

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF LYNDHURST HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2013 AT 7.30 PM

Present: 12 Parish Councillors
District Councillor Pat Wyeth
County Councillor Keith Mans
Mrs M Weston, Clerk to the Parish Council
6 members of the public

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

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

(2) MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20 March 2012 were approved.

(3) MATTERS ARISING

Mrs Porter asked if any action could be taken regarding the deteriorated condition of the property known as Le Canard in the High Street. Mrs Wyeth said that apart from rectifying any dangerous parts of the building nothing more could be done. Work on dangerous items had recently taken place and a charge of £30,000 had been placed on the property. At one stage it was thought that the owner might sell but this had not happened and the fact that it is a retail shop downstairs does make it difficult.

(4) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mrs Wyeth presented her report and said that she was also representing the New Forest National Park Authority. There would be no increase in Council Tax which had been held for the third year running without too many redundancies and there would be no decrease in services. Kerbside glass recycling collection would be introduced towards the end of the year. Food hygiene ratings were being introduced. Parliamentary boundaries have not been changed and therefore Lyndhurst stays in New Forest East. Air quality results are not yet available although it is known that levels have decreased. Traffic problems are still ongoing and parking has been a problem in Chapel Lane, where yellow lines will be put in place. A safe crossing point has been introduced in Shrubbs Hill Road which came from a campaign by a group of mothers, together with Parish Council Vice Chairman Helen Klaassen. Mrs Wyeth stated that she had been trying, along with the Parish Council to get traffic calming measures at Swan Green. A gentleman had requested speed cameras in the High Street, but there are four crossings for pedestrians to use. There are empty shops although it is hoped some of them will shortly be occupied. Mrs Wyeth had met with the Chief Planning Officer to the Government, Steve Quartermaine. The Government has supported developers and affordable homes have been lost. South View is being developed at the moment and Stag Yard has a new developer. Hartwood House is nearing completion and anyone from the village is welcome to visit. We need to think beyond the traffic problems to how we would like to see our village in 20 years' time and it is hoped we can utilise a lot of the work from the Village Plan. The Group who own Lyndhurst Park Hotel would like to sell. Ideas for the future include a budget hotel, a convenience store, 55 unit assisted living care home. Mrs Wyeth said she would like to see some affordable housing. The site owned by Ineos at Beechen Lane is for sale and there are no definite plans. There is a need to safeguard hedges. A decision will need to be taken on whether to provide a design statement or a neighbourhood plan. It was felt that we should consider our history when anything is named in connection with any of these sites

(5) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Mans reported that it had been a year of consolidation; cuts had commenced early to allow time for consultation. There had been a number of cuts in staff with only 17 compulsory redundancies. An increased amount had been allowed for care of the elderly. Expenditure on highways had been brought forward due to issues caused by weather conditions. Councillor Mans devolved budget had been spent across the area and had been utilised in smaller amounts. Large amounts of expenditure have been allocated to footpaths, highways and the environment. £1,000,000 will be allocated as grants to community centres and village halls with applications welcomed from the end of May. Funds will be allocated to schemes aiming to reduce running costs. High speed Broadband was being prioritised. Councillor Mans said he supported the District Councillor regarding opportunities for significant developments. Traffic problems need to be addressed.

Councillor Angela Trend asked about flooding/ditch clearance and Councillor Mans highlighted the Parish Lengthsman Scheme. The Clerk said she would shortly be attending a meeting to discuss the scheme. Mr Mans said he felt the public footpath at Pikes Hill would be an ideal candidate for funding. Mr Alexander asked how it would be possible to get fibre optic broadband in the New Forest when the Verderers would not let verges be dug. Councillor Mans said we had to persuade them to change their minds. It was noted that footpaths in Gosport Lane need attention. Mr Mans asked for more information regarding the condition of footpaths in need of attention around the village.

