

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LYNDHURST PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.15 PM

Present: Mr M Rollé (Chairman), Mrs H Klaassen (Vice Chairman), Mr G Bisson, Dr E Chell, Mr T Dunning, Mr K Kaljura, Mr S Se-upara, Mrs A Trend, the Revd Dr C Wilkins, Mr A Wiltshire and Mrs P Wyeth.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs M Weston

In attendance: Ms Carolyn Griffiths (Press)

156. Public Participation

None.

157. Disclosures of Interest

None.

158. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Mr J Lock.

159. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 January 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record.

160. Matters Arising

Mrs Wyeth asked if the Clerk had received a response regarding the Parish Council's objections to the proposed boundary changes. The Clerk replied that she had received an acknowledgement of objections made by the Parish Council but nothing else.

161. Committee Meetings

The minutes of the following Committee meetings held since the date of the last meeting were approved:

Planning Committee – Tuesday 26 January 2016

Mrs Klaassen reported that she would be attending the NFNPA Development Control meeting to speak against permission being granted in respect of Application No 00875 – 12 Cedar Mount.

The Chairman reported that a Recreation Committee meeting had been held the previous Saturday and minutes would be distributed shortly.

162. Village Design Statement

Mrs Klaassen reported that an initial meeting had been held at which discussion had taken place regarding the possibility of an open day to gain residents' views, protection of areas of importance, etc. It was considered that further guidance was required from NFNPA. It was suggested that something similar to the Love It/Hate it questionnaire used for the Lyndhurst Area Plan be used but it was recognised that a structure was needed before this could take place. Social media could be used to reach the public for views.

163. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Mans reported that he had no further news from the Boundary Commission. With regard to devolution we should ask what we can do for ourselves and what level of delegation should be used. It was also important to know the level of government support. A meeting would be held the following week concerning HCC Council Tax apportionment which was likely to increase by 3.9%. Business rates may need to be topped up and HCC may have more funds from the rates. HCC would ideally like business rates to remain with them in exchange for not having a revenue support grant. It is a complicated subject and a 3.9% increase will not meet the shortfall but will probably cover half the deficit.

164. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Wyeth reported that she had no specific information to bring to the Parish Council this month and there were no further questions from Parish Councillors.

165. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that since the date of the last meeting all items of correspondence that required the attention of Councillors had been forwarded by email.

166. Accounts

(a) Accounts paid and due for payment since the date of the last meeting

The Clerk submitted accounts which had been paid or had become due for payment since the date of the last meeting, as detailed in Appendix A, and these were approved.

(b) Changes in smaller councils External Audit arrangements

The Chairman outlined changes that would take place in external audit procurement for smaller councils with a total expenditure over £25,000 and what action would be needed. The Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd had been set up to take over appointment of external auditors and the setting of audit fees for smaller authorities from 2017. Unless smaller authorities opted out of the scheme they would be obliged to use this system. The Parish Council have until 31 March 2016 to reach a decision but advice from HALC is that an invitation must be issued to smaller authorities and this has not yet been received and nor has any indication of the fees involved, although it is likely to be in the region of £400 per annum in Lyndhurst.

RESOLVED: To leave this matter on the Agenda pending further information becoming available.

167. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 90th Birthday Celebrations

Information had been received regarding the possibility of beacon lighting but this was not thought feasible.

Mr Bisson, as Secretary of the Village Lighting and Decorations Committee, asked if the Parish Council would be willing to sponsor Union flags for the High Street to commemorate the event and the Committee would be prepared to erect them. He suggested that 100 flags might be required.

Discussion took place and it was thought appropriate for patriotic flags and bunting to be erected if the Village Lighting and Decorations Committee would be prepared to erect it. Mrs Wyeth stated that she would be prepared to donate £300 from her District Councillor grant and Councillors agreed that this could be matched by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council write to Mrs Wyeth, in her capacity as Lyndhurst's District Councillor, requesting the sum of £300 by way of a grant and that the Parish Council give a further sum of £300, all to be used for patriotic flags and bunting to be erected in Lyndhurst High Street to commemorate the occasion of her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

The Clerk asked if Councillors would consider the supply of party boxes for street parties that would be taking place to mark the occasion.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk source and price party boxes and report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had received an enquiry from the Chairman of the Probus Club asking if the Parish Council intended to celebrate the Queen's birthday in any way.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the Probus Club to explain that there were no definite plans for any celebrations at this stage, although ideas were still ongoing regarding the Freedom of Lyndhurst which might coincide with the celebrations.

168. Update on Proposed Open Space in Lyndhurst Car Park

The Clerk had forwarded information received from Jill Colclough, Architect at NFDC regarding this matter, which showed a plan of initial proposals.

A lectern style noticeboard for the parish walks was not considered suitable and Councillors preferred an upright noticeboard the same size as the existing Parish Walk noticeboard with the two walks shown one each side. It was also considered that a public use noticeboard should be sited on the open space, the same size as the noticeboard outside the New Forest Centre.

It was also considered that a marked walkway was needed.

