

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th JANUARY 2019

AT HEADLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present

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

Cllrs Mellor and Rhatigan and members of the public were also present.

The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing everyone present and the Parish as a whole a very happy and prosperous New Year.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Sherlock.

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 10th December 2018 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman with one alteration as to a location.

4. Matters arising

Cllr Tucker suggested that the perimeters of the recreation grounds were in need of renewed fencing in certain locations as well as 'sharks' teeth' in other locations.

5. Highways

The Chairman reported on the short term fix of a very disturbing manhole cover outside The Holt, 1 Benham Lane and 1 Hollycroft with a view by Blaze to make a long term fix in the future.

Cllr Liddeatt reported that the large pothole at the top of the hill outside Ashford Hill was still presenting a problem to drivers.

Cllr Wilson reminded the meeting that there was still a potential risk of flooding across the highway due to car washing activities from Sascron. It had previously been discussed that the landowner may consider improving the drainage on the adjacent land in order to mitigate the risk of the highway flooding. Cllr Hiscock confirmed that this was the case but it certainly would not be a priority for the landowner. It was suggested that the situation be reviewed as the year progressed.

Note: Cllr Rhatigan reported that he had recently visited the Sascron site and had discussed the problem with the company who were very conscious of their responsibility not to exacerbate the flooding issue by their commercial activities.

Cllr Tucker reported that potholes on Thornford Road / A339 had still not been repaired.

Cllr Hiscock expressed his concern that highway repairs at the junction of the A339 and Old Thornford Road had still not been carried out.

Cllr Stewart expressed his concern that a recently fallen tree which had been deposited in the ditch below Huntsmoor Hill would add to the flood risk already there as a result of tree stumps that had been previously dumped there. Cllr Hiscock replied that the landowner's staff had proactively responded to the removal of the fallen tree from the highway to avoid traffic congestion and that their current volume of work did not allow them to prioritise the removal of the tree stumps. The Chairman suggested that the situation be monitored if the weather conditions were to deteriorate.

6. Planning Applications

Cllr Wilson raised a series of objections to the planning application for 15 Hollycroft in Ashford Hill based primarily on the proposed overdevelopment of the site and the acute loss of privacy for neighbouring properties that would result from the development of the property.

7. Reports

County Councillor's report

Cllr Mellor highlighted the situation faced on local highways, specifically the A339. Although there is an interim plan to facilitate access to/from the road e.g. at Ashford Hill Road and at Little Knowl Hill resultant from the Manydown project commencement/growth, it is in the long run insufficient as the plans for housing and commercial development in adjacent west Berkshire will cause more problems in the next decade. Thatcham, Sandleford, Greenham Common are all scheduled to have substantial housing and commercial expansion and once it is clear as to what they are planning then a comprehensive plan will evolve. A recent meeting with Hampshire County Council (HCC) Strategic Planning organised by Newtown Parish Council and Kingsclere Parish Council was convened primarily due to the threat that the traffic volumes will bring to the former if the (non confirmed) efforts of West Berks Council to route the traffic comes about. The meeting was not about road maintenance but the future strategy and what can be done reference the A339 in the long run. At present the Manydown project is expected to realise a 10% growth in traffic and the work to improve access should be out to consultation.

Cllr Mellor also highlighted that the budgets are now approved and some £195 million will be spent on capital projects such as the A34, M27, etc. to develop adequate road infrastructure in the county. Any work locally reference the A339 would not commence until 2021/2022 as that is when they expect the first residents to move into Manydown. HCC agreed to revert within 6 months with some modelling and after initial discussions with West Berkshire Council. The population expansion in Hampshire / west Berkshire is due to a thriving economy. The housing will be needed by the Local Authority to meet government targets; it is the style and quality of the building that is the real concern. The Basingstoke Transport Strategy publication as advised at the November meeting does need input from Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council.

An engineer in Traffic Management will meet with the Parish Council this week to establish where new white gates at the entrances to the villages should be sited. Cllr Mellor reported that the only outstanding item on the A339 is the repairs to the hi friction section at Headley and this will be done with a chipped rolled asphalt surface in early March subject to temperature issues. Cllr Mellor further reported that the Principal Engineer will review the C111 as he has now been fully briefed as to the effects of current and future housing development adjacent to the road as well as the lack of any police authority interest.

