

Ordinary Meeting of Minstead Parish Council

Danby Room, Minstead Village Hall

Monday 7 November at 19.30

Present: Cllrs S Cattell (Chair), H Bennett, A Ferguson, G Hough, R Taylor, D Wakelin, Mrs P Osborne (Clerk), Cllr E Heron (HCC), Inspector K Willoughby (Hants Constabulary), Ms S Kelly (NFNPA), Mr A Simpson, Mrs H Simpson, Mr T Musselwhite (Minstead Trust), Mrs G Gosden, Ms P Rainbow.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr W Andrews, Cllr Mrs Andrews (NFDC), Cllr K Mans (HCC).

2. Public Participation Period

Mr & Mrs Simpson, new owners of Minstead Village Shop, explained that they are investing in the shop and want to diversify the income to secure its long-term future. To provide additional income they hope to put two shepherd huts in the garden and to build an extension to the existing small holiday let.

3. Declarations of Interests

None.

4. To confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 3 October 2016

These had been previously published and were agreed and signed.

Items 7, 10 and 15 were taken at this point.

[Mr & Mrs Simpson, Ms Rainbow and Inspector Willoughby left meeting after Item 10, at 20.15]

[Ms Kelly left meeting after Item 15, at 20.33.]

5. Matters Arising

- Response to DCLG Precept Consultation: Council's response had been submitted.
- Minstead Lodge as a wedding venue: two Cllrs had attended launch event. They reported that the issue of traffic re-routing (avoiding narrow lanes) had been raised. Mr Musselwhite (Minstead Trust) told Council that, due to reductions in funding, it was necessary for the Trust to raise funds. The Trust management would share plans when formulated and they were open to suggestions.

[Mr Musselwhite left meeting at 20.37]

6. Items Ongoing

- Dragons' teeth opposite North Lodge, London Minstead: no progress. **Ongoing**
- Muddy section on Footpath 9: no progress. **Ongoing**
- Eroded edges on roads: see Item 7 below. **Ongoing**
- Bridleway 13: Mr Olorenshaw has reported plans for necessary surface repairs to sections of Bridleways 13 & 14 being made in conjunction with those residents with access rights. **Ongoing**
- Consultations by Survey Monkey [Minutes 3 October Item 5]: It was noted that, although electronic consultations are still being used, some improvements have been made – such as a facility to print out questions and to be sent by email a copy of the response. **Closed**

7. Reports from County and/or District Councillor

Cllr E Heron (HCC Cllr for Fordingbridge) explained that under recommendations by Local Government Boundary Commission, Minstead would be in Lyndhurst & Fordingbridge division.

He was asked to explain the lack of progress and communication by HCC with regard to the increasingly dangerous state of some roads where edges have eroded, despite repeated reports of problems over last two years by Minstead PC. Cllr Heron said that no action is imminent because there is no single solution – the causes of problems are different in different areas. Filling with gravel is not a long-term solution and research is being done into alternatives. He pointed out that although HCC Highways is usually responsible for the verge 1.5 m from metalled edge, this does not apply when verges are on Crown Land.

Re Traffic Management on Mill Lane, Cllr Heron will do a site visit to Mill Lane and will also look at problems with collapsed road edges in Minstead. Cllr Taylor emphasised that the Joint Working Party is looking at low-cost simple measures so, at this stage, needs expertise rather than money. **See item 11 below.**

8. Report from Lengthsman

Work carried out in October:

- Footway opposite Old Court House: cut back hedge and strimmed grass.
- Cleaned grime off all road traffic signs in Minstead.
- Emptied drain at Furzey Gardens of silt. Carried out ditch work in immediate area of drain.
- Carried out Annual Inspection and Risk Assessment of all PC structures.

9. Reports from Parish Representatives

- NE Quadrant – notes from recent meeting had been circulated. Noted that NPA Planning is now charging for pre-application consultation.
- NFALC – noted from last meeting: Devolution report due later this month; Netley Marsh has funding for outdoor playground.
- Police - Beat Surgeries now taking place inside Village Shop.

10. Report from Police

Inspector Willoughby reported on current position re inappropriate behaviour in local car parks: Shave Wood car park now closed; background work is being done. The matter is a priority but will take time because Police must look at long-term problem solving and need strong evidence before prosecuting. She explained that Police must adhere to ACPO procedures and all actions are documented. Local beat officers were withdrawn from the issue because there are specialists within Police force. They also work with partners who engage with perpetrators.

Council queried position re Speedwatch – two recent volunteers have been told by local beat officer that Speedwatch cannot monitor speeds on C17 because limit is 40mph. This seems odd since there have been fatal accidents on this stretch and Speedwatch has previously operated there. Cllr Heron said he would investigate the matter.

There have been recent burglaries in this area - Police are encouraging individuals to take crime-prevention measures.

