

Ordinary Meeting of Minstead Parish Council
The Surgery, Minstead Village Hall
Monday 7 December 2015 at 19.30

Present: Cllrs W Andrews (Chair), S Cattell, A Ferguson, G Hough, R Taylor, D Wakelin.

In attendance: P Osborne (Clerk), Cllr K Mans (HCC), Cllr S Arnold (NFNPA), Mr R Arnold, Mr M Bridle, Mr R Stride.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr H Bennett, Cllr Mrs Andrews (NFDC).

2. Public Participation Period

Cllr Sally Arnold (NFNPA) said she could not yet confirm 3rd February as date for NE Quadrant meeting to be held at Minstead. She was asked to include an agenda item on Highways Maintenance (*NFNPA Management Plan TT7*).

Mark Bridle queried the arrangements this winter for snow ploughing. Council confirmed that his contract as Contractor is unchanged and Mr Bridle agreed to continue as before. Clerk to ask Bramshaw PC if they wish to continue with his services for snow clearance in Bramshaw.

Richard Stride reported that the overgrown vegetation across the verges of Blackwater Road continues to present a danger to animals, public and traffic, and that the missing dragons' teeth have not yet been replaced. Council had contacted HCC Highways about these matters in September and had requested a site visit. Mr Stride would still like a site meeting. Cllr Cattell to contact Rob Millar and ask him to contact Mr Stride to arrange a meeting. Clerk to write to landowners with hedges along the road requesting that the hedges be cut back - there will be charge if HCC have to do it. Clerk to write again to Rob Millar re dragons' teeth.

[Mr Stride left meeting at 19.44]

3. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Ferguson declared personal and prejudicial interest in tree work application CONS/15/1231 (Item 11).

4. To confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 2 November 2015

These had been previously circulated and were agreed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

- Grant towards restoration work to Bridleway 13: A 50% grant from *Small Grant Scheme* had been offered, but only on condition that the other 50% be provided by the residents who drive vehicles on the track and/or by the estate (Minstead Manor). This because as a Bridleway it caters for walkers, cyclists and horses but the damage has been caused by vehicles. The Chairman had written to residents explaining the position. Of the residents who responded, all were against resurfacing the bridleway except two whose property access is on the track. Those in opposition are concerned that resurfacing would encourage more motorists to use the track and at increased speeds. Several people suggested using posts to restrict vehicular access – however, this would not be permitted since the area has protected status in several categories. Council disagreed that the existing surface is adequate as a Bridleway because cyclists and walkers have to make diversions to avoid the ruts, holes and large puddles. Council agreed that another letter be sent to residents suggesting that they meet and decide among themselves what should be done. Action: Chairman/Clerk.
- Replacement of gates and posts at both ends of Bull Lane footpath: Two quotes now obtained. Clerk to apply for SGS funding. Cllr Sally Arnold offered to find out whether parishes could apply for funds from *Higher Level Stewardship Scheme* – if so, Clerk to contact David Ilsey.

6. Items Ongoing

- Telephone box at Newtown: Cllr Cattell to ask Lengthsman to install boards (as display panels) and shelving for books. **Ongoing**
- Repairs to seat at cricket pitch: Lengthsman is aware of this but job is not urgent since seat is not in dangerous condition. **Closed**

- Eroded edges on roads: only one acknowledgement received (from Cllr Woodward, Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment, HCC) to letter sent to several interested bodies. Clerk to write again to those that have not replied to ask if we can expect a response. **Ongoing**
- Risk Assessment for snow clearance: It was agreed to adopt draft that had been circulated. **Closed**

7. Reports from County and/or District Councillor

Cllr Mans (HCC)

- Amount of grant from Central Government will be known within a week. Currently looking closely at Council Tax – decision in February. Difficult now to find savings.
- Proposed boundary changes would effectively abolish this *New Forest Division*, most of it becoming part of a very large *Lyndhurst & Fordingbridge Division*. Adjustments have been suggested.
- Recent query regarding maintenance of street lighting following email from SSE Enterprise Street Lighting has been resolved. HCC continue to maintain street lighting in Minstead. Clerk to thank SSE Enterprise Street Lighting.

Qu: Is HCC devolving responsibility to parishes for footpath maintenance? This would be double devolution since money must follow the responsibility. Answer: it is too soon to say.

Qu: Should we be concerned about HCC consultation on dimming street lights and not cutting grass verges? Answer: Council should respond if these matters are important in this parish.

Qu: Is HCC taking any responsibility for flooding? Answer: System in place for collaboration between County/Districts/Environment Agency.

Grit bins: New design being used. Cllr Taylor reported recent email stating that the two damaged ones are to be replaced.

[Mr Bridle left meeting at 20.35. Cllr Mans left meeting at 20.40]

Cllr Mrs Andrews (NFDC) had sent written report:

The Chief Executive, Bob Jackson continues with his reshuffle of senior officers. If present officers wished to be considered for executive positions they were requested to apply with their CVs for a limited number of executive places. This process is at the interview stage and the new team will be announced in late December. Two heads of department have already taken redundancy. Once the new team is in place it should be a stripped down and efficient council which is even more cost-effective with a saving of £300,000 annually.