Cllr Mellor reported that Tadley Library had reopened in December; the home service is a major success based on the number of hits and transactions. The main library will be expanding its activities to maximise use and encouraged local residents to use the facility.

In respect of the Council Tax, effective April 2019, HCC will be seeking the maximum of 2.99%. In the past years HCC was able to levy additional monies for the Social Care needs; although there is some hope that a Green Paper will render additional support, HCC will endeavour to meet the daily cost of £1.4 million. Currently HCC has the second lowest Council Tax in the Shires; only a few pounds behind the troubled Somerset County Council.

Borough Councillor's report

Cllr Rhatigan reported that a few residents had moved into the new housing development and that a site visit for the Parish Council was to be organised soon. A meeting with Sovereign Housing was to be organised to discuss residents moving in around April. The problem of mud on the public highways caused by the development's activities would be resolved as well as the issue raised by Cllr Tucker regarding the movement of HGVs within the vicinity of the development.

Cllr Rhatigan had made his opinion very clear once again as to his objection to any further proposal to develop an adjacent area of land to that occupied by the new housing development. He had made his viewpoint very clear to the Borough Council that there was a need to develop 'brown field' sites as opposed to using any more 'green field' sites for new housing developments.

Chairman's verbatim report

“Public Access Defibrillator

This has been mentioned in past PC meetings. Currently in the local area we have a defibrillator machine located on the outside wall of the Ashford Hill Primary school and at Bluebird Care, which can be found outside its offices on Kingsclere Business Park. Bluebird Care, based on the Kingsclere Business Park, will be hosting two training sessions to allow people to learn the basics of first aid. The courses, to be held on January 22, are 1 hour-long session, where participants will learn:

How and when to perform CPR on an adult or child

How to put someone in the recovery position, and

How to use a publicly accessible Automatic Emergency Defibrillator (AED) device.

For more information, email kingsclere@bluebirdcare.co.uk or call 01256 762324.

Funding for a defibrillator for Headley I feel should be a priority especially as we have the football fields opposite the Village Shop, a location ideal for such a unit to be installed. I will work through the Clerk to explore how we can get funding for such a unit. Having done a little research, the British Heart Foundation does support local schemes under their Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) community package, which maybe an option for us.

Golf practice on the Recreational grounds

On Sunday, 30th December while passing the Headley Recreational on the C111 at around 10:00 am I noticed a man practicing golf playing from the side C111 towards the A339. Might I please remind everyone using the recreational spaces that golf practice is not permitted for the rather obvious safety reasons!

The Future of the A339 – meeting 17th December.

Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council was invited to attend a meeting on 17th December, something I learnt about through our County Councillor only a short time before. Fortunately, as I was on holiday, and being the only Cllr free that day; I attended the meeting hosted by Kingsclere PC.

Representation from Hampshire County Council Highways, Hannah Roper and Frank Baxter as well as Marcus Sheppard from BDBC, representatives from many of the surrounding Parishes which have access onto or through their villages from the A339 from Wootton St Lawrence to New Town.

HCC Highways asked all the attendees to comment about the present state of the A339 as HCC Highways are starting a detailed study on the A339 and the impact of amongst other things the Manydown development and local business growth.

A range of views were shared, typically around the amount of non-local traffic using the A339, the growth of commuter traffic and the large increase in HGV movements using the A339 due to SatNav recommendations.

Concerns were expressed that local traffic is struggling to gain access onto the A339 or cross the A339 at peak periods and various hot spots were noted down. I commented on the fact that Headley is the only village where the A339 actually cuts through the village and the pressures we face with commuter traffic using the A339 to reach places like AWE, Cheam School and New Greenham Business Park.

I also mentioned that local traffic and commuter traffic at the C111/A339 Junction is often problematic as well as outside Cheam School. A figure I shared to highlight the extent of the commuter traffic in our Parish was a study on the B3051 outside of May Cottage (AH) which showed this section of the road experiences 3000 vehicles passing in one direction per typical day (results taken on 08/05/09) which is almost 10 years ago and we know traffic density has increased annually in the area.

