

HYDE PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the virtual (ZOOM) meeting held on 10th June 2020 (a recording of this meeting is available on request)

Present: Cllrs Burden, Dolphin, McKenzie, Mulcahy, Sevier (Chair), Tully and Woodley
County Cllr Heron and Chris Jelliffe (Estates, HCC), Clerk (M Coatham) and no members of public

- 1. Apologies:** None
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Sevier will not contribute/comment on the planning applications as a member of the NFNPA and NFDC Planning Committees.
- 3. Minutes of meeting held on 13th May 2020:** Notes from the virtual meeting held on 13th May 2020 were approved by members.
- 4. Matters Arising** – nothing to report this month

5. Mast Update

The Parish Council had invited Hampshire County Council to attend the meeting to review the current situation regarding the telecommunications mast – both the temporary siting and a permanent location. Questions had been sent to HCC prior to the meeting asking for clarification of various issues. Via email, Steve Avery (Executive Director (Strategy & Planning) New Forest NPA) had confirmed the position of the National Parks, noting the Landscapes Review, permitted development rights, protected landscapes and the Accord with Mobile UK (signed in June 2018). Steve noted that within SSSIs all ground based masts require planning permission and within the SSSI operators would need to demonstrate that the biodiversity interests of the site would not be affected by the installation. Cllr Heron stated that his position throughout the process had not changed – he is keen for social reasons to support the need for a mobile signal within the parish but that there should be no permanent mast on the SSSI. Chris Jelliffe confirmed that HCC have no intention of extending the temporary site beyond the agreed 18 month period and that the onus to find an alternative site was the responsibility of the operator – and there is non-designated land within the search area. The Parish Council noted that despite asking (via minutes and newsletters) no private landowner had come forward to offer land within the designated area. Members asked whether the planning application process was simply a tick box exercise? It was confirmed that the process has to be followed and it was noted that other sites within the NPA were not on designated land. The operator is aware that there are many parties against using designated land (Natural England, The Verderers, HCC, etc) who would be prepared to defend this position in a legal process. Discussion took place about whether damage had occurred at the temporary site and it was noted that Natural England are preparing a reinstatement plan for the temporary site which the operator will need to comply with. Further discussion took place about the location of other masts within range of the parish, the potential for mast sharing and when HCC will take greater steps to ensure progress is made to find an alternative site (how long before the 18 months is reached?). It was agreed that HCC would confirm the position and location of other masts within the area and the potential for mast sharing. Cllr Heron noted that there are many positive benefits of living in the New Forest and that the natural environment should take precedence over damaging an internationally protected area with the installation of a mast.

Thanks were extended to Chris Jelliffe and his team for their work on this complex issue, working with two conflicting objectives.

PUBLIC SESSION

6. Planning

a. Applications.

20/00337 Piencourt Cottage, Hern Lane – outbuilding. Discussion took place about the site – the garden narrow - it was agreed that the proposals complied with DP37 (of reasonable size, subservient to main property, incidental/non-habitable and will not reduce the garden amenity) and SP17 (will not erode the character of the area). There was some concern about the height of the outbuilding as this may make it visible even above the hedge (particularly during winter months) and is likely to change the aspect of the non-designated heritage asset (house) when approached from Hern Lane; members would prefer to see a lower pitch if possible as this would reduce the impact on the street scene. Members would also like to see conditions included to ensure the roof colour is dark (to reduce impact), to limit external lighting to downward facing security lights on the east elevation only (to protect dark skies) and that all materials and machinery are stored within the curtilage of the property during the construction works (the property is

sited adjacent to an extremely narrow section of road which is one of the main access routes into the village). PAR 5 (leave to officers) proposed by Cllr McKenzie, seconded by Cllr Mulcahy, all in favour.

20/00176 Land adj. to Newtown Honey Far – erection of single storey building (Hyde Band) – this application is not within the parish but Members were keen to support the proposal (as the previously identified temporary site was on the border of the parish and was given support by the Parish Council). Discussion had taken place prior to the meeting and Cllr McKenzie had circulated a response to the application which all members agreed. Contact had been made with the relevant parish (EH&I) to understand their position. It was agreed that this letter of support would be sent to the planning officer: all in favour.

The following two applications had been received but would be considered next month: 20/00365 Ashely View, Hyde – replacement building for use as stables and 20/00394 Forest House, Frogham – swimming pool

It was agreed that Cllrs McKenzie, Mulcahy and Dolphin would consider the applications prior to the meeting. Cllr Dolphin would take the lead on the mast application when it is submitted.

