

**ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

**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, and Mr P Wyatt.

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

**1. Apologies**

No apologies had been received.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were approved.

**4. Matters arising**

Cllr Stewart had not been able to contact the Length man's Scheme since the last meeting.

**5. Highways**

The Chairman was pleased to report that the owners of Fair Oak are attempting to resolve their blocked ditches and pipework which was very much appreciated.

The Chairman during the past month had filed a number of road issues to HCC's highways' department online service but for some reason the service closed the issue near to Burwood on the B3051 which was in a terrible state. Also the Chairman reported that a number of the white lines at the junctions and 'slow' markings had been renewed and hoped work to mark the centre of the highway, which is in much need of attention, would be attended to as well.

Councillors had personally reported a number of issues to the Highways' department since the last meeting. Cllr Stewart reported that Cllr Mellor was aware of the localised flooding on Thornford Road towards the A339. Cllr Hiscock believed that the problem was caused by a collapsed brick-built culvert under the road, which may have been caused by contractors working in the same area.

## **6. Planning Applications**

There were no objections to the application received by the Parish Council.

## **7. Neighbourhood Plan**

The next step for the Neighbourhood Plan steering group was to have the draft plan assessed by the Borough Council to ascertain if the plan needed a 'Strategic Environmental Assessment'.

## **8. Reports**

### **County Councillor**

Cllr Mellor reported on the 'fairer funding formulae' from central government which appeared to be more equitable after a recent funding review.

Cllr Mellor was aware of the localised flooding on Thornford Road and the Highways' department had visited the site but the repair would take some time to organise and undertake and a road closure would be necessary in order to undertake the required work.

### **Borough Councillors**

Cllr Rhatigan reported that there had been a police presence in the villages recently to check on speeding cars and that the recruitment for additional Police Officers for Hampshire was proceeding well.

Cllr Rhatigan further reported that the car park adjacent to the new housing development in Ashford Hill was to be 'signed off' soon and would be opening after the school half term break. The landscaping scheme for the housing development would start in the Spring of this year.

Cllr Rhatigan reported that the planning application for the second field housing development in Ashford Hill had been delayed due to late submissions from consultations. However, the Borough Council was set to refuse the application and the application would not be discussed in 'open planning committee'.

Cllr Rhatigan had visited the Sascron site and it had been agreed to install a white line on the access driveway to indicate that vehicles visiting the site could not be parked if they were parked over the line and onto the public highway.

Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that the existing residents' permits to use for the West Berkshire recycling site were still valid and that a further recycling facility would be opening soon which would be able to handle more and different items for recycling.

Cllr Rhatigan concluded his report by confirming that the Borough Council had a strong budget with funding available for most initiatives that were required.

Cllr Kinnear confirmed that Parish Clerks had recently been sent information regarding 'Climate Emergency' planning.

### **Chairman**

The Chairman's verbatim report;

#### **"Climate Emergency actions in your community"**

The Chairman welcomed any ideas to mitigate the consequences of global warming through community activities.

#### **New swell drain – 'Village Pond'**

The Chairman had reported the very high-water level of the swell drain or village pond within the Oakfield Lane development. Once in January the pond broke its bank allowing water to run across the path and toward the B3051, the second time it was level with the path.

#### **Lots of rubbish left by the Developers – Oakfield Lane**

The Chairman had contacted Mark Fletcher, BDBC's Enforcement Officer and has sent pictures about the issue of builders' rubbish on the site and how it had been left, so far, there had been no response from Mr Fletcher about this matter. Cllr Rhatigan was requested to raise this problem with his colleague. It was requested that Cllr Rhatigan arrange with Mr Fletcher and the Chairman to visit the area to discuss the problem further.

#### **Village Car Park**

The Chairman reported that the car park was almost completed and that parents of the school have already tried to use it. The Head Teacher of the school had contacted the Chairman about the way it should operate and how it needed some signage. Some plans which showed the lower entrance from the school was the "In" and the top entrance was the "Out", meaning it is a one-way system had been available to the Chairman and these plans have been shared with the school.

#### **Drainage along Chapel Lane – Western side**

The owner of Red Cottage contacted the Chairman about the run off from the drainage ditch by the side of Chapel Lane next to the recreational ground. It would appear it blocked last year requiring attention. Storm drains running under private land unless owned by Highways are the responsibility of the property owner, so we should take precautions when cutting the hedges so that any leaves and branches don't get into the drain and block it again.

The Chairman recommended that the Lengths man scheme clear this area thoroughly later this year and chicken wire be installed to catch any large items. This will need to be cleared each year so that water can freely drain away.

### **SID sign in Ashford Hill**

The Chairman reported that the equipment had been picked up today (10<sup>th</sup> Feb) to diagnose the fault.

### **Village tidy ups in 2020**

The date for the village tidy up is Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, for a 9:30am start, to help avoid the traffic. Starting at The Ship Inn (Ashford Hill) or Common Road (Headley).”

### **Parish Councillors**

Cllr Stewart confirmed that the Highways’ department owned the land which formed the layby on Thornford Road. Cllr Stewart confirmed a dangerous tree in need of branch removal near to the pavilion on Headley recreation ground and confirmed the work would be undertaken.

Cllr Stewart confirmed that he would be applying for LIF (Local Infrastructure Funding) to undertake the new fencing required for the Headley playground.

Cllr Wyatt confirmed that he had reported the fly tipping near to the ‘Darling buds of May’.

Cllr Grist reported that her research into the resurfacing of Ashford Hill car park was ongoing.

## **9. Recess**

Concerns regarding the recent storm damage was discussed with the Chairman.

## **10. Financial Statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £16,738.40.  
The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £8,965.12.

## **11. Accounts for approval & payment**

Bramley Business Services – PAYE administration - £50.00  
HMRC - Tax and employee NI contributions - £780.44  
Headley Village Hall – Room hire - £75.00  
Headley with Ashford Hill Community Shop – Room hire - £30.00

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.23pm.