

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF FAWLEY

Wednesday 24 April 2019 in the Jubilee Hall, Fawley, 7pm.

Present: Cllrs A Alvey (In the Chair), B Coyston, A Glass, B Hall, S Milgate, S Read, K Smith,

In Attendance:

Steve Postlethwaite, Clerk to the Council
Sue Markides, Deputy Clerk

Also Present: Jamie Burrows New Forest District Council Enforcement Team Leader until 7.30pm, Lisa Carr Fawley Parish Council Youth Worker, District & County Councillor Alexis McEvoy, Alison Jones, Community Affairs Manager ExxonMobil, 12 members of the public.

The Chairman, Cllr Alan Alvey welcomed those present to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr B Spearing, Cllr S Carroll, Teresa Blakeley of Age Concern New Forest East, the new vicars (Caroline & Anne) at All Saints Church, Fawley, New Forest East/Waterside Neighbourhood Police Team.

Appointment of Clerk to the meeting: RESOLVED: That Steve Postlethwaite be appointed as Clerk to the meeting.

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 April 2018: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2018 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Presentation by Guest Speaker, Jamie Burrows of New Forest District Council's Enforcement Operations Team:

OPERATIONAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM PRESENTATION
Dogs, Parking and Abandoned Vehicles

Dogs

Present

- ❖ We have 1 Dog Warden covering the whole of the New Forest area.
- ❖ The Dog Warden service currently operates between the hours of 08:00 – 16:30 Monday to Thursday and 08:00 –16:00 on a Friday and limited cover at weekends.
- ❖ We rely on assistance from local vets to operate an out of hours service for dogs that are found outside of the Dog Wardens service's core hours including weekends.
- ❖ This service has financial implications to us as an Authority as the vets pass any kennelling costs and nursing care a dog receives whilst in its care to us.

Dogs Service requests

- ❖ Last year the Dog Warden service received 358 requests for lost, found and stray dogs.
- ❖ We also received 207 service requests for dangerous dogs and other dog related enquiry's including dog fouling.
- ❖ we issue Dog Behaviour Contracts to owners that have allowed there dog to Be Dangerously out of control and has resulted in someone being bitten.

NFDC currently work closely with local vets who have out of hours service and often receive stray dogs – the district council then picks them up the next working day. The vet charges NFDC direct who then pass the charge on.

Dogs rehoming

- ❖ We rehomed 51 dogs last year including dogs like Baxter.



NFDC has a “non-destruct” policy for any healthy dogs that are found such as Baxter who was abandoned in a cardboard box at Gang Warily.

Enviro Crimes



Enviro Crimes

- ❖ The estimated cost of clearance for fly-tipping to local authorities in England in 2015/16 was £49.8 million.
- ❖ The yearly cost of fly-tipping to the NFDC residents runs into the tens of thousands of pounds. This public financial burden is in addition to incidents on private land like those being investigated where the costs of clean up and disposal will fall to the landowners.
- ❖ Consistent with previous years, the most common place for fly-tipping to occur was on highways, which accounted for 50 per cent of total incidents in 2015/16, a 7.9 per cent increase on 2014/15

Jamie advised that the Enforcement Team at NFDC consists of himself as Enforcement Team Leader, 2 supervisors and 10 civil enforcement officers. The team work closely with various other agencies such as the Police and the Forestry Commission.

A recent prosecution in Fordingbridge had resulted in a suspended sentence and heavy fine for the trader involved and he further advised of the powers the Council has to stop dumping i.e. by revoking a licence or removing vehicles from a waste disposal firm/trader.

Enviro Crimes

Presently

- ❖ All Enviro crimes are currently investigated by the Environmental Enforcement officer. This include any Fly-tipping that has been reported where evidence may be found.
- ❖ We conduct interviews under PACE (Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984) for people we think have committed an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- ❖ We also investigate Fly-tipping that occurs on Forestry Commission land within the District.
- ❖ We also carry out waste carrier license checks with the assistance of Hampshire Police throughout the District.

Enviro Crimes

Presently

- ❖ Enforcement of Section 34 Notices on vehicles travelling through the district and also on businesses to enforce trade waste being disposed of correctly.
- ❖ Enforcement of Section 5 control of Pollution Notices on vehicles travelling through the district carrying waste without a valid waste carriers license.
- ❖ We currently work with many internal departments and outside agencies including Hampshire Police , RSPCA , Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and many others. We have an excellent working relationship with all.

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Abandoned Vehicles



Abandoned cars are usually removed within 4-24 hours if there is any danger present – such as no windows - but generally most abandoned cars will have a sticker placed on them advising of a 7 day period during which it should be removed.

When reported by the public, investigation proves that nine out of ten vehicles are untaxed and the owner is contacted asking them to remove it.