She has recently attended these meetings: on grant funding for the *Citizens Advice Bureau*; AGM of *Community First New Forest*: further meetings of the *Child Poverty Task and Finish group*; Liaison Committee meeting of the heads of department of NFNPA and NFDC planning departments (to jointly prepare for the future needs for housing in both areas).

The Chairman asked Cllr Ferguson to contact Cllr Mrs Andrews to ask that the information about special 5 hour parking clocks for Lyndhurst Community Centre be removed from the NFDC website as they not being provided for 2016.

8. Report from Lengthsman

Mr Short reported (by email) that during November he had cleaned the War Memorial area and done two patrols round Minstead. Rain had prevented further work.

9. Report from Councillors' Surgeries

Arrangements made for *Carols by the Green* and visit by Father Christmas on 19 December. Cllr Cattell to check that Manager of Trusty Servant knows what will happen.

10. Reports from Parish Representatives

- Minstead Mail – next issue in January.
- Website – It was agreed that Council would discuss at the February meeting whether to put Visitor information on the website and what form this might take. Clerk to include this in the Agenda.
- Footpaths – wet section on church footpath; Cllr Cattell will ask Lengthsman to clear ditch alongside.

- Village Hall - Management Committee is to refurbish Surgery area to create a large room for meetings, parties etc. Hall floor is also to be redone. This work planned for Spring. The Hall, Green Room and Surgery are to be renamed. New chairs have been purchased.

[Cllr Arnold and Mr Arnold left meeting at 20.55]

11. Planning

NFPA Decisions

15/00468 Pilmore Heath Farm. Stables.

Grant

New Planning Applications

15/00774 Little Thatch. One and two storey extensions. *[Amended plans received 03.11.2015]. Comment 3 – the minor change suits Conservation Officer.*

15/00732 Castle Malwood Lodge. Retention of lamp post + addition of lantern. **Comment No 3.**

15/00937 Cosy Hollow. Application to vary condition 1 of planning permission 11/96120 to allow the retention of the structure for a further 5 years for sole occupancy by Mr Peter Galton. **Comment No 3.**

Trees

CONS/15/1151 Mill Lane Farm. Coppice linear group Goat Willow trees adjacent to East side of track, as highlighted on submitted plan.

CONS/15/1226 Field opposite Hollyhock Cottage. Fell group self-seeded mixed species trees.

CONS/15/1231 Hurdles. Prune 1 x Willow.

R14/15/15/1222 Ocknell House. Remove 1 x dead fallen pine. *[Exempt works – for information only]*

Council had no objections to any of the above applications for tree work.

12. Correspondence

E-mail correspondence previously circulated was noted:

- Local Government Boundary Commission for England: Consultation on electoral review of Hampshire: Draft recommendations – closes 11.01.2016.
- HALC: letter to NALC regarding the proposed NALC Levy increases for 2016/2017.
- NFDC: Details of Temporary Road Closures C151 Lyndhurst Rd and Newtown Rd Minstead requested by Bournemouth water during 2016 in order to carry out water main renewal works.
- Notification of consultation on Draft Strategy for the future of Hampshire Library Service – closes 16.01.2016.
- HCC: National Highway and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey – closes 18.12.2015. **Cllr Taylor will endeavour to respond - electronic surveys present problems in that one can only view each page separately and cannot save a copy of responses.**

To Read:

- *Local Councils Update (December 2015)*
- *Partnership Plan for the New Forest National Park: update of NP Management Plan with actions for 2015-20120*
- *LCR (Winter 2015)*

13. Finance

Receipts & Payments for November 2015:

	£	£	£
	Net	VAT (recoverable)	
Balance at 31.10.2015			14,792.62
Receipts:			
HCC: Cllr Mans' grant (towards defibrillator)			500.00
Standing Order payments			
Salaries and expenses	427.87		
Cheques to pay:			
NFDC: Cost of elections on 7 May 2015	133.25		
Total payments for November	561.12		

Balance after payments			14,731.50
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Proposed for payment by Cllr Taylor, seconded by Cllr Ferguson and agreed.

14. Defibrillator in Minstead

Funding (£500) towards cost received from Cllr Mans' Councillor Grant. Two training sessions by St John Ambulance booked for 27 January for which nineteen people have so far signed up.

15. Matters raised by Councillors

- Drainage at Football Green – need to monitor this since recent work around Woodley House (ditches cleared, hedges trimmed, trees cut back) may affect water level in ditch around the green opposite across the road.
- Precept: with expected increase in devolvement of responsibilities and reduction in funding, Council should consider increasing Precept next year.

16. Date of next Ordinary Meeting: 4 January 2016 at 19.30

Meeting closed 21.20