

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF LYNDHURST HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2006 AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Mr G Bisson (Chairman)  
Parish Councillors  
County Councillor M Kendal  
District and Parish Councillor Mrs P Wyeth  
50 Members of the public  
Mr John Ward representing the National Park Authority

The Chairman, Mr George Bisson, introduced himself and welcomed everyone present. He introduced the Clerk, Margaret Weston and Councillors Mark Abbott, Frank Alexander, Jim Wilding, Dennis Newport, Ted Gailor, Mark Rollé, John Charlesworth, Anne Butcher, Keith Barber, Angela Trend, Pat Wyeth (District and Parish Councillor) and Mel Kendal (County Councillor).

**(1) PRESENTATION**

Mr John Ward, Director of Strategic Planning for the newly formed New Forest National Park Authority gave a presentation. Mr Ward has been seconded to the Authority from NFDC and is responsible for setting up and running planning services. He explained the reasons for designation of the New Forest as a National Park and the benefits, such as protection and promotion of its qualities, which would be afforded to it by this highest level of countryside designation giving it the strongest possible protection for the future. Although the area became a National Park on 1 March 2005 powers will not be taken up until 1 April 2006 and it will aim to champion the New Forest locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. There will be new rules for other public bodies and they must take account of National Park purposes in decisions that may affect the Forest. A management plan will be produced. There will be new planning policies and a local development scheme from 1 April. Responsibilities also include help for villages and communities, the CROW Act and the New Forest Access Forum.

The day to day management of the forest would stay with the Forestry Commission, the Highway Authority would still maintain roads, etc and the Park Authority would not have any say in waste management or the Ranger Service. There would be opportunities for the public to become involved, eg as volunteers. The area covered by the Park made it the smallest of the nine park authorities, but it had the largest population. It would have to deal with 1,400 planning applications each year.

The Chairman asked if the sustainable development fund budget could be carried over from one year to the next. The answer was that it could not. There were no plans at present for permanent accommodation. It was not known whether meetings would continue to be held in various locations or centralised. There was a budget for research although the Authority would be looking to other bodies for this information. No power would be taken from existing bodies. Staff would be between 50 – 100 people. There were planning anomalies between the three authorities that came within the National Park but these anomalies would remain for the time being. Mr Ward did not feel there was likely to be a significant increase in tourism. The situation regarding camping and caravan sites would be a big challenge and would need some rethinking.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ward for his attendance at the meeting and Mr Ward left the meeting.

**(2) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no written apologies for absence. Verbal apologies were received from Mrs S North and Mrs B Radcliffe.

**(3) MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 March 2005 were approved.

#### **(4) MATTERS ARISING**

None.

#### **(5) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Committee Chairmen presented their reports as follows:

##### **(a) Planning Committee**

Mr Abbott explained that this Committee consisted of Mr Charlesworth, Mr Gailor, Mrs Trend and Mrs Wyeth, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council also invited to attend. Meetings usually took place on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre. 112 applications had been received in the preceding year, 38 more than last year. The NF NPA will take on its official duties regarding planning from 3 April and we are awaiting notification of their procedures. Applications of note have been at Beechen Lane (refused on appeal and in court) and South View, where an application for redevelopment was refused and an appeal dismissed. A further application to redevelop had also been refused. At Deerleap Farm, Foxlease Park two applications and an appeal had also been refused. There were proposals to add to the mast at Bank but other sites were also being considered. At Coxlease School an application had been made for a permanent building to replace temporary accommodation. The High Street/Gospport Lane site has now been sold and we await further developments. Mr Abbott thanked the Clerk and Committee members.

##### **(b) Recreation Ground Committee**

Mr Rollé explained that there had been quite a lot of activity in the Park. The Parish Council had faced a 100% increase in the lease for the land but this had been reduced, following negotiation with the Forestry Commission, to £600. The Forestry Commission have also offered 30 trees for landscaping purposes but a decision has yet to be made on how they can best be used. A survey will be conducted to ascertain what those using the Recreation Ground would like to see changed, improved or implemented with particular emphasis on the 3 to 10 year olds age group. Youth workers had visited a Parish Council meeting to share ideas on what young people would like to see in the Recreation Ground. Mr Rollé thanked the Committee and Clerk for their work and said he felt there was much to come in this area in the future.

##### **(c) Cemetery Committee**

Mr Wilding stated that the Cemetery Committee had met four times in the preceding year – March, July, August and October. He thanked all members of the Committee and the Clerk for their work. He explained that two years ago the Parish Council had taken over maintenance of the war memorial. All the lettering on the memorial had now been repainted, cemetery search charge fees had been increased, it was hoped to computerise the cemetery records, £350 having been budgeted for this project. Grasscutting had been increased to three cuts per year and this had taken place in May, August and October for a total cost of £2,365. Quotations had been sought for the forthcoming year and these had been received within budget. Despite measures taken to preclude such action an LPG gas bottle had been stolen from the padlocked cage at the rear of the Chapel. With regard to the Cemetery rates the Clerk had applied for a business rate rebate and this has been successful. Plans were in hand to provide water in the Cemetery. The lych gate has been replaced and although kept padlocked when not in use, a local disabled person had been supplied with a key in order to gain entry. The annual safety audit had given no cause for concern. The Forestry Commission have carried out a rabbit cull.

##### **(d) Allotments Committee**

Mrs Butcher, as Chairman of the Committee, explained that committee members were Frank Alexander, Keith Barber, Angela Trend and the Chairman of the Parish Council. The condition of the allotments continues to improve with allotment holders commencing spring digging and sowing. A number of plots are in bad condition but we hope to make improvements. The waiting list is now in double figures and a

decision has been taken only to allow residents of the village to become allotment holders. However, non-residents who already hold allotments will not be asked to vacate them. Drainage setts have been added to the top end of the track leading to the Pikes Hill entrance by Hampshire Highways and rainwater now flows down the road. Maintenance of the track itself is the responsibility of the Parish Council and it will shortly be resurfaced to bring it back to a good standard. Allotment holders are co-operating well with their agreements. The Parish Council are negotiating a new lease with the Forestry Commission and this will mean increased costs as well as legal fees. Some larger plots will soon be split into five rod plots. Rents will increase in October as follows: 5 rods £12.50; 10 rods £12.50; 20 rods £25.00. Charlie Kilford has once again done a very good job with perimeter hedgecutting. We will be getting a skip into the allotments to remove rubbish that has been dumped at the top end of the allotments. Mrs Butcher thanked the Probation Service for undertaking a great deal of work. This was much appreciated. Thanks were expressed to the Clerk for managing the allotments.

**(e) Amenities Committee**

Due to maintenance costs it had been decided not to increase the number of seats, but maintenance would continue on existing seats. 60kg of daffodil bulbs had been purchased and planted on the green at Pikes Hill and near the Fire Station. 60kg would again be purchased this autumn. There had been few problems with graffiti this year. It costs the Parish Council £500 per annum to have the dog faeces bins emptied. The bus shelter at Foxlease has been damaged and the roof felt will have to be replaced. This should extend its life by approximately three years, after which time it will have to be replaced. £1,400 has been budgeted for amenity items in the next financial year.

**(f) Bypass Committee**

Chairman of the Bypass Committee John Charlesworth and Committee member Professor Keith Barber gave a presentation that had been given to various interested bodies throughout the area in recent months. It was explained that four major roads come into the village and pollution is now in excess of environmental guidelines. The Parish Council's agreed route was Route 1. The committee has established the seriousness of the present situation as reasonable accessibility is a primary requirement and is vital to the economic survival of the village. The Parish Council have now been told that Hampshire County Council will be re-organising transport groups. On 7 April a seminar will be held at Beaulieu and all interested parties have been invited to discuss transport issues in the New Forest.

**(6) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman of the Council, George Bisson started by thanking all councillors for their work and stressed that this is all voluntarily undertaken. Our auditors have stressed that we must set realistic budgets and stick to them. Our budget this year sees an increase of £4.99 per elector. He outlined some of the work that would have to be undertaken in the coming year (outlined in Committee Reports above).

Mr Bisson asked that special thanks for his work be given to Mr Wilding, who was retiring from the Parish Council following this meeting.

The Parish Council have a representative on most local bodies, although they are no longer represented on the school governing body. The Streetwise bus now parks near the Community Centre and uses their electricity. We now have a fault log and you can report faults to the Clerk or any Councillor. The correct authority will then be contacted to take remedial action. There is an air quality management area from the school to the bottom of the High Street. This shows that there is ten times more than the permissible limit of pollution in this area. We have supported the campaign to reopen the Fenwick Hospital. We have looked at the problem of car drivers parking and driving across Gales Green and there has been a suggestion that allocated car parking is provided. The company who manage our website won an award this year and would like to be in a position to enter with our site next year. We would like to introduce a village diary and information about village groups and associations. Hampshire County Council will be undertaking a Speed Indicator Device (SID) pilot scheme in May, September and January and volunteers will be required.

## **(7) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

County Councillor Mel Kendall thanked the Bypass Committee for their work. He said he would support any proposal for a bypass that doesn't affect the Forest. Many proposals had been received and given consideration. These included signals at Shrubbs Hill Road and recognition of lorries at the traffic lights. It was understood English Nature would be opposing the scheme. He stressed that any scheme must be of regional or national importance.

## **(8) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

District Councillor Mrs P Wyeth presented her report as follows:

Mrs Wyeth explained that it had been a very busy year. It was hoped work on the cycle track would commence in early summer. She said she had two reservations regarding the route proposed by the Parish Council for a bypass as it did not alleviate problems for traffic coming south to north of the A35 and it might lead to pressure to build houses on either side of the road where the route crosses the fields by Vernalls Farm. She favoured a forest wide road scheme. A SID pilot scheme would be operating in the village at three times in a 12 month period. Mrs Wyeth stressed the need for recycling and drew attention to the fact that garden refuse must no longer be placed in "pink" bags. Planning would shortly be taken over by NF NPA. The development at Great Mead is complete, applications continue for permission to demolish South View and develop the site with flats and houses. If permitted, this would change the entire aspect of this part of the Conservation Area. The Leader of the District Council, Councillor Kendal had allocated a £500 rural grant to district councillors in rural villages. Mrs Wyeth had, with the approval of the Parish Council, given the grant to the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and the Scout group covering Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. She had re-established her link with the Chamber of Trade and they will notify her whenever they have an item to discuss appertaining to the District Council.

## **(9) PAROCHIAL CHARITIES**

Mr Austin and the Clerk gave details of the following charities:

### **(a) Lyndhurst Welfare Charity**

(see attached details)

### **(b) Saltarn Treat Fund**

(see attached details)

## **(10) CRIME REPORT**

PC Ennew reported the following crimes committed within the Parish during the previous twelve months.

Non dwelling burglaries	45(12 from commercial premises)
Dwelling burglaries	11 (2 arrests made)
Vehicle crime	29 (5 in High Street car park)
Assaults	18 (domestic/neighbour)
Thefts	22
Miscellaneous	33

PC Ennew stated that he holds a surgery regularly in the Community Centre.

## **(11) RESOLUTIONS**

No resolutions had been received.

**(12) LAND AT GREAT MEAD**

The Chairman explained that the houses had now been completed and the land to the side would eventually come into the hands of the Parish Council. The land will become open space but will need to be managed. He asked that members of the public give any ideas they might have for the future of the land to the Parish Council.

**(13) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and closed the meeting at 10.15 pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_