

## HYDE PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the virtual (ZOOM) meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Present:** Cllrs Burden, Dolphin, McKenzie, Mulcahy, Sevier (Chair), Tully and Woodley;  
Clerk (M Coatham) and 2 members of public

- 1. Apologies:** DCllr Lane and CCllr Heron
- 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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021:** Notes from the virtual meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved by members, proposed by Cllr Woodley, seconded by Cllr Burden, all in favour.
- 4. Matters Arising**
  - TPO request – noted but not agreed by Tree Officer – possible if unsuitable works are proposed in the future
  - All Highways issues noted last month sent to Cllr Heron.
- 5. Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021:** Notes from the virtual meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 were approved by members, proposed by Cllr Woodley, seconded by Cllr Burden, all in favour.
- 6. Matters Arising:** to agree the response to NFDC (to be done under planning)

### PUBLIC SESSION

Two members of the public were present, one to discuss their planning application and one to hear the outcome of the parish meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February (submission to NFDC).

### 7. Planning

a. **Applications** – Cllrs Burden and Mckenzie had reviewed the application prior to the meeting

21/00077 Little Thatch, Ringwood Road – Dwelling (demolition of existing dwelling)

Following discussion, members noted that the replacement building was still curved but that the roof height was increased by 38% and the roof would be tiled rather than thatched – there was concern about the prominence of this site on Gorley Green, the choice of tile colour and the number of patio style windows in the new design. It was agreed to recommend permission but to leave the decision to the officers (PAR1), requesting that that planning and conservation officers consider whether the new design complies with the following policies: DP2, DP35, SP16, SP17 the Village Design Statement, and the Western Escarpment Conservation Area Character Appraisal. Proposed by Cllr Burden, seconded by Cllr Woodley, all in favour. If permission is granted, members would like conditions included to ensure all materials and machinery are kept within the curtilage of the property and not on the surrounding SSSI, the existing trees and hedges to be retained and maintained, and that external lighting is kept to a minimum to protect dark skies.

*One member of public left the meeting.*

21/00055 Crossways, Frogham Hill – single storey extension; new windows (NMA – INFO ONLY)

**Results:** 20/00867 3 The Paddock, Frogham – replace boiler and oil tank with air flow heat pump – GRANT

20/00908/LDCP Holly Hatch, Gorley Lynch – porch – IS PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT

20/00917 Land off Ashley View, Hyde – continued siting of temporary mast - WITHDRAWN

20/00810 Little Hill, Furze Hill – demolition of 7 no.outbuildings - GRANT

**Not yet decided:** 20/10829 (NFDC) Land at Hern Lane, Hyde – agricultural dwelling & garage

b. **Tree applications:** 21/0016 Little Orchard, Hern Lane – fell 1 Oak and 1 Conifer;

21/0015 Whistles, Buddle Hill – fell 1 dead Silver Birch – Exempt works

21/0055 Hollands Farm, Ogdens – fell 1 Silver Birch, 1 Hawthorn and 1 Holly Tree

Cllr Woodley had reviewed the applications prior to the meeting and considered that the works were appropriate without loss of amenity value – so to leave the decisions to the officers.

**Tree Results:** 20/20/0730 Crossways, Frogham Hill – prune 1 Beech; 20/0745 Little Hill, Furze Hill – fell 2 Spruce and clear one fallen; 21/0003 Land of Middle Hill, Pentons Hill – hedgerow/tree management – **all raise no objections**  
*It was agreed that Cllrs Woodley and Dolphin would consider the applications for March prior to the meeting.*

c. **Other planning matters:**

- **Response to 19/10881 St Johns Farm** – members agreed to submit the response circulated by the Clerk (Cllr McKenzie noted concern/precedent about including policies in full).
- **TEN** – none received
- **Enforcement/Appeals** – no new cases/appeals – there does appear to be a delay in the inclusion of the new cases on to the monthly listing – but Clerk has received letters of acknowledgement from the Enforcement officer (to keep under review)
- To note the Heritage Asset report to NFNPA Planning Committee
- Non-inclusion of our response by NFDC on Planning Consultation – Cllr Sevier to follow-up with head of planning.

