

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th MARCH 2019

AT HEADLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present

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

Cllr Sherlock and a significant number of members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mellor, Rhatigan, Wilson and Hiscock.

2. Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th February 2019 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman with one alteration regarding the section of the Chairman's report which now correctly reflects the notes received from Mr Nortey of Hampshire County Council's Highways' department.

4. Matters arising

Matters relating to the recreation grounds as far as work quotations and woodland inspection had been refereed to future meetings and Cllr Stewart presented a quotation from a local contractor to undertake tree surgery work relating to overhanging branches in Headley. The work to the value of £300 + VAT was proposed by Cllr Tucker and seconded by Cllr Saunders with all Councillors present in favour of the proposal.

The Clerk reported that the Community Shop had now received permission from its landlord for the external installation of a defibrillator unit. The Clerk had also been informed that there was also the cost of installation and ongoing electricity costs that needed to be considered. The Chairman asked for a proposer and seconder for the proposal that the Parish Council pay for 50% of the cost of the unit which would be in the region of £600 + VAT. The proposal was proposed by Cllr Stewart and seconded by Cllr Liddeatt with all Councillors present in favour of the proposal.

The Chairman reported that the road signs abandoned by contractors at the end of Old Lane in Ashford Hill had still not been collected despite the issue being reported by the Clerk.

5. Highways

Councillors discussed their satisfaction with the new highway repairs on the A339.

6. Planning Applications

The resubmission of the planning application for 15 Hollycroft in Ashford Hill would be objected to again, based on the same criteria as the first application.

7. Reports

Borough Councillor's report

Cllr Sherlock reported on the extensive expenditure on capital projects being undertaken by the Borough Council within the district. The enquiry by HCC into the traffic issues on the A339 in light of future housing developments was keenly awaited by the Borough Council. Cllr Sherlock confirmed that he was awaiting further information regarding the recent planning application on land adjacent to Knightsbridge Drive in Headley before he could form an opinion regarding its viability.

Chairman's verbatim report

“Ashford Hill and Headley Village tidy ups

I would personally like to thank all the volunteers who gave up their Sunday morning on the 10th March to join the Parish Councillors to litter pick. The group in Ashford Hill started at The Ship PH and the 40 MPH sign and worked backwards. The group collected 10 bags of rubbish ranging from wine bottles to babies' nappies! During the tidy up there are some large pieces of metal and a damage road sign. These have been left at the start of Ashford Hill (near The Ship) if the clerk could arrange for these large items to be removed.

Headley Recreational area

Councillors from Headley, along with Cllr Wilson and myself walked around the Headley recreational grounds during February. We have identified several suspected unsafe trees and areas that require attention. Cllr Stewart has been asked to source quotations for these trees to be removed. The under bush in several areas of the grounds are in need of cutting back to encourage the snowdrops and bluebells to flower vigorously, these areas are currently being tackled by a team of volunteers from Headley. I would like to thank Cllr Hiscock and the “Old Boys” for the work carried out so far.

Ashford Hill Recreational area

Improvement works for the grounds are being planned during the next month. Cllr Hiscock will inform us when they are going to take place and the impact to the school. He is looking at alternative solutions which may not require these areas to be closed off.

Next meeting to be held on the 8th April in Ashford Hill village hall starting at 7:00pm. Could I ask that we invite the local clubs to send in their reports to the Clerk”.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Tucker with the permission of the Chairman asked Mrs Caroline Hellings as the lead on the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan subcommittee to speak to the meeting regarding the progress being made. Mrs Hellings reported on the progress being made which included approval of a draft task list by the Borough Council. Mrs Hellings explained that the difficulty now lay in encouraging residents to sign up to achieving the individual tasks that were required to be completed. Mrs Hellings reiterated that it was vital to the start of the compilation of the Neighbourhood Plan for residents who had previously expressed an interest to be involved in its compilation, to now undertake work associated with it as the volume of work required was too onerous merely for her and Cllr Tucker to undertake alone. Mrs Hellings further reported that the lack of interest from residents wanting to participate in the process of compiling a Neighbourhood Plan was concerning her but she hoped to be able to refer back to the Parish Council at its April meeting with a draft terms of reference under which the Neighbourhood Plan subcommittee would operate.

Cllr Tucker also presented to the meeting a very useful devise invented by a young Parishioner for the use of dispensing dog fouling bags. It was agreed by the Chairman for a limited number of these devises to be installed on the recreation grounds for the use of dog owners.

Cllr Stewart reiterated to the meeting his upcoming meeting with Borough Council officials to discuss the possibility of funding from the Local Infrastructure Fund to partially or wholly fund the new sports changing facility on Headley recreation ground. The Cllr assumed that as he had not received any adverse feedback from Councillors regarding the design plans that had been presented that Councillors were satisfied with the fundamental design of the new facility.

The Chairman reiterated the need for separate changing facilities for visiting sports referees to possibly be incorporated into the design. It had also been identified that there were additional infrastructure repairs required within the vicinity of the changing room facility which would need to be addressed in the new financial year.

The Clerk requested that ongoing running costs of such a facility were calculated in order for any additional cost to be considered as part of an increased level in the Precept although it was recognised by Cllr Tucker that potentially this cost could be offset by rental income being generated by the facility.

Clerk to the Council

The Clerk confirmed that Councillors had been sent important information regarding the deadline dates for the completion and return of nomination papers for the upcoming elections in May 2019.

8. Recess

The Chairman took questions from the assembled public regarding their concerns over the planning application for the stationing of static caravans on land adjacent to Knightsbridge Drive in Headley. The Chairman explained that the said planning application had only just been received by the Parish Council and would be receiving its consideration in due course. The Chairman offered sound advice to Parishioners who were wanting to object to such a planning proposal which would maximise the positive impact on the decision making process at the Borough Council's planning department. The Chairman commented on the known and established fact that the Parish Council had limited influence over the decision making process involved with planning applications but its overarching duty was always to reflect the majority viewpoint of its parishioners.

9. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £1436.72.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £19,098.28.

10. Accounts for approval and payment

There were no payments for approval and payment due at the meeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.24 pm.