

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th MARCH 2018

AT HEADLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present

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

Cllr Rhatigan and members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies

The Chairman opened the meeting by apologising for the cancellation of the February meeting of the Parish Council due to the Chairman and Vice Chairman being unavailable to attend. Apologies for non-attendance at the March meeting of the Parish Council had been received from Cllrs Mellor, Sherlock and Tucker.

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 8 January 2018 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Cllr Hiscock* was yet to make contact with the landowner opposite Sascron to discuss the flooding issue.

Cllr Hellings reported that in the event of the break in into the Headley Village Hall, the S106 funding available for community halls had been applied for by the Headley Village Hall Committee. Cllr Hellings further reported that the consultation period for the electoral boundary changes had been extended. The Parish boundaries would not be affected but the Borough Council's electoral boundaries were under discussion with a view of reducing the number of wards from 60 to 54.

The Chairman had passed information regarding funding via the Community Infrastructure Fund and the Local Infrastructure Fund to Cllr Stewart regarding potential funding sources for the changing rooms project on Headley recreation ground.

The Clerk had received confirmation from British Telecom that the redundant telephone box on Ashford Hill Road was on a schedule to be removed.

5. Appointment of Parish Council Trustee

Mr Bob Lawrence had expressed an interest to continue in his capacity as the Parish Council's nominated trustee to serve on the Ashford Hill Educational Trust. Cllr Wilson proposed the continuation of the arrangement which was seconded by Cllr Hiscock. All Councillors present were in agreement with the proposal. The Clerk was asked to inform the Chairman of the trust of the Parish Council's decision.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Hellings confirmed that a meeting with the Borough Council was yet to be re-arranged.

7. Highways

Cllr Wilson reported on the ongoing flooding problems associated with the new housing development in Ashford Hill. The developer was currently pumping flood water into the drainage system on the corner of the B3051 and the C111. Cllr Rhatigan was aware of the problem and had been onsite that day to inspect the problem which was being addressed by the developer. Cllr Wilson pointed out to the meeting that potential flooding of the site was identified as part of the arguments against the development; a concern which had been ignored by the Borough's Planning department. The Clerk was requested to lodge a complaint regarding this matter with the Planning department. *

Cllr Hiscock expressed his continuing concern regarding the erosion of the roadside banks in Common Road in Headley, where oncoming vehicles were not allowing other vehicles to pass safely but driving onto the banks which was causing the erosion. The general condition of the local roads and the ongoing issue with developing pot holes was causing concern as the situation had been exasperated by the recent adverse weather conditions. Cllr Hiscock would be making contact again with the developers at Plastow Green Farm to address the ongoing problem with mud from the development being allowed to accumulate on the public highway.

Cllr Hellings reported on the installation of the new drains on the A339 to prevent future flooding. The next deluge of rainfall would determine the success or otherwise of the new drains.

The Chairman requested that the Clerk* arrange a meeting be arranged with management of the County's Highway department to review B3051 from the top of the Ashford Hill through to the 40mph to the national speed limit when exiting the village towards Kingsclere. The Chairman reported an arrow chevron sign had been knocked down.

8. Planning Applications

Cllr Wilson reported on her dissatisfaction of how the Planning department of the Borough Council continues to ignore public opinion and local knowledge with regard to local planning permissions being granted by the Borough Council. A recent point in case referred to the planning application for 11, Hollycroft in Ashford Hill, where despite local representation from residents of Hollycroft, their factual knowledge regarding the pitch of the proposed new roof was ignored by the Planning department. Cllr Wilson requested a letter of complaint be sent from the Parish Council to the Head of Planning to express their dissatisfaction with how the opinion and knowledge of local residents is constantly ignored by the Planning department when determining the outcome of planning applications. *

Cllr Hellings raised a planning issue relating to the recent change of use for the Saddlery in Ashford Hill Road in Headley. Despite the change of use from commercial use to domestic use of the property, it was alleged that a business is still being managed from the premises. Further examples of alleged use of the premises for such purposes would be reported by the Parish Council to the Planning department.

9. Reports

Borough Councillor

Cllr Rhatigan further reported on the housing development at Ashford Hill and informed the meeting of his weekly meeting with the foreman of the site to discuss any potential issues that may impact on local residents. Cllr Rhatigan had been involved in clearing up debris from the site which had been disturbed during high winds. The recent cut in electrical supply to the area had been unavoidable whilst enabling works were carried out on the site. With the Parish Council's approval the Borough Council would like to fund the installation of a tarmac road from the nursery and cricket pavilion on Ashford Hill's recreation ground. Cllr Rhatigan reported that funding from the Local Infrastructure Fund and the Community Infrastructure Levy would be spent on improving Internet connection within the Parish which was a vital facility to allow local residents to work from home. However, in exchange for a significant element of affordable housing as part of the Merrydown housing development, there would be no Community Infrastructure Levy imposed on the developer.

