



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19th JANUARY 2026

The meeting started at 7.25pm in the absence of members of the public.

Present

Councillors Mr S Hoskins (Chair), Mr S Dunn (Vice Chair), Mr G Allwright, Mr J Woodford, Mr K Rhatigan and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

Cllr Mellor, Cllr Bound and Cllr Morrow were also present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Parker.

2. Declaration of interest

None.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th December 2025 were approved by the Chair and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Matters arising & Outstanding Action Points

Cllr Dunn confirmed that 3 additional litter bins had been allocated to the recreation ground in Headley and would be delivered at the end of February 2026. *

Cllr Morrow's report contained correspondence with the Environment Agency regarding the waste overflow for the new housing development in Ashford Hill.

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Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that arrangements were being made for a consultant to attend a meeting to discuss the installation of a pétanque facility on Ashford Hill recreation ground. *

It was decided that the replacement of the tree saplings on land near to the Oakfield estate in Ashford Hill was not necessary. Subsequently, Cllr Gallagher agreed to contact the management company of the estate to establish what their responsibilities are regarding managing the communal grounds around the estate. *

Cllr Hoskins confirmed that the new SID for Headley would be installed at the earliest opportunity. *

5. Co-option of a Councillor for Ashford Hill

Cllr Hoskins introduced Mr Jon Gallagher as a prospective Parish Councillor who had recently been interviewed for the Office of Parish Councillor for Ashford Hill. Cllr Hoskins was pleased to propose the co-option of Mr Gallagher as a Parish Councillor for Ashford Hill which was seconded by Cllr Rhatigan. Mr Gallagher was asked by the Chair to join the meeting, and Mr Gallagher duly signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' form which was countersigned by the Council's Proper Officer. The Chair welcomed Cllr Gallagher to the Parish Council.

6. Report from Cllr Allwright regarding the MUGA survey reports

Cllr Allwright's verbatim report;

"In total there were 108 responses, most of which answered every question. (Online and paper)

This is a very high response rate 19%, there were 577 surveys sent out by mail to both villages.

This is a very large response and very encouraging that so many of our residents are keen to use it as part of their health and sports routines. Some residents will also be keen to give something 'new go'. Many responders mentioned children's use of the MUGA, and this is one of the key reasons for the parish council looking to provide the facility. Of the 108 replies, 91 said there would be at least one person in the household wanting to use the MUGA. 17 did not reply to this question. We can assume from this that at least 85% of responders are in favour of the MUGA being provided for our community.

56 responders gave their contact details to be kept informed (only 3 of these were "negative").

During the planning process we have satisfied the requirements for parking, noise level, hours of use, lighting, environmental aspects, and the continued availability of the grass football area.

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The suggested uses will be considered in the discussions and agreement with the build consultant should we decide to go ahead. This will most likely include the markings for pickleball, tennis, 5 a-side and basketball.

It is very encouraging that some local teams and classes are keen to use the MUGA, along with possibly Ashford Hill School.

The parish council can also, in time, examine the suggestions for a path suitable for running and children's cycling, an outdoor gym and other facilities as part of the recreation ground."

Cllr Allwright's report included the results from the survey which it was agreed by Councillors to be published on the Parish Council's website. *

Councillors were unanimous in their opinion that the results of the MUGA survey supported the decision which had been conditionally approved as Part 3 of the MUGA project proposal at the September 2025 meeting of the Council, namely;

"Part 3. To agree to the appointment of an external specialist Consultant to undertake a 'design' stage and a 'competitive tendering' stage for the project at a cost of £3500, conditional upon the Parish Council satisfying itself of a satisfactory projected level of consistent usage of such a facility, through the results of a professional questionnaire/survey as detailed as Part 1 of the proposal as detailed above."

The Clerk further reported that dependent upon the timing of the receipt of the results of the competitive and public tendering process from the appointed specialist consultant, a final vote by Parish Councillors would take place to determine whether the MUGA project should proceed.

Cllr Woodford enquired as to the level of public liability insurance that the specialist consultant had, and Cllr Allwright agreed to enquire into the question. *

Following a question by Cllr Gallagher, Cllr Allwright confirmed that a MUGA installation would take about 12 weeks to complete.

Following a question from Cllr Rhatigan, the Clerk confirmed that the funding for a potential MUGA installation was in place via Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding and retained in a separate 'capital expenditure' account, separate from the 'operational' bank accounts of the Council. The 'capital expenditure' account was established to fund several potential community projects because of receiving CIL funding from housing development companies that had built estates and developments in both villages. The Clerk further reported that if the MUGA project were to proceed, it would be made clear to Councillors as to how the project would be funded from existing CIL funds, dependent upon the receipt of the results of a final competitive and public tendering being approved by Councillors and affordable from the funding currently available.

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7. Highways issues

No new issues were raised.

