

**ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018**

**AT ASHFORD HILL VILLAGE HALL**

**Present**

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

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

**1. Apologies**

No apologies had been received.

**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 14 May 2018 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

**4. Matters arising**

Cllr Stewart had reported that tree stumps had been dumped in ditches ascending Huntsmoor Hill which would cause problems with the watercourse. Cllr Hiscock had made enquires with the Estate Manager and the stumps would be cleared when time allowed.

Cllr Hiscock had reported on the dangerous condition of the highway at the bottom of St Peter's Close which would potentially cause a serious accident for cyclists or motor cyclists. Cllr Hiscock reported that repair work had been undertaken.

**5. Co-option of Parish Councillor**

The appropriate 'Notice' had been served which allowed for an election of a Parish Councillor by parishioners if an appropriate number required it. Failing that requirement being met Mrs Kathryn Saunders had previously expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. The Chairman explained the process and welcomed Mrs Saunders' interest in the role. The Chairman asked for a proposer for the co-option of Mrs Saunders as a Parish Councillor for Headley. Cllr Stewart proposed the co-option which was seconded by Cllr Tucker. The Chairman asked Cllr Saunders to join the meeting.

## **6. Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr Tucker expressed his frustration at not being involved with the work of the steering group for the Neighbourhood Plan.

## **7. Highways**

Cllr Stewart had predicted new road surfacing for the A339 near to Cheam School as opposed to the patching work that had been undertaken. The Councillor further queried the potential road closure in Ashford Hill as part of the enabling works for the new housing development.

## **8. Planning Applications**

The Parish Council would not be objecting to any of the recently received planning applications.

## **9. Reports**

### **County Councillor's verbatim report**

‘Notes for Minutes of Ashford Hill Headley PC Meeting June 11th 2018.

#### **1. Potholes/Highways**

Some 5000 additional potholes vav those repaired in the same February to May period in 2017 have been completed in Hampshire. The additional 3M pothole money given by CGovt to Hants will go mainly on additional equipment.

The main issue being encountered at present is the problem of repairing the substantial sections of High Friction surfacing, locally on the A339 in the Ashford Hill Road/Thornford Road area. Highways have advised that they are sourcing new material to complete these sections. PC's for the area were notified of this along with some local residents who are in contact re the issue. The A339 was closed on 19/20 May (nights) to undertake the section around Knightsbridge Farm with little disruption.

Highways have advised that because of problems caused by e.g developers needing drainage channels, utility providers requiring pipes/cabling, broadband operators etc, these bodies will in future , as now being exercised by several local authorities require a permit so that the work is coordinated by one body- note B32

## 2. Fly Tipping

The HCC Project Integra which is coordinating this activity with Police, HMRC has reported a substantial drop in tonnage recently now that some areas have a dedicated Fly Tipping Officer and also following successful prosecutions. Where there are spots of repeated fly tipping, covert camera activity will be put in place. In 2017 Basingstoke and Deane had a tonnage only c25% of some other authorities e.g Eastleigh, Winchester. Still some way to go but of interest the charging system for commercial vehicles at HWRC has been deemed a contributory factor along with better cross border coordination through the National Fly Tipping Prevention Group.

## 3. Public Transport

I outlined proposed options/ changes to the bus services so that HCC can eliminate subsidy. Good attendance at the Basingstoke Transport Forum and I urge AH/Headley to participate in the consultation even though in terms of services the routes along the A339 do not feature there is still some feedback required re 'Older persons' passes etc.

## 4. Road Safety

For 5 years HCC has undertaken a trial on the effectiveness of reducing speed limits in 9 residential areas across the county. Results showed that speed in the selected areas dropped by less than 2%; in some areas no change at all. In view of this and the the HC Police input re enforcement, a decision was taken last week not to pursue the policy. This is not to be confused with the policy that applies in respect of schools and , in some cases , playgrounds where they have a 20 mph 'zone'."

## **Borough Councillor**

Cllr Rhatigan explained that a decision was pending from the Cabinet regarding his proposal to have an access path asphalted on Ashford Hill recreation ground. Cllr Rhatigan expressed his concern about bramble growth near to the playground on Ashford Hill recreation ground which the Chairman explained would be dealt with by a working party he was organising. Cllr Rhatigan explained that he was in constant communication with the Sire Manager of the Ashford Hill housing development. Cllr Rhatigan had expressed a preference for any road closures associated with the development needs of the site be restricted to the school summer holidays in order to reduce traffic congestion. Cllr Rhatigan reported that he inspected the site for tidiness and safety on a weekly basis and that the localised flooding from the site would be resolved once the drainage system had been installed.

## **Chairman's verbatim report**

‘Parish Council Meeting June 2018

### Highways

No major comment, I did walk from The Ship Inn to just past Sascron to review drainage, pavements and road surface issue with our local Hampshire Highways officer.

### Chairman's Report

#### Charles Church Development - flood water

On the 24th May Ashford Hill experienced a heavy rain full event, resulting in a large quantity of the water from the development site entering the road and causing some localised flooding. This was reported with photos to Mark Fletcher (planning enforcement officer) of Basingstoke and Deane and our Borough councillors. Issues such as these must be referred to Basingstoke and Deane Planning as they have a legal responsibility for the development and duty of care to residents who might be affected.

#### Recreational Ground Headley

Basketball hoop net in Headley is looking worn and needs replacing soon; the Ashford Hill hoop is also broken (for some while). A replacement for both is required and will cost around £30 for a pair.

Parish Council will contribute £1000 towards the new play park surface.

