

Burley Parish Annual Assembly

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish held on Monday 25th April, 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall: to be signed at the Annual Assembly 2017.

Present: Mr Philip Daubeney (Chair), Parish Councillors: Mr Robert Clarke, Mr Neal Martin; also present were: the Clerk, Mr Steve Avery from NFNPA, Cllr M Steele (NFDC) & 32 local government electors.

Copies of the Agenda, minutes of the Annual Assembly 2015, draft annual accounts summary 2015-16, a report from the NFNPA and a report from the Forestry Commission were distributed to all.

1. Apologies Cllr Russell, Bruce Rothnie (FC), Cllr Frampton (NFDC), Jane Kendall, Eve Baalam, Jill Walker

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

3. Matters Arising The Chairman said that possible pinch points outside the school have not been pursued by Hampshire Highways as yellow “no stopping” lines are now in place; the FC have also installed dragon’s teeth to prevent parking in some areas. The Chairman said that BPC would approach the new Deputy Surveyor of the FC for a guard to the Jubilee Tree as ponies eat any new leaves; this was not agreed to when the FC were previously approached. (PD) The Chairman thanked Jane Kendall, following her resignation from the Council, for her years of hard work; Kim Hall was also thanked for her short time as a Councillor. Veronica Johnstone and Karen Donaldson were announced to be newly co-opted Councillors.

4. Chairman’s Report The Chairman gave a summary of the work BPC has done in the past year, in the context of the Council’s objectives and also highlighted those objectives that have not yet been achieved. Items discussed:

- Superfast Broadband: an elector asked whether Burley Street is included in the current HCC/Openreach improvement plan. The Chairman said no but that BPC is pursuing this as fibre optic cable, direct from Ringwood, may be a possibility.
- Planning including Wetland Restoration Projects. An elector said that it is has become evident in recent years that the water table has been raised and Shappen is now boggy to the extent that watercourses and ditches are backing up to Pound Lane. The Chairman said that Cllr Clarke is spending a large amount of time on the issue of wetland restoration projects and is now pressing for an Environmental Impact Assessment to be carried out which would address such issues. It may be necessary to seek a direction from the Secretary of State in respect of the scheme (like Harvestslade) proposed for Wootton Riverine/Avon Water which has Shappen Bottom as a principal source.
- Roads and Road Safety including improvements to cycling events due to the Cycling Charter and Code: An elector raised the issue of ditches dug out by the FC and the danger this poses to horse riders avoiding traffic in narrow roads. She went on to say that there is one remaining 40mph speed sign painted on the road in Bisterne Close, despite it now being a 30mph zone; she also requested more speed signage as she felt speed markings on the road were not always clear to drivers. It was agreed that this may be pursued for entrance and exits to keep street furniture to a minimum. (NM) An elector said that lone cyclists also speed with no regard to horse riders. Another elector asked who is responsible for cattle grids; it was confirmed that this is HCC.
- An elector said that water in the ditches in Pound Lane overflows as rain water runs off the road because a drain at the side of road is broken.
- The Chairman said that BPC is continuing to insure and ensure the safe keeping of village archives in the old Red Cross Hut, whilst looking at the possibility of a Heritage Centre. BPC is collaborating with the NFNPA for possible purchase of land adjacent to the NFDC car park. This land may be used for affordable Housing as well as a Heritage Centre if there is funding and the village supports it. (See Item 6)
- The Chairman mentioned that the Emergency Plan is updated and that a successful Bonfire Beacon event was held for the Queen’s 90th birthday with approximately 200 people.
- The Chairman highlighted that the circulated FC report says that a gate at the school track will be put up, however BPC is in touch with the FC and this will be discussed further. BPC is against this as it is impractical. An elector asked, why is a gate wanted and another elector replied that the track is used as a

rat run which is unsafe for children being dropped and collected from school. However a problem with a minority of parents parking was also highlighted.

