

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2016 AT HEADLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr J Woodford (Chairman), Mrs R Wilson (Vice Chairman), Mrs L Austin, Mrs C Hellings, Mr G Stewart and Mrs H Taylor.

Councillors Osselton and Sherlock and members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Chapman.

2. Declaration of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th December 2015 were approved by all Councillors present and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Matters arising

The management of the barrier lock on Headley recreation ground was discussed at some length, concluding with the idea of having a notice produced to explain what to do in an emergency situation i.e. contact Cllr Hellings on the mobile telephone given

Page 1274

5. Highways

The ongoing issues regarding localised flooding were discussed with particular reference to flooding by Pam's Bridge and Magnum House on the B3051. Further flooding had occurred, because of the lack of regular drain clearing by the Highways department, on the Ashford Hill road between the A339 and the Thornford Road junction.

The Chairman reported that the temporary repair to a significant pothole on the B3051 near to the Ashford Hill village hall really was not sufficient to last the erosion of the winter weather. The layby and pavement outside the Old Forge (junction of C111 and the B3051) had a lot of slippery leaf

debris that posed a safety risk to pedestrians. The Clerk would report this situation to the Highways department.

6. Planning applications

The Clerk would investigate why the Wheathold planning application was being displayed but the Parish Council had not received the planning application information.

7. Co-option of Parish Councillor

The Chairman reported on the fact that the Parish Council was fortunate to have had such a positive response to its advertisement for the post of Parish Councillor from so many well-qualified candidates. As a result of this situation, the Council had decided to conduct informal interviews with the candidates selected in order to better understand what each candidate could contribute to the work of the Parish Council. The interviews would hopefully take place later in the month dependent upon everyone's availability.

8. Reports

Borough Councillors

Cllr Osselton commented on a number of subject areas currently being worked on.

Chairman

The Chairman reported on the legal requirement for landowners to have their ditches within their boundaries regularly cleared, in order to ensure that surface water is allowed to run away as quickly as possible in order to avoid flooding.

The Chairman expressed concern regarding the use of car loaders by Sascron and their obstruction of the free flow of traffic. Cllr Osselton confirmed that complaints had been registered with the Borough Council regarding this practice and the practice was being investigated.

The Chairman had received an update from Kit Malthouse MP regarding the progress on introducing the Superfast Broadband Programme to the parishes.

Cllr Stewart had met with the Highways department to discuss the option of extending the current parking layby near to the Community Shop in Headley. A report would be forthcoming detailing the plan which was estimated to cost ca. £15k. Cllr Stewart would be seeking local residents' opinion regarding the design of the project.

Cllr Austin would be pursuing AWE with regard to the Parish Council's request to fund an additional SID for traffic control purposes.

Cllr Taylor asked the Chairman as to what the ruling was with regard to the use of mobile homes/caravans on land. There was uncertainty as to the duration and type of accommodation allowed.

Cllr Wilson reported on local concern regarding the height of the newly erected barn on Fernwood Farm which could have been clarified if plans that accompanied the planning application had provided more accurate detail.

Following discussion, the date of the annual litter pick in Ashford Hill and Headley would be taking place on Sunday 20th March 2016 starting at 9.00am from Common Road and The Ship PH.

9. Recess

A number of issues were raised by members of the public and discussed with the Chairman. Further discussion ensued on how best to manage the barrier access on Headley recreation ground in the case of an emergency. It was however confirmed that the current lock is of a design and material that allows it to be cut by the emergency services if needed. Concern was raised again about the condition of the road surface in Galley Lane and how its condition posed a significant risk to all types of road users. The issue of the relocation of the goal posts on Headley recreation ground to a more suitable location as discussed at a previous meeting and raised by the Chairman in his report, was soon to be resolved.

10. Precept 2016/2017

The Clerk had previously issued Councillors with a proposed budget for 2016/2017 which included a proposal for an increase in the Precept, in order to bring budgeted expenditure in line with income levels and therefore be less reliant upon surpluses which had been accumulated from previous years. The increase in the Precept level would also allow the Parish Council to undertake more community related work as its surpluses

improved over a number of years. The Clerk had dealt with a number of queries from the Chairman and Cllr Hellings via email and the Clerk further confirmed that the budget headings would match those of the financial statement to be produced on a quarterly basis to allow for an easier monitoring of expenditure categories. Following a question from Cllr Stewart, the Clerk confirmed that the proposed increase in the Precept, which had been frozen for 3 years and prior to that had only been marginally increased for the duration of a further 3 years, would mean that on average, dependent on the rateable value of a property, there would be a weekly increase of 20 pence per household in the parishes.

Page 1276

The budget for 2016/2017 was proposed to be accepted by the Parish Council by Cllr Stewart and was seconded by Cllr Wilson. The authorisation was signed for the level of Precept required for the forthcoming year together with the General Grant by the Chairman, the proposer, the seconder and the Clerk as the Responsible Finance Officer.

11. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £1178.74 in credit.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £11,008.73.

12. Accounts for approval and payment

Mr S Marshall – Clerk’s salary January – March 2016 & expenses - £2738.60

Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden’s salary – January – March 2016 - £394.39

Mr C Butler – Litter Warden’s salary – January – March 2016 - £687.54

Express Fencing – new barrier & post Headley recreation ground - £489.00

BBS Ltd – PAYE administration - £37.50

Monger & Rixon – Hedge cutting - £360.00

13. Correspondence received

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.24pm.