

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LYNDHURST PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 10 APRIL 2018 COMMENCING AT 7.15 PM

Present: Councillors the Revd Dr C Wilkins (Vice Chairman), G Bisson, Dr P Burrows, T Dunning, F Green, K Kaljura, A Trend, C Willsher, A Wiltshire and P Wyeth.

Clerk/RFO: Mrs M Weston

In Attendance: County Councillor Edward Heron
32 members of the public (part of the meeting)
Press representative (Lymington Times)

192. Disclosures of Interest

The Vice Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare an interest in any matter on the Agenda where they might be considered to have a prejudicial interest.

Councillor Bisson declared a non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 13 as Secretary of the Lyndhurst Village Decorations Committee.

193. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman and Councillor S Se-Upara.

194. Public Participation

195. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 March 2018 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

196. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

197. Committee Meetings

The Minutes of the following Committee meeting held since the date of the last Parish Council meeting were submitted and agreed:

Planning Committee Meeting – Tuesday 27 March 2018

198. County Councillor's Report

Councillor Heron reported that HCC recognized that roads were in a poor state of repair. He urged the Parish Council and general public to report problems so that road faults can be repaired as soon as possible. This can be done via the HCC website or by telephoning 0300 5551 388. The Clerk stated that there was a link on the Home Page of the LPC website and reporting any defects was very easily achieved.

It was noted that some residents, particularly in Emery Down, are not maintaining ditches and hedges and the Clerk stated that these issues should be reported to HCC who could take remedial action if they were causing an obstruction or not complying with riparian responsibilities.

Councillor Wyeth reported that the road from the A35 in the direction of Burley is in a dangerous condition as is the Emery Down Road. It was important to maintain the sides of the road.

199. District Councillor's Report

Councillor Wyeth cited problems with manhole covers around the parish and, in particular, the noisy manhole cover in Gosport Lane where the road had broken up causing the problem to worsen. This had been reported on 8 February and had filtered through to, and been reported by, Councillor Wyeth three weeks ago. HCC had passed it on to Southern Water. Councillor Wyeth stated that she was very disappointed with the service she had received from Southern Water. Eventually she had been given a date of 24 April for work to be undertaken and had subsequently asked Councillor Heron if he could assist as the noise was causing sleepless nights for residents. HCC have now been out to affect a temporary repair although it is understood that the permanent repair will not now take place until 2 May.

Councillor Wyeth reported that the manhole outside Costa Coffee in the High Street has broken up again, causing excessive noise and the granite run-off blocks outside Burrow & Hide are missing.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk check these items and report to HCC as necessary.

Councillor Wyeth reported that she would give £350 from her community grant to the New Forest Art Society but still awaited a request from the Junior Football Club.

The Vice Chairman mentioned danger to motorbike riders from badly maintained roads.

200. Mill Lane, Emery Down – Traffic Problems

Karen Whalley, who lived in Mill Lane, spoke on behalf of residents to voice their concern regarding the volume and type of traffic using the lane which had increased over the years. It was acknowledged that although there was only a small length of Mill Lane that lay within the parish, any changes that were made to traffic flow could affect our parish. Information obtained from the Community Speedwatch Team showed that 74% of traffic on this unclassified road exceeded the speed limit, with the highest speed recorded being 64 mph. The highest recorded elsewhere on an A road was 59%. The latest CSW survey showed an average of 200 cars per hour on this road which resulted in queues on a regular basis and concern was expressed that this will increase with new homes being built at New Milton and Christchurch.

Local residents of Mill Lane have met to review how improvements to the current situation might be possible and agreed that the ideal scenario would be the creation of a road block, meaning that through traffic could not use the lane but locals of Pikes Hill, Peartree Lane and Emery Down still could gain access up to the point where the road was closed. However, alternatives had also been reviewed and it was felt that current traffic calming measures should be refurbished. These included reinstating damaged and missing dragon's teeth, repainting of the road edge white lines on the two way section and improvement to signage. It was recommended that appropriate signage on the A337 and A35 should warn well in advance of the single track road and installation of signage at Emery Down instructing drivers as to who has priority (with suggested priority from A337). Residents also requested confirmation of when the traffic survey by HCC would be installed and information

could be used to prove if traffic had increased. The survey would also allow speed enforcement by the Police to take place.

