

**ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**AT ASHFORD HILL VILLAGE HALL**

**Present**

Mr J Woodford (Chairman), Mr S Hiscock (Vice Chairman), Mr R Tucker, Mrs R Wilson and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

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

**1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Stewart, Saunders, Liddeatt and Rhatigan

**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 24<sup>th</sup> September 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 being pursued by Cllr Hiscock. \*

**5. Highways**

The Chairman's report covered the following issues;

"Hedges near to Benham Lane and Persimmons (new Ashford Hill housing development) have been cut back. I have asked Cllr Stewart to get the hedge to the left of Chapel Lane "South" to cut by the Lengths man's scheme.

Speeding – We have received the information from Cllr Mellor about Community Funded plans, we are now considering these options and what HCC Highways can offer as well.

White lines – No comments received to my email request to Cllr Mellor following last month's meeting.

Drainage – Blockages again by the The Ship Inn side of the B3051. Looks like I will once again have to do the work for HCC Highways.

Chapel Lane “South” – Repairs have been concluded to the apron onto the B3051, this was reported by me on 27th September 2017 [Enquiry Reference: 21315021]  
Signage cleaning – I see a few residents have tried to wipe down some signs in AH, the Lengths man’s team will be cleaning all signs within AH very soon.”

Cllr Hiscock requested that the occupants of Cherry Cottage in Headley be written to by the Council to remind them of their legal obligation to maintain their boundary hedges to ensure that they do not impinge on the public highway.

Cllr Tucker reporting on the breaking up of the road surface on Ashford Hill Road and Thornford Road was requested by the Chairman to take photographic evidence and forward that to the Highways department for their attention.

Cllr Tucker reported on the potholes still prevalent outside the former Harrow PH which Cllr Mellor covered in his report later in the agenda.

Cllr Wilson raised again the absence of fence panelling which had previously been present adjacent and integral to the Ashford Hill village road sign which had acted as an indication to drivers that they were now entering a village. The Chairman confirmed that information recently received from Cllr Mellor contained information regarding this example of a traffic calming measure which was currently being considered by the Parish Council.

## **6. Planning Applications**

The Clerk reported that the BPS Leisure Ltd planning application would be referred to the Secretary of State on appeal. An objection was lodged on behalf of the Parish Council regarding a planning application for Cherry Tree House in Headley based on the perceived overdevelopment of the site.

## **7. Reports**

### **County Councillor’s verbatim report**

“Highways

Locally and imminent.....

Temporary Traffic Orders involving short term road closures have been issued with diversion notification and residents should be notified;

A/ Galley Lane for 2 days w/c 28/10- impact on through traffic from A339

B/ Advance notice of Old Lane work sometime in next 6 months lasting 3 days. I clarified the access issue to a regular resident / correspondent.

Of interest, there has been some bridge work undertaken at Axmansford which probably pushed some traffic through Wheathold; this work and the imminent winter will delay the full micro asphaltting of Wolverton Road which would no doubt have an impact on B3051. Will keep you informed.

#### Medium Term

A/White line request from the Chair; this has been undertaken some time ago with Give Way/ improved lining at both the junction of the AH Road and Little Knowl Hill and at Headley.

White signage on anti-skid can only be done when resurfacing is complete- matter advised at last meeting.

Request for more on B3051; this may be part of bigger activity in 2019.

B/ C111 update. Regaled the problems resultant from the current and future development (Blaze). Although Traffic Management had looked at the issue, seems like the only solution as seen by the PC is for the current 30 mph sign to be placed at the bottom of the hill approaching the school. This was suggested in May but to date the required speed check by the Police has not been undertaken. No doubt the Police do not see a priority on this as no accident or collision data to support. Matter to be discussed at a meeting on October 18 and will revert next meeting.

#### Longer Term

A339. Manydown development - the joint HCC/BDBC project will result in a 10 pc Traffic growth on the A339. South of Rooksdown the A339 has seen some major improvements down to the M3 with Black Dam, A33 through Chineham, work at the bottom of the A340 all done. Problem will be North of Rooksdown and specifically towards the County boundary in view of expected housing developments in Greenham, Thatcham and Sandleford adding to the traffic. A consultation is imminent and of specific reference to Headley and Ashford Hill will incorporate the need for better access to/ from A339. Notably, the plans for Little Knowl Hill, Kingsclere / Union Lane and the Ashford Hill Road. I urge some input; any work will not be undertaken until the first tranche of residents move into Manydown end of 2021.

