

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8th JULY 2019

AT HEADLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present

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

Cllrs Mellor, Rhatigan, 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 3rd June 2019 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Cllr Hiscock reported that the costings for remedying the trip hazard from exposed tree roots and the repair to the recreation ground barrier on Headley recreation ground were ongoing. ***

Cllr Hiscock confirmed that the road surface outside Sascron would not be repaired until Sascron resolved the flooding issues connected to its commercial activities.

The Chairman requested again that a site visit the new housing development in Ashford Hill be arranged by Cllr Rhatigan. Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that whilst sites for 12,000 new homes had been identified, there may be a need for additional sites to be identified for new housing.

5. Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman asked for nominations for the election of Vice Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr Stewart proposed Cllr Hiscock and the nomination was seconded by Cllr Saunders.

6. Highways

It was reported that a manhole was sinking and the cover jutting above the surface of the road in Common Road outside Glen Shira which the Clerk was asked to report. *

Despite a letter from the Parish Council the owners of 6 Common Road had failed to have their boundary hedge cut which was obstructing sight lines for drivers.

Cllr Hiscock explained that in Chapel Lane tree branches were encroaching into the overhead cables and there was a risk of the tractor hitting such branches. The Chairman agreed to talk to the resident of the property where the overgrown tree(s) are located. *

It was reported that the incidents of dog fouling on both recreation grounds had been reducing.

Cllr Stewart suggested that the Speed Indicator device in Headley was not effective and a chicane project needed to be considered by the Highways department. Cllr Hiscock suggested that the SID be relocated to Thornford Road near to the Community Shop as there were a lot of young pedestrians using that road.

The Chairman confirmed that there was a requirement for a volunteer to maintain the battery in the SID located in Headley.

Following a point raised by Cllr Cochrane, Cllr Mellor kindly agreed to have the Highways department deal with the overgrown pavement in Chapel Lane now that the Openreach works had been completed. Cllr Cochrane agreed to contact the resident of the property which had an overgrown hedge and was impeding pedestrian access along the pavement in Chapel Lane. *

Cllr Cochrane also raised the issue of a resident's concern regarding potential flooding of his property as a result of an ongoing and unresolved drainage issue. Cllr Mellor briefed Cllr Cochrane as to the history of this ongoing issue which was not a Highways issue as Old Lane was an un-adopted road and should be maintained by its residents. However, the Highways department had previously assisted with remedial works of the manhole at the end of Old Lane. The remedial work would only be seen to have been effective once there was another downpour of heavy rain.

The Chairman reported that after sign cleaning of the chevrons and Kingsclere / Aldermaston signposts he had noticed the 40MPH sign by the Wheathold junction was very faded and considered the merits of requesting a replacement.* The Chairman further reported that the recent traffic survey was carried out over the 18th June to the 24th June outside the Primary School and the Village Hall and the results will be published on the web site but it was sufficient to say that there was a significant speeding problem in Ashford Hill. The Chairman confirmed that he would be in contact with the local police to see if they might be interested in resolving the ongoing speeding problem with 2000+ daily vehicle movements on the B3051 in each direction.

A resident had contacted the Chairman about the possibility of a 'Blind Summit' sign, after having a minor accident (no casualties) caused by a driver manoeuvring around a car close to the access road to Plastow Green off the C111. The resident noted there is 'Blind Summit' sign going towards Headley but not one in the opposite direction. *

7. Planning Applications

There were no objections from the Parish Council regarding any planning applications it had received.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

There was no further report from the Steering Committee.

9. Recess

Members of the public addressed the Chairman over a number of local issues.

10. Reports

County Councillor

Cllr Mellor's verbatim report;

"Study Brief on A339 is ongoing.

Climate Change issue is dominating Council time; measures will be fully supported although there must be care over the impact of local activity on trade especially when many countries, never mind Counties, are not participating fully and hence putting the UK at a disadvantage. Climate Change took up over half the last full Council meeting. The Council continues to reduce carbon emissions and is building on coastal flood defences.

Noted that there had not been much, if any, input by AHH on the current hot topic in Tadley re the proposed LIDL development right on the border with Berkshire on the A340. Consumers see benefits on food costs but equally many disturbed by the impact of the additional traffic and the access plans for the store. Of relevance to AHH as many shop in Tadley and Newbury; B & D more concerned re the dilution of business across the border as Sainsbury's turnover and jobs threatened. Still under consultation.

Education; across the board at all levels, the local Hampshire schools exceed the national performance by 3 to 4 %age points. Similarly, on Children Services- this along with Adult Social care is 70% of the HCC spend- HCC is the only shire that achieves a 100% Outstanding classification on all categories. We continue to lead the way on seeking increased support from the govt.

