

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th JUNE 2021

HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Present

Mr J Woodford (Chair), Mrs K Cochrane, Mr S Dunn, Mr S Hoskins, Mrs K Saunders (Vice Chair), Mr A Saunders, Mr G Stewart and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

Cllr Rhatigan was also present and a number of the general public.

The meeting started at the earlier time of 7.00pm which will be the new start time of all Parish Council meetings conducted virtually.

1. Apologies

No apologies had been received.

2. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 10th May 2021 were approved.

4. Matters arising

The abandoned vehicle problem had been resolved by the Borough Council. The Chairman confirmed that S106 funding would need to be used for the purchase of picnic benches for the recreation grounds.

5. Highways

The Chairman reported that since the last Parish Council meeting, he had been approached, telephoned and emailed about the water on the B3051 at the junction of C111 on numerous occasions. The Clerk and the Chairman had been in contact with Thames Water (TW) and Hampshire Highways about this persistent problem. What has been holding any remedial work up had been establishing ownership of the sewer, however it appears that TW assets finish at Hollycroft and everything back from there belongs to the estate/developers. Residents had reported many children slipping into the road, and it was requested that Hampshire Highways clean up the pavement and inspect the condition of it and the road surface.

Cllr Dunn reported that on the corner of Thornford Road and the A339 the Highways department had dug a 2 metre deep trial hole and had put orange fencing around it. This was nearly 2 years ago. Despite many emails to Rachel May from the Highways team the hole and the fencing is still there.

Cllr A Saunders reported on a number of improvements recently undertaken by the developer of the Oakfield Lane housing development.

Cllr K Saunders reported on the level of concern from residents regarding the ongoing flooding of the B3051 in Ashford Hill. The Chairman requested that Cllr Mellor be made aware of the dangerous condition of the pavement on the B3051 caused by an algae growing on the pavement caused by the flooding which created a serious slip hazard for pedestrians. Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that he would personally deal with the matter after the meeting.

6. Planning Applications

The Parish Council would be objecting to the following planning applications;

Land at Headley Common Farm, Common Road, Headley – application for permission in principle for the erection of 1 no. dwelling – Overdevelopment of site and on a ‘greenfield’ site.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

Caroline Hellings, Chair of the Parish Council’s subcommittee working on the Neighbourhood Plan reported on developments. Mrs Hellings reported that it was planned to start the public consultation within the next few weeks as and when the lifting of the government’s pandemic restrictions allows. The covering letters and draft plan were being finalised together with a distribution list to ensure a full consultation with the local community.

8. Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2020/21

Councillors had received a copy of the Return together with a copy of the consolidated account of receipts and payments for the year ended 31 March 2021. The Chairman requested the adoption of the Return and accounts for 2020/21 and the adoption was proposed by Cllr Dunn and the Vice Chair. The Return would be duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

9. Reports

Borough Councillor

Cllr Rhatigan informed the meeting that he would be personally appearing to give evidence at the appeal hearing for the second field development in Ashford Hill, which would be in favour of upholding the Borough Council's decision to refuse planning permission for such a proposed development.

Cllr Rhatigan reporting on the developments to resolve the flooding on the B3051 commented on the fact that identifying the ownership of the assets in question was a delaying factor in resolving the matter. Cllr Rhatigan agreed to carry out remedial work at the site in order to eliminate the compacted mud on the road and the slip hazard that had been created on the pavement.

Cllr Rhatigan confirmed his support of the small-scale housing development of 9 no. dwellings at the sawmill site.

Cllr Rhatigan reported that all Borough Councillors received an annual allowance to spend on worthy causes and small items to benefit the communities in the Borough and encouraged the Parish Council to make suggestions as to how this funding could be spent.

Cllr Rhatigan reported on the absence of the completed installation of a rising bollard for the newly resurfaced car park in Ashford Hill. He also expressed concern about the amount of litter left after the recent cricket match on the recreation ground.

Chairman

The Chairman's verbatim report;

“Play Park inspections – Charge changes

After extensive work by Cllr Hoskins we are awarding the contract to BDBC to carry out the play park inspections throughout 2021/22. We will review these services and options throughout this period.

