

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2022

Present

Mr J Woodford (Chair), Mrs K Saunders (Vice Chair), Mr G Stewart, Mr P Clark, Mr S Hoskins, Mr J Sunley and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

Councillors Mellor and Rhatigan and members of the public were also present.

In attendance

Mrs Caroline Hellings was in attendance in the capacity of Chair of the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan subcommittee.

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Councillors and members of the public to the September 2022 meeting of the Parish Council. The Chair explained to a number of residents from Brimpton Common that they would have the opportunity to discuss their issue of concern when the meeting came to the agenda item entitled Recess. This would be an opportunity to address the Chair of the meeting.

The Chair continued to inform the meeting that there would be a two minute silence before the proceedings of the meeting started in profound respect of the passing of Her Majesty the Queen.

A two minute silence in honour of the memory of Her Majesty the Queen was respected by all assembled.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Dunne.

2. **Declaration of interest**

None declared.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th June 2022 were approved.

4. **Matters arising**

Action points detailed on pages 1607, 1608 and 1613 had been actioned or addressed with the exception of two quotes being ascertained for the parking layby in Thornford Road in Headley.

5. **Frequency of Parish Council meetings**

It was resolved to hold 10 meetings per year including an AGM as required by statute and that the summer recess would be for the months of July and August of each year. The resolution was proposed by Cllr Sunley and seconded by Cllr Clark.

6. **Highways**

The Chair reported that two drains by the Baughurst Brook either side of Pam's Bridge, (the foot bridge), were breaking up and exposing the drain grill and iron work plus potholes forming around them. The Chair had reported this situation in the past but no action had been taken and it therefore had been reported again on the 8th July 2022.

The Chair further reported that the car accident near to the former Pineapple Pub in July 2022, where there had been a fatality, is being investigated by the north Hampshire police force. The accident involved several cars and residents in the immediate area to the scene assisted the emergency services. The section of the B3051 was closed for many hours to permit recovery and assessment of the area of the accident.

The Chair further reported on a dumped caravan by the church in Ashford Hill, which Cllr Rhatigan was aware of.

Cllr Mellor reminded the meeting of the overnight closure of the A339 in September to address road surface repairs and that the work required at the junction of the B3051 whilst marked up for repair was not regarded as priority work.

7. **Planning Applications**

22/01720/GPDAA – Mayfield, Newbury Road, Headley

- Erection of an additional storey to a dwelling with maximum roof height of
No objection

22/01748/RET – 2 Tanhouse Cottages, Ashford Hill Road, Headley

- Retrospective application for the installation of PV modules on roof of extension currently under construction
No objection

22/03808/RES – Land at the south side of Ashford Hill Road, Ashford Hill

- Reserved matters application for erection of 27 no. dwellings with associated development works pursuant to Outline Planning Application – 19/02726/OUT
Objection letter sent

22/01504/PIP – Land adjacent to A339, Newbury Road, Headley

- Permission in principle for the erection of a minimum of 1 no. and maximum of 2 no. residential dwellings
Objection

22/02069/PIP – Land north east of Little Knowl Hill, Ashford Hill
- Permission in principle for residential development for a minimum of 1 no. and a maximum of 2 no. dwellings

Objection

22/02092/FUL – 3 Holt Cottages, Ashford Hill
- Erection of a detached dwelling following demolition of garage

Objection

22/02041/FUL – Wheelers Land, Little Knowl Hill, Ashford Hill
- Extension and alterations to main house

No objection

22/02133/GPDADW – Dairy House Farm, Ashford Hill
- Notification of proposed change of use of agricultural building to Class C3 dwelling

22/02177/ROC – Rialana, Ashford Hill Road, Headley
- Variation of condition 1 to amend plans to show access to the first floor via a loft hatch

No objection

22/02269/VLA – Whitehall House, Ashford Hill Road, Ashford Hill
- Discharge of S106 agreement which restricted the occupation of the building to staff employed

Objection

22/02254/TDC – Land at Springfield, Newbury Road, Headley
- Technical Details Consent for the erection of 4 no. four bedroom detached dwellings, pursuant to Planning Permission in principle approval

Objection letter sent

22/02209/FUL – Hillside House, Ashford Hill Road, Headley
- Erection of 2 no. five bedroom dwellings

Objection

22/02374/HSE/02375/LBC – Hill House, Hillhouse Lane, Plastow Green
- Roof replacement works, new double glazed roof lights to central roof, new roof mounted photovoltaic cells and installation of roof mounted low height heat pump units and internal alterations

