

**ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**

**Present**

Mr S Hoskins (Chair), Mr P Clark, Mr S Dunn, Mrs K Parker, Mrs K Saunders, Mr J Sunley and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

Cllr Mellor, Cllr Rhatigan and Cllr Bound were also present together with members of the public.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Woodford and Cllr Morrow.

2. **Declaration of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting for approval**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters arising**

The Chair had requested that the Clerk compile a paper to reflect all outstanding issues from previous minutes in order not to lose track of matters that still needed to be resolved. The updated paper would be the basis for discussion under agenda item 4 for forthcoming meetings.

The paper was worked through at the meeting and would be amended according to the updates provided by Councillors and the Clerk.

The matters arising from the paper that had been partially concluded or that required further action included;

- Cllr Mellor had recommended to the Highways department that road surface warning signs be added to the C111 where it narrows significantly near to Tan House Cottages.
- Cllr Clark reported that a meeting was scheduled later in the month with Cllr Rhatigan and Mark Smallfield from BDBC to discuss the potential of a site for allotments.
- Cllr Sunley confirmed that the two outstanding issues relating to the new goal posts and nets for Ashford Hill recreation ground and the relocation of the defibrillator to the Ashford Hill Village Hall location, would be dealt with before the next meeting.

- Cllr Sunley agreed to look at the broken wooden bollard at the Ashford Hill recreation ground car park
- Cllr Bound kindly agreed to add more information to the County Council's website regarding the problem of detritus on pavements on the A339 in Headley
- Cllr Saunders agreed to take photographs of the re-laid pavement following works undertaken by Gigaclear and send them with a supporting statement to 'Streetworks'.
- Cllr Woodford to resurrect CSW membership and liaise with the local police authority reference to confirming that the proposed equipment for monitoring motorists' speeds was the only approved equipment and only available from Westcotec – covered in emails from Cllr Woodford on 16 & 17 December 2023 supplemented by email sent by Chair asking who the new Co-ordinator is to replace Cllr Woodford.
- Cllr Mellor had requested an outline of a specification from the Parish Council following its request for a public pavement to be installed along Thornford Road in Headley

## 5. **Highways**

Cllr Dunn advised the meeting of the sighting of wild deer near to major roads in the area.

The ongoing flooding of the highway near to Fair Oak Farm in Ashford Hill was discussed again but it was concluded that very little could be done to resolve the problem, as gulleys and drains whilst maintained were inadequate to cope with the volume of recent rainwater and further rainwater draining off the adjacent agricultural land.

Following a question from the Chair, Cllr Bound kindly agreed to report further information as it related to his original logging on the County Council's website for work required to clear the detritus on the pavements on the A339 between Headley Tyres and the county border at Knightsbridge.

## 6. **Planning Applications**

23/03106/HSE – Laurazan, Ashford Hill Road, Headley

- Proposed two-storey front extension
- First floor rear extension
- Render existing dwelling and replace roof tiles
- Rear extension to detached home office to form new garage - alternative scheme to that previously approved.

*No objection*

## 7. **Reports**

### **County Councillor's report**

Cllr Mellor reported on the backlog of jobs relating to highway repairs because of the recent flooding conditions and because of the flooding limited road gritting would be taking place. The County Council was undertaking a full review of the cost of street lighting in the county with a view to further restrictions on the times of operation. Cllr Mellor further reported that it was projected that the County Council would be operating at a level of financial deficit by 2025/26 when reserves would need to be used. The County Council would be consulting with the electorate regarding their opinions of where savings and cuts could be made in expenditure and encouraged Parish Councils to express their opinions as part of the consultation.

Cllr Mellor concluded his report by confirming that local roads like the B3051 and C111 would not be allowed to have their statutory speed limits decreased and if Parish Councils sought to implement lower speed limits on minor roads, the project cost would be at the expense of the Parish Council concerned.