Chairman's verbatim report

Litter picking / Village tidy up

"I would personally like to thank the volunteers and councillors who came out at 9am on Mothering Sunday to help with this annual vital event. We do hope the local community appreciate this work that is carried out. I am always delighted we do this as littering is irresponsible and unnecessary, it also make me wonder who they think will clear it up???"

Recreational Ground Ashford Hill

For the past month due to work commitment I have been unable to venture out on the local recreational spaces. Last week was the first time I have been on the AH ground and was shocked at the state of the field. Many areas are badly rutted with water pooling in them, and the grass has turned into a quagmire. The route to the back gate of the school was also effected, I hope apologies have also been made to the school children as well. I have learnt that the Cricket Club permitted their contractors to start work and complete the installation of new nets and bowling surface. This work had not been shared with the Parish Council or been approved by the Parish Council, I have since exchanged emails with the Club Captain Ben Osbourne over the matter. He has stated they are sorry for the damage and lack of communication with the Parish Council. We are arranging to meet in the coming weeks to review how we resolve the mess that has been left by their contactors and how we proceed in the relationship going forward. Please could I ask the Clerk to review the lease contract terms between the Parish Council and the club so we can understand what access permissions are granted to the cricket club. *

Other items

Can this year's December/Christmas meeting be held in Headley rather than AH? The Clerk*

With my increasing business travel can I request that councillors keep me informed of any projects, local issues or activities/areas they are dealing with. Non-smoking sign for the AH play park, can Cllr Hiscock* please install the sign as discussed many times."

Parish Councillors

Cllr Hellings reported on how well the Community Shop's volunteers had managed in order to keep the facility open during the recent inclement weather. The facility had been well used by local residents who had appreciated the shop remaining open during difficult trading conditions.

Cllr Stewart explained to the meeting the proposal as to how the Lengthsman scheme would operate for 2018/2019, whereby Parish Councils would be allocated hours each month for the whole year in advance. Work schedules would need to be produced by each Parish Council at least 2 weeks in advance of each scheduled date. Cllr Stewart supported the proposal and recommended it to the Parish Council for adoption. The meeting approved the proposal and the Clerk was requested to inform the lead Parish Council as to its decision. The Chairman asked for Councillors to send Cllr Stewart their ideas to include in the works schedule as soon as possible, which would be discussed at the April meeting.* Cllr Stewart commented on certain works still outstanding from the last schedule of works which needed to be undertaken next time and that he would be making the application for the same level of funding for the year 2018/2019.

Cllr Stewart explained again to the meeting the 'modular unit' option for the new changing room facility at Headley recreation ground and had visited a current example of the type of facility being considered. It was agreed by the meeting to proceed to the funding feasibility stage of the project which would potentially be a combination of Community Infrastructure Levy funding and Football Association funding.

A consultant specialising in the sourcing of sports projects funding had been engaged and had requested a letter from the Chairman* of the Parish Council and the Headley Athletics Football Club confirming their endorsements of such a proposed sports facility. Discussion ensued with regard to the various merits of such a project proceeding and the Chairman concluded that the issue of adequate car parking to accommodate spectators and players for matches and practices was in need of further consideration.

Cllr Wilson reported on the ‘affordable’ and ‘shared ownership’ properties that would be made available from the new housing development at Ashford Hill. Cllr Wilson encouraged Councillors to actively consider potential local people who may be interested in taking up the housing opportunities by registering their interest when a register was opened 6 months prior to the development being completed.

Cllr Hiscock sought and was granted permission from the Parish Council to hold a barn dance event in aid of funds for the Community Shop and the Village Hall on Saturday 24 September 2018 on the Headley recreation ground.

Clerk to the Council

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

10. Recess

Kate Harris introduced herself to the meeting as the newly appointed Head teacher of Ashford Hill Primary School.

11. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood £812.93 in credit.
The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £14,579.28 and the Ashford Hill Playground Project stood at £3,999.86.

12. Accounts for approval and payment

Monger & Rixon – Grounds maintenance - £387.60
St Mary Bourne Parish Council – Lengthman’s scheme - £10.00

April 2018 payments;
C Butler – Litter Warden’s salary – April-June 2018 - £565.44
J Kirkby – Litter Warden’s salary – April-June 2018 - £427.23
S Marshall – Clerk’s salary & expenses – April-June 2018 - £2,771.48
Bramley Business Services Ltd – PAYE administration - £37.50

13. Correspondence received

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.39 pm.