

**ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

**Present**

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

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

The Acting Chair, Cllr Hoskins, confirmed to the meeting for the purposes of the minutes, that it had been unanimously agreed by all Councillors for Cllr Hoskins to act as Chair of the October 2023 meeting of the Parish Council.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mellor, Cllr Morrow, Cllr Woodford, Cllr Saunders and Cllr Clark.

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> September 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. \*

The Clerk would pass on a list of fixture dates from Cllr Dunn to the Litter Warden for Headley to ensure litter bins were promptly emptied after such events. \*

Work related to the Lengthman's scheme had been passed to Cllr Dunn including work from Cllr Hoskins, relating to the clearing of the sides of pavements in Thornford Road in Headley, that should have been undertaken previously.

## 5. Highways

The Clerk would chase the request made to Cllr Mellor for consideration to be made for appropriate signage where the Ashford Hill Road narrows at Tanhouse Cottages in Headley. Cllr Rhatigan further suggested that vegetation be cut back in the same vicinity to aid drivers being able to see oncoming traffic. Cllr Parker would discuss this work with Cllr Dunn for the Lengthman's scheme to undertake, \*

Cllr Parker reported significant potholes associated with a road drain on the Ashford Hill Road, located at a dangerous bend of the road near to Goose Hill which Cllr Hoskins had previously reported online to the Highways' department.

The subject of pavements on the A339 being impassable because of vegetation and general road detritus was discussed again. At the suggestion of Cllr Rhatigan, the Clerk would enquire with the Highways' department as to the potential cost of a contractor undertaking such work, which could be funded from the Parish Council's receipt of CIL funding. \*

## 6. Planning Applications

23/01328/PIP – Land at Hillcroft, Newbury Road, Headley

- Permission in principle for the erection of a minimum of 1 no. detached dwelling & a maximum of 1 no. detached dwelling with detached garage - **Objection**

23/02317/RET – Springfield, Newbury Road, Headley

- Retrospective Planning Application for approval of 'as built' vehicular entrance gates, piers and flank walls serving agriculture barn/store – **No objection**

23/02353/FUL – Land at Pats Piece, Ram Alley, Ashford Hill

- Erection of 1 no. groom's dwelling on equestrian land - **Objection**

23/02343/HSE & 02344/LBC – 1 Tanhouse Cottages, Ashford Hill Road, Headley

- Erection of single storey side extension to an existing detached garage to form office – **No objection**

23/02437/HSE – Cherry Cottage, Holdrop Hill, Headley

- Erection of a single storey side extension – **No objection**

## 7. **Reports**

### **County Councillor**

Cllr Mellor's verbatim report:

#### **“HCC financial planning this autumn**

The financial challenges facing the County Council, and local government nationally, are well documented. Each year, it costs more to deliver public services, but the money received from central Government and council tax increases is not enough to meet the extra costs, which results in a deficit. High inflation and growing demand for local services means that in the two years up to the 2025/26 financial year, the budget shortfall is expected to rise considerably to £132m, one of the biggest deficits the County Council has ever faced.

Proposals this autumn set out options for how Hampshire County Council could close this budget gap and comes on top of over £0.6bn of spending reductions already delivered since the start of national austerity. Hampshire is in a better financial position than most other county councils, and while the Authority's finances are stable until 2025/26, future stability relies on central Government fundamentally changing the way that local government services are funded, or reducing what councils are legally required to deliver. In the absence of any immediate Government action in this regard, Hampshire County Council must plan on the basis of closing the budget gap itself, applying a combination of tactics to help balance the books, including changing and reducing services and delivering only those services which the council must legally provide. A final decision is to be made by the full county council in November. After this, some proposals may then be subject to furthermore detailed public consultation.

#### **Transforming in-house nursing and specialist care**

A ten-week public consultation is now underway on proposals that would see £173 million invested over the next five to six years to transform and expand the future of nursing and specialist accommodation directly provided by HCC for the county's growing older population. The proposals recommend concentrating on the delivery of specialist nursing care, complex dementia care and short-term support – to either prevent a hospital admission or support a hospital discharge, so ensuring care could be provided more cost effectively.

The proposals include building new nursing homes in Havant, Winchester and the New Forest, modernising and expanding care at existing homes in Basingstoke, Aldershot and Emsworth, withdrawing over time from the direct provision of residential care, with the closure of several of the council's older homes.

#### **Countryside Services - Parish Pages**

Parishes, town councils and other local groups may find the [Parish Pages](#) page on the HCC website a useful source of countryside information, including opportunities for grants and funding, information about Parish Pollinators, becoming a Volunteer, Countryside Canines and a guide to rights of way for parishes and communities. In addition, the Definitive Map is useful in identifying and locating rights of ways [www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/definitivemap](http://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/definitivemap)

### **Increased payments to local residents hosting Ukrainian families**

The county council has announced that it will be paying an extra £200 per month to all Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme, until the end of March 2024. This takes the monthly payment to £700, which is above the Government's current guidance for local authorities.

### **Funding to save the UK's rarest orchids**

Hampshire County Council has secured £98,000 funding from Natural England to help rare helleborine orchids to thrive. The conservation project aims to create protected habitats for the endangered plants at sites in East Hampshire.

### **New police stations for Hampshire**

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Donna Jones, has announced a plan to open ten more police stations and front counters over the next eighteen months, with the aim of increasing police visibility and making them more accessible to the public.

The number of police front counters will increase from 13 to 23, with new front counters in Cowes, Portsmouth Central, Park Gate, Petersfield, Totton, Ryde, Yateley, Eastleigh, Cosham and Gosport."

### **Borough Councillors reports**

Cllr Rhatigan provided the meeting with an update on the Planning Appeal hearing for land south of Holt Cottages in Ashford Hill regarding the planning application for the erection of 36 dwellings, held the previous week. The RAAD presentation to the Inspector had gone exceptionally well, which was primarily based on the lack of sustainability for an additional housing development, with a determining decision from the Inspector due by the end of the calendar year.

Cllr Bound reiterated his offer of funding for a picnic bench for the Community Shop in Headley, which would need to be applied for through an application to the Councillor by the Community Shop.

### **Parish Councillors**

Cllr Hoskins reported to the meeting on a number of footpaths that had been or were planned to be cleared by the volunteer group. Cllr Hoskins also reported on the successful bid for funding for new equipment and training from the County Council.

8. **Recess**

The idea of a hard court for ball games, such as volleyball and netball, at the Headley recreation ground was discussed and received the support of the Councillors present. The Clerk was requested to enquire with Cllr Morrow as to the potential funding of such a facility from the Borough Council. \*

Whilst the control of heavy goods vehicles using local roads, that may have prohibited usage, was a police authority matter, it was suggested that the culpable companies were written to by residents to express their dissatisfaction with such a practice.

9. **Financial statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £24,563.74

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £25,233.16

The second and final instalment of the Precept - £18,775 – had been received.

These figures are provisional as bank statements for September have not yet been received to verify these figures.

10. **Accounts for approval & payment**

K&M Traffic Surveys – Automatic traffic survey for Ashford Hill - £1106.40

Scofell Commercial Landscapes – Grounds maintenance - £1359.07

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.16pm.