

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2018

AT HEADLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr S Hiscock (Acting Chairman), Mrs R Wilson, Mr G Stewart, Mr R Tucker, Mr S Liddeatt, Mrs K Saunders and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

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

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Woodford and Sherlock.

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr Hiscock declared an interest in the maintenance of the recreation grounds as the Council's nominated contractor.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th October 2018 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

The quote for boarding to be installed at the Ashford Hill playground to help prevent the spread of brambles was now available and would be considered by Councillors at the December meeting.

Cllr Wilson asked if the hedge in Chapel Lane in Ashford Hill had been cut back by the Lengthman's Scheme and Cllr Stewart confirmed that it had not. The Clerk was subsequently asked to obtain a contractor's quote for the work to be undertaken at the expense of the Parish Council.

5. Highways

Following a question from Cllr Wilson, Cllr Stewart confirmed that the road signs in Ashford Hill had been cleaned by the Lengthman's Scheme.

Following a question by Cllr Tucker, Cllr Hiscock confirmed that a pothole in Galley Lane had recently been repaired.

Cllr Stewart reported on a very large and dangerous pothole in the layby on the Ashford Hill Road near to St Paul's Church which the Clerk was asked to report to the Highway's department.

6. Planning Applications

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council would not be objecting to any planning applications recently received.

7. Reports

County Councillor's verbatim report

"a/ Although of key importance to most local PC's, the recent consultation on the viability of Bus Route subsidy- and its local effect - has led to only a minimum reduction on frequency on some routes with no closures.

b/ The A339 consultation document, despite advice from the Manydown Project Manager on October 2, has seemingly not hit the Parish Clerk's desk. Suffice to say that the basic suggestions, such as the access adjustment to road junctions at Kingsclere, Union and B3051 as well as Ashford Hill Road at Headley to handle the increase in traffic resultant from natural growth and the Manydown development, should be of interest to AHH PC. Viewpoint though was that the expected increase in movements emanating from the proposed developments in West Berks at Greenham Common, Thatcham and Sandleford will have a bigger effect locally. Nothing will physically happen until 2021 when the residents in Manydown start to occupy the housing.

I raised the matter of the HCC Basingstoke Transport Strategy Consultation which has had a final draft and that too should be dispatched to PC's and other interested parties by the end of the month. I request a good response even though the 24-page document has a Basingstoke centric bias. It has a long term vision with the likes of a limited MRT line, link roads to the east (doubtful) and west of the town (by passes?), consideration for all forms of transportation/ health/ the economy.

c/ In respect of Highways, 1M sq metres of road surface have been improved in past 9 months and with the exception of the friction surfaces on the A roads, little outstanding; Highways budgeting has been restored - full detail still pending- and the purchase of two more dragon blasters should ensure a prompt response/action on any emerging winter potholes. New gritter lorries already in action. The police had responded in respect of the C111 and in the light of their 'unable' to support, then HCC is now re-considering a different approach (explained).

d/ Autumn Statement/Budget had not brought HCC much relief although there are some more positive signs in respect of Business Rates. Clearly the big spend item of Social Care- approaching 1.3M per day in the County leaves us with little surplus. Current projects of getting people to stay in their own homes - rather than care homes or even worse, bed blocking at hospitals with technical support are pioneering and working.

e/ In October I had urged the PC to ensure they attended the HCC PC meeting in November as there would be a launch of a 1/2M pds fund for such organisations to get help for local projects and or maintenance. No feedback as yet.

f/ I outlined the interim renewal of the permits for those currently entitled to use the Newtown Road, Newbury HWRC centre; it costs HCC 170k p.a for this exclusive facility for some e.4800 households of which it is estimated that only a small proportion use it. I outlined the proposal for cross border reciprocity on the basis of a fixed charge per visit, highlighting how many of HCC's 26 tips have a high proportion of non HCC residents using them. There has been some progress in the discussions with the likes of Surrey and Dorset; as to whether W Berks can come to the party bearing in mind their problems are unknown.”

Borough Councillor's report

Cllr Rhatigan reported that the Borough has the lowest level of Council Tax in Hampshire. In addition, the Borough had monies available from its S106 fund which potentially could fund local neighbourhood projects when the appropriate application was made.

Cllr Rhatigan further reported that the Borough Council awaited the transport assessment from HCC regarding the Manydown development. The Councillor reported on the need for the Rexford House planning application to include amended plans for hard and soft landscaping. Cllr Rhatigan encouraged householders to discuss with him their plans for the development of their properties prior to the planning application stage in order for him to provide information and guidance.

