

**ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

**AT HEADLEY VILLAGE HALL**

**Present**

Mr J Woodford (Chairman), Mrs L Grist, Mr S Hiscock (Vice Chairman), Mrs K Saunders, Mr G Stewart, Mr P Wyatt and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

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

**1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Kinnear and Cochrane.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

**4. Matters arising**

The Clerk was requested to write to the residents of 6, Common Road, in order to request that their perimeter hedges are cut as they are obscuring drivers' sight lines.

**5. Highways**

Despite the large pot hole at the top of the hill in Ashford Hill being reported by Cllr Stewart and others on several occasions, the pot hole had grown larger and poses a serious danger to vehicles in being able to cause considerable damage.

Cllr Hiscock confirmed that the surface water on Thornford Road was not the cause of a leaking water mains but the results of an active natural spring.

**6. Planning Applications**

There were no objections to the planning applications that had been received by the Parish Council.

## **7. Neighbourhood Plan**

Mr Jonathan Morshead confirmed that a first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan would be available shortly at which time the planning consultants would be approached in order to recommend improvements for the Plan.

(Post the meeting the Clerk signed an authorisation of appointment of Bell Cornwell; planning consultants).

## **8. Reports**

### **County Councillor**

Cllr Mellor's report included the reporting of a £80m shortfall over 2 years in the County's finances due to the application of the government's 'Fairer funding' process.

The Councillor reported that the County Council had implemented 60 flood warnings recently which had impacted on the amount of road repairs that could be undertaken when compared to the previous year.

The County Council was well advanced with initiatives to tackle the climate change emergency with for example, public lighting schemes and solar energy projects. In fact, the Councillor encouraged the Parish Council to suggest locations for local cycle paths in order to promote cycling in the local areas.

### **Borough Councillors**

Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that the Borough Council would be rejecting the travellers' site application and expressed confidence that the Council would win any potential appeal, if that was the outcome of the decision. Cllr Rhatigan was pleased how the whole community had come together to oppose such a plan. Cllr Rhatigan was confident that the Borough had identified other areas in the Borough that could be considered for travellers' sites.

The Councillor was also pleased to confirm that 4 Kingdoms had withdrawn its licensing application before it was to be heard by a panel.

Cllr Rhatigan went onto explain that the Borough's planning policy would allow the Borough to reject the outline planning application for additional housing on the second field in Ashford Hill. The application itself would be considered by the Planning Committee and not under designated authority to a planning officer.

The Councillor further reported that it was regrettable that Sovereign Housing had incorrectly used the West Berkshire housing needs list for the allocation of affordable housing on the new housing development in Ashford Hill.

The rejection of a planning application for a waste incinerator at Test Valley was pending.

The Councillor confirmed a 2.3% increase in the Borough's element of Council Tax for 2020/2021 and praised the excellent work of his Council Officers.

### **Chairman**

The Chairman's verbatim report;

### **‘Neighbourhood Plan**

The group is currently busy writing up draft policies and the main document. Once completed this will be reviewed by a professional consultancy. Following this review and any recommended alteration made, a number of public meetings will be held to share the proposed document and the recommendation of the team.

### **Ashford Hill goal post sockets**

First set of sockets installed and the goals have been moved, I'm waiting to hear about the second set from the grounds team.

### **Ashford Hill community car park**

I have heard residents of the Oakfield Lane development are frustrated with the primary school parents using the estate to park in during drop off and pick up times. Works on the new car park stopped some weeks ago for no reason. I believe the residents have lobbied the developer to complete this as promised to mitigate the frustration building currently about the parking arrangements in this area of the village.

### **Sign on the barrier Ashford Hill recreational grounds**

Cllr Cochrane has arranged for a new sign to be put up on the barrier at the entrance to the recreational grounds nearest to the Cricket Pavilion. This is to discourage vehicles parking and obstructing this vital access route to the Pre-School in case of emergency.

### **Parish Magazine editors – retirement**

After 15 years as editors of the Parish Magazine, the Parish Council would like to warmly thank Mike and Sandra Everitt for their amazing efforts on the magazine. This has been a purely voluntary activity and without people like the Everitts the villages would not be as vibrant as they are. Once again a BIG THANK YOU!

## **December 2019 meeting**

The next meeting to be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> in Ashford Hill Village Hall starting at 7:30pm. We will be offering some Christmas refreshments and nibbles to celebrate the Christmas period at the end.’’

### **Parish Councillors**

Cllr Hiscock added his praise for the amazing work that Michael and Sandra Everitt had undertaken in so many ways on behalf of the community.

Cllr Hiscock confirmed that the ongoing problem with the drains at Pam’s Bridge in Ashford Hill was in essence a design fault as water did not flow ‘uphill’ and furthermore the drain pipes themselves were of an inadequate size.

Cllr Stewart proposed that the Parish Council make a grant of £750 available to the new management of the Parish Magazine in order to meet the cost of administration. Cllr Stewart confirmed that such a grant had been made available in previous financial years. The Chairman confirmed that this proposal would be considered in the budget rounds currently underway and there would be a considerable demand on next year’s budget in terms of the expenditure needed to repair/replace fencing on Headley recreation ground as well as the cost of repairs to the car park in Ashford Hill.

### **Clerk to the Council**

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

## **9. Recess**

The future management of the Parish Magazine was discussed with the Chairman.

## **10. Financial Statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £22,489.73

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £8,964.37

## **11. Accounts for approval and payment**

Headley with Ashford Hill Community Shop – Room hire for NP Steering Group - £12.00

Mr S Fernandez – Gate repairs to Headley recreation ground - £260.40

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.23pm.