If after the 7 day period the car is not removed, NFDC will remove the vehicle and after a further 7 days the vehicle is scrapped.

Abandoned Vehicles

Presently

- ❖ Vehicles are visited by officers and assessed on site. Vehicles are checked to see if they are secure and not in a dangerous condition.
- ❖ Vehicles are served with a notice depending on condition and where the vehicle is parked by attaching to windscreen.
- ❖ Vehicles are then visited again before the vehicles are sent to contractor for recovery.
- ❖ Owners of the vehicles are contacted by post informing them of pending action.

Parking

Currently

- ❖ Parking currently have 12 Civil Enforcement Officers who cover the district. These are split into two shifts covering 7 days a week.
- ❖ We patrol 51 council maintained car parks and also enforce yellow lines and loading bays on behalf of Hampshire County Council.
- ❖ Civil Enforcement Officers issue PCN's under the Traffic Management Act 2004
- ❖ Last year we issued nearly 7000 PCN's within the New Forest District.

A question and answer session took place -

A member of the public considered that staff at the Recycling Centre in Everton were marvellous whilst those working at the Marchwood site he found to be very unhelpful. Whilst advising that the sites are operated by Hampshire County Council Jamie considered that he would take this comment back to them and get a response due to a possible knock on effect i.e. people will dump their rubbish on the side of the road rather than go to the recycling centre.

Concern regarding parking on the pavements within the parish was raised. NFDC can only enforce double yellow lines and do not have the powers to remove vehicles. It is the Police who have powers to do this but it was considered that this does not happen.

Draft awaiting confirmation at the next Parish Council meeting

It was suggested that a meeting be arranged with NFDC, the Police and the Parish Council to raise these issues.

Rubbish that has been fly tipped at the new cemetery area at Tristan Close was still on site – Jamie advised that new heavy metal fencing is in the process of being installed and once this is completed the waste will be removed. An update to be provided to the Cllr who raised concern.

A fridge dumped on Lepe Road has now been removed by the Forestry Commission. Again NFDC and the Forestry Commission work together – any evidence retained will be dealt with at a later date.

Installation of bollards similar to those in Hythe to prevent parking on verges was discussed. It was considered that the request should be made to Hampshire County Council – this can be completed on line.

The question and answer session came to an end – it was noted that any other issues could be raised through the Clerk to the Council who has the contact details of Jamie and the Enforcement Team.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting; he considered the more people that attended this annual meeting the better and said the parish was always looking for councillors - please put your name forward if you are at all interested. He then provided the following report:



Fawley Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting
24 April 2019

Chairman's Report

Opening Remarks

- I have great pleasure in welcoming you all to our annual parish meeting, its been my privilege to have been the Chairman of Fawley Parish Council for the last year
- I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Clerk, the Senior Management Team and Staff on the work and progress they have continued to make over the year, especially around continuing to reduce the Councils overall operating costs.
- In particular I would also like to thank Exxon Mobil and the Co-op for their continued funding to support community events and projects in the Parish.
- I want to thank those members of the public that take the time to attend our meetings, those who have attended tonight and our Guest Speaker Jamie Burrows.



Fawley Mensshed

- Refurbished an old building at Gang Warily that is now leased to Fawley Mensshed – this is the **FIRST** Mensshed in the New Forest. Their doors opened in September 2018. I am very pleased to see this initiative has gone from strength to strength and is now opening 2 days a week with plans to extend to 3 days to meet the demand of their 70+ members (Picture – Official Opening 29 November 2018)



Play Areas

- We have replaced old play equipment with new improved 'accessibility' friendly equipment and some new safety surfaces costing £75,000 at;
 - The Warren,
 - Tristan Close,
 - Gang Warily
 - QEII,
 - and new fencing at QEII and Tristan Close

Play Area Upgrades (cont)



Play Areas

- UNFORTUNATELY a small section of our community have caused mindless damage to the equipment, safety surfaces and fencing that has caused us to unnecessarily spend nearly £4,000 on fixing the damage (approx 20% of our precept rise). This example reported yesterday - the offenders have sawn through the child's swing seat



Gang Warily Improvements

- New classes and activities have been introduced at Gang Warily including senior fitness and "Stay & Play" sessions for young children.
- We spent £11,000 at Gang Warily on extending the 'Free weights' area including new equipment; this has addressed many of the complaints from gym users.



Another successful and enjoyable Armed Forces Day on Saturday 30 June 2018.



Cllr Alvey advised that Armed Forces Day 2019 is 22 June 2019.

Youth Work

- Dibden Allotment Fund provided £4360 grant funding to continue the Council's provision of FREE Childs meal during the school holidays aided by a new cooker and fridge freezer.

