

The Clerk said that the work carried out on the 3rd & 10th Oct by the community service workers had been satisfactorily carried out on the Common. They had completed their work in two days instead of the 3 days allocated. He had thanked the Hampshire Probation Service & commended those who carried out the work. Cllr Mrs Coyle added her thanks to the community workers involved & their supervisor. She said that the Common is now looking good. The Clerk said that Mrs Coyle be congratulated on her co-ordination of Common work including the volunteer day in August. The Council agreed that there should be thought given to what is required for next year & the Clerk should make contact with Sharon Annell regarding provisionally booking community service workers for April.

Following a point made regarding manure for the allotments being left for too long on the Common outside the allotment fence it was agreed that the Clerk drop a note to the Allotment Trust and ask that manure not be left on the Common land for too long after delivery.

e) “Welcome to Sandleheath” letter

Cllr Mrs Coyle reported that the printer she had been in discussion with was prepared to print 100 full colour letters double sided for £40. The Council found this acceptable & the letter should be progressed. Copies will be placed in the village shop & each councillor will have a few copies to hand out to newcomers to the village.

f) Village Entry Sign

The Clerk reported on his correspondence with Tim Lawton, the Chief Engineer of Hampshire Highways West. Tim Lawton confirmed that there was no formal guidance that he is aware of regarding brick built village entry signs. However, a proper assessment must be carried out in respect of possible risks that may be incurred should a vehicle hit the structure. He said that he would be happy to advise on any proposals put forward by the parish council. Cllr Stockton agreed to prepare a draft outlining the structure & taking into account all the usual safeguards that would be involved with a brick-built structure. This would then be passed to the Clerk for forwarding to Tim Lawton.

g) Annual Bonfire on the 5th November

The Clerk said that he had posted on the notice board a note confirming that the Common gate will be opened this Saturday (31st Oct) for village residents to place their garden rubbish etc on the bonfire site. He confirmed that he had spoken to Mrs Bailey and she is happy to organise the refreshment stall on bonfire night together with her usual helpers.

09.207 Planning

The Clerk reported that there were no new planning applications for consideration at the meeting although an application for a conservatory for a property in Kerry Gdns had been received on Friday, too late for this meeting. He had therefore convened a special council meeting for Wed 18th November to consider that one application.

The Chairman reported on the recent NFDC’s Community Planning pilot launch he attended at Minstead. The actual title of the forum was a bit misleading as it didn’t involve planning as in development control but, community plans which include parish plans for villages & market town

health checks. Both NFDC & HCC will be involved to ensure there is close working. The Chairman was thanked for his report.

The meeting noted that there was a tree work application notified from NFDC regarding the felling of a pine & removal of a side branch on a silver birch at Little Glovers in Mayfield Rd.

A village resident informed the Council of an area of ground behind Elms Close that was being auctioned in early November. After a short discussion the information was noted.

09.208 Finance

a) Current situation

Current account £2436.88 (this includes the second half of the precept)

Deposit account £1303.50 Treasurer Trust account £306.01

b) Annual accounts

The Clerk confirmed that the accounts had been passed by the Audit Commission.

c) Grants for the year Apr 2009 to Mar 2010

The council members had studied last year's list of grants circulated to them & agreed that the total amount was too high & needed to be trimmed this year. It was proposed by Cllr Stockton & seconded by Cllr Mrs Coyle that the following grants should be made:

Fordingbridge Town Council	£200.00
Avon Valley First Responders	£200.00
Ringwood & Fordingbridge CAB	£ 40.00
Fordingbridge & District Day Centre	£ 60.00
Rae Stratan Luncheon Club & Day Centre	£ 60.00

No further grants would be made

The proposal was carried unanimously.

d) Other financial matters

The following invoices were approved & cheques drawn & signed:

Mrs S.Bailey – donation towards the cost of refreshments at Annual

Bonfire on 5th November £50-00

Audit Commission – fee for external audit (inc VAT) £57-50

RBL Poppy Appeal – donation for cost of poppy wreath £35-00

Information Commissioner – renewal of registration £35-00

The Clerk was asked to check with HALC & ask for guidance on how we record our electronic communication & data protection.

The Chairman said there was one item relating to staff pay which would be dealt with in private session at the end of the meeting.

09.209 Refreshing the Village Plan

Cllr Maynard said that it was now five years since the village plan had been agreed & implemented and it was now time to review the document. He was meeting an NFDC official to obtain guidance on how best to tackle the review. Cllr Stockton said that he would circulate all council members with a copy of the current village plan & councillors could then consider what areas needed reviewing.

09.210 Village Design Statement

Cllr Stockton apologised that he hadn't had time to do anything further in respect of finalising his section of the Statement. This was due to work

pressures. It was agreed that Cllr Fenn's section of the Statement be circulated to councillors.

09.211 Internet Communications

It was confirmed that this was work in progress.

09.212 NFDC Community Governance Reviews

The Clerk reported that in a letter from NFDC it was confirmed that they would not be carrying out a comprehensive community governance review during the entire District Council area but to ascertain whether there are any issues individual parishes wished to see addressed. The meeting confirmed that there were no areas where they felt an CGR should take place.

09.213 Communication between the police & rural communities

The meeting considered the letter from Sgt Goodall regarding regular meetings with parish councils. The Council agreed that we should accept the invitation & suggest that the meetings should take place at least on an annual basis but preferably at a shorter interval. Cllr Stockton confirmed that he didn't get the feedback these days from the local police community support officer that he got from PC Tony Hatcher. He said that there had been a spate of shed break-ins in the village over the last couple of weeks.

09.214 Correspondence

The meeting noted an invitation to send a representative to a training day organised by the New Forest Community Safety Operational Joint Action Group on the 18th November at Dibden Golf Centre. The Clerk would circulate the Community First New Forest newsletter to councillors. The meeting noted the recent NFALC minutes of meetings emailed to members.

09.215 Any other business

Following a point raised by a village resident it was agreed that the Clerk would contact NFDC regarding the possibility of a sign pointing to the Methodist Church being attached to the sign post at the crossroads.

09.216 Date of next meeting

Monday 7th Dec at 7-30pm in St.Aldhelm's

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8-55pm

The meeting then went into Private Session.

The Clerk reported that all town & parish councils had been notified that NALC had agreed with the trade unions an increase in pay of 1% as from the 1st April. The Clerk said that he felt disinclined to take the increase in the existing economic climate. The Council thanked the Clerk for his gesture but said that they would want the increase to be implemented in full. This would increase the Clerk's pay to £1758.37 (from £1740.96) or £33.81 per week (from £33.48) or £8.45 per hour (from £8.37). It was Also proposed by Cllr Stockton & seconded by Cllr Fenn "That the Council will follow the National Association of Local Councils guidelines on pay & conditions for staff".

Following a short discussion on finance it was agreed that prior to the next meeting the Clerk should prepare a list of projected expenditure for the next financial year bearing in mind that our precept claim for the next financial year will need to be received by the NFDC by the end of December.

The meeting private session was closed by the Chairman at 9-20pm