

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2021

Present

Mr J Woodford (Chairman), Mrs K Saunders (Vice Chair), Mr G Stewart, Mr S Dunn, Mr S Hoskins and the Clerk.

Cllr Rhatigan, Cllr Mellor, a member of the local press and a number of members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr A Saunders.

2. Declaration of interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th October 2021 were approved.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Highways

Cllr Stewart expressed his ongoing concern regarding the dilapidation of the red asphalted areas of the A339. Cllr Mellor explained that what was occurring was the usual deterioration of a high friction surface and would receive remedial works in due course.

Cllr Hoskins reported that he had reported the pavements overgrown with vegetation on the A339 through Headley.

6. Planning Applications

Planning applications for Chippings Barn and Broadcroft still awaited comments from Councillors.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Hoskins reported that the Borough's Principal Planning Officer had commented on the plan and where appropriate such comments had been incorporated into the plan. The next action is for the Parish Council to appoint an independent advisor and the Clerk has confirmed that the Chairman has the authority to do on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council will also have to approve the plan prior to submission. The evidence of this approval is required for the Consultation Statement. If this does not coincide with the normal meeting cycle of Parish Council meetings, an Extraordinary meeting will be convened to solely approve the plan.

8. Reports

County Councillor's report

Cllr Mellor reported that the main focus was currently being concentrated on the 'County Deal' initiative from central government, the issues relating to a new recycling centre and highways' issues.

Borough Councillor

Cllr Rhatigan reported on his attendance at the recent public meeting to discuss the new housing development proposal in Ashford Hill. Cllr Rhatigan reported on the vital importance of the Parish Council endorsing the Neighbourhood Plan at an Extraordinary meeting if needed. Cllr Rhatigan further emphasised the Borough Council's policy of only endorsing small housing developments of no more than 10 dwellings and ideally on brownfield sites and with a style and size of dwelling that suited younger and lower salaried people with local connections to the area. Cllr Rhatigan encouraged residents to express in writing their opposition to a large-scale housing development as being proposed for Ashford Hill.

Cllr Rhatigan further reported on the sound financial status of the Borough Council together with the welcomed budget for next year. The Council being in a strong financial situation had been able to recruit more staff to further improve front line services to the residents of the Borough and there was an ongoing emphasis to make Basingstoke even more of an attractive location to work and live.

The Chairman's verbatim report;

"Councillor email addresses

Our web site provider can offer this at £4.60 per person per month, which would be about £442 per year. There are alternatives like Ionos, for 10 emails at £30 inc VAT or £360 per year. Alternatively, we look at something like GMAIL etc.

*The Chairman proposed the use of Ionos as provider and apart from Cllr Hoskins, all Councillors were in favour of such a proposal. The Chairman would enrol the Parish Council and inform the Councillors and the Clerk of the new addresses in due course. **

Cesspool at Ashford Hill recreational grounds

A large cesspool had been installed in the recreational grounds with work being carried out on behalf of the Cricket Club and its use of the pavilion. The work appears to have gone well but the area does look a bit of mess due to the wet conditions. As the hole was filling with water the contractors had to pump it out into a nearby ditch. In the water was a lot of silt which has filled the ditch.

*Councillors felt we should write to the Cricket Club to get further clarity on the ground plans and the filled in ditch. **

Ashford Hill recreational basketball net & Play Park repairs

The basketball nets have been fully repaired with assistance from Cllr Dunn. Replacement swing bushes have been ordered at approx. cost of £30.

Request for funding

Landowners around Great Haughurst Copse have carried out repairs to the area and are seeking funding for such works. The Baughurst Parish Council has offered funding and we can offer £500 (according to the Clerk).

Councillors were unanimous in approving this funding.

Ashford Hill Educational Trust

We have been asked to approve our representative on the AH Educational Trust, Bob Lawrence.

Councillors were unanimous in approving Mr Bob Lawrence as a Parish Council representative.

Parish Councillors

Cllrs Hoskins and Dunn had successfully secured the broken door to the old changing room facility on Headley recreation ground.

Cllr Hoskins reported on the renewed interest from Cold Ash Juniors Football Club to use Headley recreation ground. The main unresolved issue is parking and the Club have suggested an appropriate form of matting. Cllr Hoskins would be proposing a site visit to discuss the parking issue.

Cllr Hoskins had applied on behalf of the Parish Council to Hampshire County Council's 'Countryside Access - Parish Delivery Partnership' for funding of equipment (brush cutter & hedge trimmer) and training for Headley's ROW Wardens.

Cllr Saunders expressed her concern over comments from residents about the problem with the garden waste collection whereby they felt abandoned by the Borough Council because of their geographical location in the borough although the residents paid the same amount of Council Tax than those unaffected in the borough.

Clerk to the Council

The Clerk reported on the resignation of the Litter Warden for Headley at the end of December 2021 and confirmed that the post would be advertised in the Parish Magazine.

The Clerk asked Councillors to email the Chairman with any considerations that they wished to be included in the budget for next year.

9. Recess

The editor of the Parish Magazine informed the meeting of the schedule for publication and printing.

10. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £2,534.56

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £28,372.40

11. Accounts approval & payment

PKF Littlejohn LLP – External audit - £360.00

Mr S Dunn – plywood for old pavilion on Headey recreation ground - £37.80

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.31pm.