



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th JUNE 2025

The meeting opened with a presentation from Cllr Paul Harvey, Leader of the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council concerning the issues relating to pending devolution of local Councils followed by a Q&A session with Parish Councillors and members of the public.

Present

Councillors Mr S Hoskins (Chair), Mrs K Saunders (Vice Chair), Mrs K Parker, Mr J Sunley and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

Cllrs Mellor, Harvey, Bound, Morrow, Conquest and members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Woodford, Dunn and Rhatigan.

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr Parker declared an interest in an application for the de-registration of common land in Mill Green, Headley.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th May 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Matters arising & Outstanding Action Points

Cllr Sunley had previously circulated a collation of the results of the allotments questionnaires which had been discussed briefly at a previous meeting. The results would be advertised and advice sought accordingly from BDBC as to the next steps of the potential project. *

Cllr Sunley had undertaken a trial run of the new ANPR equipment in conjunction with Ms Stacey Power. Conforming with all the appropriate guidelines and regulations, there had been a detection of 16 vehicles exceeding the speed limit by more than 20% within one hour of the equipment being operated. The recorded data would be sent to the police authority for the purposes of issuing warning letters to the offending drivers. Cllr Sunley would now liaise with Cllr Parker as to a date for training volunteers in Headley to operate the equipment. * Cllr Sunley suggested that the equipment be operational once a week in each village.

Cllr Hoskins and Cllr Parker further had further agreed to discuss the options available to advertise the underutilised use of the Headley Pavilion. *

Cllr Dunn was pursuing alternative quotes for the additional parking spaces at the Headley recreation ground. *

Cllr Woodford had previously raised a staffing issue which was still to be addressed at a meeting with Cllr Woodford and Cllr Rhatigan. *

The notification of a broken footpath sign by Old Lane in Ashford Hill was being dealt with by the Chair. *

The new covered bin for Ashford Hill recreation ground was awaiting a decision by Cllr Rhatigan as to its location. *

5. Highways

The Chair reported that the “wonky” beware bends sign on A339 just south of Cheam School was still not repaired. The Chair asked Cllr Mellor if he had any further feedback on the recent road traffic accident at the crossroads of Thornford Road and the Ashford Hill Road, but Cllr Mellor could not provide any additional information.

Cllr Woodford had reported that a Thames Water access manhole-cover had been replaced at ‘Pam’s Bridge’ on the B3051, a fire hydrant leak on Chapel Lane had been fixed by Southern Water, roadside drains have been cleared out on the B3051, and white road markings had been replaced at the B3051/C111 junction. Cllr Woodford further reported that the C111/B3051 junction was still not repaired, and the previous ‘patching’ was breaking up again.

6. Planning Applications

25/01176/HSE – Meadow House, Wheathold, Ashford Hill

- Construction of an outdoor swimming pool, pool house & associated works

25/01344/5/HSE/LBC – Meadow House, Wheathold, Ashford Hill

- Erection of a single storey extension and internal/external alterations to existing house

25/01090/LBC – Pitt House Farm, Little Knowl Hill, Ashford Hill

- Reconstruction of cart shed following damage and collapse

25/01337/OUT - Land opposite Limewood Farm, Ashford Hill Road, Ashford Hill

- Outline application for the provision of up to 45 dwellings and a flexible workspace/community hub building together with new access road from Ashford Hill Road with access for consideration (landscaping, scale, siting and appearance as reserved matters)

25/01343/HSE – Spring Cottage, Millgreen Lane, Mill Green, Headley

- Erection of a single storey extension / Replacement annexe building
- Replacement of annexe building

25/01339/RET – April Farm Stud, Common Road, Headley

- Retrospective retentions as per the planning application

HCC /01/25 – Land situated at Mill Green, Headley

- “Application to deregister land wrongly registered as common land”

7. Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2024/2025

The Clerk had previously forwarded the completed Annual Return and associated documentation to Councillors. Following an explanatory context by the Clerk, the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements were proposed to be approved by the Council by Cllr Saunders and seconded by Cllr Sunley, with all other Councillors present in favour by a show of hands. The Chair and Clerk signed the appropriate declarations including the ‘Conflict of Interest with BDO LLP’ form.

8. Reports

County Councillor

Cllr Mellor outlined to members of the public the highlights of his annual report which would be available on the Parish Council’s website.

Borough Councillors

Cllr Bound had sent a report to Parish Councillors covering several different issues which would be of interest generally.

Cllr Morrow had successfully liaised with the Environment Agency, who had confirmed that the termination points of treated wastewater into the Enborne River in Ashford Hill, which served the new housing development, was in the incorrect position. The Agency would be contacting the housing developer to inform them that they would need to rectify the matter. Cllr Morrow explained several social events related to the performing arts which were being hosted by the Borough Council.

Cllr Conquest informed the meeting that the grant scheme managed at the discretion of Councillors had re-opened and Councillors were ready to receive requests from local organisations. Cllr Conquest was pleased to inform the meeting that the Borough Council had endorsed a measure to protect local rivers by its adoption of a policy entitled “Rights of Rivers”.

Chair of the Parish Council’s report

Multi Use Games Area

The Chair reported on the planning application for a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) on the Headley recreation ground that had been approved by the Development Control Committee on 14 May 2025. The next steps by the Parish Council are being planned to include the professional compilation and widespread distribution of a usage survey to determine the potential volume of use for such a facility and further work is to be undertaken on the competitive tendering stage of the project to determine a final project cost based on agreed specifications. Councillors at the September meeting of the Parish Council would vote on proceeding with these stages of the feasibility of the project.

S106 Developer Contributions – Play and open public spaces

The Chair and Cllr Parker had met with a supplier of sensory play panels suitable for children with additional needs in the form of finger mazes, comms boards etc. The Parish Council would be proceeding with two panels each at Headley and Ashford Hill playgrounds and would be installed in June.

Headley Pavilion

Maintenance work on wooden panelling has been undertaken but there was still a need to advertise the facility.

Parish Council Notice Boards

The new boards had been ordered and are to be installed in June.

Car Parking - Thornford Road

Cllr Dunn’s 3 projects proposals were being progressed.

Tree Management

Replacement saplings would not be planted before the autumn.

Headley Recreation Ground Football Pitch

The Chair had contacted Cheam School to see if they can assist with the grass re-seeding the goal mouths, but they have today advised they are short-handed although would donate us seed and topsoil.

Ashford Hill School Car Park Path

The Clerk would be writing to the Head Teacher of the Ashford Hill primary school to express the Parish Council's concern over health and safety issues relating to the use of the car park opposite the school.

Ashford Hill Car Park Barrier Repair

The matter was being progressed.

Ashford Hill Recreation Ground – New Waste Bin

The bin had been delivered but its location was yet to be advised.

Common Land - Mill Green

Any representations in respect of this application must be received by the County Council by 04 July 2025. The Clerk will be drafting a representation stating the Parish Council's concerns of any potential housing development if the status of the land was de-registered.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Woodford had reported that the Ashford Hill recreational ground and playground looked to be in good repair. The moving of the football goalmouths should help the grass to recover. Post meeting, it had been confirmed that the Ashford Hill Cricket Club had kindly agreed to grass re-seed the goalmouths when the weather conditions were favourable. Cllr Woodford had spoken with the Playgroup leader about their toys being left out in the enclosed fenced play area behind the cricket club building and it had been agreed they might look 'appealing to borrow' by others. The playgroup at the end of each evening is tidying them up and at weekends will secure them in their lockup or outbuilding.

Clerk to the Council

Having received the approval of the Chair, the Clerk proposed that the Parish Council completed the replacement of the old benches on the Ashford Hill recreation ground by purchasing an additional 3 new benches which would replace the existing old benches. This would be at a cost of £1965 plus installation costs of £667; all funded from CIL funding. The Chair proposed the expenditure which was seconded by Cllr Sunley.

A company had provided the Clerk with a condition report on the 5 bus shelters in Headley and provided a quote to clean the shelters at a total cost of £250. Furthermore, a quote from Adrian Miles to repair timbers, internal roof felting repairs and to preserve the new and old timbers at wooden shelter opposite the Ashford Hill Rd on the A339 at a total cost of £532 had been received. The Chair proposed the expenditure which was seconded by Cllr Parker.

The Clerk quoted from email exchanges with Cllr Woodford:

“For the past 10 + years Ashford Hill have had two SIDs one facing towards Kingsclere and the other facing towards Tadley in the same location which is at the heart of the village as it the only location permitted due to Hampshire highways permission. Both being in use have helped significantly to slow the traffic. One of the SIDs was sent away for repair as it was not working but unfortunately cannot be repaired.”

It was proposed by Cllr Woodford to purchase a new Speed Indicator Device - EVOLIS SOLAR-MOBILE Pack model. It has solar charging as standard, the device records traffic information in both directions, this will be useful if the Parish Council ever needed to prove what the traffic volumes and speeds are in Ashford Hill. It was the most cost-effective unit at £2,500 when compared to the unit cost provided by 2 alternative companies. The Chair had seconded the proposal with support from Cllr Sunley.

The Clerk reported that the Chair had kindly agreed to be the Parish Council's representative on AWE's Local Liaison Committee.

9. **Recess**

Discussion ensued between residents of Mill Green and the Chair regarding their concern over an application made by the landowner of common land at Mill Green which was requesting that land be de-registered.

10. **Financial statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at ££987.26

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £52,426.75

11. **Accounts for approval & payment**

Mr S Marshall – Clerk's salary – July – September 2025 & Expenses - £4,879.73

Mrs S Kemp – Litter Warden's salary – July – September 2025 - £1,074.33

Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden's salary – July – September 2025 - £561.81

De Musson – Website review report - £350.00

Mr Adrian Miles – External redecoration of Headly Pavilion - £465.00

Gallagher Insurance Brokers – Annual insurance premium - £1,650.55

Scofell – Recreation grounds maintenance – May- July 2025 - £4,394.49

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.