No objection

21/03253/FUL – The Glade, Common Road, Headley
- Erection of 2 no. detached dwellings with associated parking and amenity space

Objection letter sent

22/02396/HSE – 1 Cannon Stable Cottages, Wheathold, Wolverton
- Erection of single storey oak framed extension, garden studio and porch

No objection

8. **Neighbourhood Plan**

Mrs Hellings reported on the successful outcome of the recent referendum to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan for the Ashford Hill with Headley neighbourhood area. Whilst a low turnout, 92.6% of those who did vote, voted in favour of the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan. Mrs Hellings explained that having such a Plan would be useful to the Parish Council insofar as being able to use it to object to certain planning applications.

The Chair had send a congratulatory message to Mrs Hellings and the other volunteers who had worked so tirelessly to compile and present the Neighbourhood Plan.

It would be discussed how best to mark the completion of the Plan and the successful outcome of the referendum which had endorsed its use.

The Chair had commented to the Newbury News about the successful outcome of the recent referendum:

“Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council is delighted with the results of the referendum held on the 8th September 2022, where 92.6% of voters supported the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. 19.48% of the electorate turned out to vote, which was a good result considering it was also the day we learnt of the sad news that Her Majesty the Queen had passed away and it rained heavily in the afternoon.

I would like to thank the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan sub-committee, Mrs Caroline Hellings, for leading the local team of volunteers. As well as all the local volunteers who worked on various aspects of the plan, giving up their spare time and sharing their valuable views throughout the process.

In the Neighbourhood Plan, we believe we have created a solid vision for how our villages will grow and adapt to our population needs. We have set out clear guidelines and policies to help any future developments within the Parish. We have focussed on retaining the rural and historic nature of our Parish, whilst emphasising small developments on brownfield sites offering Affordable Local Housing.

Our Neighbourhood Plan plays well into recent comments from our Basingstoke MP, Maria Miller, who, on 1st September, called for "careful consideration of any future building in Basingstoke" and the Leader of the Borough Council, Cllr Simon Bound, stating "after 60 years of extreme housing growth, the Borough needs to slow down so local services and infrastructure can catch-up.

We are pleased that our Neighbourhood Plan reflects these recent views and will underpin the future vision and local needs of our Parish within the Borough.”

9. **Reports**

County Councillor's report

Cllr Mellor kindly forwarded the following report prior to the meeting;

1. "Hampshire was the first to impose a hosepipe ban in the past month after 6+ weeks without rain. There were a few heath fires at the peak of the temperature, all put out without any loss of life or injury. The Hampshire IOW Fire and Rescue Service/ Authority is simply one of the best.
2. There are several 'work in progress'/consultations ongoing, many just being finalized;
 - a) 'Bus Back Better' slogan designed to get people to leave their vehicles at home has been incorporated into the Local Transport Plan 4. As we stand, with County wide bus load factors over 25% below what they were pre pandemic, a revision of all the bus programme is underway. Many bus routes in the County are subsidized by HCC- the local No 2 is not and reflects a good high frequency operation maximizing use of driver/bus to keep costs low and the need for a direct service to the hospital. However, be it "working from home"; lower throughput at the hospital limiting demand, lower footfall in Basingstoke etc., the loads are down but rest assured we expect the usual service to be maintained. It would be good to know what input into the consultation/surveys was forthcoming in my ward. Of interest to me and HCC is any viable Community transport suggestion.
 - b) The time approaches for the Council to review the current Highways Contract with our partners, Milestone. They do what their finances allow and more and, notwithstanding the perceptions people have nationwide, get more road maintenance done within the timeframe set. Again with a focus on the strategic roads, work has been ongoing on the A339 for 7 weeks and still some more to be done at the northern end. The B road through Wolverton has been completed under the Operation Resilience programme which should mean a relatively trouble free 15 years and Highways have been undertaking a reasonable amount of pothole work. There may well be some drainage issues following the summer weather and with autumn upon us along with the revised grass cutting/hedgerow schedules.
 - c) 20mph review. I understand as of last week there were some 7000 responses to the online survey which has been extended to 12 September. There was a lower figure to the Local Travel Plan 4 which preceded the 20mph Review; as with Borough/District Local Plans, a Local Transport Plan is an essential document and often used to secure additional government funding. If you have not submitted or need any assistance, do let me know. Police input, updates from the likes of Wales that has introduced a programme, comparisons with other counties and analysis of the 14 areas /zones within Hampshire where we have been trialling are part of the review. As it is evidence based as opposed to 'perception', no surprise how many Towns/Parishes have been investing in SID's etc. to support any input! Of course there is the standard comment from many that without enforcement, little point in changing. Review goes through to end of November.
 - d) County Deal'; this is a proposal involving all the local districts/unitaries/ Isle of Wight and indeed the likes of Bournemouth/Poole in Dorset under a Combined Authority to maximize benefits under the various government programmes...Levelling Up; Transforming Cities; Freeport development; major road infrastructure.