Investigation was requested into the timing of the traffic lights at the Lyndhurst High Street junction and the intelligent rerouting scheme as Mill Lane now has heavy traffic when there is little traffic on A337 and also possible installation of build out points on the two way section of the lane to reduce speeding.

The Chairman of Minstead Parish Council said that he understood that signage would be put in place.

County Councillor Edward Heron thanked residents for their ideas for improvement and reported that signage had been put out to informal consultation with an assurance that it will be erected before the summer season. With regard to the issue with dragon's teeth this will be considered as well as the white lining, which is sometimes not put back for very good reasons. Councillor Heron assured those present he would come back to LPC when he has more information. Monitoring would take place in the height of the season and would record speed and weight of vehicles. He reiterated that he is committed to working with officers to find the best solution and noted that there was erosion at the side of roads.

Councillor Trend thanked Councillor Heron for his assistance and said it is recognized that there is not just one solution. A resident drew Councillor Heron's attention to the overhanging trees at the top of the hill which restrict vision and cause a problem. Another suggestion was that the number of vehicles that could be accommodated in laybys should be signed.

201. Updating Information Technology and GDPR

The Clerk reported that the new iPads and covers had now arrived. She was also negotiating with HCC regarding a .gov.uk email address and domain name for the Parish Council. When this had been secured all Councillors would be given a new .gov.uk email address and the iPads would be issued. The Clerk's laptop had arrived and was in use at the meeting.

202. Neighbourhood Watch

Councillor Green reported that she and Councillor Se-Upara would be meeting next week with Karen Oliver from Ashurst Neighbourhood Watch to talk about the scheme.

RESOLVED: To make this subject an item in the parish survey.

203. Future Plans – Parish Survey and Councillors' Ideas

A copy of proposed questions for the parish survey had been compiled by Councillor Willsher and distributed with Councillor Packs for this LPC meeting. Discussion took place on layout, etc and Councillors were asked to feed back any additions/amendments they would like to see made.

204. Request for Grant Aid (Section 137)

Councillor Bisson reiterated that he had a non-prejudicial interest in this item as he was Secretary of the Lyndhurst Village Decorations Committee. The application from this Committee had been circulated in the Councillor Pack and was the only application received so far. It was noted that the grant aid budget was £1,500 and would be open until 31 March 2019.

Councillor Bisson outlined the request stating that this was an opportunity for LPC to show their support for the Committee. The application was retrospective as it had been necessary to purchase the bunting and flags in order to be ready to decorate the High Street to commemorate the Royal Wedding and commemoration of the end of World War 1.

Councillor Bisson was asked if any other sources of income had been explored, if fund raising had or would be taking place or if a public appeal could be launched as on previous occasions. It was noted that finance would be needed for the Christmas lights by September/October.

Councillor Bisson, having previously volunteered to do so, was asked to leave the room while further discussion took place. Various options were considered including LPC assistance to publicise the need for finance and other ideas for finance. The idea was mooted of giving part of the request now because the budget had only been open for a few days and had to last until the end of the financial year. If more worthy applications were not received the amount could then be increased at a later date. Once discussion had finished Councillor Bisson was invited to rejoin the meeting.

RESOLVED: That further consideration be given to this request at the September 2018 LPC meeting and, in the meantime, Councillor Willsher would assist Councillor Bisson in making a grant application to the Lottery Fund Awards for All. The Clerk would also provide information to aid completion of the form. The LPC grant application form would be amended to include a request for information regarding what steps had been taken from those seeking grants to obtain funds from other sources.

205. Accounts

The accounts were authorized as follows:

(a) Accounts paid since the date of the last meeting:

	Amount	VAT	Total
Accounts paid between meetings			
Mint Garden Services			
Cemetery Maintenance/Materials	2310.80	262.16	
Recreation Ground Maintenance	150.00	30.00	
Total			2752.96
Sophie's Cleaning Services			
Office cleaning	105.00		105.00
Anissa's Thai Kitchen			
APM Hospitality	33.95		33.95
Homewright			
Office heater maintenance	60.00		60.00
Amounts due for payment:			
Copyrite			
Photocopying services	24.98	5.00	29.98
ADH Cleaning & Maintenance Services			

