

**ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

**HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**Present**

Mr J Woodford (Chairman), Mr S Dunn, Mr S Hoskins, Mrs K Saunders, Mr A Saunders, and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

Cllrs Mellor, Rhatigan and Kinnear were also present and a number of the general public.

The meeting started at the earlier time of 7.00pm which will be the new start time of all Parish Council meetings conducted virtually.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Stewart and Cochrane.

**2. Declaration of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were approved.

**4. Matters arising**

Cllr Rhatigan had visited the site where it had been reported that tree trunks had been installed on the road verge. The resident concerned had moved some of the trunks further back from the verge. Cllr Rhatighan had empathy with the residents concern over highway safety in the locality with regard to the speed of vehicles and considered if there were any traffic calming measures that could be undertaken by the Highways department.

Cllr Hoskins confirmed that he had reported a number of road repairs that were required to the County Council's website.

**5. Highways**

The Chairman reported that there was still a problem with the manhole covers and water coming up from the drain from the swell pond in the Oakfield Lane estate. The Chairman further reported that the white lines on the B3051 through Ashford Hill have still not been installed despite being requested on the Highways' department website. The same situation referred to the three drains blocked and reported.

*Post the meeting the Clerk provided Cllr Mellor with the reference numbers of both work requests to allow further investigation into the status of the work requests.\**

## **6. Planning Applications**

The Parish Council would be objecting to the following planning applications;

Land west of Thornford Road, headley – Outline planning permission for up to 51 no. houses

Land at Springfield, Newbury Road, Headley – Residential development for a maximum of 4 no. four bed detached dwellings

## **7. Neighbourhood Plan**

Nothing to report.

## **8. Reports**

### **County Councillor**

Cllr Mellor's report covered a number of salient issues that had recently affected the parish including the drainage issues on the B3051 which was managed by Thames Water and the ongoing drainage issue relating to the Oakfield Lane estate which has still not been addressed by the responsible agency and the developer despite being chased by the County Council's highways' management.

### **Borough Councillors**

Cllr Rhatighan reported on a potentially dangerous incident in Ashford Hill whereby bollards owned by the Ship Inn had been placed on the highway causing traffic congestion. The potential accidents that this irresponsible act could have caused is extremely worrying.

Cllr Rhatigan had been made aware of concern as a result of a resident in Old Lane in Ashford Hill clearing land which may be used for business purposes. The resident had been informed of the need to apply for planning permission if land was to be designated from residential use to commercial use.

Cllr Rhatigan would be dealing with the Holycroft road sign which had been knocked over by a vehicle.

The Councillors remained in purdah during the run up to the local elections.

Cllr Kinnear informed the meeting that she would be retiring from her position as Borough Councillor after two years and wanted to express her admiration for all the hard work that all Councillors are undertaking which is resulting in so much being achieved. Cllr Kinnear wished to express her particular appreciation to Cllr Rhatigan for his support and friendship.

Cllr Kinnear would be publishing an article in the Parish Magazine regarding HRH Prince Philip and his past connections with Cheam School.

### **Chairman**

The Chairman's verbatim report;

### **“Play Park inspections – Charge changes**

Changes are being imposed on our Parish Council by the Borough Council to pay for Play Park inspections. Currently they are asking all of the 50 Play Parks, which they are currently inspecting and are paid for from our Council Tax bills, to now be paid for by the Parish Councils at a cost of £500+VAT per location. This is reduced to £250 +VAT if the Parish is at or less than 300 properties. As our Parish is a little over 500 we would have to carry this additional expense of £1000 +VAT per year as we have two parks. This has not been costed into our 2021/22 budget due to the very poor timing of this by BDBC. We are exploring with another Parish if we can find a cheaper alternative solution.

### **Horse and Bikes still using footpaths**

There is still evidence of horses and bikes using footpaths. Disappointing two signs have now been vandalised on Footpath 720 at both ends stating, No Horse – Walkers Only, clearly horse riders are taking umbrage at these. One has been smashed off both sides of the post and boot marks are obvious on the post. Bikes I can see from tyre track evidence are entering through Butler's Garage. I do hope these are not from local residents in Ashford Hill! If so please stop using these routes, as footpaths are for walkers only.

### **Footpath Wardens**

Pleased to say several people have come forward following this being mentioned at the last Parish Council meeting.

### **Future Meetings venues**

I expect that from September meetings might be again permitted in Village Halls. If this is the case then meetings will once again take place in these and from 7:30pm.

### **Parish Councillors**

Cllr Hoskins would be investigating the options available to the Parish Council for the regular inspection of its two playgrounds.\* Cllr Hoskins had also engaged with the Community Engagement Ranger and would be volunteering to undertake some work together with other volunteers who would be undertaking the training being made available.

Cllr Hoskins raised the issue of traffic congestion at drop off and pick up times for Cheam school. The matter had been discussed for a significant number of years but a plan to resolve the traffic congestion still had not been agreed upon.

Cllr Dunn would be investigating potential speed detection equipment and was awaiting feedback from another parish who was using the equipment that the Parish Council was interested in.

### **9. Recess**

There were no matters arising.

### **10. Financial Statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £3280.71

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £10,843.00

### **11. Accounts approved & paid**

Foxes Tree Services – Tree surgery on Headley recreation ground - £720 inc VAT  
Scofell Landscapes – Preparatory ditch work to Ashford Hill car park - £732 inc VAT  
Ashford Hill with Headley PCC – Grant for Parish Magazine - £750.00  
Mr S Marshall – Clerk's year end expenses - £248.29  
Hampshire County Council – Professional fees for 'White gates' project - £700.00  
Reading Asphalt – Resurfacing of Ashford Hill car park - £16,520.40 inc VAT

Mr S Marshall – Clerk's salary & previous expenses – April-June 2021 - £3287.49  
Mr C Butler – Litter Warden's salary – April-June 2021 - £602.91  
Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden's salary – April-June 2021 - £482.70  
HMRC – Tax & Employer NI - £1847.91  
BBS Ltd – PAYE administration - £75.00

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.57pm.

