

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3rd JUNE 2019

AT ASHFORD HILL VILLAGE HALL

Present

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

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

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Kinnear and Stewart.

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 13th May 2019 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Cllr Hiscock reported that the football nets had been repaired and stored. 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**

5. Highways

The Chairman was pleased to report that the pot hole and drain drain issues on the B3051 had been repaired and the drain re-seated. In the same area the pavement has been repaired where the Openreach contract team had used temporary tarmac. The Chairman further suggested that the Parish Council carry out a traffic survey along the B3051 and C111 at a cost of £400 (+vat) to assess the traffic volume and speed. This would help the Council to establish a base line of the situation of both locations. It would also enable the Council to understand the impact of any future large infrastructural changes to the area. The initiative was proposed by Cllr Hiscock and seconded by Cllr Cochrane.

Cllr Hiscock would be visiting Sascron to discuss the problem of water being dispersed on the highway from the establishment. Until the effluent discharge is managed through its water cleaning unit as requested by the Environment Agency, the Wasing estate will not undertake the required remedial work.

6. Planning Applications

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

7. Neighbourhood Plan

The Steering Group's verbatim report;

"We continue to make progress and the Steering Group is engaged in a number of activities.

In the last month we have done the following;

- Held our second meeting at which we appointed officers and agreed various next steps.
- Prepared a communication and engagement strategy for raising awareness of the NP around the Parish and for encouraging residents' participation.
- Agreed a draft questionnaire and sent to B&D for approval. Minor changes only have been suggested by them.
- Held a stall at the fete in Headley to share information about the Parish and the proposed NP. This was a success and attracted a lot of interest.
- Booked Ashford Hill Village Hall for drop ins on 15 July and Headley Community Room for drop ins on 22 July.
- Arranged for Sue Adams, who led the Kingsclere NP, to come and talk to us about their experiences on 1 July.
- Our next meeting is on Wednesday 12 June at which we will be finalising arrangements for distributing the questionnaire.

In the last few days we have been notified that B&D are updating the Local Plan. We have been invited to a meeting to discuss the impact of this on our NP. We hope to have our representative attend our meeting on 12 June but this is not confirmed at this stage."

8. Recess

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

9. **Reports**

County Councillor

Cllr Mellor's verbatim report;

“A339/ Highways

Update is as follows;

The A339 has been the focus of essential improvement for some years and with Manydown development expecting to start this year- after delays partly caused by Highways issues in the Rooksdown area - it is timely that the options under consideration are summarised.

At the southern end of the A339; the Black Dam project has been very successful as indeed are the other schemes along the road. The A33 works at Chineham are now more or less finished; the major Thorneycroft roundabout work is commencing to ease the peak hour queues on the A339/ Churchill Way.

In 2017/18 as part of the Manydown Project, there was a recognition that the new development alone would realise a c.10% increase in traffic which would add to the current peak hour 'right turn' problems at several junctions twixt Ramsdell and Newbury. At selected points on the A339, plans were drawn up by HCC and the Manydown Project Director that would ease the problem at Little Knowl Hill/B3051; at Ashford Hill Road; at the Kingsclere roundabout etc. It was anticipated that such work would commence as and when the first tranche of Manydown housing was expected to be occupied in 2021/22.

At the same time, two other activities were underway/under consultation, namely the West Berkshire planned developments at Sandford, Greenham Common and Thatcham which would add a lot more residential and commercial traffic on to the A339 at the Newbury/Newtown/Headley end. There was also under consultation the Basingstoke Transport Strategy where the vision included possible MRT north of Basingstoke, even the possibility of an Eastern by pass from the M3 to say Swallowfield and/or a Western by-pass, routing unknown as clearly the nation never mind the county needs better North-South links between the various motorways- M3/M4/M27 etc. The A34 is currently the major link and even though there are major development plans, booked and funded, to upgrade the A34, more towards the Winchester end, in 2020/1, it still will not cater for growth in road traffic, notwithstanding any moves to remove/reduce vehicles from the road. Basingstoke is growing thanks to its infrastructure but that infrastructure has to be enhanced.

