

**ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

**HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**Present**

Mr J Woodford (Chairman), Mrs K Cochrane, Mrs L Grist, Mr G Stewart and Mr P Wyatt.

Cllrs Mellor, Rhatigan and Kinnear were also present.

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**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Saunders.

**2. Declaration of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Statement by the Chairman**

The Chairman confirmed the acceptance of Mr Simon Hiscock's resignation as Parish Council together with his request to withdraw from his contractual arrangement with the Parish Council to maintain the recreational grounds.

The Chairman praised Mr Hiscock for his great efforts and insightfulness into local issues and confirmed that he would be a great loss to the community in his capacity as a Parish Councillor.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting for approval**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were approved.

**5. Matters arising**

The Chairman confirmed that quotations had not been received from Mr Hiscock for the resurfacing of the recreational ground car park in Ashford Hill but the matter would be pursued by the Clerk.\*

Cllr Wyatt confirmed that he had spoken to the property owner who had a leaning tree in his property and the property owner confirmed that the cost of removal of the tree was being investigated.

Cllr Grist \* would be pursuing the issue of a chain across the vehicular entrance to the Ashford Hill car park.

Cllr Rhatigan \* confirmed that the developer of Oakfield in Ashford Hill would be undertaking a land survey by the end of the month and would consider the request for a footpath to serve the new car park.

## **6. Highways**

Cllr Stewart raised the ongoing problem of speeding drivers on the C111 and suggested permanent traffic calming measures be introduced. Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that the police authority would be changing the days that they patrol the C111 to detect speeding drivers in the hope that this will further deter drivers from speeding.

Cllr Cochrane reported the damage to a telegraph pole outside Jubilee Cottage in Ashford Hill which the utility and telephony companies were aware of and it was probably likely that there would need to be a road closure when the work started to repair the pole.

The Chairman supported the 'white gates' project for the entrances to Ashford Hill and the approval for the project to proceed was proposed by Cllr Cochrane and seconded by Cllr Grist.

The Chairman sought approval for the purchase of replacement batteries for the Speed Limit Reminder; this was proposed by Cllr Wyatt and seconded by Cllr Cochrane.

## **7. Planning Applications**

There had been no planning applications received.

## **8. Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Wyatt for agreeing to join the Steering Group as a Parish Council representative.

## **9. Reports**

### **County Councillor**

Country Councillor's verbatim report;

### **"Economy**

It is understood that 300,000+ now either still on or joining those furloughed in the county. HCC starting more apprenticeship campaigns in an effort to create full time jobs. Additionally, the county is dependent on tourism with many residents directly involved or in the supply chain.

## **Highways**

Maintenance, Waste Recycling, Country Parks, Rural Services and other services are not affected by the lockdown and are performing well. Capital programmes continue with another school opening. Highways projects are in abundance; of course, the planning involving the infrastructure around the 'new' hospital has been ongoing for some time- we too hope that it will be a new one at J7 by the boundary with Winchester City Council; from what we hear this will be the case and the Winchester Hospital will be upgraded simultaneously. Additionally, we now have a TV/NH Connectivity programme studying all north - south routes and transport means. This is in conjunction with the likes of Reading BC, West Berks, Wokingham as well as Hampshire Borough Councils.

On October 7th, a Cycling and Walking 'Active Spaces' meeting was convened by HCC involving local parishes invited through HALC along with specialist cycling and walking organisations, some local authority planners etc to review and discuss the future strategy to increase non-motorised travel. I appreciate in your parish that cycling opportunities are restricted by road dimension, distance, topography, location of the school etc, proximity to work place (average person will only travel 2kms to work by bike) and a low population but worth a thought with your local plan.

## **Waste**

Fly tipping; in our division is some 14% down on 2019 figures; high fines as far as permissible, probably less trade too and knowledge that it is being treated very seriously being the reasons behind the improvement. Interesting to note that during the past few months there has been a drop of 34% in food waste across the county. Still, waste continues to be a £100M per annum problem for the county and efforts to find suitable Energy Recycling Depots and Material 'MRFS' continue having to date responded to residents' requests not to build such plants near their town/village.

## **Climate Change**

Highways Carbon Strategy document with a time lined programme to achieve the net zero carbon target was distributed to the Parishes; what comment there has been has of course been positive. Activities range from electrification programmes to the likes of using plastic for pavements etc but of course the drop-in emissions from vehicles has a role. Additionally, a 237-page document on the county's programme was also approved.