11. Report from joint working party (Lyndhurst/Minstead) to address traffic issues

Meeting has been held to discuss ways forward. HCC has no money for relocating signs, but group is looking at simple solutions and needs expertise rather than funding. Ideas include: asking satnav providers to remove unsuitable roads from their maps; contacting tourist organisations (hotels, campsites) to request that clients avoid Mill Lane; signage to indicate route unsuitable for large vehicles; investigating possibility of monitoring size of vehicles via Speedwatch. Cllr Heron has agreed to do a site visit – see item 7 above. A progress update will be circulated to interested parties.

[Cllr Heron left meeting at 21.01]

12. Planning**NPA Decisions**

16/00621 Fleetwater Cottage. Garage (demolition of existing). **Grant**

16/00662 Skymers. Single-storey side, front and rear extension; 2-storey side extension; porch; outbuilding. **Grant**

16/00765 Minstead Study Centre. Demolish existing greenhouse (3.3mx3.8m); new greenhouse (3.6mx4.8m) at same distance from boundary. **Grant**

New Planning Applications

16/00798 Faeries Cottage. Replacement 1.8m high fence. **Comment No 3: it fits area.**

16/00801 The Lodge, Malwood. New access and gates. **Comment No 4: access would be dangerous because of close proximity to A31; gates not in keeping with village landscape; proposed access crosses an area with protected status. In the unlikely event that this is granted, we suggest that gates should be set back at minimum the length of a large car.**

16/00863 Woodland Cottage. Double garage with storage over; creation of new driveway. **Comment No 4. Comment made in July still applies: Size and scale proposed appear to be disproportionate to the existing dwelling and not subservient in size and scale to the host dwelling.**

Trees

CONS/16/1099 Little Skymers. Fell 1 x Douglas fir; prune 3 x oak, 1 x yew, 1 x beech.

R14/15/16/1000 Fishpond Piece. Fell 1 x dead Beech tree. **[For information only.]**

CONS/16/1091 Castle Malwood (SSE). Fell and prune various trees to include: Remove 5 x oak, 4 x beech, 4 x sycamore, 9 x Scots pine, 2 x chestnut, 1 X birch, 1 x larch; reduce/prune 4 x oak, 3 x beech, 1 x sycamore, 1 x hornbeam; sever ivy from 1 x oak, 2 x beech; cut back hedging (laurel and other trees). **Comment: we would hope that a reasonable replanting scheme is planned.**

CONS/16/1124 Furzey Gardens. Prune 2 x oak; fell 1 x Scots pine, 4 x silver birch, 1 x Korean birch.

There were no objections to these applications for tree work.

13. Correspondence

E-mail correspondence previously circulated:

- NFNPA: New Forest Red Phone Boxes - Adoption Opportunity. **Request submitted and acknowledgement received.**
- NFDC: Notification of Chairman's Volunteers' Awards 2016. **Noted.**
- HCC: National Highways & Transport *Public Representative Survey* 2016, deadline 15 December. **Cllr Ferguson will draft response.**

To Read:

- LCU October 2016, November 2016
- LCR Autumn 2016
- Clerks & Councils Direct November 2016

14. Finance

- Theft of Union Flag – flag cost £96.23 in 2014 but with £250 excess it cannot be claimed under insurance. Now flying original cheap flag.
- Receipts & Payments for October 2016:

	£	£	£
	Net	VAT (recoverable)	
Balance at 31 September			17,004.51
Receipts:			
Standing Order/Direct Debit payments			
Salaries and expenses	445.03		
Cheques to pay:			
HMRC: PAYE for Clerk & Lengthsman (Jul, Aug, Sep)	320.40		
NALC: Subscription for LCR to October 2017	17.00		
All Saints PCC: Donation towards upkeep of churchyard	300.00		
New Forest CAB: Donation	50.00		
Total payments for October	1,132.43		1,132.43
Balance after payments			15,872.08

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

15. Village name signs

There are currently three identical signs on approach roads: *Minstead - please drive carefully through the village*. Sarah Kelly (NFNPA Landscape Officer) showed an example sign showing village name + National Park logo, cost £800. Council could seek grants from Cllr Mans and NPA. HCC will replace signs but new ones are highly unattractive and NPA does not like them. **Ongoing**

16. New Forest National Park Local Plan Review

Response due 28 November. Cllr Ferguson will try to read it and draft response.

17. Matters raised by Councillors

- Traffic Management Working Group - Clerk to store all information.

- Shooting on Manor Waste – concerns expressed again. Clerk to forward previous information on shooting permits to Cllr Cattell for him to check with Manor that it is still valid.
- Is planning permission required for Calor gas tank? Clerk to ask Planning Office.

18. Date of next Ordinary Meeting: 5 December 2016 at 19.30

Meeting closed at 21.36