

SANDLEHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Sandleheath Parish Council held on Monday 7th December 09 at St.Aldhelm's commencing at 7-30pm

PRESENT: Chairman - Mr S.Daykin
Vice-Chairman - Mr R.Fenn
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 District Councillor Lt.Col M.Shand & village residents as detailed in the attendance book.

The Chairman opened the meeting & welcomed all those in attendance.

09.217 Apologies for absence

Received from County Councillor Mr E.Heron and District Councillor Dr M.Whitehead. The Clerk reported that Cllr Dr Whitehead was currently recovering from the affects of a car accident. The members wished her a speedy recovery.

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

There were no declarations recorded.

09.219 Minutes of Previous Meeting (26th Oct)

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Mon 26th October were approved and signed as a correct record of the business transacted. The meeting also approved the notes of the inquorate meeting of the 18th Nov.

09.220 Matters Arising

a) Housing Needs Survey

The Clerk confirmed that he had received written confirmation from both NFDC & Community Action Hampshire that they had not been approached about any new parcel of land available in the village for affordable housing purposes. The meeting noted the assurances given.

b) Highways

Cllr Fenn reported that he had written to Robert Brown (Hampshire Highways West superintendent) regarding the ongoing problem of drainage in Alderholt Rd. The persistent rains have accentuated the problem & there are several areas where the drains are not coping with the rain water. He also reported a new pothole which had occurred near the Methodist Church. Cllr Fenn was thanked for his action.

The Clerk then reported on his site meeting with Allan Ellis (NFDC) on the 25th November at Scats Lane. The site meeting was in regard to trying to stop vehicles speeding down Scats Lane & keeping up that speed when turning left into Alderholt Rd. What was proposed by Mr Ellis was white lining at either end of Scats Lane which would have the affect of tightening up the junction to slow exit left & also control right turns from Alderholt Rd. This could be a forerunner of physical alterations at the junction of Scats Lane & Alderholt Rd carried out by Hampshire

Highways on a parish partnership basis. The white lining could be included in 2010/11 traffic management programme, but this wouldn't be confirmed until March when the next year's programme is determined. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the county councillor Mr Edward Heron regarding the possibility of Hampshire Highways stepping up the physical alterations at an earlier time than that envisaged by Allan Ellis. In view of the fact that such a physical alteration would mean taking up some of the land outside the Methodist Church the Clerk was asked to contact NFDC and/or HCC & ask them to check with the land registry on whether the land outside the Methodist Church belongs to the church or is council land.

c) Speed Limits

The Clerk reported that he had, after first contacting NFDC, written to the Safer Roads Partnership requesting the figures that had been obtained from the Main Rd & Alderholt Rd SID placements. There had been no response to date & the Clerk said he would chase this up. The meeting felt that if there was still no response then an approach should be made under the Freedom of Information Act.

d) Use of Community Service Workers on the Common

The Clerk said that he had written to Sharon Ansell at the Hampshire Probationary Service asking her to thank both the supervisor and the workers involved who had worked so well in the autumn on the Common. He had also said that we would like to reserve a couple of dates in the Spring of next year for further work on the Common.

e) Village Entry Sign

Cllr Stockton said that he had prepared a design for a brick built entry sign which the Clerk had sent on to Tim Lawton at Hampshire Highways. A site meeting on the 15th Dec had now been arranged for the Chief Engineer to see at first hand what was being proposed.. His initial response following the written submissions was that he was against a brick built entry sign for safety reasons. It was hoped to change his view at the site meeting.

f) Annual Bonfire on the Common

The Clerk reported that he had heard from Mrs Bailey & she thanked the Council for their contribution towards the cost of the food bought for the refreshment stall. As a result the organisers of the bonfire had been able to contribute the sum of £224 to the Friends of Fordingbridge Hospital charity. The Clerk said that the evening had been a great success and was very well attended. He had written to both Sue Bailey and Mr & Mrs Poulton thanking all concerned for their hard work during the evening.

g) Directional sign at the crossroads indicating location of Methodist Church.

The Clerk said that following a site meeting at the crossroads with Allan Ellis, of NFDC, it had been confirmed the cost of supplying & fixing a double sided sign would be £136-11. After a short discussion it was proposed by the Chairman & seconded by Cllr Mrs Coyle "That the Methodist Church directional sign at the crossroads be ordered from NFDC at a cost of £136-11 and that such cost should be shared with the Methodist Church on the basis of each paying 50 per cent." This was put to the vote & carried.

