SANDLEHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Sandleheath Parish Council held on Thursday 23rd February 2012 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 village residents as detailed in the attendance book

12.14 Apologies for absence
Received from district councillor Ms Ann Sevier

12.15 Any declarations of interest by any councillor on any agenda item
There were no declarations of interest recorded.

12.16 Minutes of Previous Meeting (12th January 12)
The minutes of the meeting of the parish council meeting held on Thurs 12th January 12 were read (& apart from a small clerical error under 12.11) approved and signed as a correct record.

12.17 Matters Arising

a) Community Speedwatch/Speed Camera Signs
The Clerk confirmed that the speed camera signs were now in place on Main Rd. It was reported that on Monday last there was a speed camera van in place on Main Rd just past Kerry Gdns in the direction of Fordingbridge. The van was there for at least two hours.
In respect of the Speedwatch project it was confirmed by Cllrs Stockton & Wright that, in fact, there had been no further contact from the police. The Clerk said that Rockbourne PC had indicated that they were keen to join in with the project. He said that he had put the Rockbourne PC Clerk in touch with the Chairman of Damerham PC who was the official council person who seemed to be the leading light behind the project.

b) Highways
Cllr Fenn reported that the impending road repairs previously reported had been carried out by Hampshire Highways.
The meeting then gave consideration to the Hampshire CC/NFDC proposal to reduce traffic speed in Scats Lane by realigning the Main Rd/Scats Lane junction. This would be work funded by HCC as part of their 2012/13 traffic management programme. The council members debated the proposal and felt that the idea would beneficial to residents of Scats Lane as the proposals would slow the traffic down. The Clerk said that in responding to Paul Garrod, at HCC, he would make the following points (a) that in the first instance would it not be an idea for temporary blocks to be erected (similar to the temporary blocks erected on the B3078 at Godshill prior to the permanent traffic priority blocks being installed) to test the effectiveness of the new junction & (b) that would it not be better to use gravel instead of grass for the verge. It was also suggested that a

"concealed entrance" sign be erected at the entrance to Scats Lane in view of the small lane that leads to three homes on the left hand side just after entering Scats Lane from Main Rd.

c) Village Entry Sign

The Clerk reported that County Cllr Heron had kindly offered to use all of his county councillor's devolved budget to assist with the funding of the village entry sign. The Clerk added that with the council's current financial state there would, in his view, be adequate funding to cover the cost of the structure. Cllr Dean said that he had met up with a local builder & was awaiting a quote for the cost. It was agreed that ideally it would be appropriate if there were three quotes for the cost of building. The main requirement for Hampshire Highways was that any highways contractor needed a public liability insurance cover of £10 million. Cllr Dean said that the contractor he had spoken to certainly had this type of cover as he was an approved HCC contractor.

Cllr Stockton drew the meeting's attention to the legal licence the parish council was required to sign by the county council allowing the parish council to place an entry sign on the C148. The Clerk was asked to check with Came & Co, the parish council's insurers that the current public liability insurance insures the council against public liability risks for a sum of at least £10 million. The parish council would also need to indemnify the county council in respect of all actions, demands,expenses & proceedings arising out of or in connection with the placing of the sign on the highway.

It was agreed that the sign would be blue in colour with off-white lettering.

d) Common Gate

The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken to Owen Reeve, the contractor who would be making the new Common gate, who said that it was hoped that the new gate would be installed by the end of this month.

e) Future of St.Aldhelm's

The Chairman reported that he had been invited to a meeting to discuss St.Aldhelm's convened by the church management. The meeting would be on the 20th April. The Sandleheath Community Association had also been invited. It was also confirmed by the Chairman that the Rev Godson would be leaving his position as team rector of the Avon Valley Partnership sometime in April.

f) Common maintenance

The Clerk said that he had confirmed grass cutting dates with the NFDC commencing in April. There would be a total of 7 cutting dates finishing in October of this year. He said that he would let Cllr Wright have the actual cutting dates for inclusion on the web-site. He said that he had also been in touch with Matt Simpson the new supervisor of the community payback personnel, & arranged for two dates on 4th & 5th May when the they would be available for work. He said that he would be confirming a date when he & Cllr Stockton would be able to meet up with Matt Simpson prior to the community payback workers arriving on the Common to outline what jobs needed doing. In respect of obtaining a digger to clear the bonfire ash/residue on the top Common he said that despite writing a note and also leaving messages on his voicemail he had received no response at all from Mr Gould, the farmer. It was suggested

that perhaps Peter & David Bryant may well be willing to do use their digger to level out the ground. Failing that Ian Newman may well be prepared to supply a digger & driver to do the job.
In response to a point raised by Cllr Stockton it was agreed that the community payback workers could cut the hedge in Spring Lane plus apply a coat of creosote on the bus shelter at the crossroads.