8. Planning Applications

25/02917/HSE & 25/01466/FUL– Home Farm Lodge, Newbury Road, Headley

- Construction of garage block ancillary to main dwelling
- Construction of storage barn

No objection

9. Ashford Hill Play Area Project Subcommittee Report

Cllr Rhatigan agreed to circulate to Cllr Allwright and Cllr Parker some dates to meet on site with a pétanque consultant and to discuss options. Ideas for consideration included the game of pétanque, concrete table tennis, adult gym equipment and grouped picnic tables for small gatherings. *

10. Reports

County Councillor

Cllr Mellor confirmed that due to the recent heavy levels of rainfall, the repairs to existing potholes on the county's highways had been delayed. Cllr Mellor further encouraged the use of the reporting portal that HCC operated which was very effective in allocating the repairs to the relevant personnel.

Cllr Rhatigan sought Cllr Mellor's advice as how best to report the significant number of road repairs that he had identified on the B3051 in Ashford Hill which included faults that needed to be attended to by certain utility companies. Cllr Rhatigan agreed to photograph the highway faults on the B3051 and to report them to HCC's portal designed for reporting such repairs. *

Cllr Mellor further reported on the County Council's 'Lanes Rental' scheme which would charge utility companies for the time they occupied highways and public pavements while these companies carried out their works.

Cllr Mellor reported on the local government reforms taking place in the county where 29 councils had requested further time for the arrangements to be discussed and evolved.

Next year's budget for the County Council needed to be determined mid-February as the period of election purdah would be starting in March.

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Borough Councillors

Cllr Morrow's verbatim report;

“Elections

Devolution (election of a Mayor for Hampshire and the Solent) has been delayed for at least two years. Despite the government offering up the opportunity, the Borough Council administration has been crystal clear that we do not want the local elections to be cancelled. So we expect to have Borough and County elections this May.

Sewage outlet into drainage ditch at the entrance to the water meadows

Thanks to Cllr Woodford's reminder, I chased the environment agency and got the following response:

I'm Senior Environment Officer Richard Spiers from the Environment Agency, the government environmental/pollution regulator. I just wanted to let you know that my colleagues and I visited the private sewage outfalls from the various housing estates in Ashford Hill on the 6th of January. We have familiarised ourselves with the outfalls and took some photographs and water samples.

We will be contacting the relevant discharge permit holders to ask them to clarify which outfall their sewage discharges to and ask them to clarify how and where the outfall was constructed. I will communicate with the permit holder and ask them to arrange for the outfall to be redirected to the Baughurst Brook instead of the small ditch by the nature reserve entrance as necessary.

I will send a follow up email asking for a report on any actions that are required and if there were any harmful levels in the water samples.

Reg 18 Consultation ends Friday 23rd January 2026 until 5pm

Local Plan Draft Spatial Strategy have your say!

The council is consulting on the Local Plan 2024 to 2042: Draft Spatial Strategy (Regulation 18 consultation). The consultation is your chance to get involved in shaping the future of the borough, including where homes, employment land and infrastructure should be planned for in the future.

It's your last chance to input into the consultation and voice your opinions and local knowledge.

Youth Council and Youth facilities

We have started a Youth Council in Tadley. Details can be found on the TTC website. So far they have attended Christmas fetes selling Christmas decorations and have plans to start a Warhammer club and create a mural in a prominent location in Tadley. Please spread the word to young people in Ashford Hill. 24 Swan Street is also taking steps towards their goal to become a youth hub and youth clubs are run from the Fieldgate Centre and Tadley District Community Association. “

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Chair of the Parish Council

The Chair reported that the Council had been approached by a housing development company called ‘Pro Vision’ on behalf of their client concerning their plans for a housing development within the parish. The Council had replied to the company’s request to make a presentation to the Council with the ‘stock’ response that the Council does not comment on prospective planning applications until they are presented formally through the planning application process.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Dunn had attended the pre-planting meeting with NP Tree Management to discuss the locations for the root ball saplings that will be planted on the perimeter of the Headley recreation ground. It had been decided not to replace the vandalised saplings on communal land near to the Oakfield development in Ashford Hill as the ground’s condition was not suitable and the grounds maintenance issues related to the estate were the responsibility of the estate’s management company who were obviously not investing in the maintenance of the grounds as Cllr Dunn reported on the unsatisfactory condition of the communal grounds surrounding the estate. Cllr Gallagher as a resident of the estate would enquire with the grounds maintenance company as to the agreed specification for the maintenance of the grounds within the estate, copying the Clerk into his correspondence with the company. *

11. Recess

There were no members of the public present to raise any issues with the Chair.

12. Financial statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £1,518.62

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £37,538.96

13. Payments for approval and payment

Hampshire County Council – Planning pre-application for additional parking in Thornford Road, Headley - £1,966.80 – **PAID**

Austin Lebbon Architecture Ltd – Feasibility, design & planning pre-application for additional parking in Thornford Road, Headley - £780.00 – **PAID**

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Social Engine Ltd – MUGA survey, design & support - £1488.00

EDF – Electrical supply to Headley Pavilion - £125.38

Ashford Hill Cricket Club – Contribution to cost of Club’s external defibrillator - £100.00

NP Tree Management Ltd – Supply & planting of 28 no. root ball saplings - £3306.00

K T Design – Quarterly PC’s website management fee - £300.00

Ady Miles Services - Supply and fabrication of 9 no. bollards for Headley recreation ground perimeter - £1053.00

The Chair declared the meeting closed 8.40pm.

DRAFT