

Ordinary Meeting of Minstead Parish Council

The Surgery, Minstead Village Hall

Monday 3 August 2015 at 19.30

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

In attendance: Cllr Mrs Andrews (NFDC), P Osborne (Clerk), Mr B Rothnie (Deputy Surveyor, Forestry Commission), Mr R Arkle, Mr J Waud.

1. Apologies for Absence

None.

2. Public Participation Period

Mr Waud outlined his several concerns regarding planning application 15/00502 which he would be submitting to NFNPA. Chairman addressed some of his concerns and said that Planning Officer Liz Young had been invited to Minstead PC meeting on 7 September.

[Mr Waud left at 19.46]

3. Bruce Rothnie, Forestry Commission (FC) Deputy Surveyor

Mr Rothnie, having recently been appointed Deputy Surveyor and having expressed a wish to meet those living in the Forest, had been invited to meet the Parish Council. Regarding current work in the parish, he explained that funds had been provided for the installation of dragons' teeth in order to protect the forest environment, but that protection has to be balanced against allowing the village to run. There is tree work planned in The Grove for August/September – Council queried the extraction route for the timber. Mr Rothnie advised phoning Queens House if information is needed.

Cllr Mrs Andrews raised the growing problem with dog waste in bags (also the lack of bins), and the joint initiative (FC/NFDC/NPA) *Leave Nothing but Footprints*. Mr Rothnie said that FC works with *New Forest Dog Owners Group (NFDOG)* and that dog waste can be put in litter bins. It was suggested there be a bin in Fritham car park.

For communication with the Verderers, Mr Rothnie advised making a Presentment.

[Mr Rothnie left at 20.10]

4. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Ferguson declared personal interest in planning application 00502 (Item 12).

5. To confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 6 July 2015

These were agreed and signed.

6. Matters Arising

- Repairs to seat at cricket pitch: The cost of seasoned dry European Oak for the job had been found to be more than £400. Council agreed that the existing wood should be sanded and cleaned instead of replacing it. Cllr Cattell to speak to Lengthsman.
- Ragwort pulling: This had been well organised and there had been a good response. It was suggested that, for next time, information regarding different types of wort (some are not harmful) should be provided to participants. It was noted that there is a large amount of ragwort in the field at Manor Farm Park – Clerk to write to householder, explaining the need to remove it.

7. Items Ongoing

- Footpath/bridleway restoration work: Cllr Andrews is due to meet this week with John Cartwright. **Ongoing**
- Meeting with Planning Officer: Explanations by Mr Avery were appreciated. The meeting was felt to have been positive and effective. **Closed**
- Disabled parking space at All Saints church: Now in use. **Closed**
- Repair of grit bins: This is second time a bin at Seaman's Corner has been badly damaged; bin should be moved back behind the dragons' teeth. Cllr Taylor has suggested this to R Bastow and is awaiting response. **Ongoing**

- Controlling vehicular entry to Glebe Field: One of the owners has replied saying that he is trying to contact the others. Agreed to wait for their joint response. **Closed**
- Eroded edges on roads: This matter had been raised at recent NFALC meeting. Minstead PC had sent a letter to NFALC asking for support to get necessary maintenance work done on Forest roads. Tim Lawton (Highways) to be invited to next NFALC meeting. **Ongoing**

8. Reports from County and/or District Councillor

County Councillor was not present.

Cllr Mrs Andrews (NFDC) reported that NFDC is working on poster campaign for *Leave Nothing but Footprints*, a joint initiative between NFDC, NFNPA and FC. Litter removal costs over £250,000 per year.

Cllr Taylor requested removal of a bike carrying advertising that is chained in Lyndhurst Central Car Park.

9. Report from Lengthsman

Work done during July: Footpath 4 (Bull Lane) - cut back the overgrown hedges and strimmed grass; Footpath 9 (Red House) - second cut of hedge overgrowing onto path; bus shelter at Football Green - replaced damaged wooden slats with new boards (cost £5.08), cut back overgrown vegetation in front, removed adjacent tree guard; removed broken tree guard at cricket pitch.

10. Report from Councillors’ Surgeries

Parishioners have consulted over planning applications and reported uncollected Highways Diversion signs. Also a suggestion that an *Animal Accidents* sign might be placed at top of C17 for drivers leaving A31. Cllr Mrs Andrews agreed to find the number of animal deaths on that road and ask if such a sign would be appropriate.

11. Reports from Parish Representatives

- NFALC: Presentation from Hampshire Police at recent NFALC meeting on *The New Policing Model* was excellent. They are facing huge cuts and constabulary areas will be reorganised in line with District Councils.
- Footpaths: Lengthsman will be going round all paths.

