

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF LYNDHURST HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 20 MARCH 2018 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 S Se-upara, the Revd Dr C Wilkins, Mr A Wiltshire and Mrs P Wyeth.  
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**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor K Kaljura.

**(2) MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20 March 2017 were approved.

**(3) MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**(4) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Wyeth reported that traffic congestion and speed continues to remain a problem and some HGVs are still ignoring the ban in the High Street between Romsey Road and Gosport Lane. Emery Down and Mill Lane have also seen an increase in traffic using their roads, in particular drivers refusing to give way and causing further congestion. Alternative routes must be found that are acceptable both to residents and the wider forest interests. NFDC and HCC have recently launched an air quality anti idling campaign at St Michael and All Angels School to try to improve the flow of traffic within Lyndhurst, including use of the green filter. A new banner requesting motorists to switch off their engines when stationary is being promoted. Parents are being encouraged to use the safe walk to school route via the churchyard.

Councillor Wyeth continues to encourage the NFNPA to build a cycle track between Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst as a priority. More cyclists are coming into the Forest so safer lanes must be introduced. Potholes continue to give problems to motorists. Many are not initially filled in correctly and heavy rain causes their collapse. The village verges are also being destroyed by inappropriate parking.

There is now a village Post Office and there are some good shops and restaurants, although it is concerning that too many shops are closing, particularly at the lower end of the High Street.

With regard to planning matters, NFDC have contacted NFNPA to ascertain if they would be interested in joining forces with their planning department in the same way as with other shared services. All public bodies are looking at ways to save money whilst still providing excellent services to the public.

The site of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues to blight our village and we still await any proposals that PegasusLife may put forward, although they were expected to go to Appeal. Residents and NFNPA have made it quite clear as to what would be acceptable both within policy and regarding the overriding need for Lyndhurst. Councillor Wyeth reported that she would still like to see a hotel as long as the design was of a high quality. Homes for rent are badly needed. The site must be appropriately landscaped and designed. It should be something that Lyndhurst can be proud of at the entrance to the village in a Conservation Area and adjacent to the open Forest.

Councillor Wyeth had attended a recent meeting of the Cluster Groups at Ashurst Hospital to hear their views for the future. They wanted to keep specialising in children's health and Councillor Wyeth had asked about the possibility of a village hospital. This would be given consideration but the problem was likely to be funding.

NFDC will continue their weekly refuse and recycling collections and four-weekly kerbside glass collections. More recycling would be introduced when the opportunity arose. During recent bad weather NFDC staff worked hard to keep essential services running. Particular thanks go to Steve Jones and Rob Lane's teams for gritting our towns and village centres.

With regard to Hurst Spit, work is going well and when the Castle opens at the end of March there will be an exhibition designed by NFDC on the work done to protect the Spit. Work on Milford Beach will commence in early April. The Great British Spring Clean has 26 registered groups in the district with 560 volunteers.

Councillor Wyeth thanked those present for listening to her report and said she would take questions.

A resident reported that the Post Office Services in the Co-op were only taking small cash deposits.

## **(5) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Heron began his report by saying that HCC could be compared to an iceberg in that the public in general only saw a bit of what they do and the services provided. They spend £500M a year on adult social care and this forms the largest part of their budget, particularly with regard to residents who experience severe disabilities and challenges for most of their lives. £180M a year is spent on children's services and £56M a year on highways. In this financial year 80% of hot fixes to road surfaces had been completed although the recent bad weather had impeded progress. HCC's budget had seen a decrease in this financial year due to cuts in government funding and residents enjoy the lowest precept in the country although difficult choices have to be made. Highway safety improvements are undertaken where Police identify safety issues.

It was noted that a team from Lyndhurst and Emery Down were working to come forward with proposals to alleviate the problems caused by rat runs on roads in Emery Down. Councillor Heron said he was prepared to listen to complaints and that revised signage re inappropriate vehicles using these roads was being formulated. Traffic monitoring would be used to quantify the number, type and speed of vehicles and action would be taken. Signage designs have been sent to Minstead Parish Council and their Chairman would be attending our April meeting. It was recognised that some of the problems were caused by satnavs diverting motorists onto these roads. It was known that the problem was Forest wide and discussions had been held in the past. Councillor Heron stated that the problems would be expensive and time consuming to solve and there were measures that could be taken that were proven to have an effect, but only to stop the situation deteriorating further. It was noted that HCC have stated that this is not the most dangerous road and that many are worse.

## **(6) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman, Mark Rollé, commenced by emphasising the need for the Parish Council to communicate with residents. The first example of this in action had been the meetings that had been held with the Wellands Road residents and local traders who had deliveries from this road. It was hoped that better understanding had been reached in this road for all who used it.

