

Minutes of a meeting of Sandleheath Parish Council held on Thursday 2nd August 2012 at St.Aldhelm's commencing at 7-30pm

PRESENT: Acting Chairman – Mr R.Fenn
 Councillors - Mr D.Dean, Mr B.Martin & Mr D.Wright
 Clerk to the Council – Mr B.Shemmings

Also in attendance was county councillor Mr E.Heron and village residents as detailed in the attendance book.

The Acting Chairman opened the meeting at 7-30pm & welcomed all to the meeting.

12.72 Apologies for absence

Received from parish councillors Mr J.P.Stockton & Mr G.Maynard and district councillor Ms Roxy Bellows.

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

None were declared

12.74 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the 28th June 12 were read, approved & signed as a correct record of the business transacted.

12.75 Matters Arising

a) Community Speedwatch

Cllr Wright reported that the two Sandleheath representatives had now received their training in equipment familiarisation. Their first operational Outing would be on the 9th August outside the Sandleheath Scout Centre. The Clerk said that he had written to Phil Tandy, the Damerham Chairman, outlining to him the decision regarding the possible purchase of a SID unit taken by the last Parish Council meeting.

b) Highways

Cllr Fenn & the Clerk both said that there was nothing to report in respect of highways since the last meeting.

c) Junction re-alignment Main Rd/Scats Lane

The Clerk said that he had received an email from Roger Hand (NFDC) in which he explained that he marked out the proposed re-alignment but subsequent rain showers had wiped out the markings. He said that he would be doing it again when next in the area.

d) The Common

A report was given of the recent Common walkround by council members. Among the points agreed by the councillors were (i) trimming the left-hand side of the Common in line with the dog waste sign (ii) the area of 4 trees to be kept clear of brambles etc up to the slope (iii) a list of jobs for the parish lengthsman inc. cleaning the bus shelter, clean road signs at the Common crossroads, clean/maintain the ditches on top Common, clean the phone box outside the shop (iv) in respect of Coronation Terrace, the entrance to the terrace be monitored because of possible erosion, car parking to be constrained to a defined area (v) cutting back of overgrown sight lines on the footpath on lower Common (Cllr Wright confirmed this had been done already) and (vi) the edge of the lower Common to be

monitored bearing in mind there is a serious chance of the edge being eroded because of vehicles parking there. Thought to be given to dragons teeth being installed. It was confirmed that Cllr Maynard would now be in a position to finalise his report on the Common.

The Clerk referred to extensive email correspondence between him & a village resident, the resident suggesting that the Common not be cut but it be fenced & ponies be allowed to graze on it. The meeting said that this would not be appropriate & the Clerk said he would write to the resident & explain the situation.

e) Village Design Statement

It was confirmed that Liz Carey had now left NFDC & her place had been taken by Ed Gerry. A final version of the Statement would be sent to Ed Gerry when the document had been completed by the Chairman.

f) Future of St.Aldhelm's

There was nothing further to report at this stage. It was confirmed that the part of the Localism Act which dealt with Assets of Community Value would not come into effect until at least October.

g) Parish Lengthsman Scheme

The Clerk said that now we have definitive jobs identified he would then submit a work requisition to the lead council (ie Fordingbridge TC) outlining the jobs to be done.

h) Village Shop/Post Office

It was confirmed that the property had not reached its reserve at auction last month & therefore would be re-submitted for auction in October.

12.76 Planning

a) Planning applications

There were no new planning applications to be considered.

b) Decisions taken by NFDC Planning Authority

12/98732 Forres Sandle Manor Educ Trust Continued siting of classroom building (variation of condition 1 of planning permission 09/94125 to allow building to remain for further 5 years) Forres Sandle Manor School Planning permission granted with conditions

12/98653 Mr C.Wood roof alterations;new dormer;juliette balcony;roof lights;single-storey infill extn Fircroft, Alderholt Rd, Sandleheath Planning permission granted with conditions

12.77 Finance

a) Current financial situation

Current account £3298.39 Deposit account £1306.77 Treasurer Trust account £499.31

b) Draft Audit Bill

The Clerk confirmed that among the positive things contained in the draft Audit Bill was the fact that small councils with a turnover of less than £25000 per annum would, provided the Bill was enacted, not be subject to external audit by the Audit Commission. Obviously the normal internal audit by an independent auditor would continue.

c) Changes to Council Tax Benefit

The Clerk made reference to the changes from the next financial year to the Govt's abolition of the Council Tax Benefit & its replacement with a

local Council Tax Support scheme, the Govt at the same time reducing its funding for support by about 10%. The NFDC, along with other district and borough councils, are now in the process of consultation with all their residents by means of online communication – the consultation period will continue until 30th September, with the new Council Tax Support being implemented from the new financial year in 2013. Cllr Edward Heron gave further details on how the new Council Tax Support Scheme would operate. The Clerk said that he had put information on the notice board with the online address highlighted. The Clerk reminded councillors that he had emailed them with the notification of an Assoc. of Local Councils in the New Forest forum arranged for the 23rd August at NFDC offices where the chief executive of the district council will make a presentation & clarifying the funding implications for town & parish councils. The meeting was open to Clerks & councillors. He said that he would send out a reminder to councillors.

d) Other financial matters

The meeting agreed that an invoice from the Clerk for £439.59 to cover his quarterly remuneration from 1st August be paid. A cheque in the name of Mr Shemmings was drawn & signed.

12.78 Village Entry Sign

There was nothing further at this stage to report.

12.79 Localism Act 2011

The council members present confirmed their acceptance of the new Code of Conduct that had been prepared by the Clerk using the NFDC suggestions. In respect of the Register of Members' Interests members handed their completed forms to the Clerk for forwarding to the NFDC's Monitoring Officer.

12.80 Unauthorised Encampments

The Clerk said that Hampshire County Council had not made any response to the Asst Chief Constable's letter to all Chief Executives of the County Council, District Councils & Borough Councils. Cllr Heron said that if there was dissatisfaction with the Asst Chief Constable's circular letter outlining the approach of Hampshire Constabulary's policy towards unauthorised encampments in Hampshire & Isle of Wight it would be better to wait until the new Crime Commissioner is in place in the latter part of the year. The meeting noted the report.

12.81 Correspondence

The Clerk referred to a letter from HCC re the village agent project from July 2012 to July 2015. The meeting agreed they would be receptive to the village agent co-ordinator addressing a parish council meeting in the future.

12.82 Any Other Business

i) It was agreed that the Clerk would put a notice in the bus shelter & also on the open part of the parish council notice board requesting that notices be taken down once they were out of date.

ii) It was confirmed that NFDC provides all road/street names in the area.

Cllr Wright agreed to prepare a report on street naming in the village for

councillors for the next meeting.

12.83 Date of Next Meeting – Thurs 13th September at 7-30pm in St.Aldhelm's

There being no further business the Acting Chairman closed the meeting at 8-30pm