- **Mast Update**

**Cllr Mulcahy (EM) gave members an update on the current position of the permanent mast location (from a parish perspective) and ongoing discussions with the various parties:**

EM has been talking to Waldons about possible sites for the permanent mast: The Church – their initial response was that it will need a bigger mast, can't be disguised as a tree, access issues, listed building, planning issues - EM advised them this doesn't sound *impossible* just difficult, asked them again to contact Church for a proper survey before ruling it out completely (*IF it's feasible the Church would apply for faculty*).

EM revisited pre-application check list for the Shop site - 8 sites listed that were discounted prior to the shop being chosen. EM queried why Harry's Field is being investigated again even though it had been **discounted last year on radio planning grounds** (*i.e. not technically feasible*) - they just responded by saying it was being investigated again... The car park at Abbottswell was also discounted purely on planning grounds, SSSI etc and as such *not considered a better option than the shop*.

EM/ Waldons have had a lot of correspondence about how the sites are selected or discounted, they have a lot of difficulty finding the right site & sites often get ruled out if they know from their experience that they are likely to fail due to planning, SSSI, consent from Natural England, so they just consider these types of sites have little to no chance of success from a planning **OR** an acquisition perspective. EM – empathise it's not straightforward but it feels a bit 'path of least resistance' - **all sites** in this parish will have their own challenges to overcome.

**Waldons also quoted policy SP6:** *'Development which is likely to have an adverse effect on SSSI (individually or in combination with other developments) will not be permitted. Only where the benefits of the development clearly outweigh both the impacts on the special interest features of the SSSI and on the broader national network of SSSIs will an exception be considered.'* Cllrs Dolphin & Mulcahy actually see SP6 as **a good argument for** granting planning permission **if** it can be demonstrated that there would be no harm to nature conservation interests, or that the benefits outweigh the harm (*IF ANY*), and/or appropriate mitigation measures are available.

We strongly believe SSSIs should not just be ruled out - by this we mean large gravel areas like car parks, where there is generally very little with regards *special interest features*. Waldons have been asked to investigate the Gorley Common car park.

**CAVEAT** – the mention of SSSI will rightly cause some concern amongst parishioners, **to be clear**, no site would be suggested without full technical & conservation surveys to evaluate any damage & how to mitigate.

**The planning refusal notice for the permanent mast at Shop states:** *"mast, cabinets & compound, by reason of SIZE, appearance & siting, would have a detrimental impact on the character and appearance of this part of the New Forest National Park and Conservation Area (listing policies DP2, SP7, SP16 and SP17 of the New Forest National Park Local plan 2016-2036 (August 2019) and sections 15 and 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019'.)"*

**This could be said about any site in Hyde Parish or a National Park!**

**Same document, planning officer Ann Braid states:** *'The Authority remains committed to the principle of finding an appropriate solution to facilitate the delivery of the EE Emergency Services Network in this area'* - **the Parish Council consider that neither the New Forest National Park Authority nor Hampshire County Council have attempted to help find a site!** Residents have been left to negotiate with Waldons causing a lot of stress, time/ resource wasting and financial burden (both sides) which is totally unfair/ unacceptable. **No one** wants a mast on their land **and** there will always be those that protest against SSSI sites but this does not make it ok for one individual have to *'take one for the team!'*. Everyone in parish needs to support those that are currently or in future having their land investigated for the mast. Those living close to the temporary mast (*current and previous*) justifiably feel let down with no obvious positive action from any authority. **No site in this parish will be straightforward with regards planning, we must all now work together to come up with a solution which should really be lead by HCC and NFNPA with PC in a facilitation role.** It should also be acknowledged this is not just an issue for our parish but National Parks generally with 5G coming – where is roll out plan for our area/ the National Park?

