

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13th MARCH 2017

AT HEADLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present

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

Councillor Sherlock and members of the public were also present.

The Chairman opened the meeting by expressing on behalf of the Parish Council its condolences regarding the passing of Mr Barrie Hiscock, previous Chairman and Councillor of the Parish Council. Cllr Woodford asked the meeting to reflect on the outstanding work Barrie had achieved in the Parish over a number of years by sharing in a silent minute of thought and reflection.

1. Apologies

No apologies had been received.

2. Declaration of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 February 2017 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Cllr Hellings raised the issue of a security lock for the recreation barrier at Ashford Hill and the Clerk's post meeting note regarding the matter. It was decided that Councillors* would look at the availability of such a security lock and if necessary refer back to the Clerk for a supplier.

The Clerk reported back on the issues raised with the Kingsclere Parish Council Clerk which were in hand.

5. Parish Councillor Co-option

The Chairman informed the meeting that Councillors had interviewed two highly qualified candidates for the vacant position of Parish Councillor and it had been decided that Simon Hiscock would be offered the position which he had gratefully accepted.

Cllr Hellings proposed the co-option of Simon Hiscock as Parish Councillor and Graham Stewart seconded the proposal. The proposal was fully endorsed by all other members of the Parish Council by a show of hands.

The Chairman asked Mr Hiscock to join the meeting and welcomed him as the new Parish Councillor for Headley. The Clerk asked Mr Hiscock to sign his Declaration of Office and the attendance record for the prevailing Parish Council meeting.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Sue Adams from Kingsclere Parish Council joined the meeting and presented a view of how the Neighbourhood Plan for Kingsclere had been initiated and its development to the current day.

Cllr Adams stressed the fact that the Neighbourhood Plan needed to be led by an independent committee of members with a cross section of related skills. Permission from Basingstoke Borough Council needed to be sought by the Parish Council in order for the process to start. The vision and objectives of the Plan needed to be set out as a preamble to taking the initiative forward to a consultative stage. Whilst funding and grants were available to meet the financial commitments of funding such an initiative, it should not be underestimated how much time and effort goes into the work undertaken by the membership. Cllr Adams showed a variety of Neighbourhood Plans as examples of such plans that could be followed as templates for Ashford Hill with Headley's own Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Highways

The Chairman reported that the 3 drains by Pam's Bridge in Ashford Hill had been cleared, so the risk of flooding in that area had been resolved. He was pleased to see how clean the road traffic signs were looking after the lengthman's work. Sascron had spoken to Cllr Hiscock about the required remedial work at their site to prevent road surface flooding.

Despite concerns over the longevity of the workmanship of road surface repairs undertaken in Common Road, the repairs had been completed.

Furthermore, it was reported that repairs to the road bridge near to Tanhouse Cottages and the pavement outside Pleasant Place had been completed.

*Cllr Stewart reported on the need to close the layby in Thornford Road while repairs were undertaken which included the grass re-seeding of the area. The work would incur a cost of some £150 inclusive of VAT and all Councillors were in agreement that such work needed to be carried out.

Cllr Hellings reported that due to subsidence of patching work on the A339 near to the junction with Ashford Hill Road, high levels of noise were being created whenever heavy goods vehicles were passing over this area of the road and this was causing a great deal of disturbance to local residents. *The Clerk was requested to report the matter to the Highways department.

8. Planning Applications

The planning application for a barn at Folly Farm in Headley to be changed from an agricultural building to a dwelling house was to be objected to by the Parish Council.

The planning application for the creation of a field access on land at Knightsbridge Drive in Headley was to be objected to by the Parish Council on the basis of a restricted sightline for drivers.

9. Reports

Borough Councillor

Cllr Sherlock reported to the meeting that the Borough Council's budget had been passed by the Council with a small percentage increase in the level of Council Tax. The devolution issue was not currently being pursued. The planning application had been presented for the Merrydown housing development which included several thousand houses.

