

**ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2022**

**Present**

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

Councillor Mellor and members of the public were also present.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Rhatigan.

2. **Declaration of interest**

None declared.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were approved.

4. **Matters arising**

The Clerk had written to the primary school to ask for the children's suggestions for the name of the new main road that would serve the new housing development in Ashford Hill. The children's suggestions had been passed onto the Borough Council for their consideration along with the Parish Council's suggestion.

The request for an additional litter bin near to the ford in Headley had been denied by the Borough Council as they had witnessed no sign of litter in the area.

The Chair passed comment regarding Cllr Rhatigan's comment in the minutes regarding the sawmill housing development and informed the meeting that he had been informed that the traveller's site application had been approved by the Borough Council.

Cllr Clark confirmed that the Clerk had written to Thames Water regarding the smell of sewage and had received an explanation from the company that there had been a recent clean of the sewage works which always caused a smell but had issued calendars for residents to forward to the company which would detail the dates that the smells had occurred.

## 5. **Highways**

The Chair commented on the fact that repairs to the road surface at the C111 and B3051 junction had still not been undertaken.

The Chair further commented on the two drains by the Baughurst Brook, either side of Pam's Bridge, first reported to the Highways department in April 2022 but rejected by the Highways department in July 2022. The damage to the drains' surrounds is now quite significant and warrants repair.

Cllr Hoskins reported that there had not been any work undertaken to deal with the problem of weeds on pavements.

Cllr Dunn queried the tree works that had been undertaken with the assistance of a manual traffic control system by the contractor at the sawmill housing development. Cllr Saunders confirmed that permission had been previously granted for the removal of a limited number of trees because of their diseased state and to aid visibility for vehicles leaving the site.

Cllr Mellor confirmed to Cllr Sunley that the road surface repairs due on the B3051 at the junction with the Ashford Hill Road would be undertaken as soon as possible.

## 6. **Planning Applications**

Cllr Clark reported to the meeting that a speculative development of new houses behind Holt Cottages in Ashford Hill had been strongly objected to as well as strong objection expressed to Sigma Homes on a speculative development of new houses on land towards the church in Ashford Hill. Cllr Clark encouraged parishioners to express their objection to both speculative developments within Ashford Hill.

Planning applications received during the month:

22/02756/HSE - 9 Knightsbridge Drive, Headley

- Extensions and alterations to existing studio to create 'granny annexe' ***Objection***

22/02885/PIP – Land north of Catts Farm, Newbury Road, Headley

- Application for PIP for the erection of a minimum of 1 no. and a maximum of 2 no. dwellings ***Objection***

22/02990/HSE – Humbers Farm, Little Knowl Hill, Ashford Hill

- Rear extensions, external remodelling, and improvements to access ***No objection***

## 7. **Reports**

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

Cllr Mellor reported on the challenges as far as the County Council's budget which alone covered £2 billion per year for adult social care and children's care in the county.

The county's bus services had been reviewed and hopefully the Tadley and Baughurst services would remain intact as well as the home to school services.

Levelling up funding from central government was being applied for as part of the 'County Deal' initiative which had brought different areas of the county together.

Whilst there had been no local demand for cycle ways, Cllr Mellor was pleased to report that a network of over 40 cycle ways had been developed with another 20 cycle ways planned.

Cllr Mellor reported on the success of the local primary school which had become a 'Learning Academy' recently.

Cllr Mellor reported on the Highways department having won national awards for its sustainability initiatives which included the use of the County's own quarry to provide materials for road repairs.

Cllr Mellor reported that a decision to introduce a 20 mph speed limit scheme, following a recent questionnaire being issued, would be deferred until early 2023.

### **Chair of the Parish Council**

The Chair's verbatim report:

#### **"S106 funding projects**

Funding has been approved and we will soon be receiving the items ordered.

#### **Ashford Hill recreational area & Car Park**

It was reported by a resident of Chapel Lane that that nefarious activities have been taking place again in the Parish Council car park. If people are worried and wish to report any issues, please dial 101 and report it to the police.

