

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th MARCH 2022

Present

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

Cllr Mellor and members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Rhatigan.

2. Declaration of interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th February 2022 were approved.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Highways

The Chairman had reported the following issues relating to highway works -

Junction by the B3051 and C111 (Ashford Hill Road towards Headley) several potholes which have been growing over past few months.

Report: 21598187 [13/2/22]

Blocked drain causing road flooding, near Burwood house, which is below the actual road height and has the potential to flood down to the house.

Report: 21598186 [13/02/22]

It was further reported that a work order had been raised for work on the red asphalted area near to the Old Harrow public house and that the manhole repair work near to Holt Cottages was ongoing despite the work having lasted 2 months to date.

The meeting was reminded of the County Council's website facility which allowed the user to monitor the work being undertaken by the utility companies and the Highways department.

6. Planning Applications

22/00188//HSE – Laurel Cottage, Old Lane, Ashford Hill

- Rebuild pitched roof of existing detached garage to provide first floor accommodation space - ***No objection***

21/03808/RES – Land at the south side of Ashford Hill Road, Ashford Hill

- Reserved matters application for erection of 27 no. dwellings, including appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, pursuant to OPA 19/02726/OUT – ***Comment ongoing***

22/00464/GPDADW - Dairy House Farm, Ashford Hill

- Notification of proposed change of use from agricultural building to Class C3 dwelling house – ***No objection***

22/00238/LDEU - Whitehall House, Ashford Hill Road, Ashford Hill

- Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use of the flat alongside the stables as an independent dwelling – ***No objection***

There had been no further development about planning applications for the provision of travellers' sites in the area.

Further to discussion amongst Councillors, it was agreed to continue to oppose the proposed 'settlement boundary' for Headley as on balance it was thought that there may be potential housing developments if there was a boundary identified.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

Mrs Caroline Hellings, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan's Steering Group, addressed the meeting following an introduction by the Chairman, as far as the outcome of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 23 February 2022 at which the Parish Council adopted and approved the Neighbourhood Plan compiled by the Steering Group.

Mrs Hellings explained to the meeting that the consultation period with parishioners would last for a 7-week period until 3rd May 2022. Copies of the Neighbourhood Plan had been distributed to several key locations in the parish and was also available online. Comments received from parishioners would be sent to BDBC for onward transmission to the independent Examiner, who could in turn propose alterations and present comments to the Steering Group. For information, Mrs Hellings added that the Neighbourhood Plan reflects that Headley would have a settlement boundary and expresses the wishes for the type and volume of any potential housing developments.

The Chairman commended members of the Neighbourhood Plan's Steering Group, chaired by Mrs Caroline Hellings, for the immense amount of work that had been achieved through many hours of endeavour. The Chairman expressed his appreciation for the work that would prove to be so useful and effective for future generations to be able to control the development of their communities so more effectively.

8. Reports

County Councillor's verbatim report

"Firstly, may I too congratulate Caroline Hellings on finalising the Neighbourhood Plan; great effort by her team and hopefully all can look forward to the Plan being approved by BDDB and then being used constructively.

Although I represent the ward, and others, on County matters, I am also the Borough Councillor for Tadley and Pamber and hence in the absence of any Borough Cllr tonight, I feel empowered to comment on Planning matters as these have been raised earlier in the evening. Quite simply approvals of plans submitted because it is easier to get approval from the Planning Inspectorate in a Borough that has failed to meet its 5-year land supply obligations is in my eyes and most Councillors, wrong. The quotas allocated to Basingstoke make no allowance for the massive housebuilding undertaken in the past two decades and many councils cannot sustain growth such as that expected. Basingstoke is now fighting to get the quotas reduced and although the forthcoming publication of the Local Plan will no doubt reflect very high allocations, hopefully the outcome will be somewhat different as and when the Government publishes its White Paper on Housing. I note your local PC 'policy' is to turn down any applications on Greenfield; there should be a focus on stopping unwanted major developments (i.e., over 10 units of housing) and the quotas should reflect that. Not so much blame the Councillor or even the developer; usually a local has sold them the land in the first place.

Now back to my day job; Stormy Weather. Storms Eunice and Franklin had resulted in many trees falling and hence obstructions that forced Highways into a 24/7 clearance activity. Thankfully no real structural damage caused in this part of the county but still a few remnants remain. The wet road surfaces only contribute to potholes, but I note from our mapping few incidents on the strategic roads. Of note, with the pressure of the Headley Councillors, there is a work order now in place for the repairs to the hi friction sections on the A339 between Ashford Hill Road and the 4 kingdoms; no date yet as I note that there are also some works planned in respect of new building on that stretch.