#### Recreational Ground Ashford Hill

Grass and hedge cuttings are appearing in the southern corner near the school and Hollycroft boundary. This location has a bench and we are looking to clear out this corner and review the seating offered there.

We would kindly ask that those who are placing their cuttings to please either place them behind the Cricket Club nets or disposed at the local civic recycling centres.

Plan to visit the site on Wednesday evening to tidy up behind the play park of brambles and hedging.

#### Fibre Optic in the village – Preparation for Ultra-Fast Broadband

Further work has been carried out within the village to clear blockages found during fibre installation process. These works have taken place by the Holt Cottages, C111 and within Hollycroft.

As a consequence of all this recent underground works many house holders have commented to me of poor broadband services for the past couple weeks with many receiving <50% what they had before. I recommend connecting BT direct with this issue so they can visit the area and resolve any local problems

July 2018 meeting

No public JULY Meeting. The next PC meeting, 17th Sept in Headley village hall at the usual time of 7.30pm.”

### **Parish Councillors**

The Jiminy Cricket Play Group had sought permission from the Parish Council to erect an extension to the existing picket fence around the outside area used by the group and Cllr Lideatt reported back on the organisation’s appreciation for permission having been granted by the Parish Council.

Cllr Lideatt reported on the need for what is called the ‘Railroad’ in Ashford Hill to be cut. Cllr Hiscock responded by confirming that the area would be cut as soon as time allowed.

Cllr Wilson expressed her ongoing concern regarding the new housing development at Ashford Hill. The flooding issue was causing her and residents ongoing concern. Cllr Wilson raised with Cllr Rhatigan the issue of the agreed planning permission for the development being subject to the ‘Grampian Condition’ (A planning condition attached to a decision notice that prevents the start of a development until off site works have been completed on land not controlled by the applicant.) and in which case questioned why drainage had not been installed in the initial stages of the development. Cllr Rhatigan responded by stating that such works could be undertaken at any time during the development.

Cllr Wilson questioned how long a footpath could be out of use as footpath 707 requiring repairs to the bridge was still not in use because the repairs had not taken place.

Cllr Tucker reported on complaints from neighbours near to the Hope & Clay business about the repeated activation of an alarm system on the site. The Chairman confirmed that this was a civil matter and should be reported to the police authority by a member of the public.

Cllr Tucker expressed his concern over the fact that Charles Church would not be building the ‘affordable housing’ element of the housing development at Ashford Hill and therefore the risk posed that such housing may not be of a style and quality conducive with the rest of the development.

Cllr Stewart expressed his concern regarding the safety risk posed by considerably sized pot holes on the highway at the bottom of Knightsbridge at the two junctions.

Cllr Stewart further reported that there was a good chance of Borough Council funding through LIF for the resurfacing of the playground at Headley. In addition to the petition of over 80 names, Cllr Stewart was appreciative of letters of support for the scheme. It was hoped that the Borough would be making a decision regarding the availability of the funding in September 2018.

Cllr Stewart further reported on a visit to the existing changing room facility on Headley recreation ground by a representative from the Greenham Common Trust. It was a good visit and the indication was that 50% of the funding required for a new sports facility could be made available via the trust.

Cllr Hiscock would ascertain a costing for close boarding to stop the growth of brambles at the Ashford Hill playground. A further quotation was required for repairs to the fence as it abuts the highway on Headley recreation ground.\*

Cllr Hiscock further reported on the alleged intimidating signage on a footpath from Headley ford to Mill Green. Cllr Hiscock would provide photographic evidence for the Clerk to present as evidence to the County Council. Cllr Hiscock confirmed that a one metre wide access path was required for public footpaths.

### **Clerk to the Council**

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

## **10. Recess**

Several issues of concern were discussed with members of the public and the Chairman including discussion regarding the Parish Council providing public liability insurance for volunteers within the community that would be willing to undertake tasks and work on behalf of the community. The Chairman was open to the idea of insurance cover being provided by the Council as and when proposals for such work were being considered.

## **11. Annual Financial Return 2017/2018**

The Clerk had previously sent Councillors the detail of the 'Annual Governance Statement' that was to be agreed upon at this evening's meeting together with the 'Consolidated Account' that had also been sent to Councillors ahead of the meeting. The Clerk explained that the annual return had been approved by the Internal Auditor for presentation to the Audit Commission. The Chairman asked for a proposer and a seconder to adopt the Parish Council's accounts as presented by the Clerk in his capacity as Responsible Finance Officer and to acknowledge the 'Annual Governance Statement' as correct. Cllr Stewart proposed the adoption and the acknowledgment which was seconded by Cllr Hiscock. All Councillors present were in favour of the adoption and acknowledgement.

**12. Financial Statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stands at £717.58

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stands at £29,877.17

**13. Accounts for approval and payment**

C Butler – Litter Warden salary Jul-Sep 2018 - £565.56

J Kirkby – Litter Warden salary Jul-Sep 2018 - £438.15

S Marshall – Clerk's salary & expenses Jul-Sep 2018 - £2,851.35

S Hiscock – Maintenance of Recreational Grounds 1/3 – 2/3 Annual Payment - £5,066.66

Came & Company – Insurance - £1,010.93

J Woodford – Maintenance Equipment / Website maintenance - £205.80

Bramley Business Services Ltd – PAYE administration Jul-Sep 2018 / Annual Audit - £350.00

HMRC – PAYE Contributions & Tax payments - £1,548.58

**14. Correspondence received**

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.38 pm.