

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALLBROOK AND NORTH BOYATT
PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2018
AT THE SCOUT HUT, BOYATT LANE
(7:00pm - 8:20pm)**

PRESENT: Councillor Clarke (Chair); Councillors Barrett, Lee-Potter and Palmer

Apologies were received from Councillors Banks, Betts (Vice Chair), Freemantle and Whittle

35. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public asked whether there was any further update on the alteration to layby in Pitmore Road to herringbone Parking. The Chair advised that there was a lack of funds for this kind of work and that we were not into the next 12 months yet. He advised that as a Parish Council we might be able to progress this more quickly however, it would not come up before May. He also reported that the builders who were parking there were currently putting a footpath in that had previously been signed off without the path being done so they would only be taking up the parking temporarily.

Regarding the land next to 5 Pitmore Road the Chair reported that Allbrook Meadow and the space behind 5 Pitmore Road was currently under the ownership of Bargate. Eastleigh Borough Council were pressuring Bargate to clean up the land. Until the land was in the ownership of either the Borough or Parish Council it would be Bargates liability. This had been a slow process and progress was minimal due to weather and mismanagement of sub-contractors. Bargate opened the space at their own risk. They were on 12 months notice but had not maintained the land and not done the things they had promised. Paul Naylor was fully aware the land needed to be brought up to standard. When the Parish was to the capacity where it could take on the land it would then be the Parish Council's responsibility. If Bargate did not want to do anything with the land it could be transferred. The Chair had assurance from the Borough Council that it would not be signed off until it was up to standard. The Parish was putting on the pressure but will not take it on until it is up to standard and being maintained, just need it to happen quicker. Putting as much effort as possible. Keep nagging and they will act eventually. We want to acquire as many open spaces as possible around the parish.

A resident asked whether two blossom trees that had fallen and been removed by the Borough Council were going to be replaced as had been promised two years ago. Councillor Clarke asked them to supply him with their contact details and he would investigate the matter with the Borough Council.

A member of the public asked whether the Parish Council were able to do anything about the failure of Eastleigh Borough Council in replying to planning in the relevant timescales. The Chair was unable to comment on individual members staff but had submitted a formal complaint to Councillor Keith House. The application in question would still go to appeal and the Planning Department would confirm its recommendation to refuse planning permission.

A resident reported that there were bins opposite Allbrook way and Dragonfly Way obstructing the footway. The Chair advised that there was an issue and the Borough Council Streetscene had dealt with that. If the bins were in the ownership of the residents it was their responsibility to take them back in once emptied. It was suggested that a reminder be put in the Newsletter for residents to remove their bins from the footway in reasonable time once they had been emptied.

36. MINUTES

The Chair requested that an amendment be made to page 14 onto 15 rather than Chris Packham having his fingers burnt he clarified that Chris Packham had promoted a type of technology and didn't declare that he had a financial interest in the company as reported by BBC news.

He also updated the Meeting that Councillor Palmer had managed to get some improvements on the Allbrook Knoll play area from Eastleigh Borough Council.

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 24 July 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment: “that Chris Packham had promoted a type of technology and did not declare that he had a financial interest in the company, as reported by the BBC.”.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in relation to items of business on the agenda.

38. ALLOTMENT UPDATE

The Chair introduced the new Allotment Officer, Richard Ormond. He advised that he was an allotment holder at Broom Hill so had a keen interest in the site. He had a long Local Government background starting in Hampshire and ending up in London as Group Secretary. He had a good team of Site Representatives around him who had made settling into the post a lot easier.

He saw this role as something to take him back to his routes, he had worked for every Local Authority apart from a Parish so this would complete the set. He had been in post four weeks and his aim was to make it as seamless as possible and get things up to where they should be.

He had just completed the Site inspections and the site was very well kept there were some longer term people who were not quite up to standard so letters had been sent. He had also sent out 130 letters for annual subscriptions and the Council had made available, for the first time, the facility for people to pay direct to the bank account.

There were currently five vacant plots and seven people on the waiting list so over the next couple of months the aim was to get those plots occupied. He would like to take the disabled plots forward and also had ideas for splitting vacant plots in two and matching older people with younger people to share skills and abled body with disabled people. The Chair advised that Mencap do something similar so it might be worth contacting them.

RESOLVED –

That the Site Representative Meeting Minutes be noted.

39. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILS

The Chairman attended the Culture and Select Committee, Sean Woodward who was responsible for culture was devising the Library Strategy to 2025, the Chair was appointed to the task and finish group who were having their first meeting in November. He had asked if we could start with no closures but this was not agreed, but Councillor Clarke would continue to fight for the libraries.

Hampshire County Council had moved away from revenue grants as they did not want any organisations to be dependent on them anymore. They would be moving to capital projects so organisations would have to go back every year and ask for a capital grant.

The County had an underspend of £35M which meant that school crossing patrols were not being replaced when they become vacant. £3M for road safety campaign from an underspend. It was difficult to access town and parish council fund but he felt the Parish Council should consider applying for funds from the County but they would look to reduce the service they provided. The County had made clear unless there were fatalities they would not fund any highways improvements. However, as a Parish Council with some guidance from Martin Wiltshire from the County we could access the fund and how we legally go about doing things that residents want. There would have to be additional funding from the Parish as well.

