

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th MARCH 2016 AT HEADLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr J Woodford (Chairman), Mrs R Wilson (Vice Chairman), Mrs C Hellings, Mr G Stewart and Mr R Tucker.

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

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Chapman, Taylor and Austin and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

2. Declaration of interest

None were declared.

3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval

It was requested that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th January 2016 were amended to reflect the following;

Cllr Tucker requested the minutes to reflect the fact that at the meeting he had asked Cllr Sherlock to explain why Cllr Sherlock had voted against the planning application for the Ashford Hill housing development and then subsequently because of a tie vote and in his capacity of Chairman of the Development Committee for the Borough Council, had cast his vote in favour of such a development. Cllr Sherlock had explained that he had cast his vote against the motion for the development in his capacity as a Ward member, in the initial debate. In his capacity of Chairman of the Development Committee he had made a casting vote in favour of the development as there was no possibility of an unmitigated reason to object on planning grounds.

Cllr Wilson requested the minutes to reflect that the reason for objecting to the planning application for Fernwood Farm was based on the same reasons as the previous objection and these objections stood. The previous objection being based on the Parish Council's concern that approval of a temporary mobile home on the site would form the basis for a future application for a permanent dwelling on farmland.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Austin had met with the Borough Council to gain information on how to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Woodford had been seeking the opinions of Ashford Hill residents to ascertain who would be interested in assisting with the compilation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Tucker was requested to make the same enquiries with residents of Headley. It was envisaged that a subcommittee of about 10 people would convene to take the matter forward.

6. Highways

The pothole that had been reported at the junction of the C111 and the A339 has been repaired. The pothole on the B3051, outside Sascron, was getting worse in its condition as well as the pothole outside Ashford Hill Village Hall.

The flooding adjacent to Pam's Bridge in Ashford Hill still continued to cause concern since it was first reported in October 2015. The Highways department had informed the Chairman at a site meeting that the blocked culverts were the responsibility of Natural England. The Chairman asserted that this was not the case and had sent the Highways department photographs to highlight the cause of the problem.

The grass verge outside the Community Shop in Headley was in a bad condition and discussion ensued as to the ownership of the land in question which was assumed to belong to the Community Shop. Cllr Stewart requested permission to obtain a quotation for a grasscrete area to create 4/5 car parking spaces on the edge of Headley recreation ground. The sign to footpath 707 on Woodhouse Lane had fallen down.

7. Planning Applications

Cllr Hellings requested an extension to the consultation period for the planning application for The Old Saw Mill on the Newbury Road in Headley.

8. Adoption of policies

It was agreed to take this item to the next meeting's agenda.

9. Reports

Borough Councillors

Cllr Osselton reported that an Enforcement Officer had visited Sascron with regard to an on going problem of vehicles reversing from the establishment and causing disruption on the highway.

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Cllr Osselton further informed the meeting that Borough Councillors would be in political purdah at the end of March leading up to the May elections.

Following a question regarding prospective residents of affordable housing, Cllr Osselton informed the meeting that the Housing Register had been revamped and there is a greater likelihood of local people on the register being allocated the accommodation as long as the local people fulfilled the required criteria.

Cllr Sherlock reported to the meeting the inspectors' report regarding the Local Plan would be published in April and hopefully adopted in May.

Chairman

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the annual parish litter pick would be happening on Sunday 20 March 2016, the details of which had been published in the Parish Magazine. The Chairman hoped more local people would help with this important event, which helped the villages to come together to support a valuable activity.

The Chairman and Cllr Wilson had met with the Planning department of the Borough Council regarding the housing development on the corner of the C111 and the B3051. The Borough Council's response to the Parish Council's concern regarding the treatment of the sewage and surface storm water generated by such a development, was that such issues were dealt with by the Environment Agency and Thames Water. So far neither of these bodies had approved the housing scheme.

The Chairman had raised with the Assistant Planning Manager from the Borough Council documentation relating to the settlement boundary but Mr Chapman had concluded that the document was out of date and the Chairman confirmed that it was the responsibility of the Borough council to ensure that such documentation was kept up to date. Whilst in

agreement with this assertion Mr Chapman concluded that the out of date documentation would not change the outcome of the planning decision.

The Parish Council strongly objected to the lack of consultation by the Borough Council as to what local projects could benefit from the S106 funding which would emanate from such a housing development and which was provided by the construction company. It appeared that the Borough Council had made decisions about projects to be funded from such a source which were located outside of the parish. The Parish Council would like to see improvements to the facilities at the Cricket Club and the Pre-School in Ashford Hill.

The Chairman also had concerns over how the proposed housing was being classified. In reality the proposed housing was 4 bedroom houses but was being described as 3 bedroom houses with an upstairs study. This was a means by which the construction company could reduce its S106 funding as the funding was based on the number of bedrooms per house.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had received no clear response as to how affordable housing is to be allocated as this issue was outside the Planning department's jurisdiction.

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Parish Councillors

Cllr Tucker had contacted PCSO Melody Knees regarding the availability of police crime figures for the area. The main issue in Ashford Hill and Headley appeared to be antisocial behaviour.

Cllr Tucker reported on the football pitches having been rolled on the Headley recreation ground. Cheam School had kindly agreed to provide new goal post sockets in new positions as the current ones were too high for grass cutting machinery. Cheam School had also agreed to install the new sockets and provide new nets. Cllr Tucker requested that the Parish Council write to the school to express its appreciation of the School's generosity.

It was reported that the path around Headley recreation ground playground was in need of bark chippings.

Cllr Tucker had asked the Litter Warden to clear the bus shelter opposite Cheam School on the A339 but had been informed that he was not allowed to work on the A339.

Cllr Stewart reported on the efforts of the Clerk to procure a Euro bin to accommodate the litter picking rubbish for Headley.

Cllr Hellings reported on acts of vandalism and unsocial behaviour in Headley. Cllr Hellings also expressed an opinion that having a note on actions required as a result of meetings was good practice.

Cllr Wilson reported on correspondence received from Cougars Football Club, a youth football club, which had requested the use of the recreation grounds in the villages. The Parish Council had been advised that toilet facilities needed to be provided and therefore only Ashford Hill recreation ground could be used if the Cricket Club were in agreement to having its facilities used in such a way. The Clerk was requested to ascertain more information regarding the request and to enquire with the Cricket Club as to such a proposal.

10. Recess

A number of issues were raised by members of the public and discussed with the Chairman. These included concern over the withdrawal of a grant for the wages of the cleaner at Headley Village Hall as a result of the Parish Council needing to reduce its level of expenditure. Discussion ensued as to the procedures surrounding a planning application when it was explained that if at least 5 individual letters are received objecting to a planning application, the planning application is referred to the Development Control department of the Borough Council.

There would be a quiz night to raise funds for the Headley Village Hall in the hall on Saturday 23 April at 7.15pm.

Advice was given to parishioners to check their wastewater bills now that water meters had been installed, as there had been some incorrect calculations.

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £2467.21 in credit. The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £5009.51.

12. Accounts for approval and payment

There were no payments due for approval and payment.

13. Correspondence received

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

The meeting closed at an unrecorded time.

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ACTIONS LIST

Cheam School – letter of appreciation – Clerk

Contact Cougars FC ref. more information – Clerk

Contact HCC ref. flooding at Pam's Bridge - Clerk

Report footpath sign 707 - Clerk

Sourcing of Eurobin - Clerk