

# MINUTES

08.12.2015

## GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Godshill on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015 starting at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr Draper - Chairman

Cllr Cakebread

Cllr Lintonbon

Cllr Thomas

Cllr Williams

D/Cllr Bill Dow

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk

12 members of the public.

**142./15 Apologies:** Cllr Fell and County Cllr Heron.

**143./15 Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were received.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Draper proposed from the Chair to bring forward the presentation from Mr Iain Brown, Managing Director of Sandy Balls Holiday Village, on its future plans. He welcomed Mr Brown and Ms Hayley Quinn, Finance Director.

### **144./15 Public Forum Part 1:**

Mr Brown gave a detailed presentation on Sandy Balls from its history of when it was started in the 1930s by the Westlake family, its major refurbishment and redevelopment in 2005/6 up to the present day. He showed a map of the land owned by the company and explained the area covered by the licence and, in discussion with Cllr Cakebread, he confirmed that he would provide an up to date copy of agreements and permissions granted for the areas inside and outside the licenced area and the woodland. Ms Quinn confirmed that the site had an old permission for 100 persons to use the woodland in 'moveable dwellings' ie camping tents.

He also said that Sandy Balls was part of the community and the management team wanted the views of the community on its proposed future plans. It employed 154 people and a further 30 people in the summer months.

Mr Brown said that the village was now reaching capacity in peak season with difficulties experienced by visitors in booking activities, using the swimming pool and eating in the restaurant, so the team had begun to consider how they could improve the quality of the holiday offer for visitors by reducing the number of visitors, whilst also increasing the company's profit margins. The plan was to reduce the number of tourer camping pitches and to increase the number of premium lodges.

With regard to Street Farm, he said he was very aware that it was an eyesore and had been for some time. He said the plan was to build one or two residential dwellings but it had yet to be determined what sort of residential dwelling(s) would be built as the company was currently in discussions with the National Park and it was keeping its options open. He also said that he was aware that there was a need for social housing.

With regard to the Farmhouse, the management team was considering using some of the site for locating 6-8 lodges or high quality living accommodation.

With regard to the Touring Field, Mr Brown said that the team was considering a reduction to the number of pitches as it was often overcrowded and some pitches were providing accommodation for up to ten people, which impacted on the facilities of the park.

Following a question from Mr Peter Stammers, Mr Brown said that ideally the Touring Field would be available to be used for lodges for 12 months of the year rather than the current 8 months of the year. Objections were voiced by both members and the public to this proposal which would cause the neighbours further disturbance during what at present is a four month period of peace and quiet.

Further discussions were held on the Arniss Equestrian Centre whose lease came up for renewal with the current operator in 2018. Mr Brown said the company had no current plans to sell the Centre as it fitted well with the holiday business.

Following concerns raised by several residents about the backing up of vehicles and caravans at peak times along both routes of the Southampton Road, Mr Brown said that the site had staggered checking in times and he hoped that with more lodges and fewer touring caravans this problem would ease in the future.

Cllr Draper thanked Mr Brown and Ms Quinn for attending the meeting and said the information they had provided had been very helpful.

**145./15 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th November 2015:** Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was resolved that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**146./15 Matters arising from the Minutes:** None.

**147./15 To receive reports from D/Cllr Bill Dow:** Cllr Dow said that the only issue he had to report was that the heads of department at the District Council had been carrying out a review of staffing to see whether it was possible to reduce the wage bill.

**148./15 Litter Warden Update:** Mrs Sara Boyd said she nothing to report. Cllr Draper thanked her for her continued efforts and said he wondered whether it would be possible to enlist the Community Payback team to clear the large amount of litter which had accumulated on the area of Forest outside he Litter Warden's remit and beyond the Godshill cricket pitch. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries.

**149./15 Public Forum – Part 2:**

Mr Peter Stammers asked if the layby opposite the entrance to Woodgreen Road could be cleared of mud by the Lengthsman on his next visit to the parish.

**150./15 Planning and Tree Works Applications:**

**Application No. 15/00833**

**Croadene, Southampton Road, Godshill - Single storey extension; demolition of**

**conservatory:** Following a discussion, Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Thomas seconded and it was resolved with one objection from Cllr Cakebread that the Parish Council should support the

application on the grounds that it was appropriate to the existing dwelling and its curtilage and would have no greater impact on the amenity of the neighbouring properties.

**151./15 To consider three quotes from insurers Aviva, Hiscox and Ecclesiastical for the renewal premium of the Parish Council's Annual Insurance Policy and to resolve to approve one quote and to accept a 3 year agreement:** Following a brief explanation from the Clerk, Cllr Lintonbon proposed, Cllr Williams seconded and it was resolved to approve the quote from Aviva of £301.95 for 2015/16 and to accept a three year agreement.

**152./15 To approve the following payment:**  
£133.25 – New Forest District Council for Election Expenses.

Cllr Draper proposed, Cllr Lintonbon seconded and it was resolved that it be approved.