The long term Arthur Phillip project had reached its conclusion and the Heritage Lottery Fund had reported an excellent audit.

Boundary changes had meant the departure of County Councillor Keith Mans and we had welcomed Councillor Edward Heron as our County Councillor.

Lyndhurst had been given the accolade of Village of the Year and the Chairman thanked Councillor Bisson for all his work in gaining this prestigious award.

The Parish Council had supported the Royal British Legion with the Remembrance Sunday Parade, had organised the road closure and public liability insurance.

LPC had moved into new offices which had been fitted out as frugally as possible. Thanks must go to Ineos and BAT (through Councillor Kaljura) for donating office furniture. There would shortly be volunteer opportunities for projects in the office. Our PCSO was using the Parish Office on a monthly basis to hold a Community Police Beat Surgery and this was proving popular.

Three "red ex-phone boxes" at Emery Down, Bank and Racecourse View had now become information boxes and a defibrillator had been installed in the phone box at Bank. Councillor Wiltshire had agreed to donate another phone box and it was hoped that this could be used as a phone charging station/information point in the High Street.

With regard to the site of the former Lyndhurst Park Hotel, the latest planning application had received a refusal decision from NFNPA and it remained to be seen whether an appeal would be lodged. Everyone agreed that there was a need for something that would be good for the village on this prominent site.

We had been asked for NFDC to outline our plans in the event of the death of a senior member of the Royal Family. We had purchased two framed photographs of the Queen and Prince Phillip and would provide a tribute in our office. All other arrangements would be in the hands of NFDC.

## **(7) PRESENTATION TO PARISH CHAMPION**

The Chairman reported that this year's Parish Champion was Mr Ken Crabbe and the award was being presented in recognition for the enormous amount of work Ken had undertaken over a great many years with both the Village Lighting and Decorations Committee and First Responders.

## **(8) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **(a) Planning**

Councillor Se-Upara, as Planning Committee Chairman, reported that LPC Planning Committee acted in an advisory capacity to NFNPA, who were the Planning Authority for this area. LPC must be notified of all applications in Lyndhurst, Emery Down, Bank, Allum Green and Gritnam and meet on a monthly basis to make recommendations which are fed back to NFNPA. Should the case officer's view be different to LPC we can attend the NFNPA Planning Committee meeting to

present our view. After discussing planning applications the Committee has one of five choices to feed back –

- (1) That permission be recommended but to accept the decision reached by the NFNPA officers under delegated powers.
- (2) To recommend refusal but to accept the decision reached by the NFNPA officers under delegated powers.
- (3) To recommend that permission be granted.
- (4) To recommend that permission be refused.
- (5) To accept the decision reached by the NFNPA officers under delegated powers.

The Planning Committee considered approximately 70 applications this year and is also informed of all tree work applications and decisions, listed buildings and enforcements.

Application No 17/00732 regarding the former Lyndhurst Park Hotel has been in the news this year. Our planning committee recommended refusal and NFNPA officers concurred which led to a refusal for this application. The applicant now has six months to lodge and appeal and three months have already passed.

Looking forward there will be a parish questionnaire, a NFNPA Local Plan, housing, car parking and traffic issues to consider.

Anyone submitted or interested in a planning application is welcome to attend the relevant planning committee meeting or call at the Parish Office in the High Street for more information.

## **(b) Recreation**

As Chairman of the Recreation Committee Mark Rollé reported that the pirate ship had reached the end of its useful life and had been removed and replaced with a new piece of metal equipment. Landscape had taken place and a trail was being planned. Fencing around the play equipment areas was gradually being replaced, the skateboard ramp had received maintenance and CCTV equipment had been improved so that all areas containing equipment was now covered.

Negotiations were taking place with the Forestry Commission regarding the adjacent senior football pitch which the Parish Council was keen to secure for the village and the existing team. It was hoped that all facilities could be shared.

It may be necessary to replace the existing bark with wet pour safety surfacing. A resident drew attention to the wet conditions and the Chairman stated that work would be taking place on the track with additional drainage being installed.