The rogue goal post socket has been located, the hope is we can release the goal closest to the school and can move them to another location. The goal mouths are in a bad way and need attention, topsoil and seeding. Can we ask Scofell to quote us please? \*

#### **Hedges by pavement or rights of way**

Please can I remind landowners that hedges need to cut back to allow access on public rights of way and pavements. A hedge should not push a pedestrian onto the carriage way or block access to a footpath.

### **Bike tracks in Ashford Hill woods (again)**

The annual bike issue is back in Butler's Copse. The route that leads into the woods from Butler's garage. I would like to purchase some aluminium signs from Amazon saying, '*No Bikes, Horses or Motor vehicles allowed*' plus some posts to mount them on, each sign costing £10." \*

### **Parish Councillors**

The Chair confirmed with Cllr Hoskins that a late email had been received from Aldermaston Juniors Football Club expressing their renewed interest in using the recreation ground at Headley.

Cllr Hoskins updated the meeting regarding outstanding works for the new Headley Pavilion which included the installation of posts in readiness for the installation of CCTV system and work related to the potable water supply for the pavilion.

Cllr Hoskins requested and received approval from the meeting to proceed with the repair work to the adjacent parking layby. The cost of £1000 would be offset by the kind offer of a grant of £800 from Cllr Mellor.

Cllr Hoskins further reported in his capacity as a volunteer with Hampshire Countryside Access, that timber had been purchased to replace the footbridges on footpath 702 to Folly Farm, the cost of which had been met by a grant from Hampshire County Council. Cllr Hoskins further reported on the number of vacancies on the HCA Team which would affect the work of repairs and replacements.

Cllr Dunne reported on the problem of rainwater 'pooling' on the pavilion roof which he would be addressing with the supplying company. \*

Cllr Dunne clarified the need to pay for the removal of green waste after certain projects were completed that generated large volumes of waste and that could not be disposed of locally. Cllr Dunne sought and was granted permission to purchase a digital lock for the height barrier at the recreation ground on the understanding that the code was provided to all interested parties. \*

Cllr Clark informed the meeting that he was still in discussion with Cllr Rhatigan regarding the strip of land in Ashford Hill which had been identified as a potential site for allotments.

### **8. Recess**

Following a question from a member of the public, the Chair confirmed that the Parish Council could not comment publically as to its views regarding the speculative consultation that Sigma Homes was undertaking regarding the prospect of a housing development close to Holt Cottages in Ashford Hill. The Parish Council could only comment upon an actual planning application and the specific proposals contained within it, if such a planning application was forthcoming.

Mr Patrick Taylor, Editor of the Parish Magazine, reported to the meeting that there had been a significant increase in the cost of printing the magazine which was jeopardising the financial viability of the magazine's future production. Mr Taylor requested that the Parish Council approve a grant for the year which was normally forthcoming to assist with the finances of the magazine.

The Chair confirmed that the grant of £750 would be awarded as normal and consideration would be given to increasing the grant for next year. The Clerk added that the Chair and Vice Chair would be considering the level of Precept for 2023/2024 very soon and therefore an indication from Mr Taylor as to the level of grant that would be appropriate for next year would be welcomed within the next couple of weeks.

Mr Taylor also expressed a keen desire for more contributors to the Parish Magazine who could write articles even if it were on an irregular basis.

9. **Financial statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £18,414.13.

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

10. **Accounts for approval & payment**

OMG Trading Ltd – Fitness Sports – Junior heavyweight goals and accessories – S106 funded - £1610.71

NBB Recycled Furniture – 5 no. large picnic benches – S106 funded - £3240.00

Corido – 2 no. Balmoral benches – ‘Queen’s Platinum Bench’ – S106 funded - £1280.00

Mr S Hoskins – RoW materials - supply & delivery - £467.71

A Miles – 2 no. steel posts for Pavilion CCTV mounting - £1160.00

Premier Grounds & Gardens Maintenance – Clearance of green waste - £96.00

Monger & Rixon – Hedge flailing - £300.00

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.43pm.