#### Other issues

A/ November 10th is the AGM of HALC. Important that your PC is represented as HCC will be launching a £500000 annual fund to assist rural investment.....rights of way, bridleway etc and this should benefit the rural parts of the Parish. There are some 263 parishes in the County and some move quickly when funds become available.! Even the 28 towns become rural occasionally!

B/ I was pleased to help with my Councillors Grant contribution to the Headley Playground project. Equally surprised to hear that the PC had not previously applied in past 12 years. Of course the grant scheme is open to requests from all charities or similar and in past year has funded the AH Cricket Club, the Charity assisting the school on an educational programme and also offered help to Headley Village Hall.

C/HWRC. Decision on continuation of the current interim arrangement with W Berks at Newtown Road will be made on October 29th."

### **Borough Councillor's report**

Cllr Sherlock advised of planning applications by Kingsclere estates for disposal of spoil at Folly Farm on the A339 and the siting of a Green Burial ground also off the A339, so contributing to the already present mayhem on that road.

Cllr Sherlock further reported that the Leisure Centre proposals were out for consultation and that the planning request for Manydown would hopefully come before the Development Control Committee in November.

Cllr Sherlock further reported on the very successful referendum for the Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan when turnout was at a 10% higher frequency than the norm and the result would be put before full council later in the week.

### **Chairman's verbatim report**

“Charles Church Development

Lots of rubbish from the site now in the new “Village Pond”, has been reported to Mark Fletcher of B&D BC Enforcement Officer. No reply yet received to my request, pictures were sent as well showing builders waste, crisp packets and Costa cups (clearly from the site employees).

Recreational Ground, Headley

We are most grateful to Cllr Mellor who has kindly offered £1250 funding toward the play park project in Headley. The order has been placed, we are awaiting a commencement of works from Fawns after their visit on the 22nd October with Cllr Stewart.

Recreational Ground, Ashford Hill

Have contacted the Head of Ashford Hill Primary school about imminent repairs to the ground. Meeting yet to be confirmed but suggestions have been made.

Fibre Optic in the village – Ultra-Fast Broadband but not for all?

Have been copied in on numerous emails about the situation. I also received notice on 1st October that Gigaclear will not be coming into Ashford Hill with their services. This news was passed on to Mr Peacey, and Cllr Mellor neither have made any comment to me, or indicated what is the proposed installation coverage plans for AH or what is being considered by HCC BB Team now. I was hopeful further news would have been shared tonight.”

### **Parish Councillors**

Cllr Tucker enquired as to the likelihood of the Ashford Hill housing developers creating a school car park on land opposite the school. The Chairman confirmed that such a facility was at the total discretion of the housing development company.

Cllr Tucker raised the issue of the water supply standing charge for the changing room facility on the Headley recreation ground which whilst no longer used still needed the standing charge for such a utility service paid on a regular basis. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would meet this minimal annual charge until the future use of the location was agreed.

Cllr Tucker also raised the need for the football pitch at Headley recreation ground to receive some remedial attention and it was agreed that the detail of the necessary work would be discussed outside the meeting with the Grounds Contractor.

Cllr Tucker confirmed that the feedback from volunteers to become involved in the compilation of the Neighbourhood Plan was proving to be very positive.

Cllr Hiscock had received an enquiry from a local resident regarding the potential of natural gas being available in Headley. It was confirmed that a minimum of 30 households would need to be interested in receiving this utility in order for it to be a feasible proposition for the service provider.

#### **8. Recess**

Members of the public discussed with the Chairman a variety of issues that were concerning them including the continued flooding of the road near to Pam's Bridge.

#### **9. Financial Statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stands at £9,684.07.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stands at £27,900.56.

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

B P Murduck – Headley recreation ground maintenance - £348.00

PKF Littlejohn LLP – Audit Commission fee - £480.00

#### **11. Correspondence received**

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.18 pm.