Office window cleaning x 4	42.00		42.00
Lyndhurst & District Community Association			
Admin and Stationery	227.00		
Room hire (Planning & LPC)	47.00		
Total			274.00
TLC Online			
Calendar publicity leaflet printing	44.22		44.22
Hampshire Association of Local Councils			
HALC Affiliation fees 2018/19	486.00		
NALC Levy 2018/19	171.00		
Total			657.00
Mrs M Weston			
Clerk's Salary & Expenses	2087.24		2087.24
Mary Corbett Accountancy Ltd			
Payroll Services	54.25		54.25
Total	5843.44	297.16	£6,140.60

(b) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk reported that she would be reverting back to providing a bank reconciliation on a three monthly basis which is the statutory timing for audit purposes. This will involve a bank reconciliation in June, September, December 2018 and March 2019.

(c) Annual Audit

The Clerk reported that she had received notification from PFK Littlejohn, the newly appointed external auditors for Parish and Town Councils in Hampshire, that they required our accounts by Monday 11 June 2018. This would have meant authorization by LPC at their meeting on Tuesday 8 May 2018. The Clerk considered this to be a very tight timeframe and had asked and been granted an extension until 18 June which will enable Councillors to authorize as necessary at their meeting on Tuesday 12 June 2018. This is still a fairly tight turnaround, considering the extra information that is required this year but is achievable.

206. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were brought to Councillors' attention:

Queries from Residents reported to HCC:

Parking on Green outside Forest Lodge Hotel. Main complaints coming from residents of Pikes Hill as the footpath has become very muddy due to motorists driving over it to park on the green. The Lengthsman has cleared the area once but it has happened again. HCC have offered to meet on site to find a solution.

Awaiting action on dog chute to fencing on A35 opposite Queens Road.

Ditch outside Lyndhurst House B & B has been reported by LPC and owner who is prepared to do the work (riparian responsibility) but would like permission to pipe and fill the ditch.

Noisy drain cover in Gosport Lane which has been ongoing since the beginning of February. Southern Water has stated that action will be taken between 24 and 28 April.

Local resident reported road conditions in Pinkney Lane – farm tractors leading to mud on road and erosion of road edges.

Correspondence from Mandy Ware at HCC in reply to email from the Clerk stating that she does not have any information yet regarding the timescale for surveys and collection of data relating to traffic in Mill Lane but will take any information we can supply into account if it is provided.

Accounts attached for previous year from Lyndhurst Welfare Charity who will be holding their AGM later this month.

Queries and correspondence regarding ongoing parking problems in Kings Close.

Following query from Councillor Green – correspondence with Forestry Commission Ranger who has agreed to look into more signage at Boltons Bench warning people not to feed or pet the livestock. Ranger has also offered close liaison with LPC which Clerk will take up.

Correspondence from Pikes Hill resident concerning speeding traffic and amount of traffic “rat running” through Pikes Hill. Suggests warning signs nearer the junction of the A337 with Broughton Road and Pikes Hill to deter large vehicles from using this road as a short cut and causing damage and accidents to cars, people, verges, trees and livestock. It was considered that at the very least there should be a warning sign where the road narrows after the Fenwick Hospital.

All other correspondence has been forwarded to Councillors by email.

207. Reports from Representatives of Outside Bodies

Councillor Trend reported that Emery Down and Bank Village Hall would be celebrating a refurbishment of the hall at a relaunch with Esther Rantzen on 21 April. She was assisting by compiling information regarding the history of the hall and would be creating a display for the relaunch. An appeal had been set up in order to gather as much information as possible.

208. Expressions of Interest in the Position of Chairman for Year Commencing May 2018

The Chairman was unable to be present at the meeting but had sent a written expression of interest in continuing as Chairman for the year commencing May 2018. There were no other expressions of interest.

The Vice Chairman, the Revd Dr Wilkins, stated that she would be willing to remain as Vice Chairman. There were no other expressions of interest.

209. Dates for Future Committee Meetings

Planning Committee	Tuesday, 24 April	7.15 pm	Community Centre
Amenities Committee	Tuesday 11 September	6.00 pm	Community Centre

210. Items for Discussion at the Next Meeting

Items brought forward from the April Agenda.
Items brought to the Clerk's attention by Tuesday 1 May 2018.

Chairman _____

Vice Chairman _____