

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th DECEMBER 2016 AT ASHFORD HILL VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr J Woodford (Chairman), Mrs C Hellings, Mrs H Taylor, Mr G Stewart, Mr R Tucker and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

Councillor Rhatigan and members of the public were also present.

Apologies had been received from Councillors Chapman, Wilson and Austin.

Declaration of interest

Cllr Woodford declared an interest in the planning application for 1 Benham Lane, Ashford Hill.

Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th November 2016 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

Matters arising

The Clerk had written to the Bursar of Cheam School to discuss the traffic congestion caused by parents turning right into the school on the A339 at morning drop off. The Bursar had replied asking the Parish Council to support the idea of the installation of a filter lane on the A339 long enough to accommodate six cars as they wait to turn right into the school.

The Clerk brought to the attention of the Parish Councillors their individual responsibilities as trustees of Headley Recreation Ground Trust. Therefore, the matter raised in Recess at the November meeting regarding the safety condition of trees on the recreation ground needs to be further considered. The Clerk recommended the engagement of a tree surgeon to provide a condition report on trees that may be posing a safety risk to users. The Vice Chairman agreed to take this matter further.

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Neighbourhood Plan

Sharon Brentnall, a serving Planning Officer, made a brief presentation regarding the advantages of compiling a Neighbourhood Plan to the public meeting. Sharon stressed the facts that a Neighbourhood Plan can determine the quantity of affordable housing in any one housing development as well as determining the appropriate sites for housing developments as opposed to having sites forced upon the area.

Cllr Rhatigan emphasised the importance of a Neighbourhood Plan as it would prevent speculative developments by developers. The Plan can be protective of sites that the local community want to protect from development as well as limiting the identification of preferred sites. Cllr Rhatigan suggested to the Chairman that Sue Adams from Kingsclere Council be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to express her opinion as to whether or not the Neighbourhood Plan is the way forward as she has been managing the Neighbourhood Plan for Kingsclere.

The Chairman explained that the Neighbourhood Plan could not proceed without the creation of a steering committee constituted of 6 residents and 2 Parish Councillors.

It was reported that Thames Water had attended the locations on the Ashford Hill Road where flooding had occurred due to blocked drains and it had been identified that remedial works were required.

Cllr Tucker reported on the rainwater channel that had become inoperative and was causing a trip hazard on the corner of Thornford Road near to the cottages as it leads down to the ford.

Further reflection was required by Cllr Stewart as to the appropriateness of signage for the Thornford Road layby.

Planning Applications

The Planning Application for 1 Benham Lane would be objected to by the Parish Council on grounds of overdevelopment of the site together with loss of privacy to a neighbouring property.

Borough Councillors

Cllr Rhatigan reported that permits for local residents to use the West Berkshire recycling centre would be made available soon. The online viewing of Borough Council meetings would soon be available. The Environment Agency's decision to permit discharge into the Baughurst Brook would be closely scrutinised by the Borough Council to ensure that the quality of discharges is maintained and that resources would be made available to ensure the monitoring of discharges were managed on a sustained basis.

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Chairman

The Chairman's verbatim report:

"Small update on the Ashford Hill Play park regeneration project, funding of £74,000 has been raised with a hope for a further £1000 from Tesco which could be increased up to £5000 with the Blue Tokens if we are the most voted for at local stores. This means we have sufficient funds to start the project though the scheme has to be paired back. But I would like to congratulate a couple of local mums who have been seeking all sorts of funding routes. Well Done!!!

This week we heard back from the EA about the permission to discharge conditioned waste water into the Ashford Hill Brook from the approved new development site, it was granted to Persimmon Homes. As any system installed by Persimmon will have to achieved some very tight discharge levels. There are a number of conditions the site has to meet during its first year of operation to satisfy the EA that the waste water solution installed is functioning correctly.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Safe Christmas holidays and look forward in see you in the new year. Christmas drinks and snacks are available at the end of the meeting for those who would like to join us".

Parish Councillors

Cllr Tucker was analysing the scope of works as detailed in the Grounds Maintenance Schedule supplied to him by the Clerk. He further reported that three dead trees on the Headley recreation ground had been cut down.

Cllr Stewart had gained further information regarding the Lengths man scheme which would allow for 50 hours of work which can cover a varied amount of work including road sign cleaning and straightening of signs which had been dislodged. Work undertaken could also include hedge cutting.

Cllr Hellings suggested that the refuse collection days over the Christmas and New Year period be advertised on the Parish Council website. Cllr Hellings also reminded the meeting of the seasonal food tasting event at the Community Shop in Headley & evening Carols event.

The Chairman agreed to write on behalf of the Parish Council to express its appreciation to the retiring Headmistress of the Ashford Hill Primary School.

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Quarterly Accounts – October-December 2016

The Clerk had previously presented to Councillors the quarterly accounts for the third quarter of the financial year. The Clerk reported on the satisfactory progress including the well-controlled levels of expenditure. Following a question from Cllr Hellings, the Clerk explained the history of the Enborne Valley Trust account which had funded the Thornford Road layby project. The Clerk reported that the account had now been entirely spent following the cost of the layby project. The Clerk further answered questions relating to outstanding rental income from Sentinel Housing as well as expenditure on speed indicator equipment.

Precept Level 2017/2018

The Clerk reported that the current precept level was £24500 per annum and the projected surplus would be in the region of £5000. In order to cover the costs of two additional grass cuts on the recreation grounds, new Parish Councillor training and an inflationary factor across cost centres, the Clerk proposed a 3.06% increase in the Precept which equates to £750. The Clerk would prepare the 2017/2018 budget based on this proposal.

Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £2531.30 in credit.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £12,985.30.

Accounts for approval and payment

BBS Ltd – PAYE administration - £37.50

Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden's salary – Jan-Mar 2017 - £413.83

Mr C Butler – Litter Warden's salary – Jan-Mar 2017 - £706.60

Mr S Marshall - Clerk's salary & expenses – Jan-Mar 2017 - £2920.99

Headley Village Hall – Room hire - £20.00

Mr J Woodford – SID battery - £72.50

Community Shop – Room hire - £12.00

Correspondence received

There had been no correspondence received that warranted Councillors' attention.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.43pm.