(6) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council has started a programme to purchase iPads for all Councillors with the aim of going paper free. To date six Councillors and the Clerk have iPads and several Councillors are using their own at meetings. We believe the iPads will pay for themselves in twenty months and should last at least three years. Main savings are on paper, ink and postage plus the Clerk's time. During the Queen's Jubilee year we purchased items and put together eighteen Jubilee party boxes, which were distributed to local groups around the village who were holding Jubilee celebrations. The boxes were very well received. In conjunction with these celebrations we held a Jubilee Picnic in the Park, organised by Vice Chairman Helen Klaassen. This was put together at fairly short notice but grew from strength to strength, so much so that a similar event will be taking place this year. We gave a grant of £500 to Ashurst Cricket Club, who play cricket at Bolton's Bench. They are responsible for the rather iconic cricket pavilion which was in a poor state of repair, with urgent need of remedial action before it could be used again. We notice that many improvements have now taken place. We also gave a grant of £2000 to the Community Centre. They were purchasing new staging but we knew there was a need in the community to keep the old staging which can be lent out to local groups. The original staging will be kept at the Community Centre and staff there will deal with its allocation for community use.

The Remembrance Sunday Parade 2012 was again organised by the Parish Council this year, but with the help and perseverance of Adrian Wiltshire, for the first time in many years we were able to welcome not one, but two bands (thanks to Copythorne Scouts) and a marching military presence from Bulford Camp and Marchwood. As in previous years, we were joined by local youth groups, other members of the armed services, veterans and members of the public all of whom helped to make the day a great success. From this day grew the idea of forming a Lyndhurst Section of the Royal British Legion and Adrian Wiltshire has now managed to get this up and running.

On 14 July 2012 Lyndhurst was lucky enough to be one of the three New Forest towns and villages to welcome the Olympic Torch. This was the culmination of many months of meetings with NFDC, including much deliberation about such things as dressing materials, road closures and traffic management. Grateful thanks must go to the Village Decorations Committee who erected

our bunting, etc giving the village a celebratory feel all through the summer. We have ordered two plaques to commemorate the event and one has been erected outside the school. The other will be in place shortly. Thanks must go to Keith Mans, who paid for one of the plaques from his devolved budget fund.

Traffic problems in Lyndhurst have played a big part in our meetings and speeding traffic has come ever more to the fore. The Parish Council has set money aside to provide equipment (SIDs) to try to alleviate the problems but permission has to be obtained for permanent structures and so far this is not proving possible. However, we have recently purchased a portable SID which can be used by our Community Speed Watch Team. It should be arriving shortly and once the Team has been briefed on its use it will be seen around the village.

Transport Leaflet – Councillor Len Cornell gave a brief report on a leaflet he had assembled and which had been delivered to every household in the parish. It had been funded by HCC and Asda. Copies were also available for distribution. The leaflet gives details of all forms of public transport that can be used to and from the parish. There is sufficient funding available for two more issues. Councillor Cornell stressed that it was important that as many people as possible use the facilities available.

(7) 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 76 applications, compared with 82 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. It is advised to check with the Clerk that there has been no alteration to the date.

During the year a start has been made on South View and Stag Yard has been sold, an extension of time application has been given of one year and plans for alterations are expected. The development at Hartwood House (formerly Hill House) is nearing completion. 91 The Meadows has been passed after several applications. The derelict garages at Coopers Yard have been demolished and this opens up an untidy view of the back of the Youth Club. Planning permission has been passed for the Parish Hall to become a private residence and an application was made to turn 16 High Street into a takeaway/restaurant after the closure of the Bathroom Shop but this has yet to be determined. Permission has been granted to remove the large hedge at Birch Lawn, Bournemouth Road and replace it with a wall and work has commenced. Sympathetic alterations to Boulton Cottages, Emery Down were agreed and this will bring them up to an acceptable living standard. Ineos has given up its Beechen Lane proposals and as a result of their rationalisation they have applied to extend their existing building in Chapel Lane, demolishing Rose Cottage in the process. They wish to return Brock Cottage and Deer Leap to residential accommodation. An application was made to extend the offices at Forest Lodge but this has been turned down again.