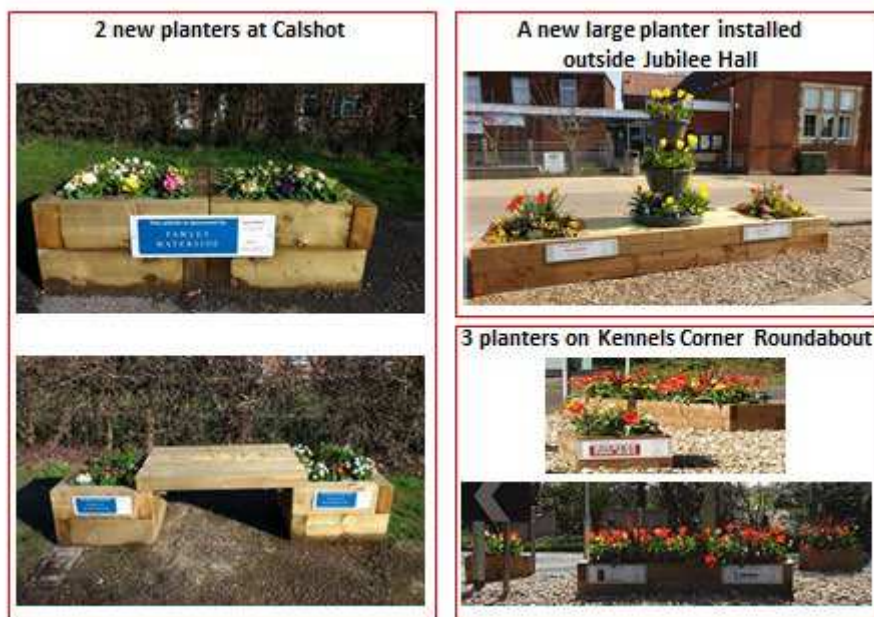


Cllr Alvey advised of the work the Youth Worker undertook and in particular wished to thank the volunteers that help her run her sessions.

Other achievements this year

- We held another successful and enjoyable Firework Event.
- In addition we continue to receive praise about the quality of our football, cricket and rugby pitches.
- Regular praise of the council's ground staff for the excellent quality of the maintenance of our open spaces and 'Parish in Bloom' initiative. Can we thank Copthorne Nursery, Fawley for their ongoing support and free flowers for the new planter outside Jubilee Hall.

This year's 'Parish in Bloom' saw some new additions



New Community Provisions

- Fawley Parish Council and HCC Cllr have jointly funded a 'Defibrillator' that is installed outside Jubilee Hall, Fawley.
- HCC Cllr funding provided a new litter bin at the bus stop in Calshot
- With the support of Dementia Friendly Hampshire we have obtained funding from HCC to purchase 'Cage Cricket' and Exxon Mobil have funded the training that supports young and old in maintaining a healthy lifestyle whilst strengthening social interaction. Staff have now been trained and will soon be offering this activity to our residents.
- With help from HCC and NFDC Cllr funds we have commissioned new road signs to show you are entering/leaving the Wards of 'Blackfield' and 'Langley'

Cllr Alvey advised it has taken approximately 6 months to get new signage at the wards of Blackfield and Langley but hoped these would be in situ soon.

To Summarise

- As last year the rises in - The National Living Wage, Pension Contributions and National Insurance continue to impact on our budget expenditure going forward.
- We still have some challenges especially with maintaining our play areas but we have made significant impact by replacing some very old/damaged equipment and fencing
- We are keen to organise working groups with local residents, so if you are interested in helping us understand our communities needs - please let us know?
- We are here to support you our residents in delivering local services for local people.

Draft awaiting confirmation at the next Parish Council meeting

People often ask why my council tax is going up. Can I assure you that Cllrs look as closely as possible and work to a tight budget. Only last week travellers tried to gain access onto parish land, they used bolt croppers to cut the chain on the gate trying to get in. Overnight security was considered to be necessary incurring a cost to the council –this is the type of problem we have.

May I finish by asking you to tell us what you think is necessary – we are here to support local residents.

A member of the public asked regarding the road sign at the Rollestone Road crossroads which has been propped up on the corner of Rollestone Road for quite some time. The Clerk to the Council to look into this matter.

Presentation of Chairman's Cup: I am very pleased to announce that the recipient of the Chairman's Cup this year is Lisa Hayes. Lisa is very much a local girl, born in Hythe, went to local schools and is now married with daughters in their 20s.

She started volunteering in the local area over 20 years ago. Firstly on the pre-school committee of her children's school, where she went on to become the Chairman, and subsequently with many other voluntary groups.

