

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th OCTOBER 2019

AT ASHFORD HILL VILLAGE HALL

Present

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

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

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Rhatigan and Kinnear.

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 9th September 2019 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

It was recognised by Cllr Stewart that the Length man's scheme does not have the appropriate equipment to deal with the work required in Galley Lane but Cllr Hiscock confirmed that work on the hedges and verges would commence soon and be undertaken by the land owner.

5. Co-option of Parish Councillors

The Chairman welcomed the recent interest from local residents regarding the vacant positions as Parish Councillors for both wards. Cllr Saunders was pleased to propose that Mr Paul Wyatt be co-opted onto the Council as Parish Councillor for the Headley ward and this proposal was seconded by Cllr Stewart. Mr Wyatt was asked to join the meeting by the Chairman. Cllr Cochrane proposed the co-option of Mrs Lorna Grist as Parish Councillor for the Ashford Hill ward. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Hiscock. The Chairman asked Mrs Grist to join the meeting.

6. Highways

The Chairman reported that the drains by Pam's bridge had been cleared. Waiting for the two other issues to be resolved soon that had been mentioned in September report. [Pavement between Old and Chapel Lane and the large pot hole at the top of Ashford Hill].

Cllr Hiscock agreed to approach the residents of 6, Common Road, as despite the Clerk writing to them, the overgrown state of their boundary hedges was causing drivers' sight lines to be obscured and therefore posed a serious danger to drivers of vehicles.

Cllr Wyatt reported an abandoned lamp post following works on the A339. If not collected, the Chairman recommended that Cllr Wyatt report it to the County Council via their online system.

7. Planning Applications

An objection would be made by the Parish Council to the application for land at Common Road, Headley based on the assertion that it would adversely affect a SINC and in addition is an overdevelopment of the site.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

The Steering Group had sought permission from the Parish Council to appoint a planning consultancy in order to verify the work being undertaken to create the Neighbourhood Plan and in order to ensure that it would be fit for purpose and stand up to any scrutiny. The Parish Council approved the appointment of Bell Cornwell which would incur fees in the region of £6000 which would be recoverable from a government funded organisation called Locality through a grant application undertaken by the Steering Group. The proposal was proposed by Cllr Hiscock and seconded by Cllr Stewart. The Clerk advised that the condition of granting the Steering Group permission to appoint Bell Cornwell should be based on the caveat that the appointment of the consultancy was conditional upon the grant from Locality being received to a magnitude that would cover the fees incurred from Bell Cornwell.

9. Recess

Members of the public raised a number of issues with the Chairman. Particular concern was raised by one member of the public who felt that the Parish Council should be doing more to wage a campaign against the planning application for a travellers' settlement in Headley. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council, working in conjunction with Borough Councillors, had done all that it could to express its opposition to the planning application under planning legislation.

10. Reports

County Councillor

Cllr Mellor's verbatim report;

'Education; Again 98% of children secured their choice of school; Programme of new schools in the County continues including Special Needs. GCSE results were excellent and the hiccup at The Clere is over as Ofsted has again been rated as Good and it along with others were exceeding the National Average on exam results.

I did have a couple of queries over School Transport availability from those who had elected to send the children to a school outside the catchment area for AHH. Resolved. All in all Children Services is in very good shape with all categories declared Outstanding by Ofsted - unique in the UK.

Children Services and Adult Social Care take up some 65% of HCC expenditure; followed by Highways and Waste which both run around £100m each. - total £2billion budget.

It has been asked as to what HCC can do about the problems of the development on Ashford Hill Road specifically re the lack of the allegedly promised car park facility opposite the school which I have been advised is in doubt. Now that the developer is applying for another 27 houses to be built then the situation on the C111 will have to be reviewed. It was asked why the Parish Council had not proceeded with the HCC Community Funded Traffic Initiative for new village entry gates which would simultaneously act for another speed calming measure. The Chairman responded that the Parish Council could not afford at the moment their contribution as they were owed £25k in S106 monies. This and the car park issue has impact on what can be done on the C111 to eliminate the current walk from the Church, to create better traffic visibility for those living on the brow of the Hill etc.

A resilience micro asphaltting resurfacing on the stretch of the B3051 from Sasron to Old Lane had been recommended - this would also include the pavement. Any work to date has not been progressed because of the Blaze damaged drainage work last Autumn, the planned Openreach work on the Green box sited on the pavement (Not undertaken due wayleave but unaware as to how Openreach will overcome this problem in the New Year). As to whether it will be included in the next programme will not be known for a few weeks.

A Crime Forum with the police in Tadley and Baughurst had been organised in late July and was well received. As the Ashford Hill and Headey areas' 'crime' was more rural in style, the police had intimated that they would be happy to do similar forum for Ashford Hill and Headley. (NB advised that the Parish Council Chairman had attended the symposium in Winchester to hear of all the new initiatives on Crime Prevention.)

Other notes

1. I did not contribute to the Open Forum other than advise re the action I had taken when a resident complained about a fence that had partially collapsed on to the A339 pavement near Harrow Drive.

2. In response to a comment by Cllr Hiscock re lack of equipment for the Lengths man duties, advised re the Rural Fund that can be used”.

