

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF LYNDHURST HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2019 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Mr M Rollé (Chairman), Mr G Bisson, Dr P Burrows, Mr T Dunning, Mrs F Green, Mr G Reeve, Mr S Se-upara, Mrs A Trend, the Revd Dr C Wilkins, Mr C Willsher, Mr A Wiltshire and Mrs P Wyeth.
Mrs M Weston, Clerk to the Parish Council
PCSO Richard Williams
38 members of the public

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

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

(2) MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20 March 2018 were approved.

(3) MATTERS ARISING

None.

(4) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Wyeth reported that NFDC had kept their share of the Council Tax as low as possible at 3% in order to maintain essential services such as refuse collection, glass collection, street cleaning, recycling, planning, health and leisure. There had been many changes including staff changes and smarter working.

Two new policies have been introduced – consultation on the housing allocations and the homelessness and rough sleeping strategy 2019-23. The District Council have recently given planning permission for 40 affordable dwellings to part-buy and rent on two sites in Totton.

Traffic problems continue to blight our villages and in particular Emery Down, Mill Lane and the approaches to the centre of Lyndhurst. There is no easy answer but we cannot continue to encourage more cars, lorries and people onto the roads and through our villages until a solution is found. More effort must be put into providing cycle lanes on our A roads for the safety of both cars and cyclists. To date Councillor Wyeths reported that she had no success with implementing a cycle lane between Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst. However, it took nine years to achieve the Ashurst to Lyndhurst cycle route!

Turning to the National Park and in particular the site of the former Lyndhurst Park Hotel. We keep hearing rumours that PegasusLife will soon be submitting another planning application but as yet the NFNPA have not been notified. In the meantime the building is a disgrace to the entrance to Lyndhurst.

The planning application to demolish Magnolias and replace with two properties has been dismissed at Appeal. This is good news for Lyndhurst, especially as Churchill currently have a proposal to build 26 units plus one guest unit, also in Elcombes Close, with only 11 parking spaces, which is insufficient. We desperately need affordable housing to rent or part buy but to

date have not found any suitable land. The definition of affordable housing to rent is 20% less in cost than market value housing.

We have lost the cricket pavilion at Swan Green. Councillor Wyeth felt it was a great shame that the Forestry Commission would not allow a suitable change of use for this well known local building.

Councillor Wyeth reported that she would be standing down as both a District and County Councillor at the May elections.

(5) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Heron reported that Hampshire County Council had increased their share of Council Tax by 2.9%, making it the second lowest of any shire county. Central government had cut the County Council budget by £21M. HCC had continued to invest and this included machinery to implement hot fixes for highways. Increases would be made in social care and children's services.

With regard to the issues surrounding Mill Lane, the dragon's teeth had been delayed due to works on the A337 but would follow on when this work was completed. The survey work in Mill Lane, although completed, had yet to be analysed and this was an ongoing process. Vegetation had been cut back and new signage erected.

In answer to a question from Councillor Trend, Councillor Heron stated that he had no information at this stage as to whether any account had been taken of weather conditions when the survey took place or whether this would be included in the analysis but stated that more work would need to be done. Councillor Trend reported that the amount of traffic in Mill Lane very much depended on weather conditions.

Air pollution monitoring was affected by weather conditions and this is taken into account.

A member of the public asked about road sign washing and Councillor Heron stated that this takes place once a year with road line markings only attended to if there is a safety issue. It was noted that some sign washing can be covered in the Lengthsman Scheme.

(6) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that residents from Emery Down and Minstead had visited Parish Council meetings to seek assistance in gaining resolution to the traffic problems. We had tackled the subject of GDPR and had taken the step of purchasing new iPads for Councillors as the old ones were not secure enough to comply and we now have a gov.uk email address and website address.

Councillors Se-Upara and Green will be reporting on the newly set up Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Councillor Chris Willsher had formulated a parish survey with a very good uptake and there were some small things which we could do to make a difference. We will be undertaking a Parish Survey again.

The annual audit work has increased for the Clerk with a more stringent system now in place.

With the help of the Parish Council a dog chute was secured on the A35 Southampton Road.

Councillor Se-Upara has assisted with the Community Speedwatch and we now have a new SID. Thanks must go to Dave Donawa for all his hard work and perseverance to get the equipment up

and running and thanks also to Councillor Heron for a grant towards the cost of the equipment. It has already started to deter speeding motorists.

The Parish Council did contemplate the purchase of a Silent Soldier to commemorate the end of WW1 but opted instead for an Armed Forces memorial seat which is now in place outside the Fire Station. This was financed by public subscription and grant aid from County Councillor Heron.

We operate a successful Parish Lengthsman Scheme in conjunction with Hampshire County Council.