12.18 Planning
There were no new planning applications to consider but it was reported that the NFDC planning authority had considered application number 11/98006 Mr Melville use of ancilliary residential accommodation as single holiday let; fenestration alterations Hurley Farm, Marl Lane, Sandleheath & granted planning permission with the normal conditions.

12.19 Finance
a) Current situation
Current account £2938.01, Deposit account £1306.31 & Treasurer Trust account £499.29
b) Other financial matters
There was only one outstanding invoice & that was from the Clerk for the final quarter of his annual renumeration. The sum involved was £439-59. This was approved and a cheque for this amount was drawn in favour of Mr Shemmings.
The Clerk confirmed that due to new regulations all town & parish clerks were considered PAYE for tax purposes. Whereas the Clerk originally declared his parish council pay on his self-assessment tax form he now had to remit to HMRC every quarter the equivalent of PAYE on his quarterly renumeration. He said that because of his age (now 76 yrs) he certainly paid no national insurance so therefore there was no obligation on the council to pay national insurance contributions. There was also no obligation on the council to be involved in any tax payment – it was only the Clerk who paid tax. The Clerk was requested to obtain for each councillor a copy of "The Good Councillor's Guide" from HALC.

12.20 Village Design Statement
Cllr Stockton said that this was progressing & by the next meeting hopefully they would have access to the ForestMap System. Both he & the Clerk would be attending a training course on the use of the system. All councillors would be able to have access to the system & the data that was provided. Councillors expressed satisfaction with this provision.

12.21 NFDC Sites & Development Management Development Plan
All councillors had had the opportunity to view the documents sent out by NFDC as well as seeing the document on line. It was generally agreed by the meeting that Sandleheath had no problem with the proposals in the Plan. There was confirmation that there was no further plans to extend the industrial estate & that the only proposed housing development would be on land to the west of the Scout Centre & south of Station Rd for ten dwellings. The proposals were noted by the meeting & no requirement to respond to the NFDC.

12.22 Parish Lengthsman proposals

The councillors confirmed they had all received the report from the Clerk following his attendance at the 23rd Jan meeting in Fordingbridge Town Hall on the subject of the employment of a parish lengthsman by all the Fordingbridge & neighbouring parish councils. There would be no cost to the parish councils & each would be given £1000 by the county council to pay for the cost of a lengthsman who would be employed to carry out the small jobs (like the cleaning of road signs, cutting back overhanging branches etc) which the normal Highways team would not have time to do. This would be a trial initially & the lead council for the area would be Fordingbridge Town Council. No job would involve direct working on the highway. There would be 11 participating councils & basically each local council would have the services for the lengthsman for about two days maximum. The meeting agreed to the proposals & Cllr Fenn was appointed to be the liaison for the parish council.

12.23 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Cllr Dean confirmed that there had been no response from Western Downland School, Forres Sandle Manor School & the local Methodist Sunday School to the time capsule suggestion. Cllr Dean said that he had registered on behalf of the parish council the interest in the "plant an oak tree" scheme. He said that the main theme from the parish council would be the village entry sign & from the Sandleheath Community Association would be a beacon & the posh picnic.

12.24 Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations

The meeting noted the report from the clerk who briefly outlined the new system of developer contributions.

12.25 Correspondence

Among the correspondence was an item from the Assoc.of Local Councils in the New Forest of a meeting at 6-30pm on the 1st March at NFDC confirming that the Chief Exec of NFDC & the Chief Exec of New Forest National Park who would be giving a presentation on the Localism Act. The Clerk said he would be attending & any councillor who intended to attend should give the Clerk his name. All items of correspondence were noted by the meeting.

12.26 Any Other Business

In response to a point made by a council member about hours cover at the Fordingbridge GP Surgery it was agreed that Cllr Fenn would draft a letter to the surgery questioning the out of hours provisions.

The meeting congratulated Cllr Martin & his wife for their work in tidying up the verges in Alderholt Rd.

12.27 Date of Next Meeting

Thurs 31st March at 7-30pm in St.Aldhelm's

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8-35pm

The agreed agenda for the Annual Parish Assembly on Thur 3rd May at the Methodist Hall was as under

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Assembly (118th April 11)
3. Guest Speaker – Ms Joanne Gore (Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust) – to talk about the work being carried out by the Trust in the Avon Valley on the subject of non-native invasive plants.
4. Chairman's Report
5. Matters Arising from the Chairman's Report
6. Any other business

It was agreed that the normal arrangements for the distribution of agendas would prevail.