

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th APRIL 2018

AT ASHFORD HILL VILLAGE HALL

Present

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

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

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Lideatt.

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 12 March 2018 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Cllr Hiscock reported on the ongoing highway flooding issue near to the Sascron site. The flooding is primarily caused by modern farming techniques whereby smaller fields with their own land drains have disappeared to provide larger areas for farming. Cllr Hiscock hoped to make contact with the landowner to discuss the ongoing problem. The Chairman commented on the fact that the Highways department needed to advise on the problem.

The Clerk had made an official complaint to the Planning department regarding the alleged breach of conditions regarding drainage on the Ashford Hill housing development. An acknowledgement had been received from the Senior Compliance & Enforcement Officer to inform the Parish Council that a site visit is to be undertaken to investigate the alleged breach of planning control.

The Clerk had received an acknowledgement of the Parish Council's letter of complaint regarding what was perceived by the Parish Council as an acute lack of recognition of the opinion and knowledge of local residents when considering planning permissions by the Borough Council. The acknowledgement from the Borough's Planning & Development Manager requested more examples of cases where it was felt that the opinion and knowledge of local residents had been ignored. Cllr Wilson commented on the fact that the Ashford Hill housing development was a classic case in point whereby local knowledge and a warning of the implications of such a development had been ignored.

The Clerk reported that the Cricket Club pavilion lease agreement makes no specific reference to the means of egress to the pavilion and its surrounding land.

The Clerk further reported that new Parish Council meeting dates and locations had been sent to all Councillors.

There had been no suggestions for works related to the Lengthman's scheme other than those contributed by Cllr Stewart and the Chairman. The existing list of works would be submitted with a view that Councillors would contribute to suggestions for work throughout the coming year.

The wording of a letter from the Chairman in support of the proposed new changing room project for Headley recreation ground was agreed for the Clerk to draw up the letter.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Tucker would be the representative of the Parish Council on the steering group for the Neighbourhood Plan and would report back to meetings on the progress being made.

6. Highways

Clarification was sought with regard to the potential litigation against the County Council for damage caused to vehicles by potholes. If the pothole had been reported and the County Council had failed to repair it there could be a potential financial claim by the car owner against the County Council.

Cllr Hiscock reiterated his concern of the ongoing problem of road side verge erosion as a result of vehicles passing in narrow roads and not yielding for each other.

Cllr Tucker produced a list of road surface repairs that were required in Headley which the Clerk was asked to register with the Highway's department.

7. Planning Applications

The planning applications for Ram Alley had been commented on by the Parish Council. A request had been made for a condition of planning permission to be applied to stipulate that the track surface of Ram Alley be restored to its original condition by the developer after the housing had been constructed.

Cllr Wilson reported on the concerns of local residents over what was considered an over development of housing within a rural environment because of the recent flurry of planning applications for new dwellings within the location.

8. **Reports**

Borough Councillor

Cllr Rhatigan further reported on the housing development at Ashford Hill and informed the meeting of the appointment of a Site Manager who would be co-ordinating the various aspects of the development as it progressed.

Cllr Rhatigan commented on the previous issue regarding the condition of the track known as Ram Alley and it had been suggested to the landowner that monies be made available from the sale of land plots at Woodlands Park Farm to fund the upgrading of the access route as a condition of the sale of the land.

Chairman's verbatim report

“Councillor Open Position in Headley

It is with regret that I must share with the Parish Council that Caroline Hellings has stepped down from the Parish Council with immediate effect. I would like to thank her for the support she has offered the community in the capacity of Councillor and Vice Chairman. She has been hugely helpful in facilitating a number of key procedural and fiscal matters which the Parish Council may not have been so aware of. I know she will continue to maintain strong relationships with the Parish Council through the village shop and Neighbourhood Plan.

Walk around with Cllr Victor Nicholls

On the 23rd March I had the opportunity to meet with Victor Nicholls [Executive Director of Borough Development and Deputy Chief Executive] who was being introduced to the Ward by our Borough Cllrs. I showed him the recreational area of Ashford Hill and we also reviewed the Charles Church development. I shared with him some of the key views of the Parish Council, local residents' aspirations and needs of the two village communities.

Charles Church no longer to offer the Affordable or Social housing

This is a question directed to the Borough Council, I have been made aware Charles Church are no longer going to construct the Social and Affordable housing. Has the Borough Council got information as to who will be the construction company? What assurances do we have of the quality of the houses to be built? These will be located at the “New Heart” of the village and the street scene needs to be in keeping or better than what we currently enjoy. I urge the Borough Council to share any information as they receive notifications.

Clarification of improvement of Ashford Hill Play Ground

LIF annual completion Review request has been passed to the Parish Council and project team to provide some evidence that the scheme achieved its goals: -

- Improved safety and increased use of the play park
- Increase satisfaction of Service users

We will need to supply evidence by the end of April. Thoughts would be to have simple questionnaire to poll user at the end of the school day and one weekend to ask what they think of the scheme. Does the Parish Council agree?

Parish Council Web site

The Parish Council web site has been running for the past 2 years, this was encouraged by a number of Parishioners that we should have one. The request for payment for the next 2 years has been received. Please can I ask for support to spend £137 for its continuation.

Recreational Ground Ashford Hill

Cllr Hiscock and myself meet with the Cricket Club's Chairman (Ben Osborne) and grounds keeper of the Cricket pitch to review the situation and review what is needed. The Cricket Club is also very disappointed in the damage and the lack of communication it has shared with the Parish Council about the proposed construction of the new nets.

It has been agreed the contractors will share with the Cricket Club and the Parish Council their suggested repairs and agree on when these will take place."

Parish Councillors

Cllr Wilson expressed concern regarding the fact that Charles Church would not be constructing the affordable housing element of the Ashford Hill housing development. Cllr Wilson expressed her concerns directly to the Borough Councillors present, stressing the importance of the fact that such housing must be of a good standard and in no way inferior to the major part of the development. Cllr Wilson went on to insist that the Borough Council should hold the developers to account over the quality of the affordable housing. Cllr Hiscock had undertaken repairs to the goal posts on the recreation grounds which had been misused by local children.

Clerk to the Council

The Clerk had no issues to report that had not already been covered by Parish Councillors' report.

9. **Recess**

Several issues of concern were discussed with members of the public and the Chairman.

10. **Financial Statement**

No bank statements were available at the time of the meeting to provide the normal financial statement. As it was the financial year end, the Clerk had presented Councillors with a full year's account of income and expenditure against budget. Whilst the overall account of the Parish Council presented demonstrated a £11,779 surplus as at the year end, £5,576 of that amount belonged to the Ashford Hill Playground Project and had to be presented as such as part of the Parish Council's consolidated accounts.

11. **Accounts for approval and payment**

Hampshire Association of Local Associations – 2018/2019 Membership fee - £378.00

12. **Correspondence received**

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.49 pm.