

## **ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

#### **Present**

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

County Cllr Mellor, Cllr Bound, Cllr Morrow were also present together with members of the public.

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Conquest, Cllr Saunders and Mr S Marshall, the Clerk.

#### **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 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

#### **4. Matters arising & Outstanding Action Points**

Outstanding action points included;

- Potential allotments site in Ashford Hill

Cllr Rhatigan met with the Clerk of Kingsclere Parish Council and discussed the work involved in getting these up and running as they have been through this exercise.

The Parish Council had sent Cllr Rhatigan some information on the questions they had asked when surveying residents and it was suggested that this would be the next step for this Parish Council. Gauging views of residents for positives along with any concerns, as well as any specific requirements e.g. maybe a designated 'DROP OFF' area for any car trips bringing heavier items to site that could be used for a few minutes at a time – but NOT parking. Cllr Sunley requested that Cllr Rhatigan forward this information to him so he can collate into a format including a 'Google Maps' picture of the proposed site for all Councillors to further discuss and approve a format to use. Also to agree on if canvassing views from Ashford Hill only or also from Headley. Cllrs Rhatigan and Sunley would work together after the meeting and report back to all for approval before any survey is distributed. \*

- Use of new APNR equipment

Cllr Sunley explained that he plans a run of the equipment once the current roadworks at the junction of Ashford Hill Road and the B3051 are completed which should be this week, therefore looking at running w/c 18<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Parker asked to be included in this which was welcomed, and Cllr Sunley will speak to Cllr Parker to confirm a date to do this together. \*

- Cllr Rhatigan responded to Cllr Woodford's query regarding whether the termination of the drainage installed by the bridge in Ashford Hill which is the reason for the current roadworks is adequate or indeed in line with planning (as this stops short of the brook and flows into a pipe that has been known to block in the past before the addition of the new intended use) and Cllr Rhatigan said he didn't have the information at present but would look into this and report back to the Parish Council. \*
- Cllr Woodford had shared photos with Cllr Dunn of the hedge in need of cutting back in the Ashford Hill playground by the lengthman's staff.

## 5. **Highways**

Cllr Hoskins had reported the sunken manhole cover on the A339 outside Catts Cottages. Cllr Dunn had already reported a new pothole by Tan House Cottages.

Cllr Sunley noted that the current roadworks in Ashford Hill for the drainage connection for the Antler Home estate mentioned earlier should be completed this week.

## 6. **Planning Applications**

24/02422/TDC – Plum Tree Farm, Galley Lane, Headley

- Technical details consent for the erection of 3 no. dwellings including the retention of the existing dwelling following demolition of agricultural buildings in accordance with approval 23/01037/PIP

***Original objection reiterated***

24/02232/HSE – Folly Farmhouse, Thornford Road, Headley

- Erection of a single storey rear extension and side extension with porch
- New gabled dormers, replacement windows and new porch to front door

***No objection***

24/02334/HSE – Beaumont, Chapel Lane, Ashford Hill

- Construction of a new large single garage

***No objection***

## 7. **Reports**

### **County Councillor's report**

Cllr Mellor had previously sent a report through to the members of the Parish Council which had been safely received. This was quite detailed and included commentary on spending and budgets and what seems like the cancellation of plans for a new hospital in Basingstoke. A report from HCC was attached covering Highways so there was no need to repeat this. The previous week's Highways Newsletter reported on gutter clearing due to Autumn leaf falls. Cllr Mellor thanked Cllr Sunley for previously forwarding a copy of the Antler Home hand delivered letter regarding the current Ashford Hill roadworks which he had not seen previously and commented on the content.

Comment was made about it being worth chasing up Roads Policing to ensure after ANPR Camera sessions are carried out that they do indeed follow up those who are reported for excessive speed to ensure the sessions are worthwhile, as it seems in some districts follow-ups have not been happening.

### **Borough Councillors**

Cllr Bound had previously sent a report through to the members of the Parish Council which had been safely received. Recent work with parishioners had been mostly outside of Ashford Hill or Headley as our area has been quiet for any raised problems or needs. Feedback was given on the full council meeting at Basingstoke with an interesting note that the purchase of Manydown had been completed so the chosen development partner can commence with some of the infrastructure needed before houses can start to be built (a positive to cover some of the housing quota for the Borough). Many other meetings were also attended and summarised.

Cllr Morrow spoke to deliver his report. The 2025/26 Budget was out for consultation and comments are welcome before the 3<sup>rd</sup> January deadline for these. Some increased grants were raised that are for investment in front line services and an explanation of the 'Make a Difference Team' who can be used for clearing up any areas owned by BDBC that need attention was given. There are also Council Community Grants available for Voluntary Groups (Capital Items) and Cllr Morrow asked for those present to try and think of any that subsequently may wish to apply. The 'Green Team' is to be made permanent after a successful trial and can advise residents with home visits on topics such as biodiversity in gardens or insulation of homes.

Cllr Morrow mentioned his support for the proposed 'MUGA' at Headley and that a positive comment has been made on the planning portal website.

## **Chair of the Parish Council's report**

- MUGA project – A meeting was held at Headley Pavillion on 28<sup>th</sup> October at the request of residents for further communications and questions about the project. It was felt that some people's behaviour at the meeting was rude and aggressive which the Parish Councillors who attended the meeting felt should be noted in the Parish Council meeting minutes. Questions were answered to the best of the ability of those present (Councillors and Mr Geoff Allwright) but the tone of questioning from some residents was not very pleasant and no compelling reasons were given by the vocal objectors as to why the project could not go ahead. We now await the verdict of the planning application which has several comments for and against showing online.

