

SANDLEHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Sandleheath Parish Council held on Monday 3rd August 2009 in St.Aldhelm's commencing at 7-30pm

PRESENT: Chairman - Mr S.Daykin
Councillors - Mrs K.Coyle, Mr D.Dean, Mr B.Martin, Mr G.Maynard & Mr JP Stockton
Clerk to the Council - Mr B.Shemmings

Also in attendance were village residents as detailed in the attendance book.

09.180 Apologies for absence

Received from parish councillor Mr R.Fenn, county councillor Mr E.Heron & district councillors Lt.Col M.Shand and Dr M.Whitehead.

09.181 Any declarations of interest by any councillor on any agenda item

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

09.182 Minutes of previous meetings (22nd June & 8th July)

The minutes of the previous council meeting of the 22nd June and the special meeting of the 8th July were approved & signed as a correct record.

09.183 Matters Arising

a) Housing Needs Survey

The meeting considered the reply from John Lancaster, of Community Action Hampshire. The letter was in response to the points made by the Council arising from the Housing needs Survey report. The view of the affordable housing enabler was to the effect that no further enabling work can be done until a site can be identified within the village which is suitable for affordable housing & which the landowner is prepared to sell at the appropriate price. The Council agreed to review the response from Community Action Hampshire and discuss it further at the next meeting.

b) Highways

In the absence of the Vice-Chairman, the Clerk reported that he was trying to set up a date for there to be a walkround with the County Council's Highways Superintendent (Bob Brown). The Clerk was asked to note several highways defects such as the crumbling of the road surface edge on the field side of the Alderholt Rd, the ruts of heavy vehicles at the junction of the private lane by the Common & Alderholt Rd, the crumbling road surface near Dean & Tranter on the Rockbourne Rd, the need for major drainage work to be carried out at the top of Alderholt Rd to ensure that rainwater drains properly and the ragged piece of road surface outside Redcot in Alderholt Rd.

c) Monitoring/Enforcement of New Speed Limits

The Clerk gave a report on the information he had received from NFDC in respect of costs of deployment of SIDs – in Main Road as the sleeves were already in position the cost to the parish council would be £168.37(inc VAT) for westbound and eastbound traffic for one week each... In respect of the Alderholt Rd the cost to the parish council would be higher as there were no existing sleeves. The sleeves installation

would be £425 plus VAT such cost to be wholly borne by the parish council & the actual cost of deployment of a SID would be £118.71 (inc VAT). Thus the total costs to the council would be near £750. Debate took place & various points of view expressed. It was agreed that no further action would take place on SID deployments in either Main Road or Alderholt Rd. It was reported by village members in attendance that there had been safety cameras in existence over the past couple of days in Main Road. It was confirmed that the Clerk will be contacting the Safety Partnership to ascertain (i) how many visits by the camera unit will take place & in what time period (ii) when they are next due (iii) can the statistics already collected be made known ie the number of cars/drivers caught driving in excess of the new 30mph limit number of cars/drivers caught driving in excess of the new 30mph limit through the village. The Clerk was also requested to ask if a member of the NFDC/HCC's Safety Partnership Team could attend a future meeting of the parish council. Councillors expressed the general view that in the main drivers were abiding by the new limits. In respect of Scats Lane the Clerk was asked to arrange a site meeting to discuss with the NFDC or HCC official concerned the possible ways to ensure drivers keep to the speed limit (eg narrowing the road at either end, enlarging the car park of the Methodist Chapel etc).

d) Use of Community Service workers

It was confirmed that the community service workers will be in the village for 3rd, 10th & 17th October. The meeting agreed that apart from cleaning up anything on the Common the workers could carry out some work on the footpath to the Rockbourne Rd from Marl Lane. It was confirmed that this can only be carried out with the permission of the landowner concerned. The Clerk will contact Ian Lawrence, the HCC footpaths officer, to ascertain if the county council would be prepared to both approve the work that would be done & also to share the costs involved.

e) Common Clean-up

It was confirmed that the Common clean-up will take place on the 15th August from 9am onwards. Flyers advertising this & asking for volunteers are currently being delivered to all village residents.

f) Trimming of overhanging bushes in Spring Lane

The Clerk reported that as a result of his letter to the owner of Hardean (by the lower Common) the offending bushes have been trimmed. It was reported that there are overhangs at the other end of the lane – the Clerk will have a look at this & take the appropriate action if required.

09.184 Planning

There were no new planning applications. The meeting noted that the NFDC Planning Authority had granted planning permission to application no.09/94170 Yew Tree Cottage, Alderholt Rd who required a two-storey side extension.

There were no other planning matters.

09.185 Finance

(a) Current situation

Current account £892.49 Deposit account £1803.50 Treasurer
Trust Account £306.01

(b) Other financial matters

The meeting agreed the following invoices:

From Parish of Fordingbridge for hire of hall on 8th July £4.50
From the Clerk (Brian Shemmings) payment of 3rd quarter
renumeration, reimbursement of cost of printer cartridge &
reimbursement of cost of postage stamps £532.31
Cheques for the aforementioned amounts were drawn & signed

09.186 Village Entry Sign

The Clerk said that Cllr Fenn had asked for this to be put on the agenda. Certain preliminary work had already been done a few months ago. After a short discussion Cllr Stockton said that he would check up on the costing of both the nameplate & brick structure in the first instance. The Clerk would check on the allowable size of such an entry sign with HCC or NFDC.

09.187 Play Area Project

A full debate took place on this item. Councillors expressed various viewpoints. Residents in attendance also gave their opinions. The general debate centred around whether or not there was a need for a designated play area. It was finally proposed by the Chairman "That the survey demonstrated there is a need for a play area within the village". This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Coyle. The motion was put to the vote and defeated by 4 votes to 2 votes. It was confirmed that this would necessitate an amendment to the Village Plan.

09.188 Village Design Statement

Cllr Stockton said that as yet he had not been able to complete his work on the amended statement.

09.189 Internet Communications

The Chairman said that he was still awaiting profiles from a couple of council members. Hopefully the amended web-site would be completed in the near future.

09.190 Correspondence

The Clerk distributed copies of HALCs "Local Council News".
The Clerk referred to correspondence with Mrs Marlow, a village resident who lives in Alderholt Rd, who was complaining about weeds in gutters etc. The Clerk referred to the dissatisfaction with the New Forest Association of Local Councils by certain councils such as New Milton, Ringwood, Totton & Hythe. He said that two of those councils had already disaffiliated & two others were seriously considering taking this step. The meeting briefly discussed what the NFALC does for local councils, especially the smaller parish councils. It was felt that for the moment the parish council should remain affiliated to NFALC.

The meeting agreed to support an application for a community grant for the village shop after consideration of a letter from Mrs Pople, the owner.

09.191 Any other business

- a) Following a short discussion about broadband connection the Chairman agreed to draft a letter to British Telecom regarding broadband operation within the village.
- b) Cllr Maynard reported on a recent incident in the village where an attempted car theft occurred. The person attempting to steal the vehicle was drunk & was apprehended by the police.
- c) Cllr Coyle agreed to draw up a “welcome to the village” letter which could be given to newcomers to Sandleheath.
- d) It was agreed that there was no problem with the tented camp site at the eastern end of the village.

09.192 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Mon 14th Sept at 7-30pm in St.Aldhelm’s.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8-50pm