The County had its first full council meeting since May and County Councillors were told that the year on year budget would provide cuts. Councillors were now questioning the wisdom of a council tax freeze from 2010 – 2015.

Allbrook comes under the Eastleigh North ward and the Chair had been arguing for resurfacing of Campbell Road for a long time. Until now Network rail had been difficult to deal with but they were now engaging with the Council regarding the bridge.

He advised that the scheduling of Eastleigh Local Area Committee meetings were now the same time as Parish meetings which had been moved to fit in with the Scouts schedule. It was hoped that the Borough Council could rearrange their Committee Meetings in order that Parish Councillors and residents could attend both if required.

Finally, he advised that the County were looking at the potential of having a mixed appearance of tarmac and stones along Park Lane with no curbing. The next step was to engage residents and it was hoped that a solution could be reached that residents would be happy with. Funding would be also be a factor in the decision made.

40. NEWSLETTER

The Chair thanked Councillor Lee-Potter for designing and getting the newsletter printed it was hoped that the next one would be issued in January 2019 and quarterly going forward. Councillor Lee-Potter advised that there was an email address on the newsletter for people to submit items for the newsletter.

41. COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Chairman advised that there had been concern in the past whether a community building was wanted or not. He confirmed that all Councillors would like to see a community building and an increase in the facilities for residents.

There was currently £188,000 in Developers Contributions and there were also parish reserves to be used. The Chair advised that although he had pursued Rookwood School it was not a viable option as they required the space there. He had also approached the Scouts who would discuss it at their committee one option was to have some office space here and renovate the building for the Scouts. Allbrook Meadow would definitely be an option. There were not many buildings in the Parish where the Parish Council could lease space. He had also asked the County Council but there was nothing that they own in the parish.

Councillors agreed that Allbrook Meadow would be an option for the community facility. Mark Housby suggested that the Council would have to renegotiate the Section 106 agreement with Bargate as building was not allowed on that site. The Chair would discuss with the Borough Council regarding the feasibility of using this space for a possible community building.

A member of the public asked what size the hall would be? The Chair advised that it would definitely be big enough for activities to take place there as well as an office and at least the size of the scout hut. If it was not possible for an office to be situated in the hall the Council would look to lease that space for an office somewhere else. Could build a small extension on another building. Top priority is having a community focal point. This is not acceptable as all the other Parish Councils in the Borough have a community hall.

RESOLVED –

That the Council's aspiration over the next four years was to develop a community building in the Parish.

42. REVIEW OF ALLBROOK AND NORTH BOYATT PARISH COUNCIL'S RISK ASSESSMENT, ASSET REGISTER AND GRANT AWARDING POLICY

Councillor Palmer was still unhappy with the Risk Assessment and felt it was not fit for purpose. It was agreed that it would be deferred for adoption at the November meeting.

Councillors reviewed the Asset Register and it was agreed that the Clerk would add the allotment perimeter fencing and gate to the register.

Councillors reviewed the Grant Policy and it was agreed that a minor amendment should be made in paragraph 3. to remove the word or and replace it with the word and.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the adoption of the Risk Assessment be deferred to the November meeting;**
- (2) That the allotment perimeter fencing and gates be added to the Asset Register; and**
- (3) That the Grant Awarding Policy be adopted subject to the amendment of wording in paragraph three.**

43. FINANCE MATTERS

The Parish Council considered the papers on expenditure which detailed cheques to be issued and budget monitoring. Members agreed to endorse all cheques presented in the report as listed below:

Date	Chq No	Payee	Amount
06/07/18	100458	L Greenslade – Back pay	£43.63
09/07/18	100459	15 th Chandlers Ford Scouts – Room Hire	£100.00
11/07/18	100460	Hampshire Garden Machinery - New Strimmer	£790.00
10/09/18	100461	R Ormond – Allotment Petty Cash	£200.00
17/08/18	100462	M Freemantle – replacement noticeboard keys	£39.50
19/08/18	100463	A Thorne – Salary & travel	£202.71
10/09/18	100464	Absolute Technology – Email and Cloud storage	£1344.78
10/09/18	100465	HALC – Councillor Training	£72.00
10/09/18	100466	E-Mango – reinstatement of website	£120.00
10/09/18	100467	Talk Design & Print - Newsletter	£144.00
10/09/18	100468	Remembered Trading – Tommy Silhouette	£776.30

RESOLVED –

That endorsement be given for the payment of cheques 100458 – 100468.

44. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 23 October 2018 at 7 pm in The Scout Hut, Boyatt Lane

45. EXEMPT BUSINESS

RESOLVED –

(1) That, in pursuance of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act; and

(2) That, in pursuance of the public interest test, the public interest in disclosing the information contained in the following item of business was outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption.

46. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK

The Chair advised that he had approached Hampshire Association of Local Councils to use their HR service to progress the recruitment of a new Parish Clerk. The intention was to get a new Clerk in post as soon as possible on the basis of 20 hours per week.