

**ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

**AT ASHFORD HILL VILLAGE HALL**

**Present**

Mr C Hellings (Vice Chairman & Acting Chairman), Mrs H Taylor, Mrs R Wilson, Mr G Stewart, and Mr R Tucker.

Councillor Chapman and members of the public were also present.

The Vice Chairman opened the meeting by expressing on behalf of the Parish Council its concern regarding the deterioration in the health of Mr Barrie Hiscock, previous Chairman and Councillor of the Parish Council. Cllr Hellings extended the Parish Council's best wishes to Barrie, Evelyn and their immediate family members. Mr Simon Hiscock thanked Cllr Hellings for her kind words and expressed how much he and the family appreciated so many expressions of people's concerns regarding his father's health.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Woodford and Austin.

**2. Declaration of interest**

None were declared.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were approved and signed as a true record by the Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman also signed the December meeting minutes with the appropriate alterations having been made.

**4. Matters arising**

Following a question from Cllr Taylor, the Vice Chairman confirmed that Sue Adams from Kingsclere Parish Council would be invited to attend the March meeting to provide the meeting with information regarding Kingsclere's own Neighbourhood Plan.

**5. Neighbourhood Plan**

The Vice Chairman reported that nothing substantial had been achieved since the last meeting. Cllrs Stewart and Tucker had received expressions of interest in joining the Steering Group and were requested to pass the details to the Chairman.

## **6. Highways**

Cllr Taylor expressed concern regarding the flooding of the highway as drivers enter Kingsclere from the Ashford Hill direction. The Clerk would enquire with the Kingsclere Clerk as to whether the Parish Council had reported the matter. Cllr Taylor also expressed concern regarding the verge signage for Sandford Springs Golf Club. Again the Clerk would enquire with the Kingsclere Clerk as to whether or not planning permission had been sought for the roadside signage.

The Vice Chairman reported that the street lighting on Ashford Hill Road had been repaired and the A339 pothole near to the bus stop had also been repaired. Cllr Hellings was also pleased to report that a road sweeper had been in operation in Headley.

## **7. Planning Applications**

Cllr Wilson discussed the planning application for a dwelling on land adjacent to Cary Cottage in Ashford Hill. An objection to the application would be lodged based on the fact that the proposed dwelling would be outside the settlement boundary and pose a significant privacy breach for the residents of Cary Cottage.

Cllr Wilson discussed the planning application for 11 Hollycroft to enable the triple garage to be converted to living accommodation. Cllr Wilson informed the meeting that a condition of the original housing development for Hollycroft was granted on the understanding that garages in the future could not be converted in order to ensure adequate parking was available off street. An objection against the planning application would be lodged by the Parish Council.

## **8. Reports**

### **County Councillor**

Cllr Chapman appraised the meeting of the fact that the County Council would have a balanced budget for the forthcoming year as it had set aside reserves in previous years. An increase in the Precept was designed to cover the additional costs of managing the County's social services.

Cllr Chapman had attended several musical events where funds had been raised for cancer charities. He had also attended the inaugural ceremony for the new Dean of Winchester Cathedral.

The Vice Chairman expressed the Parish Council's appreciation for Cllr Chapman's years of committed work relating to local and regional issues and wished the Councillor much enjoyment in his retirement.

## **Chairman**

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

“We have had reports of a small increase in break-ins to out buildings in the areas, the most significant was riding tackle worth several £k's taken. Also there have been a couple of cases of Hare Coursing in the fields around Wheathhold and Wolverton Common. Dog walkers also have to be vigilant as these dogs and their owners are not friendly! So please be mindful and if there is anything suspicious please dial 101 (Non-Emergency number).

Further to the report of surface water discharging from the land belonging to Sascron on the B3051 last month I have followed up on this. During the recent icy conditions this was forming a potential hazard to motorists. I had a positive site meeting with the Customer Care manager and we reviewed the situation, the outcome is Simon Hiscock to meet Sascron and suggest remedial actions to prevent this discharge in the future.