12. Planning

NPA Decisions

- 15/00395** Fleetwater Cottage. Garage (demolition of existing garage). **Refuse**
- 15/00419** Blackwater Cottage. Agricultural building and stable building + extended driveway for access to fields and store. **Grant**
- 15/00438** Hill Close. Replacement garage. **Grant**
- 15/00428** 3 Congleton Close. Demolish existing side extension. Single storey extension to include side porch. **Grant**

New Planning Applications

- 15/ 00468** Pilmore Heath Farm. Stables. **Comment No. 3 - to assist the commoner in carrying out his commoning activities.**
- 15/ 00502** Hunters Brook. Replacement dwelling + garage. Council agreed that, compared with previous plans, the changes to exterior materials, treatment etc changed its appearance to a much more “grand” building than is appropriate in its context. **Comment No. 4 - we support the stance of the Building Design Officer. There is much local opposition. The basement appears to be disproportionately large for its stated purpose, and if permitted must surely have conditions imposed prohibiting use for habitable purposes. Drainage must take into account the possible detrimental effect of this basement and the potential impact on adjacent properties.**
- 15/00527** The Splash. Orangery. **Comment No. 3 - it enhances the property and provides additional living space without detrimental effect.**
- 15/00528** Talbot Cottage. Extend existing stable block to form car port and log store. **Comment No 4 because in this particular context Council feels that size matters; also it does not appear to be**

incidental and subservient to the dwelling in scale and appearance as specified in New Forest National Park design guide *Supplementary Planning Document*.

[Cllr Mrs Andrews and Mr Arkle left at 21.00]

Trees

CONS/15/0747 Wisteria Cottage. Fell 4 x Conifers, 1 x Beech and 1 x Plum. Prune 1 x Maple, 1 x Birch, 1 x Beech and 2 x Oak. **Comment: No objections.**

13. Correspondence

E-mail correspondence previously circulated was **noted**:

- NFDC: Changes to Traffic Management activities currently carried out by NFDC on behalf of HCC and review of funding by HCC.
- NHS England: Consultation for Local Pharmaceutical Services proposal by Forest Pharmacy. **Include this in Weekly News.**
- NPA: Training Event *Planning in the National Park* at 2pm on 22 September 2015. **Clerk to add Cllrs Bennett and Taylor to list of attendees.**
- HALC: 2016 HALC Annual Conference *Planning for Tomorrow* on Wednesday 9 March 2016.
- Rural Services Network: Survey of communications in rural areas in order to build a network.
- NFDC: Consultation on the current statement of principles for hackney carriage and private hire licensing (31 July - 23 October 2015).

To Read:

- *Local Councils Update* (July and August 2015)

14. Finance

- Receipts & Payments for July 2015:

	£	£
Balance at 30.06.2015		13,083.30
Receipts:		
Standing Order payments for July		
Salaries and expenses	427.87	
Cheques to pay:		
HALC: Training courses (Transparency Code £42 + Knowledge & Core Skills £108)	150.00	
Brockenhurst College (Minstead Mail x 300)	75.00	
Total payments for July	652.87	
Balance after payments		12,430.43

Proposed for payment by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Cattell and agreed..

15. Parish Lengthsman Scheme: request for feedback

HCC is gathering feedback in order to help with future management of the scheme when budgets are cut. Responses to questions were agreed. Clerk to send.

16. Minstead War Memorial: listed Grade II

Agreed response from Council to notification of listing: "We would like to object since our comments did not appear to have had any impact on the decision which we feel could lead to a monumental waste of public funds when dealing with imposed legislation." Clerk to send. Also to send hard copy to Dr Julian Lewis MP.

17. New workplace pensions law

Under new legislation all councils must enrol with a pension scheme. They have a legal duty to enrol eligible members of staff into a pension scheme and make contributions towards it. Council agreed to enrol with the government scheme *National Employment Savings Trust (NEST)*. Clerk to do this.

18. Defibrillator in Minstead

Agreed to continue with plans for a defibrillator and to seek funding from Minstead's County and District councillors. There has been verbal agreement with Trusty Servant for mounting the apparatus on the exterior wall, with wired connection to electricity but this must be confirmed by the Landlord in writing. A gazebo with information displayed and 1st Aid demonstrations is planned for the Village Fete. Further information will be disseminated after the fete in Weekly News bulletins and Minstead Mail.

19. Matters raised by Councillors

- Brushwood left on Footpaths 4 and 5 has been cleared.
- Faster Broadband is proving not very satisfactory in properties further away from the BT cabinet (at A31/Malwood junction).
- Publicity for Village Fete – via Weekly News; posters have been produced.
- A new councillor, having recently attended HALC *Core Skills* training, reported that the good working practices being promoted by HALC are already in place in Minstead PC.
- A few dragons' teeth had been deliberately removed at top of Seamans Lane and a vehicle parked there. Chairman contacted a contractor who has replaced them with more substantial posts.

20. Date of next Ordinary Meeting: 7 September 2015 at 19.30

Meeting ended at 22.08