In December last year the above was explained to a meeting of local PC representatives at a meeting in Kingsclere and hence any development has to be coordinated with West Berkshire DC. Whatever the outcome there is then the question of funding. Major road developments, albeit undertaken by the County require Government Funding and Hampshire has a successful record of bidding for such support.

It competes with other nominated projects throughout the UK; it encompasses LEP's, Highways England and other agencies etc. and generally takes several years for planning, construction and completion. Funding is an issue! Of course some of the issues raised at the PC meeting seemed to focus on e.g. consequential traffic in Swan Street, Kingsclere and the impossible exiting on to the A339 from the Hannington Road.

Where we are at is that HCC are discussing the issues with West Berkshire and should revert shortly.

Road Safety

At the time of this meeting, the 2018 road safety results for Hampshire have just been published and in general terms reflect the gradual decrease in incidents, both KSI and 'All casualties' Over the past 5 years (excluding Motorways in the County), 'All Casualties' decreased from 3095 to 2802; all Children Casualties dropped from 261 to 242; Cyclist Casualties from 452 to 426; Motor Cyclists category from 432 to 357; 60+ has marginally increased from 457 to 461 (probably due to the increase in over 60's population in Hampshire?!) and even young drivers incidents has dropped from 302 to 226 in terms of casualties. Pedestrians decrease in casualties in the same time span has been from 327 to 295. At the same time the Crashcam data reflects a continued incident free period on the B3051 twist the Pineapple and the B3051/A339- just one KSI in the past 8 years and that was the result of idiotic driving (overtaking on a blind corner) that no speed limit or warning signage could ever deter.

Road Maintenance

The two potholes, albeit non dangerous, outstanding for the past 8 weeks now have been chased; on a personal inspection the mess at the gate of Sascron, most of which is on Sascron land and caused by the style of the traffic entering the depot, is a concern but as the problem of the chemicals flowing from the garage is affecting the area, will probably wait until the latter is solved before pursuing. I too am unhappy with parts of the patchy road surface on the B3051; remnants of the Persimmon/ Blaze development shambles.

Of other interest, the Extra Care Housing Programme with another 6 developments in progress has been deemed very successful as it reduces care home costs, reduces bed blocking and gives the resident their own flat. I have asked our Adult Care to consider my ward considering the developments with Care Homes at Bishopswood (planning issues?) and MacCarthy Stone plans in Tadley.

HCC income normally down to grants, council tax etc. is being increased by undertaking work for other councils in areas where we have considerable economies of scale and skilled expertise. This is now essential as the savings achieved since 2011 now rises to over £500M. Examples of this are;

a/ Undertaking Property Services Work for Reading BC

b/ Children's Services and Public Health work for the Isle of Wight

c/ Joint activity with Kent CC on Social Worker recruitment

d/ Admin work for 3 London Boroughs

e/ Supervision of aspects of Buckingham CC

Finally, next week sees the launch of the consultation document; 'Balancing the Budget' where HCC seek resident input into how we can achieve this; support of various plans etc. as we move to having to work on saving a further £80M in 2020-22. All PC's, public offices such as libraries, schools etc. will receive a copy. A consolidated response from the PC would be welcome too. Closing Date is 17 July."

Borough Councillors

Cllr Rhatigan reported that Cheam School had reinstated its grass cutting on village grounds which was very welcomed. The Councillor confirmed that the retention of the weekly household refuse collection was very important and BDBC had no landfill problems as the local incinerator dealt with all such waste. However, the routes and collection dates were to be changed in July in order to distribute the work for collectors more evenly. With the Manydown plan being 3 months away from a planning application being put forward, a reservoir has been requested as part of the plan in order to maintain water purity. The Local Plan will identify new sites for development. The 'Saw Mill' proposal for 9 houses is a good example of using brown field sites in order to eliminate the need to build on green field sites including the second field in Ashford Hill. 1200 houses have been provided this year against the 800 houses planned to be built. The 'travellers' site planning application will not be decided upon by the Borough Council until late June but it was clear that the proposal was not acceptable for a greenfield site outside of the village 'envelope' and a robust case was being built to oppose such a development. Cllr Rhatigan as the new Leader of the Borough Council explained his vision for the future of Basingstoke which included research facilities for the new hospital.