Regeneration of the AH playpark is moving forward and we will soon be in contract with the supplier of the equipment, work is expected to commence on the 27<sup>th</sup> March for completion by mid-April.

A resident of AH approached me about the Broadband in AH, most households are only just about receiving 1Meg download speeds, which makes using the internet impossible for various services. He supplied me with an Information Pack from BT about self-funding Fibre installations to rural locations, something we have investigated in the past however raising such funds would be very hard. I am how happy to report that we have heard BT is looking to install the necessary equipment in AH sometime during 2017/18. We have yet to confirm when the work will commence.

Discussions about the waste water discharges are on-going with residents of Old Lane and the EA and theirs continued concerns about quality of the water within the Baughurst brook.

I have found out that the water treatment plant at the end of Holt Cottages is once again operating and discharging polluted effluent in the Holt brook for several weeks now.

We are investigating the conditions of the trees around the Headley Recreation grounds.

Candidates for the Headley Councillor position will be contacted shortly.

I would also like to thank Cllrs Tucker for arranging and moving the SLR on the C111 to outside the Cedars.”

## **Parish Councillors**

Cllr Hellings asked Simon Hiscock to update Councillors regarding the flooding issue at Sascron. Mr Hiscock explained that the flooding was in part due to the lack of maintenance of the land drains that serve the Hussey's pond and Mr Hiscock would be consulting with Mr Hussey regarding the matter. In the meantime, Mr Hiscock would be undertaking works to prevent water egress from the Sascron sight onto the highway. Cllr Wilson questioned Cllr Chapman over the recently announced boundary changes when the Borough Council had not consulted over the changes. Cllr Chapman suggested that this was a subject that should have been covered by Borough Councillors at Parish Council meetings. Cllr Wilson informed the meeting of the historical link with Kingsclere as the area used to be referred to as Kingsclere Woodland. It therefore appeared incongruous for the parish to be associated with Tadley and Baughurst. Cllr Wilson continued with questioning that Kingsclere would be sharing some of the S106 funding from the new Ashford Hill housing development.

Cllr Tucker reported the subsidence of the pavement near to 1, Pleasant Place on the Ashford Hill Road in Headley. The Councillor further reported that following the vehicular accident on the road bridge near to Tanhouse Cottages on the Ashford Hill Road, repairs to the bridge railings had not been carried out.

Cllr Stewart reported to the meeting that only 50% of the lengthsman's grant had been expended and that he would welcome ideas from Councillors as to how the remaining funding could be spent before the end of the financial year at the end of March 2017.

## **9. Recess**

Grounds contractor, Simon Hiscock, confirmed that keys to the barrier on Ashford Hill recreation ground had been cut without permission.

*Post meeting note: The Clerk had previously recommended the purchase of a security lock supplied with a restricted number of keys that could not be cut by a locksmith without written authorisation.*

Mr David Hennings continued to make a strong case against the need for a Neighbourhood Plan to be undertaken. Mr Hennings recalled the recent case when Borough Councillors rightly rejected a planning application for a development outside of the settlement boundary. Mr Hennings argued that having a competent Planning department with effective Borough Councillors did not necessitate a Neighbourhood Plan being devised.

Delivery vehicles were churning up the road surface of the recently installed layby in Thornford Road. Cllr Stewart would consult with the contractor to investigate any potential remedial work that could be carried out.

A vehicle parked in St Peter's Close in Headley was regularly obstructing the sightlines of drivers. This matter was not an issue that could be addressed by the Parish Council and should be referred to the local police authority for their consideration.

Mr Derek Mellor introduced himself to the meeting as a prospective County Councillor candidate who would be standing for election in the May 2017 election following Cllr Chapman's retirement as the Chairman of the County Council.

#### **10. Financial Statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £830.38 in credit.

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £11,602.79.

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

Monger & Rixon – Grounds maintenance - £378.00

HMRC – Tax & NI contributions Oct-Dec 2016 - £1532.18

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

There had been no correspondence that warranted Councillors' attention.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.29pm.

#### **Actions**

**Layby contractor – Cllr Stewart**  
**Kingsclere PC issues – The Clerk**