

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10th DECEMBER 2018

AT HEADLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr J Woodford (Chairman), Mr S Hiscock (Vice Chairman), Mr G Stewart, Mr R Tucker, Mr S Liddeatt, Mrs K Saunders and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

Cllr Rhatigan and members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mellor, Sherlock and Wilson.

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr Hiscock declared an interest in the maintenance of the recreation grounds as the Council's nominated contractor.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th November 2018 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

The quote for boarding to be installed at the Ashford Hill playground to help prevent the spread of brambles for £488.30 was proposed by Cllr Hiscock and seconded by Cllr Liddeatt.

Cllr Tucker confirmed that the friction surfaces on the A339 had still not been applied by the Highways department.

5. Highways

The Chairman reported that the hedge to the South of Chapel Lane had been cut back by one of the residents. This had opened up discussion about the speed of vehicles to and from the recreation grounds. The Chairman had shared with the Councillors an idea used in the USA which used signage which states "Drive like your KIDS live here". Such signage is sold on Amazon for £20 each. These signs could be placed at the entrance of the Chapel Lane and on the car park barrier as you leave the car park. They might also be useful along the C111 of Headley recreation ground.

Councillors had agreed that white village gates adjacent to the 30 mph signs, could have a positive impact on speeding traffic. The Chairman would explore costs as it may be cheaper for the Parish Council to source its own gates but permission for their installation would need to be sought.

Cllr Hiscock reported on the significant number of public highway drains that were blocked by Winter debris and could be cleared by a little 'self-help' from residents.

Cllr Stewart reported that the pothole by the church layby in Ashford Hill had been reported to the Highways department.

Cllr Liddeatt reported on a number of outstanding repair issues in Ashford Hill as well as the planned road closure of the B3051.

6. Planning Applications

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council would not be objecting to any planning applications recently received.

7. Reports

Borough Councillor's report

Cllr Rhatigan reported that the planned boundary changes would not be taking effect until next year. The Councillor had consulted with the new owners of Rexford House (which will revert to its former name of Plastow Green Farm) to satisfy himself that the planning issues relating to external lighting and landscaping were being taken seriously by the new owners who were keen to become part of the local community. The Councillor further reported that he was concerned that the proposed merging of medical surgeries in the area would not be providing the appropriate level of primary care for the two parishes. Cllr Rhatigan would be trying to ensure an adequate provision was secured which might involve a travel strategy for parishioners without their own transport. The new housing development at Ashford Hill was expecting its first residents later in the month and the Councillor would be arranging a site visit in the new year to look at the final stages of the development which would include the quality of the water discharges from residents. A meeting would be arranged with Sovereign Housing to discuss the resident applications for the affordable housing element of the development.

Chairman's verbatim report

"Ashford Hill Recreational ground repairs.

The work has been postponed until Spring 2019 offering greater chance for the repaired area to recover quickly after seeding. Cllr Hiscock to contact the Head Teacher with rough dates so the parents can be informed when the rear gate will be closed off.

Sharks tooth still missing at the car park, Cllr Hiscock to attend to this issue which has been outstanding for several months.

Railroad track heavily overgrown on the Cricket Pitch side with brambles, we will look into sorting this out in the new year.

Visiting the Development Ashford Hill.

Cllr Rhatigan has spoken to the developers about the Cllrs visiting the site. This will be arranged at the end of March or early April when more of the site is completed. We have been informed the first residents will be moving in late December and we look forward in welcoming them to our community.

Fly-tipping in the area.

If spotted please report [<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytipping>]. Area effected this last month, large lay-bye to the south of Ashford Hill village and towards A339. Woodhouse Lane by the Baughurst Brock, near the Enbourne river walk, lots of builder's waste (Travis Perkins bags and mastic cartridges) and what looks to be asbestos (this I have reported).

January 2019 meeting

The next PC meeting, 14th January 2019 in Headley village hall.”

The Chairman concluded by wishing everyone in the Parish a joyful and safe festive holiday this Christmas and invited the assembled public to join the Councillors for drinks and seasonal snacks provided by the Parish Councillors.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Liddeatt expressed his concern regarding what appeared to be an increase in dog fouling on the Ashford Hill recreation ground.

