

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10th MAY 2021

HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Present

Mr J Woodford (Chairman), 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.

Cllrs Mellor and Rhatigan were also present and several members 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 12th April 2021 were approved.

4. Matters arising

Matters relating to Cllr Mellor's consideration were deferred until the next meeting.

5. Highways

Cllr Hoskins reported that pothole repairs previously reported by him had been repaired except those towards Knightsbridge on coloured asphalt which were to be monitored for further deterioration.

Following a matter raised by Cllr Stewart regarding an abandoned vehicle in the layby in Thornford Road, Cllr Rhatigan kindly agreed to take the matter forward with the Borough Council given that the required periods of notification had lapsed. *

The Chairman reported further concern with the Thames Water sewer (TW) and polluted treatment water from Hollycroft and Benham Lane, along with storm water from the Oakfield Lane development emerging from the recently repaired manhole covers between Chapel Lane. TW had been asked to carry out a full sewer inspection from the brook back to the estate.

6. Planning Applications

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

Larkspur House, Newbury Road, Headley – erection of two detached dwellings on a ‘greenfield’ site.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

Nothing to report.

8. Reports

County Councillor

Cllr Mellor informed the Chairman that his full report normally available for the Annual Parish Meeting was available upon request.

Cllr Mellor had prepared a small paper on the various initiatives and ideas that had taken place in the past with regard to the A339 in order for new Councillors to have a reference point for future discussions regarding issues that affect the road. Cllr Mellor again confirmed that the County Council and Thames Water had been in communication for some time regarding the drainage issues on the B3051 which was managed by Thames Water and the ongoing drainage issue relating to the Oakfield Lane estate, which had still not been addressed by the responsible agency and the developer despite being chased by the County Council’s highways’ management.

Borough Councillors

Cllr Rhatigan expressed his displeasure regarding the planning application appeal in Ram Alley, given that the application proposed development on a greenfield site within a rural area.

Cllr Rhatigan would be supporting the Parish Council’s planning application for a new social venue pavilion on Headley recreation ground if the Planning Officer was minded to reject the planning application as Cllr Rhatigan thought it was a useful and much needed local facility. As far as its funding, Cllr Rhatigan hoped CIL funding would be available from developments within the parish and he encouraged the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan which would support such a source of funding.

Cllr Rhatigan reiterated his opposition to the rejected planning applications for housing developments in both Ashford Hill and Headley.

Chairman

The Chairman's verbatim report;

“Play Park inspections – Charge changes

Internal discussions to take place between the Cllrs to decide what the best course of action will be. I suggest a meeting in the next two weeks to review these. We may decide to go with BDBC this year and spend more time to consider all options which might be open to us.

Ashford Recreational Grounds

The keen eyed in the village will have noticed the goal posts have been moved. I would like to thank the two residents of Ashford Hill helping me move these. It was not an easy job as the protective caps took some effort to be removed. The former goal opening areas are in a very poor state. There will be efforts to repair these now we have wetter weather again.

Cesspit - Ashford Hill Cricket Club

The cricket club has spoken with Ashford Hill Councillors about the siting of their new cesspit. Their current preferred location is next to the play park and the emergency access gate. We have asked they confirm with BDBC planning department that this is an acceptable and permitted location.

Headley Recreational Grounds

Having not heard back from Cold Ash Junior Football Club we presume they are not interested in using the facilities.

The owner of a white van parked on Parish Council land at the entrance to Headley recreation ground, is kindly asked to remove it. The area is not for parking and is an emergency access route.

Footpath Wardens

I'm to inform the parish we have had enough enquires about Warden positions. It looks like we will have wardens covering Ashford Hill, Plastow Green and Headley.’’

Parish Councillors

Cllr Hoskins reported on a number of volunteers now available to assist with footpath conservation work.

Cllr Stewart wished it to be minuted that he was very pleased with the standard of work being achieved by the new recreation grounds contractor (Scofell Landscapes).

Cllr Stewart confirmed that he would be in receipt of written confirmation from the current owners of the pavilion on Headley recreation ground which would confirm their permission to eventually demolish and remove the existing building.

Cllr Stewart raised the prospect of picnic tables being purchased for the recreation ground and the Chairman confirmed that the funding of such items would come from CIL funding together with funding for adult gym equipment.

Cllr Stewart raised a concern expressed by residents in Galley Lane who were being inconvenienced by security lighting from a nearby property. Cllr Rhatigan advised that the Borough Council's enforcement team should be made aware of the problem and they would visit the location.

Cllr K Saunders informed the meeting of the fund-raising efforts in Ashford Hill to raise money for the primary school, the pre-school and the cricket club for sports related facilities and equipment. If anyone was able to financially assist with the community fund, it would be much appreciated.

9. Recess

There were no matters arising.

10. Financial Statement

Bank statements had not been received in order to provide a financial statement.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.50pm.