

## SANDLEHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Sandleheath Parish Council held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 at 7-30pm in St.Aldhelm's

PRESENT: Chairman - Mr S.Daykin  
Vice-Chairman - Mr R.Fenn  
Councillors - Mr D.Dean, Mr B.Martin, Mr G..Maynard,  
Mr J.P.Stockton & Mr D.Wright  
Clerk to the Council - Mr B..Shemmings

Also in attendance were county councillor Mr E.Heron & district councillor Ms Roxy Bellows plus village residents as detailed in the attendance book.

The Clerk said that he had sent a letter of condolence to the son of the late Mrs Alice Kingman. He said that Mr Kingman had thanked the Parish Council for their kindness when he spoke to him after the funeral.

11.118 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence recorded.

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

The Chairman declared an interest on agenda items 5(b) & (c) and Cllr Wright declared an interest in agenda item 5(b)

11.120 Minutes of Previous Meeting (27<sup>th</sup> Oct)

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 11 were approved & signed as a correct record of the business transacted.

11.121 Matters Arising

a) Community Speedwatch

Both Cllr Stockton & Cllr Wright said that the vetting forms they had previously submitted had been lost by the police. New vetting forms had now been submitted & it was to be hoped that they will now be processed properly.

b) Highways

The Vice-Chairman (Cllr Fenn) said that the collapsed drain on Main Rd outside of "Crossroads" had still not been repaired. He said that he would have a word with the HCC Highways Superintendent (Bob Brown) to see if repairs can be speeded up. Additionally drain service covers on principal roads in the village are being renewed.

c) Village Entry Sign

The Clerk said that he had contacted the Highways Superintendent regarding the missing "SANDLEHEATH" entry sign on Main Rd near Mayfield Rd. After sending a reminder he had received a positive reply from Bob Brown who confirmed an order had been raised for the sign but he couldn't give a specific date when it would be ready.

Cllr Stockton then introduced his CAD drawing for a village entry sign which he sought council's approval. He said that the structure would be predominantly brick built located in the same position as the current sign. The best option the actual wording on the sign would be aluminium cast to show details (village crest, village name & commemoration) in relief.

The cast sign would have the village crest SANDLEHEATH in large type & the wording "To commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II (1952-2012) Size 1200 x 800mm at a cost of the aluminium element of approx.£1000. The foundations of the brick structure would be about 600mm & the double thickness brick structure should be adequate. The method of construction & distance from the road edge within a 30mph speed limit area should not be considered a safety issue. During discussion it was felt that the wording related to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee could well form one of the positive points for the sub-cttee who are looking at ideas for the Jubilee. County Councillor Edward Heron said that as yet he had made no decision on how to use his county councillors' local allowance to help town & parish councils in his constituency & he would be prepared to consider using this allowance to assist the parish council's costs for this entry sign. The Chairman thanked Cllr Heron for this gesture.

After further debate it was agreed that the details of the village entry sign as suggested by Cllr Stockton be approved.

d) Nov 5<sup>th</sup> Bonfire on Common

The meeting thanked the Sandleheath Community Association for organising the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov bonfire on the Common. Mr & Mrs Poulton were also thanked for organising the coincidental firework display in their backgarden. It was agreed the whole evening was a great success.

e) The Common

The Clerk said there were 3 matters to report;

- i) following an approach from Mrs Coyle he said that he had given permission for the banner advertising the Xmas Fair of the Western Downland School to be displayed on the Common with the proviso that it be taken down on Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec following the Fair on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.
- ii) in respect of the Common gate the Clerk said that he had 2 quotes one for £490 plus VAT with softwood gateposts & the second one for £360 plus VAT with oak gateposts. The meeting agreed to go along with the latter quote.
- iii) The meeting considered a request from a village resident to plant a viburnum plus guelder rose shrub on a side of the Common that runs alongside the road to Damerham, the shrub being indigenous to common land growing to a height of around 15ft. The meeting felt there was merit in the request and Cllr Stockton, who is the councillor with responsibility for the Common, to liaise with the resident & then come back to the Council with a recommendation.

f) Future of St.Aldhelm's

The Clerk said that following his email to the Rev Godson he received a reply which explained that the PCC would be discussing the framework for the consultation & membership of the community and church groups. The PCC would be considering the outline of various options including the PCC retaining ownership & management, medium or long term lease of the building to one or more community groups or partial or full development of the site. The final decision to be made by the PCC in discussion with diocesan officials. The Rev Godson confirmed that the

PCC would be in contact as soon as the details of the consultation period are agreed. The Chairman said that the PCC were, in fact, meeting that very evening. The council members agreed that the Parish Council should be party to any discussions that are organised by the PCC. It was pointed out that the new Localism Act could well be helpful in pursuance of the retention of St.Aldhelm's as a community hall. The Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the new Localism Act with reference to the section dealing with a development plan for the community & to liaise with Rosemary Rutins at NFDC where necessary to obtain clarification of the Act's requirements.as appropriate.

g) Car Park charges

The Clerk read out to the meeting from Cllr Paul Vickers from NFDC explaining the new car park charges from the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 12. This explanation was noted.

h) Web-site

Cllr Wright said that gradually the amendments to the parish council web-site were coming together & hopefully within a few weeks the web-site will be up-to-date. The meeting thanked Cllr Wright for his assistance.