Second proposal was due to go into government in July; held up by the election “problems” within my political party. The County Deal incorporates administrations under different political banners within Hampshire, does not impinge on the actions of the individual Boroughs and brings economic development to the fore with additional government funding. With inflation, we do have some serious expenditure constraints and cooperation on many issues is the only way to get government support.

3. Climate Change Impact Assessment is undertaken on all activity within HCC; the need for more alternative fuel/energy and the need for provision of this from many suppliers has had an effect on the negative comment from the so called eco warriors. With the oil companies now generating a lot of revenue for new energy; with oil producing countries not being as badly affected by the current Russian boycott, compare this with Greens now supporting the re-opening of coal mines in Germany and ‘nuclear’ now providing a vast amount of France’s energy, then there is a local acceptance that we need to ensure renewables as part of keeping the energy inflation down. Similarly, HCC management of the Hampshire Pension Fund Board has had to resist campaigns aimed at trying to stop all investment in energy companies. The £9Bn fund has just c.2% in the likes of oil/oil related business and although we recognize the need to keep this low, it will continue with the support of the members and Board.

4. Schools. As I go to print, the GCSE results have just been announced following the A levels two weeks ago. Detail will be discussed with Councillors next month although present indication from the Exec Lead of Children’s Services is one of time for congratulation! Of course, comparison against last year’s teacher assessments and resultant university placements is difficult. Children’s Services has some tremendous challenges with the growth in Hampshire of SEN students from 8 to 11000 during the pandemic, that retaining the impeccable ‘Outstanding’ in all categories will be difficult. The Hampshire CC ‘Home to School Transport service with costs increasing during the pandemic from £27M to £32M+ did consult on some car sharing for SEN children last month to try and save c£1M and work like other counties.

During August, the ‘Pantries’ were continued, Fuel Poverty vouchers issued via Citizens Advice, HAF Holiday assistance granted to deprived kids etc. in an effort to reduce the effects of the Energy induced Cost of Living crisis. The government action plan on Energy/COL is eagerly sought and hopefully with us next month.

Finally, as a comment, mainly in Tadley Central/North. I do receive several comments re the state of some garage blocks; non occupied of course either because they were difficult to approach in larger vehicles, but with some trees/bushes growing in front of doors and thus not even allowing the areas to be used for parking, then there could be mileage in the Town or Parish persuading the private owners to do something about it. Same with some verges of course. Just a thought; Devolved Councillors Grant could assist. It is ‘Environment’ after all.”

Cllr Mellor added to his report that he was pleased to see a more realistic new housing allocation for the Borough as it was increasingly difficult for the County Council to provide an appropriate infrastructure of roads when housing allocations have not been established.

Cllr Mellor further reported on the inadequate repairs to road surfaces undertaken by utility companies and in particular Southern Water. Often the inferior repairs necessitated the County’s highways department undertaking the necessary remedial works which then in turn causes further delays in the highways department achieving their schedules of work.

Borough Councillor's report

Cllr Rhatigan reported on the Council's refusal of the Knightsbridge planning application which was to be welcomed but did make the site vulnerable to a successful application for a travellers' site. 'The Glade' planning application would seem to be favoured as a site for a development of 3 dwellings. The recent application for a care home at the junction of the A339 had been rejected as it was a departure from the Local Plan.

Cllr Rhatigan congratulated the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan subcommittee on the successful completion of the Plan together with the referendum result which was in favour of its adoption. The Plan would protect the villages from large developments and Cllr Rhatigan continued to support small developments and the development of brown field sites.

Cllr Rhatigan reported on the Council's recent water survey which identified the areas' vulnerability to commercial 'spillages' into water courses and the vital need for residents to be vigilant and report such incidents to the Council.

Chair's verbatim report:

"S106 funding projects

During the summer period we have been pursuing three S106 funded projects. These include two Jubilee benches to be placed in Headley at the junction of the C111 and Thornford road and the second in Ashford Hill to replace an old one close to the junction of the C111 and B3051. The second project is for octagonal benches for Headley and Ashford Hill. Three benches are for Headley and two will be for Ashford Hill, locations to be decided. The final project is to install new goals at the Ashford Hill recreational grounds.

