

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2023

Present

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

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

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Bound and Cllr Woodford.

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 9th October 2023 were approved.

4. **Matters arising**

Cllr Dunn was still pursuing an alternative quote for the playground fencing at Headley and a date from Westcotec to demonstrate their equipment and would pursue an alternative company for a demonstration of their traffic speed equipment. *

The subject of pavements on the A339 being impassable because of vegetation and general road detritus was discussed again. The contractor approached by Cllr Dunn was reluctant to engage with the complicated process of applying for the installation of a traffic control system particularly on a major road which would be required for the purposes of health and safety if such work was to be carried out. It was asserted by Parish Councillors that it was not an overgrowth of vegetation from neighbouring properties as had been suggested by a County Council surveyor, but the problem related to accumulated detritus from the road itself which had created a layer of silt from which vegetation was growing and it was therefore the responsibility of the County Council to clear. Cllr Hoskins agreed to provide Cllr Mellor with more photographic evidence of the problem. *

Post meeting note – Cllr Hoskins has sent Cllr Mellor photographs of the condition of the pavements that need clearing of detritus.

The Clerk had enquired further with Cllr Mellor regarding the possibility of more appropriate signage where the Ashford Hill Road narrows at Tanhouse Cottages in Headley. Cllr Mellor agreed at a later stage in his verbal report to pursue this matter with the relevant department. *

At October's meeting, Cllr Rhatigan had further suggested that vegetation be cut back in the same vicinity to aid drivers being able to see oncoming traffic. Cllr Parker had yet to discuss this work with Cllr Dunn for the Lengthman's scheme to undertake. *

5. **Highways**

Cllr Parker had previously reported to the meeting a significant pothole near to a road drain on the Ashford Hill Road, located at a dangerous bend of the road on Huntsmoor Hill which Cllr Hoskins had also previously reported online to the Highways' department. The appropriate road repair had not taken place and continued to pose a danger to motorists who were unaware of the pothole. Cllr Mellor requested that Cllr Hoskins and Cllr Parker provide him with the reference details of their online reporting of this problem. *

Post meeting note – Cllr Hoskins has sent Cllr Mellor a photograph of the pothole requiring repair.

6. **Planning Applications**

Cllr Clark opened the agenda item by congratulating RAAD; the group of residents who had successfully opposed housing developments in Ashford Hill, for their recent success in opposing planning applications for housing developments in the village. Each one of the 320 objectors should be thanked for their contribution in opposing such unwelcomed developments.

The following planning applications had been received by the Parish Council;

23/02523/PIP – Land adjacent to social housing north of Galley Lane, Headley

- Permission in Principle for the erection of a minimum of 5 no. dwelling houses and a maximum of 8 no. dwelling houses - *Objection lodged*

23/02674/HSE – Fair Oak Cottage, Little Knowl Hill, Ashford Hill

- Two storey extension to the rear of the property – *No objection*

23/02604/ROC – The Glade, Common Road, Headley

- Variation of condition 1 of 23/01335/ROC to amend approved drawings ref. approved car ports/garages – *No objection*
- 23/02520/PIP – Land at OS ref. 451959 162296 – Harrow Drive, Headley

Permission in Principle for a single residential dwelling – *No objection*

23/02574/LBC & 23/02573/HSE – Stark House Farm, Ashford Hill Road, Goose Hill

- Single storey oak framed garden room extension to rear – amended resubmission of planning & LBC ref. 23/00482/HSE & 23/00483/LBC – *No objection*

23/01174/FUL – Land adjacent to Knightsbridge Lodge, Newbury Road, Headley

- Erection of 4 no. dwellings – *No objection*

23/02694/FUL – Land east of the Cedars, Ashford Hill Road, Headley

- Erection of 8 no. dwellings including affordable housing, together with access, parking, landscaping, and any other associated works – *Objection to be lodged*

7. **Reports**

County Councillor

Cllr Mellor's verbatim report:

“HCC budget reductions

I mentioned in my last report the steps that the county council are considering, to ensure it can balance its budget going forward in the face of central government underfunding of local government. A final decision is to be made by the full county council at its meeting on 9 November. I will let you know next month about the decisions taken and further public consultations.

Update to Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan latest

Over the next two months, an update of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan is set to be considered by each of the five authorities that contribute to the plan (Hampshire County Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and South Downs National Park Authority) to determine whether each authority agrees that further consultation can take place prior to the Plan being submitted to the Government's Planning Inspectorate for examination. HCC's decision will be made on 12 December.

Once approved by all authorities, an eight-week consultation will be launched in January 2024. The responses to the consultation are then submitted together with the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for scrutiny. The local policies contained within the Plan guide the decisions that each of the five minerals and waste planning authorities make when determining planning applications for minerals extraction or waste infrastructure and operations.

Consultation on proposed changes to school and post-16 transport

Proposed changes to Hampshire County Council's School and Post-16 Transport Policies are the subject of two public consultations which run until Wednesday 6 December.

The proposals have been put forward to provide more flexible transport arrangements that better respond to children's needs, demand and external market pressures, while bringing services in line with the latest statutory guidance from the DfE. The proposals are not part of a savings programme, and do not include any proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for School and Post-16 Transport.

Details of the proposed changes and links to the consultation can be found at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/Post-16-Transport-Policy-for-2024-25>

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/schooltransport>

County Council renews commitment to Hampshire's Armed Forces

Hampshire County Council has underlined its commitment to the Armed Forces, by renewing its pledge that serving and veteran members of the Forces, and their families, are treated fairly and are not disadvantaged when accessing public services such as education and healthcare. Hampshire has a historic and long-standing close relationship with the Armed Forces and has military facilities from all three services. Some 72,000 households in Hampshire include someone who has served in the UK armed forces.