#### 11.122 Planning

a) Planning applications

The Clerk confirmed that there were no new applications submitted by NFDC

b) 11/97701 Mr J.Harrison Detached garage Silver Trees, Main Rd  
Both Cllr Daykin & Cllr Wright declared interests & took no part in the ensuing discussion. Cllr Fenn temporarily took the Chair.

The Clerk gave a full report on his attendance at the NFDC Planning Cttee meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. He said that despite his oral support of the Parish Council's recommendation to reject the application in the 3 mins he was allotted to state the case the NFDC agreed by 14 votes to 3 to allow the erection of the garage. The members considered a report from Cllr Stockton in which he stated his absolute disgrace at the decision With no attention being given to the parish council case & his concern at The sudden change of tack taken by the case officers concerned. He felt that the most effective way to get all the details is through a Freedom of Information request. He said that we do not have to give reasons for requesting the required details.. Obviously if there was a financial charge we would need to discuss it again. After debate, in which it was suggested by county councillor Heron that in the first place it might be appropriate to contact the NFDC Chief Executive, it was agreed by 3 for with 2 abstentions to pursue the matter with a Freedom of Information reference.

b) The meeting agreed that 2 tree work applications (a) Crossroads, Main Road, Sandleheath and (b) Forres Sandle Manor School be left to the NFDC's arboriculturists to decide.

#### 11.123 Finance

a) Current position

Current account £4407.40 , Deposit account £1305.85 & Treasurer Trust

Account £499.29

- b) To consider grants for the financial year Apr 11 to Mar 12

The following grants were agreed:

Fordingbridge Community First Responders £180-00

Fordingbridge & District Day Centre for the Frail & Housebound £ 60-00

Rae Stratan Lunch Club & Day Centre £ 60-00

The meeting agreed that they could not agree grants to the New Forest Citizens Advice Bureau & Victim Support

- c) Precept for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

It was confirmed that the precept for the past two years was

£5014. A discussion then ensued with members speaking in favour of retaining the precept at its current level & also in putting forward a small increase. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Dean & seconded by Cllr Fenn “That the precept for the financial year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 be retained at its present level with no increase – in other words a precept request of £5014”. This was put to the vote with 5 in favour & 2 against.

- d) Outstanding invoices

The members agreed the following outstanding invoices:

From NFDC for cutting the Common (7 cuts plus hedge cut) the sum of £459.87 plus VAT of £91.97 – a total of £551.84

From the Clerk – the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters remuneration plus reimbursement for postage stamps & mileage allowance for attendance at NFDC Planning Cttee on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov – a total of £474.10

Cheques for the two amounts were drawn in favour of NFDC and Brian Shemmings.

#### 11.124 Village Design Statement

The Clerk & Cllr Stockton gave a full report on their meeting with Sharon Elson, the NFDC GIS Manager ICT Services on the 24<sup>th</sup> November at Lyndhurst. The meeting was to ascertain the reasons for joining the GIS Partnership thus enabling the parish council to be able to reproduce appropriate maps as necessary. The cost to the council would be \$46 per annum for a commitment of 3 years from 1<sup>st</sup> Apr 12. To join up before 1<sup>st</sup> Apr 12 the fee could well be negotiable. The benefits of joining the partnership would include:

Access to the web based ForestMap system for all council members

Access to the GIS map layers held in the NFDCs central database (inc information provided by the Environment Agency, Natural England, HCC etc)

Access to Ordnance Survey mapping and products

Tailor made paper maps & images for use in specific projects (eg VDS)

Large format maps on request

Capture of parish land & assets

Spatial analysis – interrogation of the GIS information to assist with queries

After a discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council should join the Partnership & receive the benefits involved.

11.125 Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Cllr Dean reported on the various suggestions that had been put forward to the sub-committee inc a beacon on the Common, mugs for children, a possible 60 designed in flowers on the Common, the village entry sign as considered earlier at the meeting etc. The Sandleheath Community Association would be dealing with the party side of the celebrations. Further consideration would be given to other suggestions.

11.126 Correspondence

The meeting noted the items circulated by the Clerk including the meeting of the Association of Local Councils in the New Forest on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, & the briefing notes on the Localism Act given Royal Assent on 15<sup>th</sup> November

11.127 Any other business

- a) Following a suggestion from Cllr Maynard it was agreed that there should be a tidy up of the Common following the 5<sup>th</sup> November bonfire.
- b) Sandleheath Community Assoc.were granted permission to place a Christmas Tree on the Common & hold a carol service similar to last year.
- c) Mr Rickman on behalf of residents thanked the parish council members & district & county council members for all their work during the past year.

11.128 Date of next meeting

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7-30pm in St.Aldhelm's

The Chairman wished all councillors & residents a very Happy Christmas and good New Year.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8-45pm