**153./15 Finance & Policy:**

**a. Precept 2016/17 - To consider and resolve to approve the draft budget submitted by the Clerk and to consider any projects for the 2016/17 financial year:** Following a brief discussion, Cllr Draper proposed, Cllr Lintonbon seconded and it was resolved that a Precept of £10,608 for 2016/17 be approved which was an increase of 0.02% on 2015/16.

Cllr Cakebread asked that the Parish Council's thanks for the work done on the precept by the Clerk be recorded.

**b. To consider and resolve to approve the allocated reserves of the Parish Council:** Following a brief discussion, Cllr Lintonbon proposed, Cllr Thomas seconded and it was resolved that in addition to the £1100 reserved for Speedwatch, a further £2,000 be approved to match fund a small grant application to enable a continuation of the footpath project started in 2013 to change further stiles on parish footpaths with kissing gates.

**c. To consider requests for grants under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 from:** Following a discussion, Cllr Draper proposed, Cllr Lintonbon seconded and it was resolved that the following amounts be approved:

- Fordingbridge & District Day Centre £150
- New Forest Disability Information Service £50

It was further resolved that the following amounts be approved for an additional two organisations as follows:

- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance £150
- Fordingbridge Community First Responders £150

**d. To resolve to approve the payment of the Accounts:**

	£	Cheque No.
New Forest District Council – Election Expenses	133.25	100449
Came & Company - Annual Insurance Premium	301.96	100450
B Cornish - December Salary	310.33	100451

Cllr Draper proposed, Cllr Lintonbon seconded and it was resolved that they be approved.

**e. To resolve to approve the Bank balances – Cheque and Reserve Accounts:**

**Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 08.12.15:**

Current Account: £14,836.19 Deposit Account: £579.13

Cllr Draper proposed, Cllr Williams seconded and it was resolved that they be approved.

**154./15 Consultations – To consider responses to the Hampshire County Council Consultations on:**

- a. **The future of some Highway Maintenance Services:** Following guidance from the Clerk, Cllr Draper proposed from the chair that no response be submitted as the consultation related to street lighting and grasscutting.
- b. **The Hampshire Library Service:** Following guidance from the Clerk and confirmation from Mr Ray Gibbons that only three residents within Sandy Balls used the Mobile Library Service, Cllr Draper proposed from the chair that the Parish Council should support the proposed changes set out by Hampshire County Council which was to discontinue the Mobile Library Service due to its high cost and low usage.

**155./15 To consider a request from Cllr Draper to consider any actions to be taken regarding the use of the public footpath by pedestrians and dogs through Chapel Field:**

Following a brief report from Cllr Draper, he proposed, Cllr Lintonbon seconded and it was resolved that the Clerk should write to the Rights of Way department at Hampshire County Council, with a copy of the letter being sent to the owners of the field, expressing concern about the recent incidents and potentially dangerous horses which were left in the field. She was also asked to advise that the footpath had previously been fenced off and to ask that it be reinstated to ensure the safety of users of the public footpath.

**156./15 Outside Bodies And Representation:**

**Lengthsman's work to the footpath beside Braeside, Newgrounds:** Cllr Draper gave a brief report on the work done and said that it was an effective temporary fix and would enable walkers to continue to use the footpath in the winter months.

**Hyde Parish Council Broadband Meeting:** Cllr Lintonbon gave a brief report on a meeting which had been well attended by residents and at which Cllr Peter Dowling had given a very good presentation. He also said that the proposals being put forward by Hyde would not be financially viable for Godshill and the Parish Council's only option was to pursue the long-outstanding issues with BT Openreach through Cllr Edward Heron.

**157./15 Correspondence.**

1. Local Govt Boundary Commission – An email advising of the draft recommendations for the new County electoral Divisions in Hampshire (<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/hampshire/hampshire-county-council>).
2. New Forest National Park Authority – A letter from Mr David Illsley enclosing a survey of Village Services for the State of the Park Report and Local Plan Review.
3. Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society – An email from Mrs Hazel Winch enclosing the December edition of Waymark.

4. Western Escarpment Steering Group – An email from Ms Lisa Crouch enclosing the Agenda and documentation for the next meeting at Fordingbridge Town Hall on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm.
5. New Forest District Council – An email from Ms Mandy Pickard advising of the Christmas waste collection changes.
6. New Forest National Park Authority – Tree Officer – An email from Ms Liz Beckett advising that she has given Mr Coombs and Mr Horsburgh a 12 month extension to remove the trees from the river at Forest Gate, Blissford Road in view of the winter weather.
7. Hampshire County Council – An email from the Small Grants Team advising that the next deadline for applications is 25th January 2016.

**158./15 Any Other Business:**

**Light Aircraft:** Cllr Cakebread said that the CPRE Hampshire was asking residents to keep a record of aircraft noise over the Forest as they wished to gather evidence to pursue the issue of the need for tranquillity in the Forest.

**159./15 Next meeting:** The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.