Useful links for power cuts and flooding

In the aftermath of Storm Ciaran, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks have provided some useful links in the event of future power cuts.

Any loss of supply or damage to the electricity network can report by dialling 105. You can also obtain details of power cuts and restoration times on SSEN's [Power Track Website](#). Their [website](#) also contains advice and information on how to deal with a power cut and there is also a webchat service.

You can read advice online about how to [prepare for flooding](#) and check The Environment Agency web pages for updates relating to [flood alerts](#) for the area.

For assistance in the event of flooding call 0345 988 1188 or text 0345 602 6340.

Household Support Fund

Support from this fund has been provided to Hampshire households on 825,000 occasions since its launch two years ago. The £14.2m fund will run until March next year and has included support for community pantries and the provision of food vouchers. Details can be found at www.connect4communities.org

Reporting Highway Problems

A reminder of some useful links

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge> Flooding /drainage issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding> Pavement problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving> Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you. “

Cllr Mellor further reported that he would pursue the issue of potentially installing additional road signage near to Tanhouse Cottages on the Ashford Hill Road in Headley where the road narrows as it crosses a river tributary.

Cllr Mellor further reported on the problem of flooding on the B3051 near to Sascron in Ashford Hill. The current drainage was not adequate to cope with the volume of water that at times comes off the agricultural land. It is planned to undertake heavy jetting of the drains in the vicinity in December 2023 to attempt to resolve the flooding problem. Cllr Parker expressed her concern for drivers who were unaware of the road hazard particularly at night even though flood warning signage was in place throughout the year.

Borough Councillors reports

Cllr Rhatigan was pleased to report that after several years of opposing a travellers' site in Headley, the site in question had a feasible plan to have a development of 4 houses built on it.

Cllr Rhatigan had identified 3 locations in Headley that could be used for small scale housing developments which if approved could potentially reduce the prospect of any large volume housing developments being considered for Headley. The Parish Council would need to take up such an initiative with the current landowners.

The ‘show house’ on the new development in Ashford Hill was to open soon and a ‘conditions meeting’ planned with BDBC and the developer to discuss conditions of planning amongst which the problem of managing the foul water would be discussed. Cllr Rhatigan asked Cllr Mellor if he could arrange for some quantity of gravel to be applied to a layby on the B3051 to fill in certain potholes which would assist local walkers.

Cllr Bound’s verbatim report:

“I have listed below the Executive decisions to be taken under the newly published plan; whilst I know you like reports from councillors to be directly related to Tadley, these decisions, albeit at arm’s length, will impact on the area and its residents.

- Manydown MDV LLP overarching business plan decision date imminent
- Renewal of public space protection order – dog fouling, decision due Nov 2023
- Customer experience strategy – decision due Nov 2023
- Digital strategy – decision due 5th Dec 2023
- Local Plan update (agree draft plan for consultation) decision due 9th Jan 2024
- Aquadrome business case - (preferred option), decision date due 9th Jan 2024
- Biodiversity net gain – decision date 6th Feb 2024
- Annual property plan decision due 6th Feb 2024

Any councillor wanting additional information regarding the above I would encourage to look at the BDBC web site.

The new Local Plan is progressing a pace with tweaks and improvements to the previous version.

Since your last meeting I have attended a Full Council meeting and DC meetings along with associated viewing panels. A number of large applications have been scheduled recently, for instance the re-development of Winklebury in Basingstoke and we have another to discuss next week for development at Worting adjacent to the development that will occur eventually at Manydown; the viewing panel takes place this coming Friday. Also, I have of course attended to matters presented to me by residents. On Thursday of last week (9th) I attended an AWE Local Liaison meeting where, mainly, Town & Parish councillors can quiz the regulators about their reports to the committee and maybe ask questions that have been referred to councillors to ask. Questions relating to safety at the establishment were brought up and the prickly issue of the DEPZ that restricts development around the facility was also touched on. One presentation from an Andrew McNaughton dealt with the investment that has been allocated to the facility (including Burghfield) – some 15 billion over the next 5 years.

More mundanely, I still have some money in my Councillor grant allocation. Should you wish to apply for some of this money, application forms are accessed on the BDBC web site, and would have to be agreed by me in the first instance.”

Parish Councillors

Cllr Clark would be pursuing the prospect of land utilisation for allotments for residents.

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Cllr Parker reported on the recruitment of an additional 3 volunteers to undertake countryside access works which included the clearance of footpaths and associated works. The volunteers would be undertaking the appropriate safety training for the equipment to be used. Cllr Parker encouraged residents to report to the Parish Council any issues with footpaths.

Cllr Dunn reported on the consideration by the Parish Council of a multipurpose hard-court facility adjacent to the playground area on Headley recreation ground. As the idea had received the full support of Parish Councillors present at the October 2023 meeting, it was suggested that Cllr Dunn establish a subcommittee of the Parish Council which would investigate the feasibility of such a proposal, and produce a business plan, to be presented to the full meeting of Parish Councillors. It was agreed that Mr Geoff Allwright serve as a lay member of the subcommittee due to his level of knowledge on the subject.

8. Recess

Several topical issues were discussed including improvements to accessing the water meadows in Ashford Hill which the Chair asked Cllr Parker to investigate further. *

9. Financial statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £21,368.16

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £27,322.92

10. Accounts for approval & payment

Mr S Marshall – Clerk’s expenses – June-Nov 2023 - £947.05

Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden’s salary – Oct-Dec 2023 – Previous cheque lost - £503.73

Scofell Commercial Landscapes – Installation of goal post sockets - £2943.46

Ashford Hill with Headley PCC – Parish Magazine grant - £750.00

BDO LLP – External auditor fee - £504.00

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.31pm.