## **Locally**

Of course, there have been some water issues following Storm Alex and Storm Barbara, notably caused by the drainage from the new development along with an overflow from a manhole cover; net result was one residence on the B3051 getting splashed by passing vehicles as two drains were unable to accept the welter of water that was coming out of the manhole. People involved know of the action taken. At all other locations in the division, excess water dissipated even where the water level was high within 24hours.

Library; Tadley is functioning with only reduction in footfall being the 7 hours per week reduction in hours. The Ready Reads click and collect service and the other digital offerings have more than compensated for the reduction in opening hours.

## **Finance**

HCC has no choice but to continue meeting its obligations, moral or statutory in respect of Children's Services and Adult Social Care...about £1.6 billion per annum. In effect we needed some £133M and as we stand we are a good £40M+ short; this could affect on next year's operational expenditure. Pressure is being exerted. I appreciate that B & D are some £5.8M out of pocket but as I say, HCC is expenditure and the Borough's are more income deferred related issues."

## **Borough Councillors**

The Clerk ahead of the meeting had circulated a communique from Cllrs Kinnear and Rhatigan regarding the potential sites of the proposed new hospital for the area. Cllr Kinnear asked for any questions from Councillors regarding the information sent.

Cllr Rhatigan reported that 90% of critical care beds were occupied and that the 7-day rate of infection was 123 per 100,000 head of population as opposed to an overall English rate of 174 and a North West of England rate of 405 for the same head of population. Cllr Rhatigan expressed his concern regarding the vulnerable position the area would likely be in at the end of the second national lockdown and what national tier of restrictions the area would have imposed on it. The funding from central government would allow the Borough Council to distribute support funds to businesses and the self employed by the end of November.

Despite an update for the Local Plan which identified potential sites for development, Cllr Rhatigan confirmed his resolve to protect communities like Ashford Hill and Headley from overdevelopment.

Following a question from Cllr Stewart regarding the future funding of local projects, Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that Community Infrastructure Levy funding was still available to fund local projects. Following a question from Cllr Wyatt, Cllr Rhatigan confirmed that other than the coronavirus testing facility based at the Anvil in Basingstoke, there were no plans to provide a facility closer to the parish.

## **Chairman**

The Chairman's verbatim report;

### **"New surface to Ashford Hill recreational ground car park**

Could I ask the Clerk to speak with suggested contractors to get some outline quotations for the resurfacing and installing of a new drain across the entrance of the car park to connect to the roadside ditch. This is to prevent and reduce any run off from the car park down the hill.

### **Large poppies placed around the village**

I would like to thank whoever placed the poppies up around the Ashford Hill village over the past few weeks.

### **Adult football practice or matches on the Headley recreational grounds**

Some months ago, I was passing Headley's recreational grounds and noticed there was an adult team using the grounds. Do any Headley Cllrs know anything about this usage? If this is a regular fixture the Council will seek some financial contribution to support the maintenance of the pitch.

### **Open Councillor position in Headley**

We presently have an open position for a Councillor in Headley. All applicants are welcome but must be 18 or over and live in the Parish or nearby, please apply to the Clerk.

### **No December social gathering planned**

Typically, we would invite Cllrs and Parishioners to stay behind for some Christmas drinks. Unfortunately, as we are not holding any in person meetings this will not be possible this year. We hope in 2021 this can happen again.

### **December 2020 meeting**

For the foreseeable future we will be holding virtual meetings. New web links will be issued per meeting per month. As we will not need to travel we have suggested the start time is 7.00PM."

### **Parish Councillors & Clerk's comment**

Following comment from the Clerk regarding the tendering process being underway for the contract to maintain the recreational grounds, Cllr Stewart asked if the contractors who had been asked to tender were local to which the Clerk replied that they were from Old Basing, Thatcham and Chobham. Cllr Stewart asserted that local contractors would be interested in tendering for the contract and the Clerk requested Cllr Stewart to forward to him such details for consideration.

## **10. Recess**

There were no members of the public present.

## **11. Financial Statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £29,546.78.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £10,842.39.

The Clerk confirmed that the figures quoted were not inclusive of a CIL amount of £3420 which had been awarded to the Parish Council.

## **12. Accounts for approval & payment**

The Clerk confirmed that there were no payments to be authorised at the meeting and an amalgamated cheque run would be undertaken in December 2020.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.55pm.