Cllr Dunn added that a lot of work and time has gone into this project by a number of people who all do this voluntarily and without payment, and some of the comments made on the evening really were not called for and not helpful.

Cllr Sunley added that having also been in attendance and surprised at the behaviour of some of the objectors but also very impressed with the teenager who stood up (unprompted we should add) to speak on behalf of the youngsters of the village and how much he felt the proposed new facility would be used by him and his peers.

- Cllr Rhatigan and Cllr Parker have had issues with their Parish Council e-mail addresses, but these should now be working fine. Cllr Hoskins asked that Cllrs check their PC emails regularly and reply quickly where requested.
- Remembrance Day Ceremonies were held at both Ashford Hil and Headley which were well received. Although sadly there was an incident with a rude motorist who took umbrage at the temporary halting of traffic by the Ashford Hill Memorial, revving his engine and then getting out of his car and shouting 'how long are you going to be' whilst the ceremony was taking place. Cllr Woodford went to speak to him whilst the ceremony continued and was met with abuse. Cllr Sunley went to speak to him as the ceremony ended to make his feelings also known (politely, unlike the motorist). A photo was taken of the car and number plate and contact details are to be confirmed for the local community Policing team to forward these on in case they feel they can follow this up. This did not stop the ceremony continuing but was a sad interruption for what is at most 10 minutes out of someone's day once a year to remember and respect those who fought for us.

- S106 Developer Contributions – ‘Play and open public space’

Contact has been made by Sara-Jayne Eustace, Project Assistant at B&D Borough Council, with a meeting date provisionally reserved 22/11/24 2.30pm at Headley Pavillion for her and a Colleague to meet with Parish Councillors to discuss the use of funds, which would then likely move on to Ashford Hill afterwards. It was asked if any Parish Councillors could attend.

Cllr Morrow added that you must get funds ‘allocated’ to make them safe from later withdrawal if developers ask for them back based on not having been used.

Cllr Rhatigan added a suggestion of a hard standing ‘pull in’ for parking by the Ashford Hill SSSI that would be suitable for Disabled Access which could be a good option, albeit technically this may fall outside of the Parish Council’s usual remit.

Cllr Dunn added a suggestion of ‘Park Gym’ equipment such as can be found on Tadley Common, and a query of whether these are deemed as ‘temporary structures’ or not so if planning permission would be needed to install these. Maybe this could be a good use of some S106 money. Cllr Sunley added that he regularly sees the ones in Tadley being used when driving past.

- Headley Pavillion.

A proposal was made to slightly increase hire rates after noting figures for comparison for Ashford Hill Village Hall and Headley Village Hall and this was accepted (move to £10 per hour and £55 for parties). Also raised was the topic of installing some external lighting at the Pavillion for safe access after daylight hours. It was agreed that Cllr Hoskins would obtain some quotes for installing external lighting. \*

Finally, more advertising was suggested for the Pavillion being available to hire with the aim of spiking interest. \*

- Ashford Hill Cricket Club

A meeting had been arranged with Cricket Club representatives, the Chair of the Parish Council, Ashford Hill Parish Councillors and the Parish Council Clerk to discuss the renewal of the Club’s tenancy agreement with the Parish Council. The meeting was scheduled for 7.00pm on Monday 20 January 2025 at Ashford Hill Village Hall. The agenda would be discussed beforehand by Ashford Hill Parish Councillors and the Chair at 6.30pm on Monday 13 January 2025, before the usual Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm.

- As has become a tradition, at the end of next month's December Parish Council meeting 'drinks and nibbles' are to be offered to attendees. Cllr Parker has kindly agreed to source these, and Parish Councillors would be funding the event.

### **Parish Councillors**

Cllr Rhatigan – Apologies were given for not being able to attend the Headley 'MUGA' meeting and explanation was given of the planning application process from now on. The application will go to a committee considering the number of objections raised, and those both for and against will be able to speak at this committee meeting so this will be an additional opportunity to raise points for and against in a public forum. It was felt that due to current planning backlogs this may not be until February 2025. A report will be issued beforehand noting the date and time of the committee meeting and publicised. Those who have logged comments should get an e-mail advising them when the date and time are announced.

In relation to the above Cllr Hoskins noted that some grant funding secured for the MUGA project if it proceeds is time limited and in danger of being lost, so out of courtesy Cllr Hoskins would inform the grant issuers of this possibility.

Cllr Rhatigan was due to meet with Cllr Harvey (the Leader of the Borough Council) regarding central government changes which potentially may impact on the Local Plan in relation to planning and Cllr Rhatigan would report back to the Parish Council. \*

Mention was made of the Friday night Quiz Night that was held at Headley Community Shop which was a great success and raised £700.

Cllr Parker requested that the Parish Council's appreciation be minuted for two groups in our community. Firstly, to the parishioners who produced the knitted/crocheted tops for the post-boxes that were outstanding this year and an attractive feature. The creators are Jean Gundry, Jane Ellison, Sue Kemp, Tina Atkins, Diane James. Secondly, appreciation was expressed to the Headley Community Shop Committee for the Quiz Night that had been great fun, well organised, and well attended.

8. **Recess**

Appreciation was expressed to the Parish Council for arranging for the removal of a tree that was encroaching a footpath on the main road by the stables.

9. **Financial statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £3,368.19

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £39,224.18 which included the second half of the Precept payment.

10. **Accounts for approval & payment**

There were no payments due at the November 2024 meeting.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.27pm.