

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF LYNDHURST HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2017 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Mr M Rollé (Chairman), Mr G Bisson, Mr P Burrows, Dr E Chell, Mr T Dunning, Mrs Fiona Green, Mr Kaljura, Mr S Se-upara, the Revd Dr C Wilkins, Mr A Wiltshire and Mrs P Wyeth. 44
Mrs M Weston, Clerk to the Parish Council
PCSO Richard Williams
32 members of the public

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

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None – all Councillors present.

(2) MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 March 2016 were approved.

(3) MATTERS ARISING

None.

(4) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Councillor Pat Wyeth reported that the New Forest District Council like many Councils have had to face many challenges in order to maintain their essential services. The Council Tax has increased by 3.2% which equates to £5 on a Band D property, £163.36 per annum and £3.14 a week for services. We will continue the clear and black sack refuse collection, the garden waste and kerb side glass collection. Residents can now receive a text message to remind them when the bottle collection is due. NFDC is running an Eat Well, Eat Healthy campaign in conjunction with the 1 – 5 scoring for eating establishments. This is to encourage businesses throughout the district to provide healthy option alternatives. The District Council has provided 21 new homes for rent and hope to increase this number over the coming years.

To date there is no change on devolution but NFDC are looking to the future for greater working together with neighbouring councils and partners in order to deliver improved outcomes for the community.

In conjunction with the emerging District Local Plan, NFDC will be looking very closely at the recently published Housing White Paper to identify opportunities for providing more affordable homes.

With regard to air quality monitoring results the automatic monitoring site located above 14 High Street has reported no exceeding of the air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide for 2016. These objectives are an annual mean (40µg/m³) and an hourly mean (200µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year). Unfortunately the actual results for 2016 are currently not available but prior to ratification the results were: annual mean result ~37µg/m³ and hourly mean ~4 exceedances during 2016. The diffusion tube data cannot be determined until the data from the automatic monitoring site has been fully ratified because the diffusion tube results are corrected against the automatic monitoring result. Full ratification of the automatic monitoring results and correction of the diffusion tube results are expected to be completed by May 2017. The full results

will be published in the Annual Status Report which is produced by 30 June 2017 and sent to Defra for comment. The current 2017 unratified results for nitrogen dioxide in Lyndhurst are annual mean of 33µg/m³ and hourly mean 0 exceedances.

NFDC will continue to comment on planning applications which may impact on local air quality, including within Lyndhurst. Comments have been submitted to Christchurch BC concerning a large housing development at Roeshot Hill for approximately 900 properties. The applicant is undertaking work to determine the potential impact on local air quality in Lyndhurst from vehicles travelling from the new development through Lyndhurst via the A35. To date the traffic data is being analysed and modelled prior to an air quality assessment being completed and as such the impact on local air quality is currently unknown.

Air quality work for 2017 consists of completion of the Annual Status Report 2017, working with public health colleagues at HCC to address air quality in a wider context across the district, working with colleagues from leisure, transport and planning within NFDC to reduce car use and improve health of residents and visitors and updating the Air Quality Action Plan for Lyndhurst, the previous one having been compiled in 2008.

The contractors for data management from the automatic monitoring stations and site engineers have both been changed which has resulted in the temporary loss of access to historic data from monitoring sites.

The NFNPA is responsible for all planning in Lyndhurst, Emery Down and Bank. We are also updating our existing Local Plan and under pressure to find suitable sites for housing without encroaching into the Green Belt. One of our main challenges over the past two years has been the redundant site at Lyndhurst Park Hotel. We now have to wait and see whether PegasusLife will go to Appeal or move the site on. This is a brownfield site and if it became available would be an ideal site for a sympathetic layout of affordable houses to rent, with a few market housing to buy and a high quality design hotel and would offer some employment. This site is in the Conservation Area, at the entrance to Lyndhurst and must be of a high specification. It must meet with the policies as laid down in the emerging New Forest National Park Local Plan as well as National planning policies. The new Co-op is now under construction and will incorporate renovation of the archway and Coopers Yard. We have some really different and interesting shops in the village and need to support and encourage where possible in order to maintain our level of retail percentage.