Headley Pavilion

Since the last meeting the Pavilion has been further finished off, a new patio area has been created which also allows for wheelchair access to the building. Minor landscaping will be carried out in the coming month. We are looking to install CCTV around the building as a precautionary measure; these will film 24/7 around the area of the building and we hope should deter any unwelcomed interest in accessing the building.

Ashford Hill goal posts and Play park area

Cllr Paul Clark, Cllr Jules Sunley and I looked to move the goals to their secondary positions. We managed to move one goal but failed to lift one out of its sockets and were unable to locate one of the goal's sockets. We need to think of a way to lift out the stuck side and locate the socket again.

We have asked Fawns to replace one of the wooden uprights on the large swings as it is badly cracked. We hope work will be carried out November of this year. Could we also ask the Lengthman's scheme to tidy up the play park, remove weeds around the park and any brambles at the back of it? Plus cut back the branches above the outside play equipment under the tree.

Councillor Graham Stewart – retiring from the Parish Council

After 30 years serving on the Parish Council today is the last day for Graham. We asked if he could remain on the Council until this meeting so we could make suitable arrangements. Before I read out my statement, I have to read these following comments from two former Councillors who had the pleasure of working with Graham during his tenure.

Heather Taylor (former Councillor)

“Graham - I do however remember that when Bob Lawrence, Dave Chamings and Graham were all representing Headley there was a huge amount of merriment and banter from their side of the table and sometimes we were all doubled up with laughter. After the meeting I was once told by a member of the village, that it was far more entertaining to come to the PC meetings than staying at home to watch the television! On a more serious note, Graham was always friendly, supportive and a very active member of the PC. It is amazing that he has done 30 years' service and he will be greatly missed. I join in with you all to thank him hugely for all his years of dedication.”

Rossy Wilson (former Councillor)

“Graham - What fun it has been to serve on the Parish Council with you. You are so much at the centre of our two villages and have always had an answer to any question I asked or problem that needed solving. Your contribution to our Parish has been extraordinary and I am sorry not to be at the meeting tonight to thank you myself.

For myself, over 10 years ago you welcomed me on the Parish Council with much enthusiasm as the “new kid”. You very kindly spoke to my parents about my early efforts on the Council and encouraged me to become ever more involved. When I took over the Chair position you have always offered sage advice, positive suggestions and recommendations. With our Parish being split between two large population centres keeping a balanced view of the needs of both has been key. We certainly would not have been able to realise the new Headley Pavilion without your involvement and securing of funds as well as past improvements to the play facilities in Headley. I hope you will continue to give recommendations to the Parish Council of any local needs you should spot. And I would like to thank you for your tremendous service to the Parish at large.”

The Chair then asked the Clerk to say a few words regarding the retirement of Cllr Graham Stewart.

Steven Marshall, Clerk to the Council

“It has been my privilege and honour to have served with Councillor Graham Stewart for nearly 2 decades and before starting my service in 2005 Graham had served as a Councillor for the ward of Headley for a decade or so before that time.

Much has been said about the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in terms of her service and duty to the United Kingdom and its people over many decades. Whilst our own Councillor has not been serving the parish of Ashford Hill and Headley for as many decades, Graham comes from an era when that generation knew the true meaning of public service and duty.

My observations over nearly two decades as far as Graham is concerned has been his consistency of approach to issues with the bedrock of tact and diplomacy.

I can recall many instances when Graham's sheer determination, some would say dogged determination, to achieve his objectives prevailed and Graham invariably won the argument!

Graham has always remained dignified and eloquent in all his numerous encounters with Councillors of a varying viewpoint, and it has invariably been his conviction for fairness and equality and what is best for his parishioners, that has won the day for him.

Because at the forefront of all that Graham has achieved in the significant number of years he has loyally served the residents of both Ashford Hill and Headley has been his quest to serve his parishioners to the very best of his abilities and in turn create the very best the villages can provide for their residents whether it be improving the public facilities or vehemently fighting the endless expansion of these rural communities.

Graham's sense of public service extends far beyond his Parish Council duties and can be seen in many aspects of village life such as his organisational skills for summer fetes and hands on involvement in the community shop.

Graham's legacy as a Councillor and a villager is great and difficult to emulate for the Councillors that follow in his footsteps.