## **(c) Cemetery**

Cemetery Committee Chairman Adrian Wiltshire reported that throughout the year the Parish Council have once again received many compliments regarding the excellent condition of the Cemetery. This is due to the hard work of our maintenance team, Kevin, Harry and Brad who are on site every Tuesday. The electricity which has been a godsend during this winter, as it stopped all the condensation from ruining the fabric of the Chapel, has now also been extended to the maintenance shed and the lych gate. CCTV is well on the way to being completed and we hope this will deter some of the petty vandalism we experience. There are also plans to try and install a toilet in the Cemetery and there have been several funerals recently where this has been one of the regular requests. Hopefully this should incur little or no cost to the Parish Council as we will be looking into obtaining grant aid. This would be an asset in marketing the Chapel, so generating some increased income to cover future extra cost. We are being asked to contribute

to the cost of repairs to the approach road and possibly business rates. We are contesting these new charges but only time will tell.

#### **(d) Allotments**

Councillor Wiltshire, as Allotment Committee Chairman, stated that there was not too much to report on the allotment gardens this year. There has been the usual small turnover of tenants with some very keen and some expecting crops to appear as if by magic. In the summer some expenditure and work will be needed on the main path which extends between the two gates.

Some four years ago a pair of buzzards appeared and the family has increased to date, a big help in keeping the rat problem under control.

There are still some plots vacant so any keen gardeners are very welcome.

#### **(e) Amenities**

Councillor Bisson, as Chairman of the Amenities Committee, gave his report. This Committee was responsible for pleasantness around the village which residents didn't always notice but would notice if they were taken away. The budget for the coming year would be £6,500 which was made up as follows: Seats and shelters - £1,500, Bulbs - £0 for the coming year as it was considered there were enough bulbs for the time being, dog waste collection undertaken on our behalf by NFDC - £800.00, Noticeboard maintenance - £250, Village walks (leaflets) - £1,000, grasscutting under contract to NFDC at Great Mead - £1,000, Information boxes - £200, responsibility for footpaths and tracks - £500.00, bus shelter replacement - £1,000, Great Mead maintenance £150.00. This amount represented a large cup of coffee a year or half a newspaper per month to each elector.

#### **(f) Police Report**

PCSO Richard Williams reported that the Recreation Ground was a great space. He paid regular visits and the area was free of any problems.

Burglaries were mainly from sheds and cars with thefts still coming from valuables left in cars in the Forest car parks but also outside homes on driveways. The public were urged not to leave any valuables in cars and hiding valuables in cars was not sufficient. PCSO Williams would be going into Lyndhurst car park to make people more aware.

Speedwatch had excellent equipment and was doing a very good job although more volunteers were needed.

Attention was drawn to the possibility of setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme with everyone having contact details to pass information around.

#### **(9) LOOKING FORWARD TO THE COMING YEAR**

The Chairman reported that he hoped to be able to have more information shortly about a new innovative idea that would help the environment and power lighting at the Cemetery lych gate. This would use of dog waste as a source of power.

The Parish Council needed to improve their communication with residents and to this end we have started to use Facebook and Twitter.

Traffic and pollution were often subjects for our LPC meeting agendas and a questionnaire would be coming asking for residents' views with this topic being one of the subjects.

The Parish Council were looking to provide two SIDs that could be moved around the village and it was hoped that these could be solar powered.

For five years the Parish Council have tried to be paper free and all Councillors have iPads. However the present iPads are not secure enough for GDPR from May 2018. It will be necessary to purchase new iPads and the savings that have been made by use of this technology is considerable.

The Chairman thanked all Councillors, the Clerk, the Community Speedwatch Team, the Community Centre and our PCSO.

The Parish Council were planning a calendar for 2019 and a start had been made with a photographic competition. The winning entries would be used in the calendar.

Funding from NFNPA was being sought for a cycle repair stand and pump and thanks must go to Lyndhurst and District Community Association for agreeing that the equipment could be sited on their land. The cycle shop in the High Street were happy to see the installation of this equipment.

A grant aid budget would be added for 2018/2019 and local groups and organisations were welcome to submit applications. The total budget allowance would be £1,500.00.

## **(10) PAROCHIAL CHARITIES**

### **(a) Lyndhurst Welfare Charity**

The Secretary of this Charity, Tony Herbert, reported that all grants this year had been given to individuals, whereas last year they had gone to organisations. There were two nominated Parish Council Trustees, although it was not necessary for them to be actual Councillors. Money was invested in the Charity Investors Fund and capital/income has doubled in 10 years, leading to an increased income of 9.5%. The charity was open to applications. A resident asked if there was a constitution but this was not known. It was queried as to whether enough people knew about the charity and there was some doubt as to how people know about it although it would seem that main local organisations are informed. It could be added as a subject for the questionnaire and the Chairman was invited to attend the next meeting.

### **(b) Saltarn Treat Fund**

In the absence of the Treasurer the Saltarn Treat accounts were presented to the meeting.

## **(10) RESOLUTIONS**

No resolutions had been received.

## **(11) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_