Cllr Rhatigan further reported that the Borough Council had won an appeal against a property developer's attempt to demonstrate that more land should be allocated for planning because the Council could demonstrate that there are sufficient sites allocated already to satisfy the housing targets over the next 5 years. This decision means that any other sites cannot be suggested by developers such as the 'second field' adjacent to the new housing development at Ashford Hill.

Chairman's verbatim report

“Centenary Remembrance Day Services

Two services were held in the Parish churches of St Paul's (Ashford Hill) and St Peter's (Headley), with the 1 minutes silence at 11am held outside St Paul's War Memorial (traffic being stopped by the local police to ensure pedestrian safety). In the St Paul's church there was a display put together by Gary Cusworth, reminding us of the local families who had lost loved ones during World War One in both villages. The Parish web site will have a page depicting some of the exhibition which Gary kindly gave permission to share. By all accounts attendance at Kingsclere's ceremony was very large with many unable to get into the church once all standing room areas had been filled. Ashford Hill's service was well attended with ample space inside to accommodate a large congregation, so please also think about attending either Headley or Ashford Hill churches next year if you had been disappointed this year if not being able to attend a ceremony or gaining access to Kingsclere's church.

Next Meeting – Monday 10th December 2018

Headley Village Hall - Some light seasonal snacks and drinks will be provided by the Parish Councillors at the end of the meeting to celebrate Christmas.”

Parish Councillors

Cllr Liddeatt on behalf of the Chairman asked Cllr Rhatigan to organise the date for the next site meeting at the new Ashford Hill housing development. Cllr Liddeatt reported on further problems with road drainage at Pam's Bridge in Ashford Hill and on the broken sign post on the footpath near to Brook Cottage in Old Lane.

Cllr Wilson had it confirmed to her that the Sascon signage was temporary and therefore did not require planning permission. Cllr Wilson expressed her concern to Cllr Rhatigan that the height of the houses on the Ashford Hill housing development were much higher than she had anticipated. Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that this issue could be looked at during the next site meeting.

Cllr Tucker reported that 7 residents had confirmed their continuing interest in becoming part of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee which was below the recommended 15-20 membership as there would be a considerable amount of work to undertake. Cllr Hiscock agreed that the Parish Council needed to further discuss the issue of creating a suitably sized Committee structure outside of the meeting. Cllr Tucker asked the gathered public to express an interest in becoming involved in the Neighbourhood Plan Committee or bringing the membership involvement to the attention of other residents.

Cllr Stewart reported that the previous Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Dave Chamings, had loyally served as the Parish Council's representative on the board of trustees for Kingsclere Charities for over 20 years and would now be retiring after many years of hard work and commitment. The Parish Council now required a new representative and Cllr Stewart nominated Mr Philip Crisford, a local resident and Governor of Ashford Hill Primary School, to serve as the Parish Council's representative. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Liddeatt and agreed unanimously by all Councillors present.

Cllr Stewart reminded the meeting that tree stumps in the ditch on Huntsmoor Hill previously reported were still in situ and likely to cause a flooding problem in the future.

Cllr Stewart encouraged other Councillors to report to him any work that was required to be undertaken by the Lengthman's Scheme.

Cllr Stewart reported on the opening of Cheam School's 'all weather pitch' and the use of that facility by other schools in the area and therefore the likelihood of that use causing an increase in the traffic congestion of vehicles turning right into the school from the A339. Cllr Stewart reaffirmed that this was yet another reason for the Highway's department to consider the installation of a traffic filter lane to ease such congestion. This request needed to be taken seriously by Hampshire County Council during the consultation stage of its transport strategy for the area.

Cllr Stewart reported to the meeting that the Headley Village Hall Management Committee had decided against the suggestion of moving the village hall from its current location to a new position on the Headley recreation ground. In light of this decision Cllr Stewart confirmed the need for the Parish Council to make arrangements for the existing derelict changing room facility to be removed from its location. Cllr Stewart confirmed that following the initial and encouraging discussion meeting with the Greenham Common Trust representatives, the Parish Council needed to further discuss the options and ideas for a replacement facility on the recreation ground.

8. Recess

Members of the public discussed with the Acting Chairman a variety of issues that were of interest or concern to them.

9. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £2,449.54.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £26,901.84.

10. Accounts for approval and payment

There were no accounts requiring approval and payment at the November meeting.

11. Correspondence received

No other correspondence had been received which warranted Councillors' attention.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.25 pm.