

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2023

Present

Mr J Woodford (Chair), Mrs K Saunders, Mr P Clark, Mr S Dunn, Mr S Hoskins, Mrs K Parker, Mr J Sunley and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

Councillors Mellor and Rhatigan and members of the public were also present.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Morrow and Cllr Frost.

2. **Declaration of interest**

None declared.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting for approval**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 January 2023 were approved.

4. **Matters arising**

The Chair had the matter of ordering signage for the woodland in hand.

Cllr Sunley was in the process of organising the installation of the new goal posts for Ashford Hill recreation ground with the contractor.

Cllr Mellor was unable to provide a date for the road repairs at the junction of the C111 and the B3051, adding that works were behind schedule by at least 12 weeks due to the recent adverse weather conditions.

Cllr Hoskins confirmed that the relocation of the Pavilion's water valve had been completed by Southern Water.

Cllr Hoskins confirmed that the installation of the new Jubilee benches was in hand together with the refurbishment of existing benches in Headley.

Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that the Borough Council was not yet in receipt of a report from Kingsclere sewage works regarding the frequency of sewage discharges into the brook.

5. **Highways**

The condition of the A339 insofar as the number of significant potholes was discussed and it was confirmed that the potholes in question had all been reported to the County Council's Highways department.

Cllr Hoskins commented on the inappropriateness of the 'new layout' signage still located at the Oakfield Lane junction with the Ashford Hill Road, which was no longer relevant to residents. Cllr Hoskins further reported that he had reported three potholes on the Ashford Hill Road between Mill Green and Goose Hill as well as a noisy manhole cover on the A339 opposite Harrow Drive. Cllr Hoskins further reported that the repaired layby in Thornford Road in Headley had been re-opened.

6. **Planning Applications**

23/00038/FUL – Cricket Club pavilion, Ashford Hill recreation ground

- Erection of a machinery store – *No objection*

23/00263/TDC – Land at Headley Common Farm, Common Road, Headley

- Application for Technical Details Consent for the erection of 1 no. dwelling with detached garage; in accordance with Permission in Principle 21/01697/PIP – *Further objection*

23/00329/PIP – Land at Harrow Drive, Headley

- Permission in principle for a single storey residential dwelling – *No objection*

7. **Reports**

County Councillor's report

Cllr Mellor's written report had been circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting.

"1. £2.6bn spending programme for 2023/24"

Hampshire County Council's spending plans for 2023/24 are to be considered this month by the cabinet and then by full council. The plans total £2.6bn and cover the hundreds of services delivered by the council to its 1.4 million residents, including supporting its most vulnerable children and adults.

The capital budget proposals will also be considered, with building and infrastructure projects totaling £645.3m over the next three years to be approved. The proposed three-year programme includes:

- £175m investment in new and extended school buildings to provide school places for children in Hampshire, delivering a further 4,393 school places and giving a total of 18,874 new school places by September 2025.

- £142m for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges.

- £103m of Integrated Transport Plan schemes including £58m of schemes focused around walking/cycling improvements.

- £100m to address condition-based enhancements to schools.

- An additional £0.3m funding towards the County Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Programme as part of HCC's response to the challenge of climate change.

A final decision on the County Council's budget for 2023/24 will be made by the full County Council on 23 February 2023.

2. County Deal update

The government has welcomed the proposals put forward by HCC and others for a Pan-Hampshire County Deal, including a directly elected mayor and extensive devolution from central government down to the local area. The next stage is for government officials to meet with upper tier and unitary authorities across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight this month, including to explore how the proposals might be taken forward as part of their next wave of negotiations. The proposals put forward can be seen at <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s100275/Pan-Hampshire%20Deal%20Prospectus%202022.pdf>

3. 20 mph review

The review of the criteria for 20 mph speed limits within Hampshire has progressed to the next stage following last year's consultation and the work of a County Council Task and Finish Group. A report has been produced recommending a series of changes which will make it easier for communities who want reduced speed limits to promote speed reduction schemes and seek the introduction of lower limits. The proposals will now be considered further before progressing to full Cabinet for approval in June.

4. Roads

The bad weather we have all experienced this month has provided many challenges to Hampshire Highways, especially from blocked drains, flooding and potholes. Even though the weather has improved recently with the water tables falling, the overnight freezing temperatures have exacerbated the pothole situation with many more now appearing, and particularly in the rural areas. Service demand across the highways service remains extremely high with demand far exceeds capacity at the present time and consequently all work is having to be prioritised so that the highest risk issues are repaired first.

This includes the use of temporary infill repairs to remove major potholes, these can then be addressed on a longer lasting basis later. The outlook for this month is also unfavourable, with the Met Office suggesting that the weather is likely to be unsettled, with the potential for more periods of stormy conditions - potentially like those we experienced in February 2022 - and some further colder/wintry spells. One of the priorities now is therefore ditch and grip clearance to help alleviate surface water flooding and ice problems in at risk areas. Please do continue to report highways issues online. A reminder that the number to call in emergency is **0300 555 1388** (0830-1700) Monday to Friday, or outside officer hours, **101**.