Ashford Recreational Car Park

The sign to this car park was torn off when a vehicle with a top-box entered. The sign to the barrier has been repaired with new pop-rivets, which I installed. There appears to be rubbish being left in the car park and grounds as reported by Cllr Rhatigan, I have also cleared up beer bottles/cans and other items when out for a walk.

Headley Recreational Grounds

Cold Ash Junior Football Club have now contacted me, and I have shared their interests to use the pitch over the summer months with the Headley Cllrs. I'm hoping Headley Cllrs have had a chance to review their request.

Item in need of repair

Basketball net in Ashford Hill has been partly pulled off and broken one side. One of the SID battery's is only holding charge for 48 hrs.

Playpark tidy up working party.

I noticed that nettles are growing in various areas and other parts need to be tidied up. Wondering if we could pull together a work party from Cllrs and local families' parents who use the park?''

Parish Councillors

Cllr A Saunders reported on the improvements that had been undertaken by the developers at the Oakfield Lane housing development.

Cllr Cochrane raising the recent incident involving the partial displacement of the overhead barrier installed at the entrance to the Ashford Hill car park by a driver not observing the overhead height limitation signage, suggested that consideration be made to potentially replacing the overhead barrier on grounds of the health and safety risk. The Chairman had contacted a local contractor with the idea to weld the signage in place to avoid a potential accident.

Cllr Dunn clarified that the grounds contractor does not undertake clearance work on the paths in the wooded areas of the Headley recreation ground and that such work was undertaken by volunteers.

Cllr Hoskins reported he and 4 other volunteers from Headley had attended Path Warden training given by Gemma Clinch, the Community Engagement Ranger for the North Access Team of Hampshire's Countryside Service.

Along with Geoff Allwright who wrote an item on the subject in the last edition of the Parish Magazine that means there are 6 individuals who can respond to requests for help from Gemma and carry out footpath patrols. There will be an updated article in the next Parish Magazine.

10. Recess

The Editor of the Parish Magazine suggested that there was a co-ordinated approach by the Councils and the local community to oppose any speculative housing developments by land development companies. The Chairman supported strong local opposition to any such speculative proposals but confirmed that a defence of such developments needed to be firmly based on planning policies and not emotive issues.

A resident raised a concern regarding the closure of the bus stop on the A339 in Headley near to the church. Cllr Mellor kindly instigated the following precised reply from the County Council's Passenger Transport Operations team.

“There were utility works at this bus stop on 14 June which required the bus stop to be suspended between 0830 & 1800 due to the traffic management layout. At that stop, due to the lack of footpaths or level verge, there was no option to place out a temporary stop and the only option was to divert passengers to the closest alternative stop, which in this case was at The Harrow. I have checked with our contractor and attached a copy of the notice which was pinned to a barrier across the entrance to the shelter. Their log shows the stop was reopened the following on 15 June, around 0720. The disruption message would also be displayed on Traveline (a timetable service/journey planning service that HCC is a consortium member of) and on Hampshire's real time app; information is also sent to the bus operators. We can appreciate that it may have appeared to the resident that it was unnecessarily out of use, but hope you agree we did everything possible to work in conjunction with the utility involved to provide information and keep the travelling public informed. Regarding the resident's other comment about the frequency of the service, I have attached a timetable showing the service returned to pre-Covid hourly level of service week commencing 4 April 2021.”

11. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £1,293.04.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £35,642.37.

12. Accounts for approval & payment

Mr C Butler – Litter Warden's salary – July-Sep 2021 - £601.91

Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden's salary – July-Sep 2021 - £482.90

Mr S Marshall – Clerk's salary July-Sep 2021 & expenses - £2371.80

Ashford Hill Cricket Club – Net repair cost caused by PC contractor - £90.00

Mr J Woodford – Key cutting - £12.27

Monger & Rixon – Hedge cutting - £396.00

Came & Company – Annual insurance premium - £1227.95

Bramley Business Services Ltd – Annual audit & return / PAYE admin. - £375.00

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.00pm.