

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th DECEMBER 2019

AT ASHFORD HILL VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr J Woodford (Chairman), Mrs K Cochrane, Mrs L Grist, Mr S Hiscock (Vice Chairman), Mrs K Saunders, Mr G Stewart, Mr P Wyatt and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

Cllr Rhatigan and a number of members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Kinnear and Mellor.

2. Declaration of interest

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

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th November 2019 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to the residents of 6, Common Road regarding the need to maintain their perimeter hedges.

5. Highways

Cllr Hiscock raised the problem of the Morton's school bus not using the layby to park in Thornford Road and causing traffic congestion. Discussion ensued as to whether or not the lay by had been adopted by the County Council's Highway department as it was land previously owned by the Parish Council. The problem of the bus using the lay by is that sometimes the lay by is occupied by cars that are parked there overnight. Further discussion ensued regarding the use of the second lay by for the bus where signage could be installed to allow the bus to park there.

Cllr Stewart was pleased to report that the large pothole at the top of Ashford Hill had been repaired. Recent road sweeping had not included the part of Thornford Road between the A339 and the C111.

In addition to the large pothole repair at the top of Ashford Hill, the Chairman reported that the roadside drain cover near to the brook in Ashford Hill had been repaired.

Cllr Wyatt reported the presence of a fallen tree on the verge of the A339 in Headley which could pose a potential danger to drivers. The Chairman asked the Councillor to report the matter on the County Council's website. *

Cllr Grist asked if the community parking opposite the primary school included a pedestrian crossing as part of the scheme. (Matter later determined in the Borough Councillor's report). Cllr Grist further expressed her concerns regarding the lack of signage appropriate to the narrowing of the highway as it crossed the stream near to Mill green Lane. The Chairman explained that the matter had previously been raised by the Council with the County Council's highways department but were told that signage installation was determined by accident statistics.

6. Planning Applications

The Parish Council would be objecting to a planning application for Glen Shira, Common Road, Headley, based on the opinion that it presented an overdevelopment of the site.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

There was no further update from the Steering group.

8. Reports

Borough Councillors

Cllr Rhatigan informed the meeting that the Parish Council had seen the Borough's list of potential building sites for new developments which has an emphasis on using 'brown field' sites. The Councillor confirmed that there would not be a pedestrian crossing close to the primary school as the road was already narrow at that location and new road markings would be installed.

Cllr Rhatigan expressed his concern regarding the rise in rural crime incidents in the area. Additional police patrols had been organised to be undertaken through the villages. Tadley police station would soon be commissioned and more PSCOs had been recruited and would be profiling in the area.

Chairman

The Chairman's verbatim report;

“Bike usage in the countryside

Several years ago, I drew attention to this but have noticed bike tracks again this year in the SSSI area of the Ashford Hill meadows.

As a reminder, bikes can only be ridden on bridleways and roads, they are not permitted on footpaths, unless with the express permission of the land owner, as the Ashford Hill meadows are owned by Natural England I do not think they would issue such permissions. If you are unclear about your rights as a cyclist, please google them.

Speed Indicator Device sign in Ashford Hill

One of the units has developed a fault showing up a E3 error code when the batteries are changed. Speaking with the manufacturer they no longer repair these units but have put me in touch with another company which does. Cost for pre-inspection is £125 and for the repairs around £450, excluding shipping and VAT. Could I have approval to proceed with this please?

Goal post holes for Ashford Hill

I emailed the ground works Cheam manager and he said it was in hand, so I'm hoping the goals will be moved before Christmas.

Seasonal wishes from the Parish Council

We do hope that all residents within the parish have a wonderful, happy and safe Christmas.

January 2020 meeting

The next meeting to be held on January 13th in Headley Village Hall starting at 7:30pm. “

Parish Councillors

Cllr Saunders confirmed the presence of PSCOs in dealing with parking issues at the primary school. The community car park was anticipated to be completed at the end of January 2020 which would lessen the problems for parking for both the primary school and the pre-school parents.

Cllr Stewart confirmed the relocation of the SID to the C111 but concluded that the presence of the SID made little difference to the number of speeding drivers. A traffic calming measure was required in order to have an effect on speeding drivers.

Cllr Stewart confirmed the completion of stage one of the woodland management of the Headley recreation ground with stage two pending. Cllr Stewart confirmed the playground fencing at Headley needed some repair and he would obtain a quote for such repairs.

Cllr Stewart confirmed that there was still time available for work to be carried out by the Length man's scheme and the Chairman confirmed where additional hedge cutting could be carried out.

Cllr Hiscock wished to formally apologise for his rather overzealous comment at the last meeting of the Parish Council as it referred to the Parish Council's perceived lack of interest in marking Remembrance Sunday; an event which was very important to the Councillor.

Clerk to the Council

There were no further items to be covered by the Clerk other than those already covered in Councillors' reports.

9. Recess

A number of issues of concern were discussed with the Chairman including the request from the working party working on the woodland management of the Headley recreation ground, to have written permission from the Parish Council to carry out the work, in order to present to any residents who may be objecting to such work being carried out.

10. Budget & Precept proposal 2020/2021

The Clerk explained to councillors that the proposed budget was not a 'balancing' budget as in previous years as expenditure exceeded income and therefore required an increase in the Precept of £2500 year on year and a contribution from the reserves of the Parish Council. The situation was due to the demands on the budget for next year which included a significant one-off cost to repair the car park at Ashford Hill recreation ground and contributions to the HVHT for cleaning expenses and the Parish Magazine for printing costs. It was hoped that the Precept for the following year may be able to be lowered if financial circumstances allowed and the parish council was not presented with any further one-off costs that required funding from the Precept.

The Chairman asked for a proposer and a seconder for the adoption of the budget and precept proposal for 2020/2021 and Councillors Stewart and Hiscock signed the authorisation form together with the Chairman and the Clerk.

11. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £21,857.33

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £8,964.78

12. Accounts for approval and payment

Mr S Marshall – Clerk’s salary & partial expenses – Jan-Mar 2020 - £4513.03

Mr J Kirby – Litter Warden’s salary – Jan-Mar 2020 - £450.66

Mr C Butler – Litter Warden’s salary – Jan-Mar 2020 - £565.52

Headley with Ashford Hill Community Shop – Room hire for NP Steering Group - £12.00

Mr S Fernandez – Perimeter fencing replacement to Headley recreation ground - £1047.49

Poppy Appeal – One wreath - £17.00

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.33pm.