5. Drain cover thefts

Road users across Hampshire are being urged to be vigilant after a recent spate of drain cover thefts – leaving deep openings in the road surface which could cause a potential hazard to drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists, and also result in significant expense to council taxpayers. To report a missing cover, please call the number given above or report it online at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

6. Increased police numbers announced

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Donna Jones, has presented her budget plan for the years 2023-24. She had previously pledged to increase police numbers by 600 and is on track to recruit these by the end of March this year. Her new budget has added an additional 50 officers to these numbers, to be funded through the police precept of council tax.

7. County Councillor grants

The deadline for applications for my County Councillor grant budget is **28th February**. Do let me know if there any schemes locally you would like me to support.”

Borough Councillor’s report

Cllr Rhatigan’s verbal report included a further update on the planning issues potentially affecting the villages of Ashford Hill and Headley which included the Holt Cottages development, the old sawmill development, the Springfield site and the location of the potential traveller’s site. Enabling works had begun at the Ashford Hill site of a new housing development in order for the for the developer to meet the conditions of the planning application permission.

Cllr Rhatigan further reported on the problems with fly tipping in the area particularly so as recently the materials dumped had included asbestos. Methods of entrapment were being considered to deter such anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Rhatigan was pleased to inform the meeting that it was not planned to increase the element of Council Tax as it relates to the Borough Council.

Cllr Rhatigan confirmed the details of grants for events to mark the coronation of His Royal Highness King Charles III would soon be available. Cllr Rhatigan was pleased to have been able to secure funding for a new coffee machine for the Community Cafe in Headley.

Chair of the Parish Council

The Chair informed the meeting that the outside furniture and goalposts related to the S106 funded projects had been delivered and would be installed during the next 2 months.

After a discussion, it was agreed that the annual litter pick in the villages would take place on Saturday 25 March 2023 at 0900. The Chair and others commented on the amount of litter discarded on the roadsides and it appeared to be a lot worse than in previous years.

The Chair reported to the meeting that he was evaluating a web designer to renew and maintain the Parish Council's web pages. *

NPPF Government Consultation

The Chair asked those Parish Councillors responsible for planning applications to respond collaboratively with a submission to the excellent work by Whitchurch Town Council before the end of February 2023. *

HRH King Charles III's Coronation

The Chair informed the meeting that Patrick Taylor would be addressing the meeting regarding a proposed coronation event and reminded Councillors that the Parish Council had set aside £500 of funding for any related events and the Councillors would need to decide how best to distribute the funding between the villages.

ANPR - Speed capture device

The Chair requested Cllr Dunn to ascertain the current cost of an ANPRC Speed watch machine from Westcotec. *

Parish Councillors

Cllr Dunn enquired as to the legitimacy of residents protecting grass verges adjacent to their properties with logs and rocks etc. and it was confirmed that the first one metre from every highway was owned and managed by the County Council and therefore such practices potentially could incur litigation from drivers who damage their vehicles on such obstacles.

Cllr Dunn confirmed that discussions were ongoing with the contractor and other Councillors about how best to secure the new picnic benches.

Cllr Parker raised the need for appropriate road warning signage where the road narrows at Tan House Cottages on the Ashford Hill Road. It was discussed that the matter had been discussed on several occasions and raised with and subsequently rejected as an option by the County Council's Highways' department. The Clerk would enquire once again. *

Cllr Sunley would be chasing the outstanding issue that related to the repair needed on a sunken drain cover on the B3051. Cllr Sunley agreed to discuss the proposed storage expansion plans with the Chair of Jiminy Crickets Pre-school. *

Cllr Hoskins had updated the meeting regarding outstanding matters relating to the Pavilion and reported that Cllr Parker and he had been in discussion regarding ways to generate hire revenue for the Pavilion and would be placing an article in the Parish Magazine in due course.

Cllr Hoskins informed the meeting that consideration was being given to holding an event on Headley recreation ground and in the Pavilion on Sunday 7th May 2023 to mark the coronation of His Royal Highness King Charles III. An organising committee would be needed to organise such an event.

Cllr Hoskins agreed to send the Parish Magazine editor details of an initiative by Hampshire Countryside Service relating to the 'Parish Pollinator Pledge' which was asking for volunteers to champion research work in their local areas.

8. Recess

Mr Patrick Taylor, editor of the Parish Magazine, addressed the meeting regarding a proposed event in St Paul's church which would televise on a large screen, the coronation of His Royal Highness King Charles III on Saturday 6th May 2023. The cost of hiring a large screen installation was ca. £750 and Mr Taylor asked if the Parish Council would be willing to make a financial contribution to the cost of the hire. The Chair confirmed that £500 had been budgeted for in the 2023/2024 budget and following discussion with Parish Councillors, it was agreed to split the funds available between the two villages and therefore it was agreed to contribute £250 towards the St Paul's church event.

9. Financial statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £7,515.32.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £24,232.04.

10. Accounts for approval & payment

Mr S Marshall – Payment of partial outstanding annual leave & Expenses - £1,150.70

HMRC – Tax & NICs - £208.59

Headley Village Hall – Room hires - £75.00

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.