

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th JANUARY 2023

Present

Mrs K Saunders (Acting Chair), Mr P Clark, Mr S Dunn, Mr S Hoskins, 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 Woodford, 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 12 December 2022 were approved together with the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held via Teams on Thursday 5 January 2023.

4. **Matters arising**

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

It was accepted that there was not a way to prevent the pooling of rainwater on the roof of the new Pavilion due to the flat roof design of the modular units.

Cllr Sunley reported on the meeting yet to be arranged with the grounds contractor regarding the location of the new goal posts for Ashford Hill recreation ground. *

The Clerk reported that the communication with Cheam School was in hand.

5. **Co-option of a Parish Councillor for Headley Ward**

The Clerk introduced Mrs Karen Parker as the prospective candidate for the office of Parish Councillor after having been previously interviewed by Councillors. The Clerk asked for a proposer for the co-option of Mrs Parker, Cllr Saunders proposed the co-option which was seconded by Cllr Hoskins. There was a full show of hands of Councillors present who were in favour of the co-option of Mrs Parker. Mrs Parker joined the meeting, the Clerk requesting her to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Parker to the Parish Council.

6. **Highways**

Cllr Sunley reported that he had chased Thames Water by logging another online request for the sunken manhole cover to be repaired, adjacent to the road surface in need of repair at the junction of the C111 and B3051.

Cllr Rhatigan reported on the limited work on improving the state of the pavements in Headley after Cllr Hoskins queried why there had been no work undertaken to date.

7. **Planning Applications**

Cllr Clark made a request to the Clerk for the deadline date for Parish Council comment to be extended until the end of January for the planning application relating to Dairy House Farm. After a site visit, Cllr Clark would send a report and comment to all Parish Councillors.

The Clerk reported to the meeting that the applicant of the rejected planning application for Larkspur House in Headley would be appealing against the decision.

8. **Reports**

County Councillor's report

Cllr Mellor's written report would be circulated to Parish Councillors. The Clerk read out the section of the report as it related to the planned road repair work at the junction of the C111 and the B3051. Cllr Sunley requested a timeline for the undertaking of the road repair work given the length of time that had already passed and the previous undertakings by the County Council to undertake the work but to no avail. Cllr Sunley accepted that the work would need to be undertaken out of the school's term dates due to road restrictions / closures but requested from Cllr Mellor a specific date as to when the work would be carried out. *

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 and the potential traveller's site.

Chair of the Parish Council

There was no report from the Chair.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Dunn reported to the meeting that the CCTV system covering the new Pavilion was now operational. He further reported that there would be a cost incurred for the heating of the building during the cold weather spell in order to reduce the risk of burst pipes. There was now a regular monthly hire of the Pavilion which would be generating limited income.

Cllr Hoskins reported that the plumbing works had been completed for the Pavilion but it had been discovered that Southern Water's isolation valve becomes submerged when there is heavy rainfall and therefore the valve needed to be relocated to a higher level. Cllr Hoskins agreed to request the work to be undertaken by Southern Water.*

Cllr Hoskins further reported that the contractor had completed the laying and compacting of the scalplings for the Thornford Road lay by which would be opened for parking within a week or so.

Cllr Hoskins reported that the two Jubilee benches had been delivered and were being safely stored together with the new picnic benches. Cllr Hoskins had consulted with a number of residents as to the preferred location for the new Jubilee bench, which was opposite the Community Shop in Thornford Road where it would be regularly used. As Ashford Hill Councillors had decided the location of the Jubilee bench in Ashford Hill, whereby an existing bench would be removed and disposed of, it was felt appropriate that Headley Councillors chose the location of the new Jubilee bench in Headley, particularly after opinions had been sought from residents. It was therefore decided that the Jubilee bench for Headley would be installed opposite the shop in Thornford Road. Cllr Hoskins, as the liaison Councillor with the installing contractor, would communicate such instructions in due course and also obtain a further quotation from the contractor for a refurbishment of the existing Headley benches which were still useable but in need of some maintenance.*

Cllr Hoskins had noted from Cllr Morrow's report that voters would now be required to show ID before being issued with ballot papers when voting in elections and Cllr Hoskins felt that this was a fact that many voters would be unaware of. Cllr Rhatigan intervened by informing the meeting that BDBC would be sending out a letter to voters to explain the new requirement.

Cllr Clark reported to the meeting that the results of a Land Registry search were awaited in order to identify a potential site for allotments in Ashford Hill.

It was agreed that Cllr Sunley would be the Parish Council's representative on the Ashford Hill Village Hall Trust Committee.

9. **Recess**

Cllr Rhatigan responded to two questions from a member of the public and confirmed that landowners were responsible for the clearance of ditches adjacent to their lands in order to prevent flooding onto highways and that the monitoring of discharges from Kingsclere sewage works into the brook was the responsibility of the utility company and that a report on discharges was pending and would be copied to the Parish Council. *

A representative from Fowler Architecture & Planning spoke to Councillors in support of a planning application for Dairy House Farm in Ashford Hill.

10. **Financial statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £2,724.97

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £21,274.59

11. **Accounts for approval & payment**

PKF Littlejohn LLP – Audit Commission fee - £480.00

A Miles – Scalpings for Headley Pavilion lay-by - £1000.00

Superior Alarm Maintenance – Supply & installation of CCTV equipment for Headley Pavilion - £1216.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.16pm.