Results: 20/00269/LDCP Dove Cottage, Chilly Hill – is permitted development

Not yet decided: 20/00133 Rose Cottage, Blissford Hill – continued use of land as garden

20/00173 Camilla, Hyde Common – two storey and side extensions, revised fenestration and roof – **REVISED PLANS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED NEXT MONTH**

20/00268 Padiss, Ogdens – single storey rear and side extensions, dormer, render, cladding, re-roofing

20/00283 Keepers Cottage, Frogham Hill – single storey extension (demolition of existing), retention of shepherds hut; incidental outbuilding; re-thatching; upstairs bathroom; wider opening

20/00284 Keepers Cottage, Frogham Hill – listed building consent (see 20/00283)

b. **Tree applications:** R14/15/20/0264 Brook Farm – prune 2 Oak trees: Exempt works

Tree Results – All raise no objections: 20/0188 Heather Cottage, Hern Lane – prune 3 Oaks; 20/0197 Ashurst, Pentons Hill – fell 3 Leylandii; 20/0198 Rose Cottage, Blissford Hill – fell 1 Silver Birch and 1 Cherry

c. **Other planning matters**

- **TEN** – none received
- **Enforcement** – there was no change from previous enforcement list. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask for a progress report on the enforcement action for Kenchingtons and whether a site visit had been made to the café site.
- **Appeal** – no results received
- **Stuckton Chapel** – it was confirmed that there had been a transfer of trustees for the building. As a result the Parish Council had requested an update regarding progress on the building works (concern remains that the building will fall into disrepair). A response had been received: the site was registered for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (with over 100 pupils taking part), the centre has been registered with the Charity Commission, the trustees are pursuing the option of purchasing the building and once this has taken place (or resolved) the building works will go out to tender, a formal fund raising strategy is being compiled. Members were positive that activities were moving forward.

7. **Report from County Councillor Edward Heron** – Cllr Heron has emailed owner adjacent to Brooklands confirming that the mobile home was not in breach of planning law and no further action was needed. Cllr Heron also advised that from mid-June you will need to book an appointment to visit the tips/HWRC: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/29052020HWRCbooking> The site would return to normal opening hours but that there remain restrictions on what can be taken – residents should check the website for details before attending or telephone 02380 179 949.

8. **Report from District Councillor Emma Lane** – a few updates:

- An update on what NFDC have been doing may be found at: <http://newforest.gov.uk/article/19478/What-have-the-council-been-doing-to-help-during-Coronavirus>
- There is also advice available online about the use of green space, how to walk dogs safely, how to plan a trip out/whether toilets are open, and launch of the track and trace system: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

Also from NFDC:

- Letter received from leader of NFDC (Cllr Barry Rickman) confirming payment of precepts and asking parishes to note any financial pressures which may require support from them.

9. Highways/Lengthsman

- North Gorley culvert/drainage repair – the ditches along Lawrence Lane had been dug and investigation works are currently taking place to locate the drains and identify the problems. Members were glad to finally see positive progress with this long-standing problem.
- Hern Lane – still not repaired but the large potholes have recently been marked and so works should be imminent.
- Re-surfacing works have been undertaken parish (top-dressing), members were impressed with the number of roads being treated and the level of the works. Members noted concern that the road from Ogdens to Furze Hill remains in a poor state – the Clerk to review the documents to see if it is noted for repair and to contact Highways as appropriate.
- The Parish Council had received a copy of a complaint from a resident to Cllr Heron regarding the state of the track between Frogham Chapel and Pentons Hill. Cllr Heron noted that he had recently reviewed the track and requested that repair works were undertaken.
- Following the opening of Baskets & Blooms there had been some concern about the use of the access onto the road at the bottom of Frogham Hill into Stuckton. The owners have installed warning signs in both directions and have given assurance that this is a temporary access only during the current pandemic (due to the high demand and requirements of social distancing). Members were supportive of these actions.
- Fly-tipping reported by resident to Clerk, NW and 101 – in the middle of Hern Lane.
- Next scheduled lengthsman visit is due Monday 24th July – Clerk has booked an extra day to cover some of the works outstanding as HCC have not awarded a contract for the Priority Cutting List this year. Clerk to contact Cllr Heron with details.