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

(b) Recreation

Mr Mark Rollé, as Recreation Committee Chairman, reported that this had been a year of holding onto funds ready for a big push to provide some large scale equipment for older youngsters. We had sought and obtained permission from the Forestry Commission, as land owners and we will be able to go to Viridor for a grant. Nevertheless a large amount of money will be needed to achieve something worthwhile that will last for a good number of years. In the meantime we have continued with our programme both for ground and equipment maintenance. We now have a structured programme in place for keeping the land in good order and have enhanced ditch drainage and land management this year, including grass and hedge cutting. With regard to the play equipment, as this has been accumulated with programmes to add new equipment each year, we have obviously had more maintenance costs to ensure it is all kept to rigorous health and safety standards.

Our CCTV equipment is proving successful and has been enhanced with another camera. More CCTV cameras will be installed when we have new equipment and this is considered a necessity. We hope to be able to extend the car park before Picnic in the Park in June and also undertake piping of a ditch which will give us more space.

New vandal proof bins will be arriving shortly. We are financing these but NFDC has agreed to install them free of charge. Coles Mead Recreation Ground proved an excellent venue in 2012 for our first Picnic in the Park. Our thanks go to everyone who attended and to all our neighbours. There were slight worries beforehand but we even had a letter from a neighbour congratulating us on how well the event had gone from their perspective. Hopefully we can repeat the success in 2013 so please put 8 June 2013 from 12.00 noon to 5.00 pm in your diaries.

Mr Rollé expressed thanks to the Police for their continued support, for keeping a watchful eye on the area and for alerting us if they do see a potential problem.

(c) Cemetery

Mr Paul Boyes thanked the Committee and Clerk for support throughout the year. He reported that the Cemetery was a tranquil and peaceful place at the present time with daffodils, snowdrops, crocus and cyclamen all coming into flower. Dead trees have been removed and many new ones planted. These are being used by an increasing number of people for dedication purposes, which also saves grave space. Gravel paths have been renewed as they had become slippery and dangerous. After six years of work all memorials and gravestones are now in a safe condition, but require constant monitoring due to land heave, especially sinking graves due to rain, etc. Due to bad weather and ground conditions several graves have collapsed and have had to be filled. Wherever possible contact is made with the grave owners when work is required to be carried out although this is not always possible. Action must be taken under Health and Safety requirements. We now have a contractor working eight hours a week on a planned programme. This takes in normal maintenance, grass cutting, tree husbandry, path clearance, etc. Maintenance of the Chapel continues as damp is the main problem. However it is in good order but not used to the extent we would like despite promotion. The Chapel porch has been pointed although some work is now required on the outside walls. The Community Pay Back scheme has been used monthly and if correctly targeted have been a useful addition to maintenance.

Mike Grant was our first Parish Champion and this award was deservedly made for the immense amount of work done in order to update our Cemetery records and map, which he undertook in a meticulous way and completely free of charge.

Running a Cemetery is a very emotive issue and many hours are spent trying to accommodate people's wishes. However, we do have regulations which we sympathetically interpret to

democratically achieve a solution. Not everyone can be satisfied all of the time. Mr Boyes thanked the “watch ashore” for their vital contribution.

(d) Allotments

Mrs Helen Klaassen thanked the members of the Allotment Committee for their support. She also thanked the Clerk for her assistance during the year. She explained that this would be a short report this year as rain really had stopped play! The bad weather conditions had hampered growing and enthusiasm among allotment holders. With regard to drainage, this had been improved as a new channel had been dug outside the allotments with the intention of draining the wetter plots. Work within the allotments was ongoing to dig out channels where they had deteriorated over the years. New starter plots were still under construction and there had been interest in them. They were proving successful as they allowed tenants to grow a considerable amount of vegetables within their individual time constraints. Allotment inspections had not taken place due to weather conditions and therefore the best allotment competition had been suspended during 2012. Plot clearance is ongoing and the Committee are looking to reduce plot sizes where not properly worked. Deer have been entering the allotments so the Parish Council will be replacing fencing between the two gates. Thanks were extended to Mr Adrian Wiltshire for levelling the paths and digging ditches, with assistance from Peter Timmis. Pest control continued with Ringwood Pest Control proving successful. We have quite a few vacant plots with a large section requiring clearance.