Chairman

Chairman's verbatim report:

"We have confirmation the Ashford Hill Playground works will start 20th March at which time the Play Park will be closed during the construction for 4 wks. The site will be left secure but parents are to take extra care with children during this time. Children must not enter the site until it is completed and approved by the Parish Council as safe to use.

Village tidy up on Sunday 19th March starting at 9:30am, the two locations are The Ship Inn and Common Road in Headley. All villagers are welcome to join your Cllrs on this event.

University of Brunel are carrying out a study of the Ashford Hill meadows, it has some very interesting geological anomalies and these could help Cross Rail with information about the substructure of the ground and its propensity to movement. Speaking with the group leader they would be interested to share their finds with AH primary school and the local community.

Broadband speed in AH and some areas of Headley remain a concern for many residents. The last month several exchanges with residents has resulted in more information on the subject. A Baughurst Parish Cllr has shared with me a company looking to offer BB to very rural areas where BT is unlikely to offer a good performance. Information about this service will be posted on the Parish Web site under news when available. <https://www.ashfordhillwithheadley.pc.org/>

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held at the April meeting and local clubs and organisations are encouraged to make a verbal report at the meeting or provide the Clerk with a written report.”

Parish Councillors

Cllr Taylor informed the meeting that she would be retiring from the Parish Council after the April 2017 meeting after having served on the Parish Council for 16 years. Cllr Taylor would be promoting the co-option of a known local resident to fill the vacant post by co-option if that were possible after serving the Notice of Vacancy, which may trigger an election for the vacant post if deemed appropriate by the local electorate.

It was reported that it was essential that refuse bins were not left on the roadside after the designated collection day.

*Cllr Tucker asked the question as to why the Speed Limit Reminders were not installed with solar panels to avoid having to change the batteries in them periodically. The Chairman asked Cllr Tucker to investigate if such technology could be fitted to our SLRs retrospectively.

Cllr Hiscock reported to the meeting that several fallen trees had been cleared from the Headley recreation ground by local residents. Furthermore, the problem with moles disturbing the recreation ground was being dealt with. In addition, overgrown vegetation had been cut back from recreation signage.

*Cllr Hiscock would be investigating the cost of introducing a temporary water supply for the Headley Fete.

*Cllr Hiscock would reinstate the BT communications cabinet at the junction of Thornford Road and the C111.

Whilst Cllr Stewart raised the issue of Hope & Clay vehicles using Thornford Road to turn right, it was decided to delay consultation with the company to avoid this route due to a pending work commitment that may be asked of the company.

It was also reported that the gates serving Folly Farm could be potentially obstructing the water course in the area.

10. Recess

Mrs Everitt, an editor of the Parish Magazine, sought clarity with regard to the process involving the filling of vacant Parish Councillor posts on the Parish Council. The Clerk explained the need to advertise locally via noticeboards, the vacant position in a statutory format provided by the Clerk which openly advertised the post. Any interested person needed ten members of the electorate to request a bye-election to Basingstoke Borough Council. Failing any interest being expressed in this manner, the Parish Council were entitled to proceed with co-option of a person who had expressed an interest in filling the vacant position of Parish Councillor.

It was agreed that in addition to advertising the current vacant post on the noticeboards that the vacancy notice would be printed in the next addition of the Parish Magazine.

11. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £900.20 in credit.

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £8603.28.

12. Accounts for approval and payment

Mr S Marshall – Clerk’s salary & expenses – Apr-June 2017 - £2668.02

Mr C Butler – Litter Warden’s salary – Apr-June 2017 - £575.43

Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden’s salary – Apr-June 2017 - £427.23

HM Revenue & Customs – Tax & NI contributions – Jan-Mar 2017 - £1531.98

Headley with Ashford Hill Community Shop – Room hire - £12.00

BBS Limited – PAYE administration - £37.50

13. Correspondence received

There had been no correspondence that warranted Councillors’ attention.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.43pm.

