

Burley Parish Annual Assembly

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish held on Monday 28th April, 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall: to be signed at the Annual Assembly 2015.

Present: Mr Philip Daubeney (Chair), Parish Councillors Mrs Jane Kendall, Mr Robert Clarke, Mr Neal Martin, Mr Peter Russell and Mrs Val Thorpe; also present were District Councillor Barry Rickman; Cllr Keith Mans (HCC), Mr Richard Everett of the Forestry Commission, Mr David Ilsley from NFNPA, a representative from the local press & 50 local government electors.

1. Apologies None

2. Minutes of the last meeting Copies of the Minutes were distributed to all. The full minutes were agreed & signed.

3. Matters Arising None

4. Chairman's Report The Chairman reported progress on the Council's Objectives (copies were distributed):

i) **Conserve/Improve Village Environment.** The Chairman reported that good progress has been made with this Objective including the introduction of the Lengthsman scheme, the communication with McDonalds at Picket Post resulting in the introduction of litter picks, new footpath signage and the addition of the Jubilee clock to the village. Cllr Kendall thanked all those who took part in the Spring Litter Pick on Sunday 27th April and asked that any ideas of jobs for the Lengthsman be communicated to her directly. Cllr Kendall thanked Dr Goodwin for refurbishing the Parish noticeboard. She also said that she has implemented the distribution of Welcome Packs to new residents. Cllr Kendall continued that the issue of Burley Primary School parking and children's safety has been addressed by the addition of dragon's teeth by the Forestry Commission (FC), this has prevented dangerous parking. The placing of advertising boards on FC land has also been stopped.

- Mr Dave Ratford (elector) asked if the pothole in the road by the Doctors surgery, that has appeared since the addition of a new kerbstone, can be dealt with. Cllr Martin said that this was in hand.

ii) **Further Improvement to Road Safety** The Chairman said that considerable efforts had been spent on this objective and thanked Mr Kirtley for the strip of land outside the cycle shop which has resulted in the addition of a pavement. The Chairman also noted that the Council had acted to protect the Palm Sunday church service during the Wiggle cycling event and commented that the Police had been particularly helpful. Cllr Martin reported that road projects have been restricted by challenging budgets but that BPC works closely with Hampshire Highways(HH). Cllr Martin said that the recent wet weather has been a good test for the new drains in Ringwood Road but that potholes were the main issue following the adverse weather.

- An elector requested that rubbish be cleared from drains near the fire station as these appear to be blocked. Cllr Martin said that this could be a job for the Lengthsman.

Cllr Martin reported that progress on speed issues has been slow but BPC will continue to work towards 20mph zones and digital speed signs. The narrowing of the road by the Old Farmhouse Tearooms is an issue that is being discussed with HH and a priority system is one option.

- Wendy Robinson (elector) said that priority signage would be disastrous outside of the Tearooms and that there is currently give and take by traffic in both directions.

- Dave Ratford reported that a pothole in the road outside of the Tearooms was resulting in traffic swerving in the road and that while walking on the pavement his arm had been hit by the wing-mirror of a car.

Cllr Martin replied that priority signage is a point for discussion and that safety is the main issue.

- Dionis McNair (elector) asked that second grade stones be used to fill potholes rather than smaller first grade stones as these scatter easily and cause problems for ponies.

Cllr Martin said that the pinch-point issues on Ringwood Road are also a continuing project.

- Dionis McNair said that cats eyes are needed approaching the pinch points to make them more visible and added that a cyclist had been injured as a result of somersaulting over a pinch point.

Cllr Daubeney asked whether the Brockenhurst pinch points were regarded as a good example. This was generally agreed.

Cllr Martin went say that a Code of Conduct has been published for cyclists and that a Cycling Charter should be available at the end of May 2014.

Jean McMillan (elector) asked if the need for bells on bikes had been included in the Code of Conduct as cyclists can approach very quietly from behind. Cllr Martin that this had been included as a requirement in the Code of Conduct.

Cllr Martin also reported on the conclusion of the Jubilee clock project.

- Jean McMillan (elector) asked if wrought iron decoration may be added to the oak post of the clock to discourage graffiti and notices. Cllr Daubeney replied that safety was an issue if adding metal work to the post.

Cllr Martin reported that: new cycle racks are now in the NFDC car park (thanks to a grant from the Sustainable Transport Solution Fund), the milestones in the village have been recently refurbished and that there is a programme to introduce superfast Broadband in rural areas.

- Wendy Robinson (elector) commented that some villagers experience problems with telephone landlines and that this problem should be addressed by Openreach as a whole area rather than on an individual basis. Cllr Daubeney suggested inviting BT to a Parish Council meeting to address this issue.

iii) Improve Village Centre Amenities The Chairman noted that at the 2013 Annual Assembly an ambitious building project was discussed but this was felt inappropriate, however use of an old building has been considered. A better building for the Burley Living History (BLH) artefacts is required and BPC would like to provide Youth of Burley (YoBs) with some accommodation for activities. In addition, the Chairman also noted that although the council was confident of funding for a rustic play-area no suitable land has yet become available.

iv) Affordable Housing The Chairman said that Cllr Clarke had been in touch with the FC, NFNPA and non-government agencies to discuss how to move forward. However finding available land is still the issue.

v) Prudent management of Precept The Chairman explained that BPC has not raised its portion of the council tax charge since 2010 and that BPC has held on to reserve funds despite the auditors saying the reserves are high. Donations from BPC to local projects have increased in the last year.

vi) Aspirations of the next generation BPC continues to support YoBs, the Scouts and Little Deers Day Nursery with grants.