HCC Highways recorded all these comments and stated they would be reviewing the length of the A339 from Basingstoke to Newbury and how it impacts residents and local businesses. This study will look to make a detailed plan for this major route in the County and recommendations of any future improvements to support the growth of Housing and Employment in the area.

Also a number of Parishes commented on the very poor state of the A339 through Headley and one even referenced on the fact the road state significantly damaged a local resident's private vehicle. One of the other very compelling statements from attendees were comments around the serious accident close to Pit Farm which closed the A339 on 16th December which highlighted the several danger spots along the A339 prone to accidents.

Basingstoke Transport Strategy: Consultation

We have been invited to comment on this document. I have had a brief chat with Cllr Rhatigan about it, it is mostly focusing on the needs of Basingstoke and the suburbs of the town. It looks into the impact of Manydown and has some future proposals such as the Mass Rapid Transit to aid with easier access to the town centre with routes from Hatch Warren, Manydown, the Hospital, Chineham Business Park and Chineham. They are also exploring what physical barriers there are within the Borough for cyclists and looking at a Strategic Cycle Network. The objective of the study is to support their three priorities;

Supporting Housing, Employment growth and Vibrancy

Supporting a high quality of life

Supporting inclusive and accessible communities.

I encourage Cllrs and residents of the Parish to review this on line document. We would welcome any comment from Parishioners on their views. Please send these to ashfordhillheadley@hotmai.co.uk

Link to BDBC study: -

<http://documents.hants.gov.uk/consultation/btsframework.pdf> This consultation opens at midday on 28 November and closes at 23:59 on 28 January 2019.

Fly-tipping in the area.

I am pleased to report the asbestos from Woodhouse Lane layby has been removed but there still appears to be an amount of builders' waste in the location."

Parish Councillors

Cllr Hiscock would be reviewing the Council's tree stock in his capacity as Tree Warden following information received from DEFRA regarding tree disease. Cllr Hiscock was impressed with the playground improvements at Headley and would be seeking a quotation for 'sharks' teeth' for the perimeter of the recreation ground*. Cllr Hiscock gave his support for the new access to Hollybush Farm. He expressed concern regarding the amount of dog fouling on Ashford Hill recreation ground where there was very little monitoring of dogs by some owners. Cllr Hiscock further agreed with the Chairman's concern regarding the practice of golf on the recreation grounds and explained the damage caused by golf balls to the grass cutting machinery. Cllr Hiscock endorsed the idea of the parish acquiring a defibrillator; a piece of equipment which he had been trained to operate.

Cllr Stewart reported on the need to attend to overhanging tree branches on the west side of Thornford Road and the Chairman asked if Cllr Hiscock could look at what work was needed*. The conversation led to reiterate the need to walk the recreation grounds with the Chairman to determine what works were needed and then to ascertain a quotation for the works to be considered by the full Council. Cllr Stewart informed the meeting that he would be circulating plans for the new changing facility at Thornford Road for the consideration by Councillors*.

Cllr Saunders reported on the appreciation of families in the parish for the refurbished playground at Headley.

Cllr Tucker reported on the presence of a large 'mobile home' near to Headley recreation ground which he had reported to the Borough Council. Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that there was not a need to acquire permission for the location of the 'mobile home' but the matter was being investigated by an Enforcement Officer to ensure that a business was not being conducted from the installation. Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that any other related issues concerning this matter and the impact on local residents was a civil matter and could not be dealt with by the Borough Council.

Cllr Wilson reported on her disquiet with regard to the signage for 'Oakfield Lane' having numbers indicated on it which gave it the feel of an urban development. Cllr Wilson also commented on her disquiet with regard to certain aesthetic features of the development which had been undertaken by the developers with no consultation with the Parish Council. Cllr Rhatigan acknowledged these concerns and hoped some remedial action could be taken after the development had been concluded.

Clerk to the Council

The Clerk had nothing further to report that had not already been covered by Councillors.

8. Recess

There were no subject areas needing to be discussed with the Chairman.

9. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £1,234.32.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £20,189.12.

10. Accounts for approval and payment

Headley Village Hall – Room hire for meetings - £60.00

11. Correspondence received

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.29 pm.