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 Council address email ashfordhillheadleypc@hotmail.co.uk or call Mob: 07714 001778 and leave a message.

Headley Village Hall cleaning grant

We are now in a position where we can offer a grant to Headley Village Hall to aid in the cleaning. We will review this grant annually to make sure we have sufficient funds for it in future years. The proposal was proposed by Cllr Hiscock and seconded by Cllr Cochrane.

Goal post holes found

Two of the goal post holes have been located on the Ashford Hill recreational grounds. Having repaired my metal detector, I was able to discover the second of the two holes next to the hedge at the far side of the field. We can now move one of the goals to this location to permit the grass to recover. I will endeavour to try and locate the other two post holes!!

Invitation from Robyn Kelly, Planning Policy Officer to meet with Cllrs from Planning Policy Team at BDBC

We have received an email from BDBC about requesting a meeting with the PC and NP leads about changes to the Local Plan. I would welcome if a local Borough Cllr might be willing to attend once we have secured a date to meet. I will be on holiday during July and August so it might not be possible to arrange before then. I would also be interested to understand why BDBC have specially ask to meet with AH & Headley PC about policy planning as they have never done so in the past. Should we be worried about a Manydown coming our way?

Site visit to Oakfield Lane [Charles Church Development] by Parish Council

This had been suggested for April and was being arranged by Cllr Rhatigan, as this date has passed I was hoping to confirm a date in June for a visit. Also the grassy areas of the site have not been cut for the second year and it is truly turning into a wild meadow so would like to hear from the developers when they plan to address this area.

Water coming off the development

There is some water coming off the site by the B3051 and across the pavement - as we have had such a long dry spell I wondering the source of this water?

Over grown street signs obscuring key vehicle indicators reminders

The Weight Limit sign along the B3051 on the edge of the development is obscured due to growth and is pointing away from the carriageway, please could this be attended to. Residents along the C111 have complained to me about +3 ton lorries using this road lately.

No waste water yet being discharged from Oakfield Lane into the Baughurst brook?

As there has not yet been any water discharged (at least Sunday AM it was not when I passed) from the site has the plant yet to be approved by BDBC planning? If it has could the formal papers be shared with the Parish Council?

Parish Councillors

Cllr Saunders reported on how successful the Village Fete in May had been and that the event had raised some £6000. Cllr Hiscock wished it to be known that Graham and Penny Stewart as the primary organisers of the event had been the reason for the event being such a success and wished the Council to pass on its appreciation to them and the helpers as well as all the stall holders.

Cllr Hiscock requested that the Council again write to the residents on Common Road/C111 who had boundary hedges that had become overgrown.

It was agreed to remove the 'kissing gate' at the 'Rail Road' as it impeded the access of grass cutting equipment.

The Village Fete 2020 was being offered to Ashford Hill to organise for that year as Headley had organised the event for the current year.

Clerk to the Council

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

10. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £26,134.13.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £8,812.51.

11. Accounts for approval and payment

Mr S Marshall – Clerk's payments July - September 2019 & Expenses - £4433.67

Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden's payments – July – September 2019 - £450.66

Mr C Butler – Litter Warden's payments – July – September 2019 - £565.44

Bramley Business Services Ltd – PAYE administration - £50.00

Fawns Recreational Services Ltd – Headley Playground project – phase 2 - £2658.82

Headley with Ashford Hill Community Shop – Room hire - £12.00

Mr S Hiscock – Grounds maintenance – 2 of 3 annual payments - £2533.33

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.39 pm.