Perhaps the new Headley Pavilion is the finest example of Graham's legacy and also serves as an example of his personal **tenacity** and **dutiful service** to the local community. **Tenacity** as far as constantly being at the forefront of the concept and provision of the new Headley Pavilion for nearly two decades and **dutiful service** in terms of being responsible for a public facility that can serve so many different elements of the local community well into the future.

I will personally miss Graham's wise counsel, his diplomatic approach, his empathetic manner and gentlemanly style.

In many ways like our beloved Queen's passing, Graham's retirement as a Councillor will undoubtedly be the passing of an era of committed public service, the like of which may well never be seen again."

Councillor Graham Stewart was presented with a cut glass wine decanter as a gesture of appreciation from the Parish Council for his years of service to the Council and the local community.

The Chair further reported that he had represented the Parish Council in assisting with the tolling of the church bell to mark the passing of Her Majesty the Queen on Thursday 8 September 2022.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Clark reported on the work, partially sponsored by the Parish Council, to improve the bridleway and footpaths in the vicinity of Great Haughurst Copse, being undertaken by a group of volunteers known as 'The Friends of Haughurst Copse'. Cllr Clark would act as the Council's liaison with the group who are undertaking such essential conservation work.

Cllr Hoskins reported on the successful commissioning of the new Headley Pavilion in time for the Platinum party on the recreation ground in Headley. Cllr Hoskins reported on the urgent need to let the facility and proposed an advertising campaign in the Parish Magazine.

10. Recess

Zoe Milne, representing a group of Brimpton Common residents from the Hampshire side of the community spoke to the Chair regarding the joint concern of residents following the tragic death of a car driver following a road traffic accident. The accident was still being investigated by the police authority who were indicating that a report was not likely until 2023. Ms Milne was keen to engage with West Berkshire Council and Hampshire County Council to ensure the speed limit, on the stretch of the B3051 which passed through both authorities, be lowered from 40 mph to 30 mph. Whilst the accident may have not been avoided as the driver responsible for the cause of the accident is alleged to have been under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, Ms Milne argued that if the vehicle in which a fatality had occurred had been driving at the reduced speed of 30 mph, the vehicle impact may have been less and the driver may have survived a lower speed of impact.

The Chair welcomed the comments received from the residents of Brimpton Common regarding this serious and concerning matter. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had no jurisdiction over the management of roads and it can only express concerns to the County Council on behalf of its parishioners.

Cllr Mellor provided some background information regarding the speed limit on the stretch of the B3051 under discussion and questioned whether or not a reduced speed limit on the stretch of road in question would have made any difference to the fatal car accident that had recently occurred. However, Brimpton Common residents were insistent that a reduced speed limit would have made a difference then and in the future and asked Cllr Mellor to intervene into the matter and insisted that Hampshire County Council should agree to the lowering of the speed limit on the County's stretch of the B3051 just as West Berkshire Council had agreed to lower the speed limit on the part of road that passes through its jurisdiction.

Cllr Rhatigan complained about the amount of weeds on pavements in both villages and kindly volunteered to spray weed killer on the pavements if the chemical were supplied.

Mr Roy Evans from the Cricket Club requested permission from the Parish Council to have a concrete base installed for the extension prior to planning permission being granted in order to avoid an increase in the cost. The matter was proposed by Cllr Sunley and seconded by Cllr Clark.

11. **Financial statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £17,271.47

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £21,122.79

12. **Accounts for approval & payment**

Mr S Marshall – Clerk’s salary July – October - December 2022 & Expenses - £5518.13

Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden’s salary – October – December 2022 - £513.51

Mr P Kemp – Litter Warden’s salary – October - December 2022 - £675.99

HM Revenue & Customs – Tax and Employer NIC - £235.86

BBS Ltd – PAYE administration - £90.00

BDBC – Inspection fee for new Headley Pavilion - £341.00

Mr R Bayly – RoW Wardens safety signs - £124.18

Scofell Commercial Landscapes – Grounds maintenance – June-August 2022 - £4077.21

Mr K Miles – Grounds works to Headley Pavilion - £1000.00

Mr A Miles – Entrance works to Headley Pavilion - £2822.64

SSE – Electricity charge for Headley Pavilion via direct debit - £34.25

Mr G Stewart – Furniture & Equipment for new Headley Pavilion - £1067.24 (Paid 15/6 & 26/7)

Hoskins Electrical Services – Works relating to new Headley Pavilion - £218.63 (Paid 28/6)

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm informing the meeting that the Vice Chair, Cllr Saunders would be chairing the October meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday 10 October 2022.

Note: A * in the minutes denotes an action point required.