09.221 Planning

The meeting considered the undermentioned planning application:
09/94797 Mr J.Hudson Single-storey side extn, front porch; rear conservatory The Leys, Alderholt Rd, Sandleheath

The planning sub-committee members said that they had looked at the plans carefully & looked at the site and felt that there were no grounds for any objection & therefore the application should be supported. It was agreed by the members present that the application be supported.

09.222 Finance

a) Current situation

The Clerk reported that the current financial situation is as under:
Current account £1699.38, Deposit account £1303.50 & Treasurer Trust account £306.01

b) 2010/2011 Precept

The meeting gave full consideration to the position paper prepared by the Clerk in respect of the precept for the next financial year. The Clerk recommended an increase of 14% over the existing precept for this year of £4600. The meeting then debated in detail the recommendation. They felt that rather than making a 14% increase it was necessary to look at where savings could be made. They agreed that in respect of grants these could be cut by 50% during the next financial year. However, before taking a firm decision the matter of annual grants be discussed at the January meeting of the Council. For the future, grants will be determined at the same time as precept deliberations normally in December each year rather than October as at present. It was also agreed by the meeting that prior to the renewal of the insurance for the Council, which is in June, the Clerk should check on other companies who specialise in local government insurances. Similarly, in respect of cutting the Common the Clerk should check with other contractors who cut commons, village greens etc. A check should be made with Fordingbridge Town Council on whether or not they would sub-contract out their groundsman & gang mower.

After further debate it was proposed by Cllr Stockton & seconded by Cllr Maynard "That the precept request to NFDC for the financial year April 2010 to March 2011 should be 9% over the current precept. This would mean a precept of £5014 for the financial year concerned." This was put to the vote and carried.

c) Other financial matters

The Clerk reported that as from next year the cost of hiring St.Aldhelm's would increase to £6 per hour from the current £4.50. This was noted.

The following invoices were agreed:

Hire of St.Aldhelm's for an additional meeting of the Parish Council on the 18 th November (Parish of Fordingbridge)	£ 4.50
Purchase of Canon toner cartridge for the photocopier (Close Invoice Finance Ltd)	£ 98.05
Invoice for cutting Common paths (5 cuts @ £37 per cut) (Mr Peter Marsh)	£185.00
Invoice from the Clerk covering his 4 th quarters remuneration plus reimbursement for postage stamp purchase	£456.36

- 09.223 Refreshing the Village Plan
Cllr Maynard reported on his meeting with Penny Velandar (NFDC). He felt it was a useful meeting & confirmed that several villages were soon to commence refreshing their plans. He said that we could either form a new group to go through the process or do it as a parish council. After a short debate it was agreed that the refreshing of the Village Plan be carried out on the basis of a social evening/workshop & this could be combined with the Annual Parish Assembly on the 26th April. Penny Velandar to be invited to come along as guest speaker.
- 09.224 Village Design Statement
Cllr Stockton confirmed that he circulated to all council members a copy of the amended Village Design Statement. It was agreed to hold this over until the January meeting.
- 09.225 Internet Communications
Cllr Mrs Coyle confirmed that this was in hand & progressing favourably.
- 09.226 Report by Clerk on his attendance at police liaison meeting on 12th Nov
The meeting noted the written report prepared by the Clerk on his attendance at the 12th November meeting at Fordingbridge Town Hall. The Clerk was thanked for the report.
- 09.227 Correspondence
Apart from the items already circulated to councillors prior to the meeting it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Coyle along with the Clerk attend the meeting organised by Hyde PC on Fri 22nd January ay 7-30pm in Hyde Church Room. Barry Foley (interim Chief Executive of the New Forest national Park) will be guest speaker. All surrounding town & parish councils have been invited to the meeting.
The Clerk was asked to contact the Environment Agency following their flood watch notice which indicated that part of Sandleheath is in danger of a risk of flooding. He was requested to question which part of Sandleheath is liable to flood, bearing in mind there has never been any flood problems in the village in living memory.
- 09.228 Any Other Business
The Clerk was asked to have a discreet word with the owner of the village shop regarding the overflowing waste bin outside the shop.
Following a point raised by a resident it was agreed the Clerk contact NFDC about the broken sign at the crossroads.
Mr Rickman, on behalf of the residents at the meeting, thanked the councillors (parish, county & district) for all their hard work during the past year.

The Chairman wished all councillors & residents a very Happy Christmas.
He closed the meeting at 8-40pm