(e) Amenities

Mr John Charlesworth, as Amenities Committee Chairman, thanked the Committee and Clerk for their work during the year. A new bus shelter had been erected in Southampton Road and others repaired and painted. All benches and seats had been repaired and painted, with new ones replacing those worn out or broken. The system for dog bins was working well. In Great Mead a new seat was being sourced to go round the Jubilee tree. With regard to the Olympic Torch, two commemorative plaques had been obtained, one to be placed on the wall of the School and the other siting would be agreed shortly. Spring bulbs were coming out and these, as in previous years, would be added to in the Autumn. New “Welcome to Lyndhurst” signage had been purchased, using LEADER funding and one final sign would be placed on Southampton Road when positioning had been agreed with Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council. The Parish Council had still to make a decision on whether to provide a bus shelter outside the school. The rolling programme of all amenities assets was being progressed as in previous years.

(8) PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

The Clerk reported that financial reports of the Parochial Charities were attached to the Agenda/Minutes provided to those present as follows:

(a) Lyndhurst Welfare Charity

(b) Saltarn Treat Fund

(9) ARTHUR PHILLIP AND THE AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION

Mr Bev Major gave a talk on Arthur Phillip. He explained that the first fleet of convicts shipped to Australia had started from here and that Arthur Phillip had been its Commander and first Governor. Arthur Phillip had lived for nine years at Vernals Farm and he had taken the gardener, Henry Dodd, with him. This was fortuitous as he had grown vegetables to keep the colony in food, as well as taking 600 vines from Cape Town, thus growing the first grapes and producing the first wine in Australia. 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of Arthur Phillip’s death and the British/Australian Society has planned celebrations. Mr Major suggested that the Parish Council become involved in

planning Australian themed celebrations to mark the anniversary. Mrs Trend said that plans were in hand between herself and Mr Cornell to mark the occasion with a leaflet and other events with the Visitor Centre to promote tourism.

(10) RESOLUTIONS

No resolutions had been received.

(11) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Alexander voiced concern regarding lack of parking at the doctors' surgery in Church Lane.

The Chairman said he was disappointed with the attendance for the meeting and felt more promotion, etc would be necessary next year. He thanked members of the public for attending and closed the meeting.

Chairman _____

Date _____

LYNDHURST WELFARE CHARITY

ACCOUNTS 2010-11

Year to 31 March

Balances at 1 April 2010

Current account.	£981.00	
Deposit account	£11,711.82	£12,692.82

Investment income

COIF	£2,224.28
Charishare	£1,716.24

Bank interest	£65.19	£4,005.71
		£16,698.53

PAYMENTS & CLOSING BALANCES

GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Lyndhurst scouts	£2,100.00	
Local history	£500.00	
Drama & Musical Society	£500.00	
		£3,100.00

GRANTS FOR INDIVIDUALS

£979.00
£4,079.00

Bank balances

Current account	£402.00	
Deposit account	£12,217.53	£12,619.53
		£16,698.53

INVESTMENTS

Shares	Holding	Price ¹	Value	Income	Yield
COIF Income	5,003.99	£10.112	£50,601.85	£2,224.28	4.40%
Charishare income	13,588.65	£4.479	<u>£60,863.55</u>	£1,716.24	<u>2.82%</u>
			<u>£111,465.39</u>	<u>£3,940.52</u>	<u>3.54%</u>

Notes

Bid prices

A G Herbert Clerk

St Michael & All Angels Infant School, Lyndhurst

SALTARN TREAT ACCOUNT AS AT 31/12/12

	Debit	Credit
Central Board of Finance Account 7712320021D As at 31/12/11		9000.00
Interest received on deposit balance		
March 2012		18.26
June 2012		19.75
September 2012		21.33
December 2012		19.81
Interest received on deposit balances		
Interest paid to Lyndhurst School Governors account	79.15	
Net Balance	9000.00	

	9079.15	9079.15

Funds held as at 31/12/12

Central Board of Finance Account 7712320021D	9000.00

	9000.00

Interest on this account is now paid quarterly to the Lyndhurst School Governors account held at NatWest 53-81-23 a/c no. 04934164

SWF