PegasusLife dropped their planning appeal but we understand they will come again with a fresh application.

This year we welcomed Graham Reeve as a new Councillor, following the departure of Karl Kaljura. Thanks go to Karl for work in providing a skateboard ramp in the Recreation Ground and also for his well written objections to the Lyndhurst Park Hotel planning application.

Rachel Higgins from NFDC came to talk to us about air pollution in the village.

We ran a photographic competition, the winning entries providing the photographs for our calendar which we printed for the first time this year. We have some Forest Friends outside the former Lyndhurst Park Hotel for the next couple of weeks. They are animal silhouettes provided to aid in persuading motorists to lower their speed on the open Forest to avoid animal accidents.

Our Parish Champion this year will go to the Lyndhurst Lighting and Decorations Committee, the first time it has been awarded to a group rather than an individual. The Chairman thanked all concerned for the wonderful Christmas lights display. He also thanked the Vice Chairman, Clerk, all the Councillors, District and Hampshire County Councillors, PCSO, SID and Speedwatch team and stated that we all lived in a wonderful community.

(7) COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Planning

Councillor Se-Upara, as Planning Committee Chairman, explained that last year he had detailed the role and responsibilities of this Committee. This year there had been approximately 60 planning applications to consider with also some change of use and retrospective applications. The Parish Council do not like retrospective applications but prefer the correct procedure in the first instance. Listed building applications tend to be left to NFNPA Officers as specialist knowledge is needed but a recent application for a glass door at St Michael and All Angels Church was supported as it was felt that it signified openness and welcome. NFNPA agreed with our opinion and the application was granted. We sometimes deal with controversial subjects such as the recent application in Elcombes Close for which we have recommended refusal. We are expecting a new planning application in respect of the former Lyndhurst Park Hotel and when it does arrive we must consider it with an open mind.

We have a new member of the Committee – Graham Reeve who brings with him specialist knowledge from his time working in the Fire Service.

We are now entering a paperless era with regard to planning applications. NFNPA will notify us electronically regarding planning applications and we will have to view them on line via their website. All Councillors have iPads to enable this process to be completed satisfactorily.

(b) Recreation

The Chairman, Councillor Rollé, also as Chairman of the Recreation Committee, explained that a lot of the expenditure this year had been on maintenance of fencing with both the palings surrounding the play equipment and boundary fencing being replaced. The pathway across part of the Recreation Ground had also been replaced. One piece of equipment had been removed but this would shortly be replaced and the Chairman asked for ideas.

There is a new venture in progress to take over the lease of the main football field in Wellands Road and some funds would have to be directed here in order to secure the future of the ground.

Our CCTV monitoring equipment is housed in the junior football club hut and we assisted towards the cost of repairs to the hut roof. Negotiations are ongoing with the senior football club, junior football club and cricket club with a view to the Parish Council taking over the lease to the Wellands Road football ground and a meeting of interested parties will be held on Friday this week.

(c) Cemetery

Councillor Wiltshire, as Cemetery Committee Chairman, reported that since his report last year the CCTV is now up and running. There are four cameras which cover the Cemetery and exterior of the Chapel and these are very efficient. If someone enters the bottom gate the relevant camera will pick up detail of a lapel badge if one is worn and car number plates can be seen at the main gate.

There has been a reduction in income due, we believe, to the popularity of the new crematorium at Ridge, near Ower. We are still looking into the possibility of a WC but due to the need for a faculty (which is permission from the Diocese) progress is very tardy. It is hoped to finance the project with donations and grant aid and funding required is likely to amount to around £16,000. If anyone is feeling generous please see me in the near future.

Finally, I must thank Kevin Bennett and his team for keeping the Cemetery in such a tidy condition.

(d) Allotments

Councillor Wiltshire, as Allotment Committee Chairman, stated that there was not much to report this year. There had been quite a bit of fencing which it had been necessary to replace due to its age and the fact that another section had been flattened by a large fallen tree bough. The main allotment path needed some resurfacing and some gate posts needed replacing. A shed/pigsty dating back prior to WW1 was demolished as it had become unsafe and was a health and safety hazard. It had quite a bit of history attached to it and, jokingly, could have become a listed building. There are still a few plots available to rent for anyone who is interested in "growing your own". Please contact the Clerk for more details.

A member of the public asked if it would be possible to arrange a working party to deal with some of the overgrown plots that were not worked at the present time and Councillor Wiltshire agreed to look at the possibility of this taking place.

