

Cllr Heron said that villagers could report the location of potholes online to Hampshire Highways. He said that during this inclement weather gritting the county council had continued to grit priority 1 routes, the cost to date has been in the region of £3 million. Because of the financial impossibility of gritting side roads within the county the decision had been taken to purchase a further 4000 grit/salt bins in addition to the existing 2000 so that residents can have the opportunity of gritting/salting their own side roads etc. After a short debate the Chairman thanked Cllr Heron for his report.

b) Speed Limits

The Clerk reported on his efforts to obtain details of the black boxes (called Speed Detection Radar boxes) which appeared in Main Rd & Alderholt Rd several weeks ago. The problem was ascertaining which authority was responsible for installing the boxes. NFDC have confirmed that the boxes were not theirs. It was now the problem tracking down who erected the boxes. The Clerk had enlisted the assistance of Cllr Heron who confirmed that he was awaiting a response from the county council – there may be a delay as many of the officers had been on night duty for a number of weeks.

c) A338 – possible closure

The Clerk gave a report on his action so far. However, there had been recent developments which Cllr Heron reported on. He said that Wiltshire CC had now had a change of mind & would not now be closing the A338 for a 6 week period from the 31st Jan. As from the 18th Jan there would be a 9 week period of roadworks through Downton to the Hampshire border which would be controlled by traffic lights. The scale of the road works would not be so intensive. The meeting felt that this would be more appropriate during the winter months where alternative routes would have meant more traffic on minor local roads. The Clerk said that as yet he had not received a reply to his email to the Safer Roads Partnership about more speed checks on Main Rd during the road work period. He would chase this up.

d) Use of community service workers on the Common

The Clerk confirmed that the 3rd, 10th & 17th April were dates that the Hampshire Probationary Service had pencilled in for community service work on the Common. Cllr Mrs Coyle confirmed that she would draw up a plan of work for the workers. The meeting agreed that a donation of £50 be given to the Hampshire Probationary Service to assist with the purchase of tools.

e) Village Entry Sign

Cllr Stockton reported on the meeting he and the Clerk had with the Hampshire Highways official on the 15th Dec He said that that whilst HCC had no objection to the design, the site, position of the sign & what it says they were no able to agree a brick built structure as it was not in line with current policy because of the dangers if a vehicle hit the sign. After a short debate it was agreed to hold over a decision until the next meeting to allow Cllr Heron to have a word with Hampshire Highways. Cllr Stockton agreed to email the design to Cllr Heron.

f) Sign at crossroad indicating the Methodist Church

It was confirmed by the Clerk that the cheque for half the cost had been received from the Methodist Church management & the full amount had been sent to NFDC. The sign would be erected in around six weeks time. Members of the Council indicated that they would want the sign to be placed on the pole tidily.

g) Broken sign at the crossroads

The Clerk said that he had contacted the NFDC about this but, in fact, the email should have been sent to HCC. NFDC had passed it on. The Clerk would keep his eye on the matter.

10.05 Planning

a) Planning Applications

There were no planning applications for consideration

b) Decisions taken by NFDC Planning Authority

09/94749 Mr Strong Conservatory 3 Kerry Gdns, Sandleheath

Planning permission granted with conditions

09/94797 Mr Hudson Single-storey side extn; front porch; rear conservatory The Leys, Alderholt Rd, Sandleheath

Planning permission granted with conditions

10.06 Finance

a) Current situation

Current account £955.47 Deposit account £1303.50 & Treasurer Trust account £306.01

b) Annual grants

The meeting considered in detail the amount paid out in grants during the financial year 2009/10. They felt that £560 was too much during the current period of financial restraint. & agreed that when in December the Council considers grants the total amount to be paid out should not exceed £200 & should be given to organisations which have a direct benefit to local residents.

c) Other financial matters

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with the HALC concerning parish council insurance as he felt that there was a better deal to be obtained at an insurer other than Zurich, who premium last June increased to £323. At the recommendation of HALC he had been in touch with Came & Co, who are official brokers for Aviva. After initial discussions it was confirmed that for around £274 per annum Aviva could offer £10million cover plus all the normal items covered under the current policy with the additional benefits of personal accident cover for councillors & volunteers carrying out voluntary work for the council, the cover being £50,000 limit of indemnity & £200 per week incapacity benefit. Also £10,000,000 public liability cover for the annual bonfire on the Common – a risk assessment must be carried out prior to the bonfire taking place. The Clerk was thanked for his report & requested to carry out further negotiations with Came & Co. so that a conclusion can be reached at the March meeting in time for any new insurance coming into force on 1st June.

In respect of the bonfire Cllr Maynard undertook to carry out the risk assessment.

The meeting retrospectively approved the two invoices for which cheques were drawn & signed prior to the Christmas break namely:

NFDC for the sign indicating the Methodist Church to be erected by the Sandleheath crossroads £136.11

Dibben & Sons for cutting the Common on 24 Sep & 23 Oct & cutting the hedge of the allotments £333.50

The meeting agreed that the Clerk should speak to Mr Rickman about the hedge cutting bearing in mind the cost of the cut was £110.00

10.07 Refreshing the Village Plan

Cllr Maynard gave a full report on the steps he proposed to take in the run-up to refreshing the Village Plan at the Annual Parish Assembly on the 26th April with the May AGM of the Parish Council approving the Plan as amended.

After full debate it was agreed that Cllr Maynard would draft a letter to be issued to all village residents which would explain the reasons for refreshing the Plan which would be part of the flyer sent out advertising the Annual Parish Assembly. Further planned action points were agreed. The Clerk said that after consultation with Penny Velandar she had agreed to come along to the Annual Parish Assembly. Cllr Maynard said that his meeting with Penny Velandar had lasted about 3 hours and covered all necessary points & therefore he felt that there was really nothing she could tell the Assembly over & above what he had discussed with her. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should contact Penny Velandar again & explain the situation to her and discreetly tell her that there was no need for her to come along to the Annual Parish Assembly.

10.08 Village Design Statement

It was agreed to leave this over to the next meeting.

10.09 Cutting the Common & Common paths

The Clerk said that the Fordingbridge Town Council would be considering the request about contracting the Town Council's groundsman to cut the Common at their re-arranged Council meeting on the 13th January. He said that Mr Dibben (the current contractor) would be submitting his quote over the next couple of weeks. Cllr Heron suggested that Steve Jones, the NFDC's head of grass maintenance, might well be helpful in respect of sub-contraction of Common grass cutting.

10.10 Sandleheath Sea Scouts

The Chairman reported on an email he had received from Sandleheath Sea Scouts for some financial assistance towards the cost of the removal of a tree at the bottom of their field. However, events have moved on & the request was withdrawn.

10.11 Correspondence

All items of correspondence have been circulated to councillors by email including the documents relating to the dispute between the HALC & NALC. It was agreed we should note this & not take a position.

10.12 Any other business

- a) The Clerk said that he had emailed the Environment Agency re the Flood Watch paper requesting information as to where the flooding would take place in Sandleheath. There had been no response as yet but he would ask them again, bearing in mind that this could affect house insurance for Sandleheath residents.
- b) Cllr Coyle reported that the “welcome to new residents” letter was now ready for printing. It was agreed that 200 copies be ordered.
- c) A council member reported on recent shed break-ins in the village.

10.13 Date of next meeting

Monday 22nd February at 7-30pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8-55pm