to the pack distributed to all those attending the meeting. The accounts were left in situ to gain interest.

## **(10) RESOLUTIONS**

No resolutions had been received.

## **(11) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_