Cllr Tucker reported on a planned meeting with the Borough Council in January to progress the work of the committee to be set up to undertake the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Tucker asked for clarity from Cllr Rhatigan as to the purpose of the Borough Council undertaking a court injunction against any groups of travellers who may take occupation of Borough Council owned land in the future.

Cllr Saunders requested that if at all possible that remedial work on the Ashford Hill recreation ground take place during the primary school holidays in order to eliminate the logistical problem of closing the access gate to the school from the recreation ground. Cllr Hiscock confirmed that this request was conditional upon the prevailing weather conditions at the time when work is undertaken.

Cllr Saunders further enquired with Cllr Rhatigan as to the timeline for the installation of a new car park to serve the primary school by the building contractor of Ashford Hill's housing development. It was confirmed that the facility was unlikely to be started until the entire site was completed and the contractor was off site.

Cllr Stewart confirmed that the one day remaining from the Lenghman's Scheme would be used to clean road signs when the weather permitted.

Cllr Stewart had undertaken a review of the Headley recreation ground with a knowledgeable colleague who had recommended the removal of laurel specimens and a cut back of the smaller holly bushes. The Chairman would undertake a review with Cllr Stewart of the recreation ground with a view of working up a schedule of works that could be costed.

Cllr Stewart asked for consideration to be given to the installation of a solar light in the vicinity of the recreation ground in order to avoid anti-social behaviour.

Cllr Stewart sought permission from the Council for a resident to use the recreation ground for a New Year's Eve fireworks display. The request was agreed by the Chairman based on the condition that the resident was able to provide evidence of public liability insurance cover.

Cllr Hiscock expressed his concern over the deteriorating state of the ford area in Headley which needed some urgent attention. Cllr Hiscock also expressed his concern over the fact that Sovereign Housing had not cut the perimeter hedge around the Hollybush development which was causing sight line difficulties for drivers as well as looking aesthetically unattractive.

Cllr Hiscock agreed to commission an estimate of cost for replacement 'sharks' teeth' around the perimeters of both recreation grounds. *

Clerk to the Council

The Clerk had been consulted over the naming of a new road on a development site off the A339 in Headley. The proposed name of 'Maurice Place' had been suggested after the landowner's late father. The proposed name had been endorsed by Cllr Rhatigan and after some discussion the Parish Council also agreed to endorse the proposed name.

8. Recess

Members of the public discussed with the Chairman a variety of issues that were of interest or concern to them. The Parish Council fully supported an initiative by a member of the general public who wished to offer a 'Welcome Pack' to the new residents that would be moving into the new Ashford Hill housing development. Cllr Liddeatt would act as Parish Council liaison for the project.

9. Budget & Precept 2019/2020 proposal

The Clerk confirmed that Councillors had received in advance of the meeting, the budget forecast and the new budget proposal for 2019/2020 together with the proposed Precept level for 2019/2020, for their considerations. The Clerk had received several comments from Councillors including a request for additional funding to be available for potential additional works on the recreation grounds, which had been accommodated in the revised budget proposal. The Clerk had also suggested in the proposal that a small grants budget be re-introduced to allow the Parish Council to award small grants to support local organisations including the Headley Village Hall Trust.

The Clerk also confirmed that the proposed new budget allowed for some small cost of living increases in certain expenditure categories including the need to increase the Litter Wardens' payments to match the National Minimum Wage. The Clerk recommended to the Council the full adoption of the budget proposal for 2019/2020. The Chairman asked for a proposer and a seconder for the adoption of the budget proposal and subsequently Councillors Hiscock and Liddeatt proposed and seconded the proposal to adopt the budget proposal for 2019/2020.

10. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £900.96.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £26,902.99.

11. Accounts for approval and payment

Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden's payments – January - March 2019 - £432.69

Mr C Butler – Litter Warden's payments – January - March 2019 - £572.40

Mr S Marshall - Clerk's salary Jan-Mar 2019 & Expenses - £4128.22

Bramley Business Services – PAYE administration - £100.00

The Royal British Legion – Poppy wreaths (3) - £51.00

Mr S Hiscock – Grounds maintenance – 3 of 3 annual payments - £2533.33

12. Correspondence received

No other correspondence had been received which warranted Councillors' attention.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.37 pm.