

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LYNDHURST PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2015

Present: Mr M Rollé (Chairman), Mr M Abbott, Mr G Bisson, Mrs A Butcher, Mr J Charlesworth, Mr L Cornell, Mrs H Klaassen and Mrs P Wyeth.
Clerk to the Council: Mrs M Weston
In attendance: Six members of the public (public participation)
Two members of the public (entire meeting)

141. Public Participation

Members of the public were present to voice their concerns regarding planning application number 00046 at Pondhead, Near Lyndhurst relating to wetland restoration comprising the replacement of 290m of artificial drain with 388m of restored meander; bed level raising for a total length of 874m; replacement of 175m of side drain with a shallow channel; the creation of a gravel stock crossing and the relocation of an existing bridge across the restored watercourse. A resolution had been passed at the Planning Committee meeting dated 27 January 2015 to accept the decision reached by the NFNPA Officers under their delegated powers.

Since that date it had come to the Parish Council's attention that there were strong neighbour objections to the proposals as the residents concerned felt that should the application be granted it might lead to their properties becoming flooded in wet weather and that wildlife might be adversely affected rather than protected. Concern was voiced regarding the accuracy of some of the Forestry Commission information which had been obtained from an outside source. It was noted that the Forestry Commission had now agreed to work with the residents regarding their concerns.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact NFNPA and request that the following information be added to previous information supplied regarding the Parish Council's views on this application:

The Parish Council note strong neighbour concern with particular regard to flooding on the upstream section of the stream and the possibility of any effect on the drainage levels in Lyndhurst village. There are also concerns regarding the habitats of wildlife and of the amount of raising of the stream bed.

142. Disclosures of Interest

None.

143. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Mr K Kaljura, Mrs A Trend, the Revd Dr C Wilkins and Mr A Wiltshire.

144. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 January 2015 were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

145. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Mr Cornell reported that the name of the company who had purchased the Lyndhurst Park Hotel was Pegasus Life.

145. Minutes of Committee Meetings

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

146. County Councillor's Report

None.

147. District Councillor's Report

Mrs Wyeth reported that following an enquiry from Mr Cornell concerning the fact that Parish Council posters regarding the Arthur Phillip Exhibition had been removed by NFDC from our bus shelters she had been informed by Colin Read that the zero tolerance ruling also applied to our bus shelters as they were in a public place.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council support the ruling but that the Amenities Committee consider the supply of a lockable noticeboard in the bus shelters to be used only for Parish Council notices.

Mrs Wyeth has asked NFDC to consider demolishing the old, redundant toilet block and fencing the area off as it would be some time before work to refurbish the area could commence.

2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Alice's Adventures Underground (the first Alice in Wonderland book. Perry Bond has taken over arrangements to commemorate this in the High Street with 20 figures which children will be able to enjoy and have their photographs taken with, together with smaller images in shop windows in the form of a competition.

It had been noted that the new lighting in the car park had led to the area in the middle area being somewhat dark. It was understood that one (or possibly two) additional lights would be installed. General discussion took place regarding the fact that some lights may need adjusting around the village.

It was agreed that the new drainage system at present being installed in Gosport Lane will be an improvement.

148. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that all items of correspondence had been sent by email to Councillors.

A letter had been received from Richard Sansom, writing on behalf of the Drama Society and asking for a public noticeboard somewhere in the village. Mr Charlesworth said it might be possible to erect a noticeboard alongside the Community Centre.

RESOLVED: That the idea of providing a public noticeboard for local organisations and charities be explored with the Community Centre.

149. Accounts

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.

150. Regulatory Items, Assets Register and Description of Parish Council's Responsibilities

Councillors had, since the date of the January meeting, had the opportunity to review all the above items and the following amendments were made:

Standing Orders – Item 3.2

Parish Council meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, except for August. Notification of meetings will be by a summons and agenda which may be delivered by post or by hand. The agenda will be delivered by email provided the Council has previously agreed to this. In any case the agenda must be issued at least three clear business days before the meeting. The minimum three clear days' public notice for the meeting does not include the day on which the notice was issued, the day of the meeting, a Sunday, a day of the Christmas break, a day of the Easter break or of a Bank Holiday or a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

All other additional items were agreed.

RESOLVED: To adopt the revised Standing Orders

Assets Register – value of the Chapel be increased to £100,000.00p.

RESOLVED: That the insurance cover for the play equipment in the Recreation Ground be increased to cover the replacement value.

Mr Charlesworth asked that thanks be recorded in the minutes to the Clerk for all the work she had undertaken on these items.

151. Arthur Phillip

Mr Cornell reported that Bev Major, who had played a large part in bringing this local hero to the notice of the New Forest had passed away the previous Saturday. His funeral would take place on Monday 23 February 2015 at Bournemouth Crematorium. Both he and Mrs Trend would be attending. The Chairman said that he would arrange for flowers and a message to be sent to Mrs Major on behalf of the Parish Council.

Mrs Trend had given a talk on Arthur Phillip to U3A on 14 January at the Community Centre. This was well attended and very well received. Mrs Trend had requested that the fee received of £50 be given to the Parish Council for the Arthur Phillip budget and a cheque was handed to the Clerk together with an invoice received for the hire of a ship's model on display at the Exhibition in the New Forest Centre.

