



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2025

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 via the Chair.

2. Declaration of interest

None.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th October 2025 were approved by the Chair and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Matters arising & Outstanding Action Points

The Clerk confirmed that a letter of appreciation had been sent to the landowner who had cleared an Ashford Hill footpath.

The pavements along the A339 in Headley had been swept by BDBC.

An application to deregister common land in Mill Green in Headley had been refused by the Inspectorate.

The date for the first meeting of the Local Parish Council Liaison Committee had yet to be confirmed.

The Clerk clarified that the condition of payment of a grant to the Parish Magazine could not be met as the grant was required to cover retrospective printing costs of the magazine. The Chair and Vice Chair had agreed that the payment should still proceed.

The Clerk had also received confirmation from the editor of the magazine that the magazine would be replaced in the new year with a monthly newsletter which will be digitally distributed to parishioners who have asked to join a circulation list and that there would be a link in the newsletter to the Parish Council's website which contains the minutes of previous meetings. There would not be a charge for including such a link in the newsletter.

Cllr Allwright would continue to investigate the issues surrounding weight restrictions of hgv's using rural roads after gathering further information from Cllr Mellor.

In Cllr Parker's absence Cllr Allwright would be managing aspects of the Community Speed Watch scheme. Cllr Allwright confirmed that the police authority had approved 3 locations in Headley and 3 locations in Ashford Hill where the ANPR equipment could be located to detect speeding motorists and that the 11 or so volunteers would be receiving online training in due course. It was agreed that the purchase of appropriate warning signage and hi-vis jackets for the volunteers should proceed.

The Clerk confirmed that volunteers of such a scheme were covered under the Parish Council's insurance schedules.

The Clerk confirmed that the monthly report from the Police Community Support Officer when received would be added to the Parish Council's 'Latest News' section of the website.

5. **Highways issues**

The pending road closure on the A339 near to Knowl Hill was discussed.

6. **Planning Applications**

25/01963/RES – Land at Galley Lane, Headley

- Approval of reserved matters pursuant to outline planning permission granted

Reiterated objection

25/02560/HSE – Rosedene, Common Road, Headley

- Demolition of existing shed and replacement with a detached single garage

No objection

25/02462/HSE – Spirritts Copse, Newbury Road, Headley

- Conversion of existing double garage to an internally linked habitable annexe

No objection

25/00528/TPO – Poplars, Chapel Lane, Ashford Hill

- Reduce height and shape to balance 3 no. lime trees

No objection

25/00519/FUL – Hill View, Chapel Lane, Ashford Hill

- Partial replacement of boundary wall and associated enlargement of existing vehicular access
- Completion of demolition as per previous approval ref. BDB/18227 & replacement of the former chapel by a garage

No objection

25/01735/RET – Land at Hockford Lane, Brimpton Common - Retention of Development

- Timber five-bar gate and area of hardstanding for access to agricultural land (retrospective) and erection of a wire stock fence 2m high with timber posts

Reiterated objection

7. Reports

County Councillor

Cllr Mellor clarified the issues around the ‘advisory’ signage regarding weight restrictions on certain hgv’s using local rural roads.

Cllr Mellor explained that discussions regarding the devolution of local government were ongoing.

Cllr Mellor encouraged Parish Councils to provide feedback to the County Council regarding considerations for next year’s budget which would be facing some challenges.

Cllr Mellor confirmed that the County Councillors’ grant scheme had been reinstated and encouraged Parish Councils to apply for a grant.

Borough Councillors

The Chair expressed the Parish Council's appreciation for a grant awarded by Cllr Bound which would go towards meeting the cost of the recently purchased Speed Indicator Devices for the villages.

Cllr Bound had provided Councillors with an update report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Bound agreed to forward to the Clerk additional information regarding the 'Summary of the Annual Allocations Scheme Review 2024/25 regarding social housing numbers and associated issues.