From School Parent/Teacher Associations, sports groups, guide groups and more, she normally started on the committee and then ended up being the Chairman. She has been a British Gymnastics Welfare Officer and Tutor, School Governor locally for over 15 years, and is currently Chair of the Academy Council at Blackfield Primary School. She was a lay member on Hampshire Safeguarding Children's Board for 6 years and has been Chair at Gang Warily Scout & Guide Head Quarters for just over 2 years.

The existing Scout & Guide HQ is a temporary wooden building that is falling apart, and was donated over 30 years ago by ExxonMobil. The committee, under Lisa's stewardship have decided to fund raise for a new HQ and have instructed a local architect who has completed drawings for the new building. They hope to start the planning process soon.

Since March 2018 Lisa has coordinated many fundraising activities and events and has raised over £22,000 but there is still a long way to go.

I have very great pleasure in presenting Lisa Hayes with the Chairman's Cup for 2019.

The Chairman asked Lisa if she would like to speak. She advised that she had brought to the meeting copies of the latest newsletter of the Scout and Guide Group which detailed the fundraising undertaken – total for the first year £20,016.86. This included being charity of the year for a local supermarket and been a nominated charity in coin/token collection boxes in other supermarkets locally plus monthly car boot sales and a Fun Day held in 2018 which will be run again in 2019.

Currently there are 140 children per week that use the facilities; Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with 20 volunteer helpers. The Scout and Guide Group allow the Fawley Mensshed to use their car park during the day when they are open and Bike Night has been held in the building during the winter months.

Grant applications are being completed (not an easy task, each one can take several hours to complete) with a funding application to the National Lottery progressing through the early stages although Lisa advised that only 15% of all applications to the National Lottery are eventually successful.

Draft awaiting confirmation at the next Parish Council meeting

It was thought that the original building donated by ExxonMobil would last the group ten years so to still be used after thirty years plus is not bad! Those present noted that some vandalism though was being experienced as the condition of the building makes it easy to damage.

Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation:

The meeting noted that the recipients of Certificates of Appreciation, Gilly Drummond OBE, Tony Hill and Susan Bentley had been unable to attend the meeting but the Council was extremely grateful for their efforts as voluntary litter pickers.

Cllr Alvey also thanked the litter pickers who had taken part in the “Spring Clean” events in Fawley and Blackfield last weekend.

Cllr Milgate advised that Jo Taylor, a resident of Calshot was also a regular litter picker at Calshot and much appreciated as well.

Any other matters to be raised by Parishioners

A member of the public queried how to address the on-going problem of people driving across the grass area at Perrywood Close, Holbury to reach their garages causing the open space to become very muddy. He had raised this concern before with the previous County Cllr but the problem has not been resolved.

It was suggested that this matter is brought to the attention of one of the District Cllrs for the Holbury and North Blackfield ward once the elections have taken place.

The church warden of All Saints Church, Fawley enquired how disabled parking could be provided on the road at the church. He was advised to contact Hampshire County Council for advice on this and a suggestion was also made that disabled parking spaces could be provided within the church car park at the rear of All Saints.

A member of the public asked regarding the rubbish outside the former post office in Fawley which has been there for a long time and which she felt spoilt the appearance of the village.

The Clerk advised that the matter has previously been raised with NFDC Planning Enforcement who have since concluded that the site has now reached a standard where it is no longer in breach. It was considered that this matter should be reported again to NFDC Planning Enforcement.

A member of the Fawley Events Committee advised of the cost to run the annual Christmas Winter Wonderland event (approximately £4000) and the approaches made to local businesses and to ExxonMobil who usually sponsor the event. She queried whether the parish council would assist more (than the £250 grant award it has currently donated which meets the cost of the use of the Jubilee Hall on the day) as the event benefited the village. She advised that the committee could only afford to light the Christmas tree on the day of the event due to costs and asked if the use of the hall for the event could be provided free of charge – it was advised that by providing the venue free it prevented any paid booking being taken i.e. a loss of income.

Draft awaiting confirmation at the next Parish Council meeting

It was suggested that all requests should be made in writing to the Council and these would be looked at sympathetically although the maximum award made by Fawley Parish Council is usually £250.00.

The County Cllr advised that she had not received a grant request from the committee – she had previously contacted them to enquire whether they required support – and it was suggested that there may be other fund raising routes that could be followed including approaching the 5 district councillors on the parish council and the Dibden Allotment Fund.

A resident of Fawley wished to complain regarding inconsiderate parking in the village. It was noted that the NFDC Enforcement Team had been shown the problem being experienced at the frontage of the garage in the village earlier in the evening.

Cllr Alvey hoped that residents would bring their concerns to the parish council who could then raise these with the right people, although he noted that this was sometimes difficult with three councils and others involved.

A resident of Calshot wished to say thank you for the planters installed at Calshot and the new litter bin by the bus stop which has reduced litter at the site.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.02pm

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Chairman