Policing; As previously advised- I convened a mini Police Forum in Tadley and Baughurst. Happy, as are the Police, to extend this more into 'Rural West' although the nature of crime is somewhat different from that in Tadley. Suffice to say the Police information delivered at the mini Forum (where the new PCSO's were introduced as well as the incumbent Police Sergeant at Tadley) was that reported crime was down with the spike caused by the ASB afternoon peak in June being attended to. The lack of prosecution was raised- seems that it is the CPS that needs more evidence to prosecute. The announcement of an additional 20000 officers nationally on top of the HC additional 200 should lead ultimately to more visibility 'on the streets.' CSW was also raised and progress discussed re the joint TVP and HC approach to 40mph limits rather than 30. A good exercise all round.

The Dragon Patchers are now in place; one for North Hampshire is based at Petersfield. Initial demos suggest that the 20% improvement secured last year in respect of the repaired surface areas will be improved on.

Hampshire Day-new- was celebrated!?!

My other HCC activities include

a/ attending the Hampshire Pension Fund Board meetings as the Conservative Deputy- performing well and one of the very few schemes that meets its liabilities without recourse the taxpayer money. Fund is now at £7Billion +

b/ Audit Committee scrutiny of the Council's performance.

c/ Attended the Select Cttee on Economy and Transport and Environment- more on that next month as the focus moves on to Waste

d/ Participate in the LGA Special Aviation Strategy Cttee focussing on Sustainable aviation etc. This of relevance locally too as now on the Consultative Cttee for Southampton Airport.

e/ Attended two Educational Trust meetings- one of which was the Ashford Hill ET - excellent support to extracurricular activity for the residents. A special word for the known organisers- Caroline Hellings, Penny Stewart and Alison ; the scheme needs more applicants for support rather than the regulars.

f/ Attended and supported the Hampshire Music Services Concert featuring local children/students.

+ 8 other local meetings.”

Borough Councillors

Cllr Rhatigan reported to the meeting that the date of the 20 September 2019 had been set for the determination of the travellers' settlement application. Leaflets were soon to be distributed informing residents of the change in refuse collection days. But the weekly collection service was to be maintained. The traffic congestion surrounding Cheam School continued to be a problem and letters of concern had been sent to the Director of Operations. Cllr Hiscock reiterated the problem was related to parents blocking junctions that led to the congestion problems.

Cllr Rhatigan reported that the 5-year land allocation plan had not been completed. The Clere School was experiencing low enrolment numbers and was having to operate under a financial deficit. The 'Good' rating by Ofsted should encourage local families to enrol at the school.

Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman's verbatim report;

"Open position for Councillor

We have two open positions for Councillors within Headley and Ashford Hill. If you might be interested to get involved in the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk via the Parish address email ashfordhillheadleypc@hotmail.co.uk or call Mob: 07714 001778 and leave a message.

Leaflets were dropped/hand delivered down Wheathold as I would very much like representation on the PC from the southern part of village. We will also drop a few from Sascron to the end of 40MPH zone. Could I ask Headley Cllrs do something similar in The Harrow or Cedar locations and promote the vacancy.

Neighbourhood Plan team and some updates

Though this will not be seen in the Parish Magazine until after the event I must commend the NP volunteers for their efforts in creating the questionnaire, the two ladies for individually hand numbering these [over 7 hrs of work] and putting them in envelopes. The team will be running a drop-in session during July and I would encourage all with any views to attend and learn more about what a Neighbourhood Plan might offer our villages.

NP Web site is live

I'm pleased to announce we have a NP website where information relating to the NP can be found including a map, the questionnaire and our minutes from these meetings.

<https://ashfordhillheadley.wixsite.com/neighbourhoodplan>

Goal post in Ashford Hill

Last week I spent 1 hr trying to look for the goal posts on Ashford Hill recreational grounds, which I have been unsuccessful in locating. We believe when the goal was installed by Cheam they created two pitch sizes 60mx40m and 40mx30m. Can we explore the cost of installing two more post holes? Maybe Cheam would be willing to help again?

Sept 2019 meeting

We will be in Summer recess now so the next meeting to be held is on the 9th of September.”

Parish Councillors

Cllr Stewart reminded fellow Councillors to inform him of any work that needed to be undertaken by the Lengthman’s scheme. The Chairman through Cllr Saunders approved the use of the Ashford Hill recreation ground by the local school for a ‘colour run’ to raise funds for the school with the proviso that the run did not take place on the playing areas.

Cllr Hiscock would be informing the Borough Council’s Enforcement Officer of his concerns regarding the creation of hard standing on land outside Hill House Drive*.

Clerk to the Council

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

11. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £16,056.31.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £8,821.90.

12. Accounts for approval and payment

Ashford Hill Village Hall – Room hire for Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee - £42.50

Headley Village Hall – Maintenance grant - £500.00

Mrs C Rhatigan – Neighbourhood Plan stationery - £24.70

Came & Company – Insurance premium - £1041.26

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.38 pm.