Chairman

The Chairman’s verbatim report;

‘Headley recreational area

While walking around the play park I noticed one of the fence poles by the bigger swings is loose. Please can this be attended to.

Ashford Hill goal post sockets

I met with Cheam School’s sports ground team last week and they have very kindly offered to re-site the goals; 10m away from their current location at the hedge end and install some new ground sockets 50m out from this new location. They agreed this would be a good location and offer a meaningful kick around area for juniors and teens. They will install these sockets in the coming weeks.

Rural Policing meeting – Sunday 8th October

This meeting was held in Sparsholt College, run by the Hampshire Police to inform residents of Hampshire there is a dedicated team of officers focused on rural policing issues. The team is currently headed up by Inspector Korine Bishop and supported by many police officers under the Country Watch scheme. I had the opportunity to meet with PC Will Butcher our officer stationed in Tadley and have invited him to attend a PC meeting the future. I also took the opportunity to mention the concerns expressed to the PC by many residents about speeding in the area.

Topics during the day; Hare Coursing, if spotted dial **999** immediately and tell the officer you are witnessing this act, do not get involved and if possible take video footage of it. Anyone caught in the act will have their dogs taken, lose their driving licence and have their car impounded. They will be focusing on farm and rural equipment theft so far this year have recovered £1.2m worth of equipment. They also recommended marking up equipment by using Pink Paint on batteries, and marking up equipment through CESAR where the machinery is tagged and then logged on a database. Something I found very interesting is an application on the phone called **What3words** which can help the police locate you rather than using an OS grid reference. Fly tipping was also spoken about and I have some information to share with the Parish Council about that. The police did say if you witness anything then use your cameras to capture the activity as this can really help to lead to a prosecution.

Ashford Hill Parish Council car park – recreational grounds

It has been brought to the attention of Cllr Cochrane and myself that the surface of the AH car park is problematic during the dry summer months, due to the dust being thrown up. Speaking to a local contractor about what repairs might be carried out I have a quotation for £5,185 +VAT to undertake the work. As the Parish Council does not have sufficient funds for these repairs I will ask for a 1 off increase to the annual Precept during 2020/21 to raise the funds for such works to be carried out.

I will also look to see if we have any surplus from 2019/20 to be repurposed for these works as well. The recommended works will be to level off, resurface the area with 43 tonnes of 20mm Cotswold round stone, install a lip to the car park to prevent the stones from creeping off and improve drainage off the car park so that it no longer runs down Chapel Lane but into the ditch to the right of the entrance.

Ashford Hill field 2 planning application

We are aware and have been informed about the interest to develop the second field along the C111.

We are fortunate that there is now a Local Plan in place and we have a defined settlement boundary which can be defended by BDBC now.

Cllr Rhatigan has publicly commented he is not in favour of further green field encroachments by planning in the borough and favours brown field locations. As this is not brown field location we are expecting his full support on this.

Finally as the current new houses are not fully occupied, we are not yet certain how this new larger population will impact on the village dynamics as a whole, so a further 27 dwellings will have a huge change to our village population. We will be asking BDBC to carefully consider these points.

November 2019 meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 11th in Headley Hill Village Hall starting at 7:30pm.’’

Parish Councillors

Cllr Cochrane reported that a child from the pre-school group had required the use of a defibrillator and it was discussed as to whether or not such equipment could be funded for the pre-school but it was decided that the equipment located at the primary school was an adequate provision. Cllr Cochrane agreed to order a sign to inform users of the pre-school group as to the location of the equipment available at the primary school.

Cllr Wyatt reported fly tipping at the garden centre on the A339 which the Chairman requested be reported to HCC via their online help desk.

Cllr Wyatt asked for an update on the travellers' site planning application to which the Chairman could provide no further update other than what had been reported at the last meeting. Cllr Wyatt raised the local concern as to the Four Kingdoms' application for a liquor licence. The Chairman confirmed that the Borough Councillors would be objecting to both applications.

Cllr Stewart reported that the arborist who had offered recent advice regarding the woodland around Headley recreation ground would be offering further advice to a local working party who would be undertaking much needed work on a voluntary basis.

Cllr Stewart further reported on the idea to cut a path on the edge of the recreation ground parallel to Ashford Hill Road in order to allow residents a safe means of walking to the community shop. The work would be undertaken at no cost to the Parish Council by volunteers.

Cllr Saunders confirmed that the pavement on the Knightsbridge stretch of the A339 was very dangerous to runners and pedestrians alike as the pavement had not been cleared of detritus for a considerable period of time. The ford end of Thornford Road was also very overgrown and difficult to traverse since the last work on it was undertaken. It was discussed that this regular requirement for pavement clearance should be considered in the programme of works undertaken by the Length man's scheme next year.

Cllr Hiscock presented a quotation for works to undertake the replacement of 'Dragons teeth' on the perimeter of Headley recreation ground. The cost of work amounting to £1047 was proposed by Cllr Hiscock and seconded by Cllr Stewart. Cllr Hiscock further reported that the football nets on Headley recreation ground would be installed within the next two weeks.

Clerk to the Council

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

11. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £23,631.11

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £8,964.00

12. Accounts for approval and payment

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.59pm.