Mr Cornell and Mrs Trend had met with Hilary Marshall the previous day and progress is being made with the video about Arthur Phillip and his links with the New Forest. This will eventually be installed in the New Forest Centre. The wrap up event to celebrate the project's achievements had been set for Thursday 25 June 2015 from 6.00 to 8.00 pm in the New Forest Centre and will take the form of a wine and cheese party.

Mr Cornell and Mrs Trend had handed over a set of photographs taken during the visit of the Governor of New South Wales on 14 July 2014. The Britain-Australia Society are planning to publish a book to commemorate the events which took place in Westminster Abbey, Bath and the New Forest last year and wanted a selection of photographs taken in Lyndhurst, Boldre and Lymington. A CD containing around 24 photographs had been handed over to Pauline Lyle-Smith and this had been gratefully received.

Mr Cornell and Mrs Trend had attended the Australia Day service at St John the Baptist Church, Boldre on 1 February 2015. Sir Christopher Benson, Vice President of the Britain-Australia Society gave a speech and Pauline Lyle-Smith presented a framed picture by Roland Harvey – a children's book illustrator – showing the voyage of the First Fleet – to the William Gilpin School. She has also given us, in Lyndhurst, a copy of the map – which we are considering presenting to Lyndhurst Infant School.

Mr Cornell and Mrs Trend are continuing to work on this project and will concentrate now on the lasting legacy element of the project and the completion of archival research.

The Chairman reported that the bricks from the original wall, now situated on land owned at Vernalls Orchard had been secured and arrangements would be put in hand for their removal once estimates for the work had been obtained. These would contribute towards the lasting legacy.

152. Annual Parish Meeting

The Agenda, as presented, for the Annual Parish Meeting was agreed. The presentation to the 2014 Parish Champion would be made at the end of the meeting when light refreshments would also be served.

153. Boundary Review

RESOLVED: To hold this matter in abeyance until the July meeting.

154. Parish Champion

The Clerk reported that a number of nominations had been received.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk forward the names and number of votes by email to all Councillors and that if Councillors wished to make further nominations they do so by Friday 13 February 2015. A decision could then be taken on who would receive the award and an order could be placed in good time for the presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.

155. Forthcoming Parish Council Election

It was noted that a number of Councillors would not be seeking re-election this year. A section had been added to the Home page of the website containing two leaflets giving information about becoming a Parish Councillor. A list of this Council's functions and responsibilities would also be added and a poster would be designed to attract prospective Councillors.

156. Community Speedwatch

The Clerk reported that Dave Donawa had agreed to continue with Lyndhurst Community Speedwatch although it was understood that the Speedwatch groups in Bramshaw, Copythorne and Minstead were no longer operational. A request would be put in Clerk's Corner for someone to come forward to input information into the computer and for more volunteers to operate the equipment.

157. LCR Opinion Questionnaire

RESOLVED: That the following answers be given to questions:

1. Should parish and town councils have to have a referendum to increase their precepts? Please give reasons for your answer.
No. This is not necessary as Councillors have been elected by local parishioners to represent them. Also, cost implications.
2. Is the government being centralist over this?
Maybe.
3. Is your council planning to increase its precept by more than 2% this year.
Yes. This is necessary in order to maintain the services we provide and no other savings could be made.

158. Parking in Hillary Close

RESOLVED: To close this matter for the time being as no further information had been forthcoming.

159. Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies

Mrs Wyeth reported that she had attended a Chamber of Trade meeting at which the subject of Picnic in the Park had been raised. The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk would be meeting representatives of the Chamber of Trade shortly to discuss this matter although it had previously been clearly stated that the Parish Council would not be running the event this year.

RESOLVED: That Picnic in the Park be added to the Agenda for the March Parish Council meeting.

Mr Charlesworth reported that NFDC would accept cheques in payment for parking clocks purchased from the Community Centre until the end of this year.

Forest Forge Theatre Group would be putting on a show at the Community Centre on 18 March. The charge was £12, with £10 for Community Association members.

The Brand New Forest card is now available at the Community Centre.

Mr Bisson had attended a New Forest Quadrant meeting as well as a NFALC meeting.

160. Dates for Future Committee Meetings

Planning Committee – Tuesday 24 February 2015

Amenities Committee – Tuesday 7 April 2015

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting date was Tuesday 17 March 2015.

161. 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 2 March 2015

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

Chairman _____

Date _____

APPENDIX A

The following accounts which had become due for payment or have been paid since the date of the last meeting were authorised for payment:-

	Amount	VAT	Total
Fireguard Services (NM) Ltd			
Servicing, etc of Chapel Fire Extinguisher	28.05	5.61	£33.66
NFDC			
Supply and fixing of 2 Rec litter bins	779.94	155.99	935.93
L&DCA			
Room hire -PC meeting	£23.50		£23.50
Mrs M Weston			
Clerk's Salary and Expenses	1746.76	23.65	1770.41
Southern Water			
Allotment Water Supply	88.33	17.67	106.00
Came & Company			
Parish Council Insurance	2831.45		2831.45
TLC Online			
Website maintenance/domain renewal	116.50		116.50
L&DCA			
Room hire - Planning meeting	23.50		23.50
Total	5638.03	202.92	5840.95