10. Forest/Footpaths/Commons

- Discussion took place about the closure of Ogdens car park - it remains closed at the current time. The car park is owned by Forestry England and it was their decision to close the car park. Cllr Heron has received a response from FE regarding the closure and is satisfied that it remains closed for the time being. Complaints have been received from one resident and two non-residents about the closure and loss of level access to the forest. The result of the closure is an increase in verge parking along Ogdens North and along the Furze Hill to Ogdens road. Residents in these areas have noted concern and asked for some preventative action (including ditch works or re-opening of the car park). The complaints also noted concern about the use of a Highways road closure sign and the installation of “illegal” posts and branches to prevent verge parking – this direct action by residents simply moves the problem further along the road, it does not inform those parking on the verges illegally. It was noted that across the forest, as a result of the pandemic, there is unprecedented pressure with increased visitors numbers and verge parking. The Recreation Management Strategy (following consultation in 2010) noted the requirement for further discussion/action about reducing visitor numbers to sensitive areas within the National Park. There will be consultation about the car parks in the forest as part of the RMS action plan and the Parish Council will make sure that information about the consultations are shared with residents as it becomes available. Cllr Heron and Forestry England have responded to the complaints, a summary of these responses will be posted on the parish website (or a copy available from the Clerk upon request if you are unable to access the website). It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Forestry England and Highways regarding the posts/branches and the road sign.
- Discussion took place about the lack of information provided about accessing the forest at the HCC owned car parks within the parish – specifically at Abbotswell and possibly also at Gorley. It was agreed that providing more information may be of use to visitors – about where to go, what to look out for and also to inform about the special status of the area – encouraging cyclists to stick to the permitted cycle ways and highlighting the risks associated with BBQs and leaving rubbish. It was also suggested that helping the volunteer rangers during peak times may be an option. The Clerk to send sample signs to Cllr Heron for review and further discussion.
- Parking at North Gorley – pub have placed barrels in car park to prevent public use of their car park during the pandemic. Complaint received from a resident as visitors were parking on the green and damaging the SSSI. Noted by Members – further to the discussions above, this parking will be monitored as lockdown is eased to see what pressure remains on the area and the impact/increase in verge parking.
- Latchmore surveys – Forestry England confirmed that this is work undertaken by Southampton University to test their equipment (drones), is non-paid and will provide useful data for the Ecologist. Natural England have given consent for the surveys until 2024 – use of drones, non-invasive.

- Ragwort – it was noted that there are some patches appearing across the parish. Residents would be encouraged to pull the Ragwort and place it in the compound on Buddle Hill – this would be a safe activity to undertake provided the current guidelines with regard to social distancing are adhered with.

11. Finance

Balances in the accounts

Lloyds/TSB Treasurer's a/c	£14549.35 (following current months expenditure)
Lloyds/TSB BIA a/c	£247.53
Post Office/NS&I	£2771.10

Members approved the following cheques:

M Coatham (May 2020 Clerks Salary, £405.41), HMRC (tax & NI, May 20, £7.00), Hampshire Pension Fund (May 2020, £106.48), M Coatham (expenses, Zoom £14.39)

Other financial matters

- Clerk has spoken to HMRC regarding VAT payment received of £2175 (does not belong to Parish) – Clerk has sent email with copies of our bank statement and remittance advice from HMRC. Real balance on current account is therefore £12374.35.
- The Clerk has submitted the VAT (126) return for 2019/20.
- Year End reports circulated. Members agreed to approve that the Parish is Exempt from External Audit as income/expenditure is below the threshold of £25000. The Clerk has prepared the AGAR and this was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Members approved the year end figures. The Clerk will submit the relevant documents to the Internal Auditor for approval and will post on the website within the appropriate timeframes (revised for the current year) once these have been approved.

12. Coronavirus and Parish Response

- Support network is working well but the group are considering how long it will continue to operate as things move forward and Government advice changes.
- Prescriptions: most of those needing prescriptions are wanting to collect them for themselves. The support network are working with the remaining residents to transfer their prescriptions from the surgery to the NHS Pharmacy who offer free delivery, as appropriate.
- The volunteers (doing food shopping, etc) have been asked to discuss with their buddies what their plans are with a view to winding things down by 4th July (when other shops/businesses start opening) - UNLESS the Government guidance changes and lockdown returns. Once we have feedback from the volunteers we can reassess the position from 4th July onwards. There was concern about volunteer fatigue and longer term health issues for residents. If the feedback is that vulnerable people still need support, we will need to reassess those volunteering to see what support is available for the longer term and whether we need to review other service suppliers for those residents. It was noted that Hyde Farm Shop is re-opening on June 20th and will be offering local deliveries on all orders over £12.50.

13. Consultations – no new consultations received.

14. Correspondence – nil to circulate

15. Reports of Representatives

- No report received from Lyndsey Whitehead (School Governor) but it was noted that the school had re-opened and pupils were in attendance.
- **All other meetings (NPA and NFDC) are cancelled for time being so nothing to report**

It is likely that the July meeting will also be a virtual (Zoom) meeting. This will take place on Wednesday 8th July – further details will be available online nearer to the time.