(e) Amenities

Councillor Bisson, as Amenities Committee Chairman gave his report, starting by stating that the Amenities Committee maintained 33 seats and this had recently been added to with the arrival of a seat to commemorate the cessation of WW1. It was hoped that an "opening" ceremony could be arranged to tie in with this year's D-Day commemoration. The Parish Council owns six bus

shelters with another one coming in the near future which will be placed outside the Thatched Cottage caravan park. This year has seen the arrival of a bike repair station which was grant funded and is situated outside the Community Centre. Our circular walk is under review with the section between The Oak PH and Gritnam being removed. There have been no additional bulbs this year as there were thought to be plenty already. Dog waste bins are emptied by NFDC but the Parish Council fund the service. There is a Jubilee Oak tree at the bottom of Great Mead, again funded by the Parish Council and all tree maintenance at Great Mead is funded by Developer's Contributions. During the past year two dead Willow trees have been removed and replaced with three new trees. We have public noticeboards all of which are maintained by the Parish Council.

We have information points at redundant telephone boxes which are in the ownership of the Parish Council.

We usually allow £1,000 in the budget each year towards the cost of bus shelter replacement but this will be increased to £2,000 in the coming year.

A breakdown of the budget followed: Seats/shelters £1,500; Parish Walk £1,000; Dog waste collection £800; Open space £1,150; Noticeboards £250; Information points £200; footpaths/tracks £500; Shelter replacement £2,000; Administration £100. The Amenities proportion of the precept is as follows: Saved funds from 2018 £11,188, total budget estimate £7,500. Balance £3688. Precept request £2,400. With an electorate of 3,535 the Precept works out at 95p per elector which is less than a cup of coffee, a Sunday newspaper or a litre of fuel proving that Lyndhurst Parish Council is delivering excellent value.

Councillor Trend drew attention to the fact that Lyndhurst has two "walk" leaflets.

A resident stated that the National bus sign should be removed as no buses or coaches from that company pass through the village. The Clerk stated that she had asked the bus company to remove it but had not received a reply. The resident also drew attention to the fact that there was a cigarette burn on the perspex part of the noticeboard in the bus shelter opposite the Lyndhurst Park Hotel and Councillor Bisson said steps were being taken to deal with this matter.

(8) POLICE REPORT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PCSO Richard Williams reported as follows:

Burglaries – 3 dwellings broken into, two in the same road but in different months. The other burglary was an attempt where entry was not gained. Nineteen sheds/outbuildings were broken into which reflects similarly throughout the Forest and concerns mostly garden tools and small items, all of which can be easily sold on. The theft at the jewellers is still ongoing as is the theft of a large number of cigarettes from a supermarket.

Violent Crime – only four incidents and none have resulted in any injuries. This does not include domestic incidents.

Criminal damage – Five Forestry Commission vans were damaged in the Queens House car park. Graffiti was written at various sites around the village. Two vehicles were damaged in the main car park. Three local youths were dealt with following small fires in the WCs in the main car park.

The main incidents of ASB have centred around the Lyndhurst Park Hotel but since the introduction of fencing and alarms that has all but stopped.

Two Section 59 warnings have been issued to vehicles caught driving off road at Boltons Bench and Matley Wood. A cannabis grow was found and dismantled in the High Street and there was an indecent exposure sighting at Bolton's Bench.

A man has been arrested and charged for stealing items from the garage in the High Street and two men have been arrested and charged for theft of tools from three vans parked in the village. There have been ten other thefts from motor vehicles and again they are mostly thefts from handbags or bags hidden under seats of in car boots.

PCSO Williams asked for assistance with Action Fraud in the coming year. This usually occurred where more vulnerable residents were targeted and it was planned that they would be visited regarding the dangers of people who would try and take their money.

Speedwatch was going from strength to strength and 40mph roads could now be surveyed.

Councillor Fiona Green reported on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme that she had been working on to set up with Councillor Se-Upara. This had been instigated following the Parish Survey that had taken place during the year with a number of people volunteering to be co-ordinators resulting in six schemes up and running across the village. Councillor Se-Upara was dealing with the High Street and a scheme in Emery Down was now being organised. The scheme was running really well with a Whats App group for the High Street co-ordinators. There will be drop in sessions organised and there is already a 50% uptake.

(9) RESOLUTIONS

No resolutions had been received.

(10) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident asked for information regarding Community Speedwatch and the NFDC survey on pollution. Data is available on their website. There is no quick and simple answer regarding signage, etc at Emery Down but work to try and find a solution is ongoing although funding will be difficult. A resident suggested filter in turn signage. Another suggestion was for "posters" advising motorists to ignore their SatNavs although it was noted that these cannot be used in the NFNP. A derogation for roundels on the roads in the New Forest was suggested and it was noted that this would last for three years. Opinion was that the C17 road is getting more congested as are all other roads in Emery Down. Councillor Heron counselled considered advice should be taken as there would only be one chance to improve traffic issues.

Chairman _____

Date _____