- The Chairman outlined that the Morebus service is reducing to 2 days from September 2016 and that Mondays and Fridays are being proposed. An elector suggested Wednesday as preferable as this is Ringwood market day.
- The Chairman said that a noticeboard at Burley Street is due to be erected and that the Lengsthman has resigned from Burley.
- The Chairman said that a play area within the school grounds had been investigated but that HCC education department had imposed too many (understandable) restrictions for it to be viable.
- Finance: The Precept is approximately the same as last year at £17 per house Band D. Grants have been given to support village projects. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and also Cllr Mans (HCC), Cllrs Frampton and Steele (NFDC) and Steve Avery (NFNPA) for their support with grants in the past year. An elector asked whether the decrease in Other Receipts from the previous year was set to continue. The Chairman explained that these are grant applications for specific projects, so it is dependent on how many applications are made.
- An elector said that 2 years ago he repaired and repainted the Parish noticeboard but that a utility company has damaged it and it needs re-siting; the Chairman said this will be done in house. (PD)
- An elector asked whether trees at the side of roads, specifically Bisterne Close, can be tidied up as many are damaged and need to be removed as they are dangerous; the Chairman pointed out that the FC report says that will be done in the autumn. It was confirmed that trees on Crown Lands are the responsibility of the FC and others on road sides may be HCC. (NM)
- An elector said that although drainage has been improved in the centre of the village, the culvert by the fire station over flows and is not a large enough bore. Cllr Martin said he will follow this up and that it also blocks with tree debris; the new lengsthman will be asked to clear this. (NM)
- An elector said that McDonalds litter picks seem to have stopped and litter is accumulating. (?)
- An elector said anti-social behaviour at Vereley car park is adjacent to Guides/Scouts hut and is a safeguarding issue (MS-NFDC).
- An elector asked if there is a scheme to replant trees that have been removed from the Forest and another added that there is a lot of deadwood littering the forest. Another elector said that he had reported an Alder tree leaning on a power line to Scottish Power, however nothing was done about it. The Chairman said that in the allocation of duties to new Councillors trees would be a priority.

5. Securing the future of Burley Heritage See Item 4 and 6.

6 Report from the NFNPA. Steve Avery, executive director of NFNPA highlighted key activities during the last year (See attached report). He requested that when public consultations are carried out electors provide feedback, as this is an opportunity to hold organisations to account. Mr Avery said that:

- the 20 houses built in the New Forest each year may increase to 40 or 50 in response to the National need for more housing; however there is also a need to mitigate the impact of an increase in numbers of houses on the area and its residents.
- National Park status gives leverage with funding: for every £1 of NFNPA money £17 is either match funded or given in business support.
- The current local planning issue of Manor Farm, Forest Road: we are awaiting the planning inspectorate to agree to a hearing. However, a date for the Inspector's site visit has been given and the procedure should have been agreed first (NFNPA to follow up).
- the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme has an educational element as well as wetland restoration. Before 2007 planning permission was not needed for wetland restoration projects; now all can go to Planning Committee who can defer a decision if more information is required. Mr Avery said that there are arguments for and against Wetland Restoration and there are many successful projects.
- Affordable Housing contribution is received from developers. The NFNPA is looking for other sites, with a fund remaining of £500,000. Land in Burley at the rear of the car park is being discussed with the owner for possible purchase. This could provide 2 new affordable houses and a possible Heritage Centre. This would be a community led scheme and a planning application should be available to view in approximately 2 months.

- Trees: a community project “Family trees” event was held in Sway last year where 200 trees were planted. This will be held every 2 years around the forest. Forest Management is done by the FC who have a Forest Design plan on their website. Some coniferous plantations have been removed and returned to open heathland in the last 5 years. Timber operations will decline in the future and broadleaf forests will be supported and extended where it is possible.
- An elector said that a separate forest needs to be planted as there are so many old rotten and dying trees.
- An elector asked what the NFNPA position is on fracking: the NFNPA has a no fracking policy. Planning regulations were relaxed last year for horizontal drilling however Mr Avery was not aware of any plans or schemes for horizontal drilling.

7. Report from New Forest District Council Cllr M Steele asked electors to contact him directly with any problems. He reported that half of his and Cllr Frampton’s discretionary grants for the year went to Burley. He agreed to take up the safeguarding issue at Vereley Car Park. Cllr Steele wished BPC another successful year.

8. Any Other Business Electors said:

- who owns the house next to Burley School (School house)? This was confirmed as HCC and that the School do use it.
- What is the law on over-night parking in forest car parks? No over-night parking is allowed.
- Can the pinch points from Burley to Thorney Hill be prioritised? (NM)
- Can red cats eyes be added to pinch points at Burley Street? (NM)
- The speed of traffic from Picket Post to Burley Street has resulted in pony deaths. The Chairman said that signage had been discussed at the NFNPA SW quadrant meeting.
- Traffic is too fast in general and signage is required. The Chairman said that BPC has previously requested 20mph with HCC. (NM)
- Who is responsible for the deterioration of verges, particularly in Forest Road? (NM)
- Can a sign be put up saying “footpath only, no cyclists”. The Chairman said that this has been raised with Hampshire Highways however this would set a precedent for large quantities of street furniture. Cllr Martin said that he had previously reported the problem to the Police and a recommendation was given to manage each incident individually at the time.
- On behalf of the villagers, Mrs Adrienne Pentland thanked the Parish and District Councillors for all their good work.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9pm.