The Chairman continued that in other Parish activities the Emergency Plan is being updated (See item 5) and that SSE attended a parish council meeting to discuss the recent power outages during adverse weather and their possible future plans of support.

The Chairman reminded electors that Parish Elections are May 2015, at the same time as the general election.

5. Village Emergency Plan Cllr Thorpe said that the Emergency Plan is currently being updated with helpers and names of vulnerable people who may need help in an emergency such as the recent extreme weather/power outages. This is to be based around postcodes for emergency service information and will be managed by area leaders. Cllr Thorpe requested that anyone able to help give their support contact her directly.

6. Report on Burley Living History Cllr Russell expressed his thanks to everyone involved in supporting the BLH project, particularly Cllr Mans (HCC) who has provided financial support. Cllr Russell reported that BLH documents have now been archived at Wessex Archives in Winchester and that BPC has agreed to support sending 3-4 people to an Archive preservation course on 9th July, should anyone wish to volunteer. Cllr Russell reported that BPC has supported the formation of the Burley Historical Society; the next meeting of which is Tues 17th June at 7.30pm. A project is being embarked upon with the Royal British Legion to research the names on the War Memorial. Cllr Russell also reported that a Heritage Lottery Grant is being sought by the Burley Living Stones to produce a book and two films documenting WW2 and subsequent wars. Cllr Russell also thanked Annie Powell for the donation of a Medicine Box to a future Heritage Centre.

7. Report from the NFNPA Mr Davis Ilsley, NFNPA was available to answer questions on the NFNPA and a report by Mr Steve Avery, NFNPA was circulated to all. Mr Ilsley thanked Cllr Martin for his work with the Safety Advisory Group and reminded all electors that residents have the right to speak at planning committee meetings regarding planning applications. He also said that all relevant papers are available on the NFNPA website.

8 Report from the Forestry Commission. A report by Mr Mike Seddon, FC was circulated and Mr Richard Everett was available to answer questions. Dionis McNair said that young people should be encouraged to be involved with the conservation and maintenance of the Forest for the benefit of future generations. She went on to say that the Forest should be managed as it has been by commoners for 1000 years, by burning 1 in 20 acres annually. Mr Everett said that the FC's Cut and Burn programme was 87% complete by the end of March due to adverse weather, however this will be completed in the autumn, after the nesting season.

9. Report from HCC Cllr Mans (HCC) said that HCC have passed on the central government grant to NFDC in totality for the 5th year running and that front line services are being maintained. Cllr Mans reported that £237million of the £750million capital building fund is being spent on schools and that this year 90% of parents got their first choice of primary school. Cllr Mans reported that superfast broadband is being rolled out across the county and HCC have contributed an extra £9.2million to ensure rural areas are included. Cllr Mans reported that significant funds this year had been spent maintaining roads after the adverse weather and that Hampshire had the second highest rainfall levels of any county in the country. A group under the leadership of the Fire service has been set up to investigate how agencies can work more efficiently together in these situations and Parish Councils are encouraged to feedback their experiences from the recent floods. Cllr Mans concluded by saying that his devolved budget of £8000 had been spent across the Division.

- A Pound Lane resident reported that she had called Wessex Water four times during the adverse weather this winter as waste water was backing up from neighbouring properties and flooding her driveway. She reported that although they had been very helpful the situation could not continue and needs to be dealt with before next winter. Cllr Mans said that he was particularly concerned with foul water floods and would speak with the lady further.

10. Report from New Forest District Council Cllr Barry Rickman of NFDC reported that the glass recycling programme introduced in the last year had been a great success; NFDC have made a profit due to an increase in the price of glass and 1090 tonnes of glass was recycled in the first quarter.

- One elector said they and their neighbours had not received glass recycling boxes as the road had been blocked at the time of delivery. Cllr Rickman agreed to follow this up.

Cllr Rickman reported that NFDC had decided not to introduce charges for Blue badge holders as had been previously reported.

Cllr Rickman reported that the refurbishment of the public conveniences in Burley had been completed in time for Easter at a cost of £197,000 (£3000 under budget). In the first week 3300 people had used the toilets.

Cllr Rickman reported that: NFDC has for the 5th year passed 100% of the central grant to Parish Councils; across the New Forest leisure centre use has increased; the Local Plan is complete; apprenticeships are being introduced across all areas and NFDC received a £365,000 social housing new homes bonus. Cllr Rickman praised Burley as an excellent example of how Parish councils can take an active role in local planning issues and reported that Burley is “Brand New Forest Village of the Year 2014” for local economy. As a result “The Great Burley Picnic” will take place on Sunday 15th June 11am-5pm at Burley Park.

11. Any Other Business None

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm.