



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10th MARCH 2025

Present

Councillors Mrs K Saunders (Acting Chair), Mr S Dunn, Mr K Rhatigan, Mr J Sunley, Mr J Woodford and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

Cllr Bound, Cllr Morrow, Cllr Conquest and members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from the Chair; Cllr Hoskins, Cllr Mellor and Cllr Parker.

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 10th February 2025 were approved and signed by the Acting Chair.

4. Matters arising & Outstanding Action Points

Cllr Sunley had previously circulated a collation of the results of the allotments questionnaires which were discussed briefly at the meeting. The results would be advertised and advice sought accordingly from BDBC. *

Cllr Sunley was yet to arrange a trial run of the new ANPR equipment in conjunction with Cllr Parker. Cllr Sunley confirmed that he had completed a 'user guide' for the use of the equipment. *

Cllr Morrow had received the following response to his enquiry regarding the sewerage system for the new housing development in Ashford Hill from BDBC's Compliance & Delivery team;

“The approved foul water drainage strategy for the site does connect into the B3051 and then up to discharge at the brook at the north end of the village. To be allowed to discharge treated waters the developer required a permit for the Environment Agency outside of the planning process. This was secured and submitted to the council as part of the details submitted with their drainage plans.

The developer confirmed that the works undertaken on the B3051 previously were the installation of foul water rising main to discharge treated effluent to the brook at the north end of the village (subject of the EA permit).

So, from what we have looked into there does not appear to be any breach of planning. If there are concerns locally regarding discharge into the brook, then this would be a matter to raise directly with the Environment Agency to ensure that there is compliance with the permit they have issued.”

The Acting Chair expressed her appreciation to Cllr Morrow for his investigation into the matter and Cllr Morrow confirmed that he would monitor the situation to ensure the appropriate compliance is met.

Cllr Woodford had met the Site Manager of Antler Homes at the new Ashford Hill housing development that day, who had confirmed the following;

- There are no further works required by Antler Homes for draining within Ashford Hill (Waste and Storm water) - all is completed
- There is no agreement or arrangements with Persimmon Homes and Antler Homes as Antler Homes never connected to the waste processing plant belonging to Persimmon Homes

This conclusion hopefully means the road surface in Ashford Hill is what is going to be left by both housing developers as they consider their works are discharged.

It was agreed that the Parish Council via its Chair would pursue the prospect of now being able to plan for the resurfacing of the B3051. *

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

As a result of several discussions, the Clerk could report that the following had been agreed upon regarding the review of the provision of publicly accessible noticeboards within the parish;

- Cheam School had very kindly agreed to provide a new noticeboard and install it opposite the Community Shop in Headley
- The Ashford Hill Village Hall Management Committee had very kindly agreed to have the new noticeboard located in the position of the current noticeboard which will be removed

Cllr Rhatigan expressed his concern over the safety of some of the existing wooden equipment because of its slippery condition in wet weather. Cllr Dunn agreed to raise the issue with the Borough Council's playground inspection team. *

Cllr Dunn had confirmed with the contractor that the water-based markings of certain trees on Headley recreation ground would dissipate within 90 days.

5. **Highways**

There were no issues raised other than the resurfacing of the B3051 covered under Matters Arising.

6. **Planning Applications**

25/00255/OUT– Land adjoining Hillside House, Ashford Hill Road, Headley

- Erection of 1 no. dwelling, detached garage and associated landscaping

25/00269/RES –Neats House, Common Road, Headley

- Approval of Reserved Matters following outline consent – 21/01867/OUT pursuant to the appearance, landscaping and scale for the erection of two detached dwellings

25/00250/ROC – Paddock land at Woodlands Park Farm, Ram Alley, Ashford Hill

- Variation of condition 1 of 24/02259/ROC to include a domestic garage and workshop

7. **Reports**

Borough Councillors

Cllr Bound had provided Parish Councillors with a useful summary of the schedule of BDBC meetings and debates regarding the various stages of the proposed devolution process.

Cllr Morrow reported to the meeting the free live music initiative 'Listen Up' which was being held on Saturday 29 March from 2pm until 8pm in Basingstoke's town centre.

Cllr Conquest reported to the meeting that the BDBC's budget for 2025/2026 had been approved, and the 'green team' provision had been maintained within next year's budget that provided advice and guidance on 'green issues' within the borough.

Chair of the Parish Council's report

On behalf of the Chair, the Clerk reported on several issues. The Chair would be circulating a letter to residents with April's edition of the Parish Magazine aimed at communicating the work of the Parish Council to residents.

The letter would also explain that even if planning permission was granted for the Mult Use Games Area on Headley recreation ground, further consultation with residents would be sought to ensure that the facility would have sufficient usage now and into the future. The decision regarding the planning permission status was still pending with the planning department of BDBC.

The problem of moles disturbing the surface of the playing field on Headley recreation ground was being investigated by the Clerk.

Following significant sponsorship by the Parish Council for the purchase of roll-on protective covers for Ashford Hill Cricket Club, the Parish Council would be renewing the land lease agreement with the Ashford Hill Cricket Club for another 7 years from 2025 and maintaining the level of 'peppercorn rent'.

There was a delay in giving the go ahead for the installation of a pedestrian path in the Ashford Hill car park opposite the primary school as the Parish Council needed to establish the appropriate permissions.

Councillors had received and reviewed a summary of the 4 quotes received for the remedial works on specific trees on the recreation grounds as identified by an arborist's survey recently commissioned by the Parish Council; the survey itself having been published on the Parish Council's website. The consensus amongst Councillors was to award the work to RAW Tree Services being the lowest quote received as well as being a locally based business. Work on trees on both recreation grounds will start on Monday 17 March and is advertised as such on the website.

Kingsclere U9's Football Team would be using the Headley recreation ground on Saturday mornings for a 2-month trial period.

The Chair had requested the Clerk to explore the prospect of the Parish Council having a logo to be used on its website, minutes, letters and reports as well as being used by clubs and organisations which are supported by the Parish Council. 5 design options will be presented to Councillors to express their preferences or otherwise.

Twelve new benches/picnic tables for the recreation grounds have been delivered and arrangements are in place to have them secured into the ground, financed from S106 funding – funding contributed by housing developers from local housing schemes.

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Monday 14 April 2025 at Headley Village Hall at 7.30pm. This event is an opportunity for clubs, organisations and event organisers to explain to the Councillors the work and/or activities that the club or organisation undertakes on behalf of the community of Ashford Hill and Headley. The Annual Parish Meeting also requests annual reports from our County and Borough Councillors as well as the Chair of the Parish Council.

The meeting was also reminded of a meeting with Mr Paul Harvey, Leader and Chief Executive of BDBC on Monday 9 June 2025 from 7.00pm until 7.30pm at Headley Village Hall.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Dunn confirmed that irrespective of the outcome of the planning permission application for the MUGA on Headley recreation ground, the costs for permanent additional parking to serve users of Headley recreation ground would be sought. *

Cllr Woodford had previously raised a staffing issue which was still ongoing in his opinion, and it was agreed to discuss the matter outside of the meeting.

Whilst Cllr Woodford welcomed the Parish Council's decision to freeze the level of Precept for 2025/2026, the Councillor pointed out that due to the increase in the number of households who pay Council tax due to the housing developments, the amount paid by individual households towards the Parish Council's Precept had been reduced.

Cllr Woodford expressed his concern over the irresponsible behaviour of a minority of users of woodlands in Ashford Hill who leave behind them their discarded litter.

8. Recess

Discussion ensued between members of the public and Parish Councillors regarding a number of minor issues which would be addressed as a result of constructive dialogue.

9. Financial statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £473.83.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £29,718.09.

10. Accounts for approval & payment

Scofell Landscapes – Tree surveys on recreation grounds / Tree impact assessment ref.
MUGA application - £1224.00 / £1036.80

HMRC – Employee tax contributions - £1381.56

H.E.S – External lighting improvements on the Headley Pavilion - £557.84 - PAID

The Acting Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.