Councillor Wyeth said she was interested to hear residents' views and always willing to answer questions. If she did not know the answer she could usually find someone who did.

(5) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of County Councillor Keith Mans the Clerk read out his report. The last year had seen further central government cuts to local councils. The County Council has done its best to ensure that back office facilities continue to bear the brunt of this cash reduction. It is encouraging to observe that all libraries and waste disposal sites have nevertheless been kept open and the County has retained its school improvement programme. They have also filled the gap from the reduction in funding from the Environment Agency for flood protection.

More locally Councillor Mans has spent all of the £32,000 allocated to him under his devolved budget. Grants have included support for Parish Council defibrillators, energy saving projects, playground repairs and sports and arts groups.

Hampshire Constabulary PCSO Richard Williams gave a report and explained that he works with PC Steven Norris and commenced work in Lyndhurst and a large surrounding area in 2016.

There have been four house burglaries, four non-dwelling burglaries (sheds and shops) and there was a big problem with thefts from cars parked in the 126 car parks on the open forest. The empty building at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel was causing problems as during the February half term children from as far afield as Millbrook had been visiting the site. However, this was being boarded up today. The New Forest Centre, which was largely staffed by volunteers, had been targeted by travellers last year and PCSO Williams suggested that residents pop in when they had five minutes to spare to lend support. There had been six burglaries in ten days in Ashurst.

(6) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016/2017

The Chairman introduced the Councillors and explained that Lyndhurst had a fantastic mix of Councillors with good skills and this year had seen the handling of some big projects. In the Recreation Ground there had been a further addition to the skateboard ramp, extensive adult fitness equipment and matting surfacing with QR codes to assist with training programmes, the Arthur Phillip memorial bench and blue plaque had been installed. There had been a campaign regarding the Lyndhurst Park Hotel and the Parish Council were not prepared to sit back and wait for more developments. A further programme of daffodil planting had been undertaken and an audit had taken place today. Local resident Michael Grant had undertaken a great deal of work on new cemetery maps and thanks were extended to him. The Chairman also thanked unsung heroes Dave Donawa, Annie Braisher and the Speedwatch Team for their work and regular updates on speeding vehicles around the parish. Dave Donawa pointed out that more volunteers were needed.

(7) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2017/2018

Looking to the future there would be big changes when the Parish Council moved to a new Parish Office in a High Street location. With regard to staffing the idea of going forward with an apprenticeship scheme was being explored with training in business administration and CiLCA.

The Cemetery electricity project had been completed and this was to be followed with an open day on Saturday 8 April when the Cemetery records and maps would also be on display as well as a history display organised by Councillor Angela Trend and guided walks around the Cemetery to show points of interest by former Cemetery Committee Chairman Paul Boyes.

The Chairman drew attention to the need to preserve the history of the village and urged people with material that might be of interest to come forward.

Future projects would include the Green Streets Initiative, any proposals for the Lyndhurst Park Hotel and further improvements to the Recreation Ground.

(8) PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

(a) Lyndhurst Welfare Charity

Mr Tony Herbert gave the report for Lyndhurst Welfare Charity for the previous financial year (2015-16) and explained the Trustees dealt with funds for those in need in the village. The amounts given were usually small in size. In response to a question from a resident Mr Herbert said he did not wish to become involved in individual cases this evening. He was asked how someone could become a Trustee and he explained that they were appointed from various organisations in the village and that the Parish Council had two Trustees.

(b) Saltarn Treat Fund

The Chairman explained that the accounts were attached to the pack distributed to all those attending the meeting for the financial year ended 31 December 2016 and amounted to £11,367.93m. The accounts were left in situ to gain interest. Discussion took place regarding what the fund had been used to finance in the past including outings and bibles for school children. It was understood that the fund originated from a bequest.

(10) RESOLUTIONS

No resolutions had been received.

(11) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

Chairman _____

Date _____