Mrs Trend reported that at the meeting she had attended with the Clerk, Hilary Marshall (NFC) and Jill Colclough the siting of the Alice way marker and the Arthur Phillip commemoration had been discussed. It might be possible to obtain a replica of the Arthur Phillip bust in Australia which could be used in conjunction with the original bricks. The Revd Dr Wilkins said she felt it would be entirely inappropriate to commemorate Arthur Phillip in this way.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact NFDC stating that the Parish Council would be prepared to fund an upright two-sided noticeboard the same size as the existing Parish Walk noticeboard and also an open style public noticeboard the same size as the existing noticeboard outside the New Forest Centre. Attention would also be drawn to the fact that the Parish Council felt that a marked walkway was required.

Mrs Wyeth abstained from voting on this Agenda item as she was not happy with the way it has been brought forward or with some of the things that had been suggested.

The Clerk was asked to report to NFDC that the drains are still blocked and an assurance had previously been given that this would be dealt with.

169. Lighting in Car Park

Mr Bisson reported that there had been complaints regarding the poor lighting in the middle of the car park. NFDC has installed new LED lighting in its own car park at Appletree Court. The Parish Council had previously been told that the lighting in the main car park could not be improved as it would affect the CCTV but there was also CCTV at Appletree Court.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact NFDC to ascertain whether anything could be done to improve the existing lighting in the main car park.

170. Sporting Facilities in Lyndhurst

The Chairman outlined a discussion held at a recent Recreation Committee meeting whereby the Committee would be working with the Junior Football Club to try to secure additional ground. It was hoped that negotiations would be ongoing with the Forestry Commission Land Agent in the near future and Councillors would be kept fully informed.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council fully endorses and supports the Recreation Committee.

171. Traffic Calming Measures and Pollution/Welcome Signs

(a) Traffic Calming Measures

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact Sean Woodward, HCC to ascertain if he would be able to assist in gaining permission for the Parish Council to fund and erect SIDS in suitable positions within the village boundaries.

It was noted that Mrs Trend and Mr Bisson would be attending a meeting of Minstead Parish Council to share information regarding the traffic problems experienced by residents of Emery Down as part of the village lay within the Minstead parish boundaries.

(b) Welcome Signage

It was noted that six new signs, provided and erected by Hampshire County Council would cost £2,300.00. Councillor Mans stated that he would be prepared to allow the sum of £300.00 towards the cost of the signs from his devolved budget scheme. Mr Bisson stated that it might be possible to use some Amenity Committee finance towards the cost of the signs.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk submit the necessary form to Councillor Mans and also place an order for the signs.

172. Cemetery Services Supply

Mr Wiltshire reported that two funerals had been held in the Chapel so far this year. However, the Chapel was becoming increasingly damp due to condensation on the inside walls. The curtains had now been removed to prevent further mould occurring and would only be replaced when funerals took place. He emphasised that the Parish Council precept would not be used for the supply of electricity to the Chapel, other than if a few minor items occurred at a later date. It would be entirely financed by grant aid and donations. A Wayleave Agreement would be necessary. At the present time it seemed evident that there was no other choice than to use SSE for the work outside the Cemetery and this would be made up as follows:

Running electricity from nearest supply to wall of Cemetery	£26,812.00
Connection fee	£1,748.00
Total	£28,560.00

VAT would have to be added at 20% but this could be reclaimed after the work had taken place.

A further amount would have to be added for necessary work inside the Cemetery and inside the Chapel and at a later date the cost of CCTV would have to be added.

Mr Mans suggested contacting the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee at HCC who might have financial aid available.

173. Freedom of Lyndhurst

Mr Wiltshire reported that he had made contact with officers at Appletree Court as it would be necessary to have somewhere for troops to assemble, etc. Some dates have been suggested and Adrian will take forward any ideas. There had, so far, not been a response from Bulford Camp.

174. Foxlease

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to a representative from Foxlease but there did not appear to be any way in which the Parish Council could assist.

175. Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies

Mr Bisson said the Lyndhurst Christmas Festival (formerly known as Lyndhurst Fun Day) would take place on 10 and 11 December and the Christmas lights switch on date would be Saturday 19 November. It was noted that the Queen's 90th birthday was Sunday 12 June.

176. Dates for Future Committee Meetings

Planning Committee	23 February	7.15 pm	Lyndhurst Community Centre
Amenities Committee	1 March	7.15 pm	Lyndhurst Community Centre

177. Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting

Items brought forward from the February Agenda and meeting
Any items brought to the attention of the Clerk by 1 March 2016
Smaller Councils' External Audits
Staff and Councillor Training (requested by Mr Lock)

In the absence of any other business the Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting.

Chairman _____

Date _____

APPENDIX A**Accounts presented at the February 2016 Parish Council Meeting:-**

	Amount	VAT	Total
Accounts paid between meetings			
Mr K Bennett			
Cemetery maintenance	1056.00		
Recreation ground maintenance	200.00		
Total			1256.00
Accounts due for payment			
Mrs M Weston			
Clerk's Salary and Expenses	1894.71	4.00	1898.71
L&DCA			
PC meeting October			
Planning Committee meeting x2	47.00		
Affiliation fee	15.00		
PC meeting December (use of kitchen)	23.50		
Total			85.50
Southern Water			
Allotment Water supply	81.09	16.22	97.31
Fireguard Services (NM) Ltd			
Fire Extinguisher Servicing in Chapel	25.30	5.06	30.36
Mr M D Witney			
Treework - Allotments	260.00		260.00
Mr K Bennett			
Cemetery maintenance	800.00		
Recreation Ground clearance	576.00		
Total			1376.00
Total amount paid	4978.60	25.28	5003.88