Cllr Morrow reported on work relating to the Local Plan. Cllr Woodford asked Cllr Morrow about any follow up from the Environment Agency regarding the housing estate's overflow discharge into the brook. Cllr Morrow agreed to follow up the outstanding issue with the Agency. *

Chair of the Parish Council

The Chair started his report by expressing the Parish Council's appreciation to County Councillor Derek Mellor and the Borough Councillors who regularly attend Parish Council meetings and make significant contributions to facilitate the work of the Parish Council. The Chair also expressed his opinion that parishioners also appreciate the work and attendance of Councillors at meetings of the Parish Council.

The Chair had attended the AWE Local Liaison Committee meeting and found the information gathered to be useful as background and general information.

Sections of tree limbs of a fallen tree had been placed on the verges of Thornford Road to provide habitats for insects.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Woodford reported on a recent road traffic accident in Ashford Hill which had demolished a road name sign. The matter had been reported to the police authority to build a true picture of the extent of road accidents on the B3051.

Cllr Woodford reported that the perimeter hedge and yew tree had been cut back in the Ashford Hill car park as well as other hedges on the recreation ground.

Cllr Woodford was unable to confirm that the water hydrant leak on the B3051 had been repaired.

Cllr Woodford reported that the car park opposite the Ashford Hill school was being used for overnight parking which was contrary to his understanding of the use of the car park which was for the use of parents dropping their children at the school.

Cllr Rhatigan reported that he was chasing a BDBC decision regarding Sigma Homes' planning application in Ashford Hill.

Cllr Rhatigan further reported on the vandalism of trees on the Oakfield development which while was not the responsibility of the Parish Council, it was to the benefit of the whole village that such matters were taken seriously in the absence of a Management Committee for the Oakfield development.

Cllr Dunn asked Councillors to inform him of requests that could be included in the work schedule for the length man's scheme which would include the clearance of leaves and tree debris from both playgrounds. Cllr Dunn further requested that additional litter bins be acquired for the Headley recreation ground in an attempt to reduce the amount of litter being dropped on the ground. *

Cllr Allwright reported on the appointment of a mail marketing company to distribute the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) survey and flyer to each household in both villages. The Councillor further reported that Four Lanes Trust had kindly awarded the Parish Council a grant of £600 towards the cost of a potential MUGA which would be match funded by the Greenham Trust up to £5000.

Clerk to the Council

The Clerk reported to the meeting that the Ashford Hill Educational Trust had kindly awarded a grant of £150 to the Parish Council towards the cost of training for the RoW volunteers. The Parish Council expressed its appreciation to Mr Simon James for making the application on the Council's behalf.

The Clerk reported that NP Tree Management had confirmed that the planting of new native saplings on Headley recreation ground would take place during January/February 2026 and that Cllr Dunn would have a pre-planting site meeting with the contractor in order to determine the locations for the new sapling trees.

The Clerk reminded the meeting of the date of the January 2026 meeting as it would not be taking place on the traditional second Monday of the month but just for January would take place on the third Monday of the month, namely; **Monday 19 January 2026.**

8. Recess

Nothing to report.

9. Financial statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £1023.52

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £47,494.14

10. **Accounts for approval & payment**

Austin Lebbon Architecture Ltd – Drawings, feasibility & design of new parking spaces – Thornford Road, Headley - £1314.00

Ashford Hill with Headley PCC – Grant for Parish Magazine 2025/2026 - £800.00

ElanCity UK – Purchase of 2 no. SIDs & replacement solar panel - £5986.93

Monger & Rixon – Hedge cutting on Ashford Hill recreation ground - £402.00

Grave Concerns – Annual maintenance of war memorials - £280.00

EDF – Electricity supply for the Headley Pavilion for October 2025 - £58.46

Gallagher Insurance – Additional insurance premium for SIDs/ANPR equipment - £43.20

RAW Tree Services– Ashford Hill car park perimeter hedge cutting - £450.00

Poppy Appeal – Donation & purchase of 2 wreaths - £50.00

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.