### **Borough Councillors' reports**

Cllr Rhatigan reported that the 'Sawmill' housing development application had been deferred and it was now proposed that only 14 houses form the development. The deferred scheme would still include social housing which Cllr Rhatigan concluded was of a high standard. Cllr Rhatigan further reported that the Borough Council's enforcement team had curtailed the selling of used cars in Ram Alley.

Cllr Bound had previously sent the Clerk his report which had been forwarded on to Parish Councillors and reiterated how useful and interesting he had found a recent presentation by the local police authority during a Hannington Parish Council meeting. The Chair requested the Clerk to ascertain more facts about a potential presentation to Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council and its meetings' attendees. \*

### **Chair of the Parish Council's report**

#### **Headley Children's Play Area**

Ady Miles was undertaking repairs starting on 8<sup>th</sup> January. Mr Miles had also been asked to repair the broken bench support reported by a Litter Warden as well as repairing a resident's fence damaged from a fallen tree from the recreation ground in Thornford Road in Headley. The Chair and Mr Miles had also discussed the options for a potential path from Thornford Road to the Headley Pavilion.

## **Picnic Bench opposite Headley Community Shop**

### *Post meeting note*

*It had been confirmed that the new bench had been delivered and was awaiting installation in an agreed location.*

## **Headley Recreation Ground Football Pitch**

Following approval at the previous Parish Council meeting Scofells have applied their Quadraplay treatment (a tractor mounted implement which will brush, roll, spike and tine the surface giving a multitude of benefits).

## **Fallen Tree across Thornford Road**

In addition to the fallen tree that damaged a resident's fence, another tree had died and fallen towards the road but had been stopped by another tree. The RoW team will investigate removing it. \*

## **Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Update**

The Chair commented on the new version of the National Policy Framework which was to be debated by the Borough Council's Cabinet this week which hopefully would result in the much-needed additional protection against unsuitable speculative housing development in the Borough.

## **Electric Vehicle charging points - possible locations**

Following Cllr Morrow's invitation to offer suggested future locations for the charging of electric vehicles in our area, the Chair would be recommending that consideration be given to the charging points being in the Ashford Hill car parks.

## **Boot Camp – Ashford Hill recreation ground**

The Chair again requested an Ashford Hill Councillor to meet with a David Cahill who had expressed interest in setting up an exercise class on the recreation ground. It was agreed that the Clerk would make further enquiries directly with Mr Cahill. \*

## **Parish Councillors' reports**

Cllr Clark reported on the safety hazard that was being caused by wet algae on the flooring in the Ashford Hill playground. The Clerk was asked if he knew of a contractor that could resolve the problem and Cllr Dunn and Cllr Clark agreed to discuss the problem further. \*

Cllr Parker expressed her appreciation to Cllr Mellor for his recommendation to the County Council's highways department to install road surface warning signage on the C111 at Tan House Cottages where the highway narrows significantly.

Following discussion, Cllr Parker and the Chair would discuss further the need for additional funding for additional first aid training for RoW volunteers. Cllr Parker also encouraged residents living in Ashford Hill to volunteer for the essential work undertaken by the RoW volunteers as there was currently only one volunteer from Ashford Hill.

Cllr Dunn informed the meeting that football matches on the pitch at Headley recreation ground had been paused in order to preserve the quality of the pitch which was still in good condition despite the adverse weather conditions. Cllr Dunn further reported on the questionnaires that were being distributed with the Parish Magazine relating to the idea of installing a 'multi use games area' on Headley recreation ground and which were seeking the opinions of residents for such a facility on the recreation ground.

8. **Recess**

There were no questions or comments for the Chair from the public.

9. **Financial statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £6305.53

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £27,802.55

10. **Accounts for approval & payment**

Mr S Marshall – Clerk's expenses – Jan-Mar 2024 - £406.12

Mr S Marshall – Advance payment of new picnic bench for Headley recreation ground - £466.80

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.