**EM: it seems there are 2 options – find a different type of technology not requiring huge mast (*mesh, satellite?*) **OR** Install mast in a more discreet place away from residents' houses. To keep things moving forward EM proposed the following:**

- EM to monitor progress (*or not*) of sites at the Church, car parks & Harry's Field
- Appoint a small steering group to work on the issue to include Cllrs Dolphin & Mulcahy, David Whitehead, Roly Errington & the Clerk. We will collate info, particularly technical, plan which authorities to contact, investigate alternative technologies rather than just focus on mast, also 'not-spots'.
- Lobby HCC & NFNPA to take ownership – **they** should be questioning EE/Waldons about alternative technologies/ sites and be thinking about the bigger 5G roll out picture. Parish Council should be representing the Parish and supporting residents views.
- Keep encouraging landowners to come forward – newsletter and neighbourhood watch emails.
- Consider holding an extra-ordinary meeting for residents with a constructive agenda

- Consider whether more information needs to be circulated in the form of posters and press releases

CLlr Dolphin noted that there is **no suitable site**, the current temporary site is not appropriate and we can't rely on Waldon to find a site as they won't look at designated land. The current site is detrimental to residents and Natural England are the arbiters of designated land (it is for them to decide – permit, de-designate or mitigate). **The Parish Council want a solution.** CLlr Dolphin noted getting a faculty from Diocese could take years, so not really viable solution.

Members asked questions about the presentation – there was concern that no other parishes within the National Park appear to have been faced with similar mast applications and that this mast was being used as a test case by the NFNPA for the roll-out of 5G technology. Concern also noted that EE may simply play their trump card – the Telecoms Act – and installation will go ahead anyway, without agreement in the parish. **Members agreed a small group should work together to move this forward (CLlr McKenzie was not present at this point).**

#### **8. Report from County Councillor Edward Heron (HCC) – not present, sent responses by email:**

- CLlr Heron confirmed that the works carried out at the junction of the A338 and Hern Lane (Bickton crossroads) were to upgrade the pedestrian access and waiting area at the request bus stop.
- Coronavirus rates are dropping in the Hyde area, but not as fast as elsewhere in the Forest and new cases are being recorded. The vaccine rollout is going well locally, but this is no time to be complacent. There is light at the end of the tunnel but that makes every additional death all the more tragic, thinking that a few more weeks of sticking to the rules and rolling out the vaccine further might have prevented it.
- Information on local testing, the local Track & Trace Service (now devolved to the County Council for those the Government were struggling to contact) and the support available to Hampshire residents, plus a lot of other information can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>
- **Commons – Access:** work has been carried out to improve the ditching and some barrier repair/replacement work will have been done (subject to weather).
- **Commons – Verge Parking:** CLlr Heron confirmed that he has chased up the HCC version of the verge parking stickers for Parish/Volunteer use.

#### **9. Report from District Councillor Emma Lane (NFDC) – not present**

- CLlr Lane asked the Parish Council to report that the May 2021 Elections will be taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (County Council and Police & Crime Commissioner)
- Confirmation from NFDC that Ringwood Parish is now a designated Neighbourhood Area and is working towards a Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **10. Highways/Lengthsman**

- Report of blocked culverts outside Hern Gate Farm and also Popes Lane reported to Highways – HCC stated no further action required at Popes Lane as water was flowing, just high – but they will visit Hern Gate Farm shortly.
- CLlr Burden noted concern about the flooding on Hern Lane and whether the LHS ditch could be reinstated – it was agreed that the Clerk would report to HCC Highways.
- Next lengthsman visit due Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – send works to the Clerk.

#### **11. Forest/Footpaths/Commons**

Members noted the various issues raised during the month –

- Damage to commons – Hyde & Gorley – cricket club will roll when dry and HCC will repair ditches and gates
- Rubbish dumped at Abbotswell – HCC collected
- CLlr Sevier confirmed that maintenance to the footpath across one of the fields of Blissford Dairy Farm had been completed.