The monthly Highways newsletter was dispatched to your Clerk reflecting a focus on the gullies; after a late Autumn and then stormy conditions this is normal scheduled work.

Highways Continued; HCC has launched its own recycling of road materials at the "quarry" in Micheldever. Quite simply, recycling old road surface/sub surface material for use on road repairs has been a winner in cost saving and of course, with everything in the county being subject to climate change impact scrutiny, a worthwhile contribution therein. Plastic in the kerbs' sugar cane bollards are market leaders as well as saving on carbon emissions. It is also some income related, small now but many counties looking to Hampshire for the lead on this.

Highways did secure a 7% increase in budget for 22/23; with some costs increasing by 17% vis a vis last year, it will never be enough to make a marked difference. As I am Vice Chair of HCC Economy, Transport and Environment Cttee having to scrutinise most moves on Highways, the growth is pleasing set against a shortfall of £80M on our HCC £2.4Bn expenditure. We expect further contribution from Government as the overspend is based on Adult and Social Care expense during and post Covid.

Waste: One major problem being endured by the county is the issue of incinerators as the Regulatory Cttee keeps rejecting based on local pressure, sites for such, last two being at Eastleigh and Alton. Nobody wants units of 15 football fields near to their abode especially with 80m chimneys. Back to the drawing boards, but please note that the black bin waste collected at the kerbside must go somewhere. Locally whilst it is still sensitive, I understand that the tonnage dropped at Newtown Road by Hampshire residents is less than 50% of that from days when there was a free permit. Wade Road has effectively doubled its capacity; expanded on a permanent basis the booking system with its traffic benefits for all.

Finally, a major evidence-based review as to whether there is good mileage to be gained from emission reduction or indeed road safety by extending some of the 20mph zones is now underway.”

The Chairman’s verbatim report:

“Village Tidy Ups – 2022

20th March, Sunday AM at 9:30. Starting at Common Road and The Ship Inn.

New Cllr for Ashford Hill

We have now had a couple of applicants for the position, just waiting to hear back from one final candidate. Two we meet on Saturday with several Councillors.

Village drink meeting

Nice to see that Patrick’s village social managed to get a few people out to meet with their follow neighbours.

Content for the Parish Website

I would welcome my fellow Councillors to provide me with content and pictures for the Parish website, especially from Headley and the Pavilion project.”

Parish Councillors

Councillors discussed the safety measures implemented at the local school to improve safety while children and parents are crossing the road.

There was now a ROW volunteer from Ashford Hill to assist with works on public footpaths and thoroughfares. Discussion ensued about muddy footpaths which may be resolved with funding from the County Council. Cllr Hoskins agreed to investigate the potential funding that was available and availability of free bark mulch to spread over the muddy areas. *

Cllr Hoskins recommended a review of the issues that needed to be addressed with the playgrounds as a result of the ongoing inspections. *

Cllr Hoskins gave the meeting an update regarding the work that he had successfully completed regarding the disconnection and re-connection of utility services for the new Headley Pavilion.

Cllr Dunn reported on the overgrown vegetation on the pavements near to Thornfields which hopefully could be cleared by the RoW volunteers. *

Discussion ensued about the potential provision of dog waste bins from Thornford Road to the ford. The Chairman concluded that it was a matter of educating some dog owners as to the protocol required when their dog fouls a public pavement or thoroughfare and not to incur additional cost for the purchase and servicing of dog waste bins.

Clerk to the Council

Despite the recent issuing of a meeting dates schedule for Parish Council meetings, the Clerk had to reiterate that there would not be a meeting in April and May's meeting would be on Monday 9 May 2022 at 7.30pm in Ashford Hill Village Hall with the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual General Meeting, followed by a Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk further confirmed that there would not be a meeting of the Parish Council meeting in July and August 2022.

9. Recess

The Chair advised a local resident to look up the status of outstanding works to clear drains on the County Council's website.

There would be defibrillator training for 20 people on the 13 April 2022 in the Community Shop.

10. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £9430.84 which included a £6896 VAT refund from the Cubitt's invoice for the 'Headley Pavilion'.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £22,441.44.

11. Accounts for approval & payment

Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden’s salary – April – June 2022 - £504.00

Mr P Kemp – Litter Warden’s salary – April – June 2022 - £676.02

Mr S Marshall - Clerk’s salary April – June 2022 & Expenses - £4131.40

Berkshire College of Agriculture – RoW Volunteers training – Previous cheque cancelled as lost in post - £2310.00

Southern Electric Power Distribution – disconnection charge for old pavilion in Headley - £510.35

HM Revenue & Customs – Tax & employee NI contributions - £435.27

Bramley Business Services Ltd – PAYE administration - £150.00

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.47pm.