#### **12. Finance**

##### Balances in the accounts

Lloyds/TSB Treasurer's a/c	£12451.75 (following current months expenditure)
Lloyds/TSB BIA a/c	£247.56
Post Office/NS&I	£2791.05

Cheques: D Morgan (reimburse prizes for treasure hunt, £19.58), M Coatham (Jan 21 Clerks Salary, £507.23), HMRC (tax & NI, Jan 21, -£83.40 – refund – not sure how this will be returned at present – tax code change for MC), Hampshire Pension Fund (Jan 21, £109.44), Greenbarnes (noticeboard pinboard, £243.85)

**Members approved the cheques.**

Other financial matters

- CIL £1626.24 (11/4/2019) we have to 11/4/24 to spend
- McCloud data collection exercise – Hampshire Pension fund – Clerk to review and respond
- NFDC Covid-19 Support Grant received £769 – members agreed to keep this in reserves at the current time
- To note the SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE: LIMIT FOR 2021-2022 has been revised for 2021-22 to £8.41 per elector, in accordance with Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.

**13. Parish Website:** Cllr McKenzie had requested this item on the agenda but was not present at the time of discussion – it was agreed that all communications would be reviewed as planned during a working party session of members (date to be agreed). Cllr Burden asked for the date to be scheduled rather than being kicked into the future, the Chair did not propose a suitable timescale. Cllr McKenzie asked for this item to be revisited at the end of the meeting when she had returned to the Zoom session, to propose that the Council consider outsourcing the website maintenance to reduce the workload of a future clerk.

**14. Coronavirus and Parish Response:**

- “Team” meeting on Zoom regularly as things progress: no new actions needed at present
- Treasure hunt was well received (26 entered)

*A member of public left the meeting.*

**15. Resignation of Clerk/Replacement**

It was noted that the Clerk had submitted her resignation. Cllr Burden requested to speak and noted the upset and disappointment that several of the members felt that they were unaware of the issues until the resignation had been received. Cllr Burden suggested that perhaps the role of chair could be circulated in the future (an annual appointment) and that members pull together more, taking on more roles. Cllr Woodley noted that Council had been running without the support of a vice-chair and that this should be addressed. Cllr Sevier noted that she would be happy to relinquish her role as chair. Cllr Tully noted that employment advice/training might be needed for members to ensure this does not occur in the future. It was agreed to hold a meeting with the Clerk to discuss further and defer a decision on recruiting a replacement until the March parish meeting. Clerk to email suitable dates to members.

**16. Consultations (responses will be posted on the parish website):**

- Snapshot survey update – not yet complete
- Boundary review – comments sent to agreed parties – no responses received
- Hampshire Local Transport Plan (28/2/21) <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/localtransportplan> – it was agreed that Cllr Dolphin would review the plan and report back to members.

**17. Annual Policy Review** – the Clerk had reviewed and updated the policies prior to the meeting (circulated to members) - there has been no change to the following policies: Complaints, Co-opt, Disciplinary, Grievance, Discretions Policy (this relates to the pension scheme), Data Protection, FOI, Filming Meetings and Training Policy. The Equality Policy has been revised in line with the NALC current template, as have Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. **Members approved the revised policies.**

**18. Correspondence:** Enquiry from Langton Matravers PC regarding NPA status – Clerk sent email asking what information they wanted specifically, no response received; NPA Press Release – New Forest Awakenings Festival (virtual throughout February) [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/awakening](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/awakening); FE Ground nesting birds briefing note

**19. Reports of Representatives** – Cllr Mulcahy had attended a meeting of the New Forest Zero Carbon Alliance and reported on a “greening campaign” which could be considered in the future (simple suggestions residents could achieve to help reduce their carbon footprint).

The meeting closed at 21.04

*To note: during the meeting Cllr McKenzie turned her screen off on a number of occasions without giving reason and it was unclear whether she was present at the meeting as at times no response was received when a question was asked by other members; this made it difficult to record whether Cllr McKenzie was in support or aware of the issues raised.*

**It is likely that the March meeting will also be a virtual (Zoom) meeting. This will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – further details will be available online nearer to the time.**