

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th OCTOBER 2017

AT ASHFORD HILL VILLAGE HALL

Present

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

Members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies

Belated apologies had been received from Cllrs Sherlock and Mellor.

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 11 September 2017 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

Cllr Hiscock reported that Mr Simon Hill would be preparing an article for the Parish Magazine regarding the required behaviour of visitors to the countryside.

Conversation ensued amongst Councillors with regard to the current accessibility of the new gates at the ford crossing in Headley. It was generally agreed that the project had not been managed well by HCC and a considerable cost had been incurred which had failed to address the problem. There was still uncertainty regarding the locked/unlocked status of the gates to ensure all user types have access through the newly designed project. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council waits until the project is completed and then it would communicate its judgement to HCC.

Cllr Stewart reported on the quotation he had received for the resurfacing of Headley playground.

Cllr Hiscock reported that HCC were aware of the alleged intimidating signage on a footpath near to the Headley ford.

5. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Hellings reported on the progress regarding the compilation of the Neighbourhood Scheme. A formal application had been made to BDBC for the process to start. Cllr Wilson had set up a small subcommittee to look at the composition of questionnaires to be sent out to residents. The Chairman of the Sherfield-on-Loddon Parish Council had been contacted to discuss the detail of how that Council had gone about the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and in particular the finances involved with such a proposal. There would also be advice and guidance from the Sherfield-on-Loddon Neighbourhood Plan group.

6. Highways

The Chairman asked for the Clerk to write to Kingsclere Parish Council regarding the fireworks event advertising that had been displayed in Ashford Hill without consent from the Parish Council. *

The Chairman reported on the southern entrance to Chapel Lane where the road surface had several potholes which were potentially trip hazards to pedestrians. The matter had been reported to the Highways department. Problems on footpaths 721,724 and 725 had been reported by the Chairman.

The Chairman had requested Natural England to cut back branches that were overhanging Pam's bridge in Ashford Hill.

The chevrons which had been knocked down following a vehicular accident on Huntsmoor Hill have still not been repaired.

The Chairman had complained to the Head teacher of Ashford Hill Primary School following an incident of a parent parking across the pavement which had prevented pedestrian access. The Head teacher was taking the ongoing problem seriously.

Following last month's Parish Council meeting Cllr Stewart had consulted with the Highways department regarding speed calming measures on the Thornford Road and it was considered that the introduction of a 20 mph limit was the only course of action that could be taken in an attempt to reduce the speed of vehicles.

Cllr Hiscock expressed concern regarding parents from Cheam School turning right across the A339 to access the school in the morning rush hour which had the effect of causing a considerable tailback of waiting traffic. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Council had written to the school on a previous occasion and the school had recognised the problem and had made attempts with the Highways department to have a filter lane installed in order to avoid such congestion.

Cllr Tucker reported problems with pedestrians being able to use the pavement on Thornford Road where hedges were overgrown from properties. The Clerk was asked to write to the residents of no.6 Thornford Road and Kingsbrook House to inform them of their legal responsibility for their boundary hedges. *

The Clerk was also asked to remind Sentinel Housing of their responsibility of maintaining the hedge that forms the partial boundary of the Hollybush housing development. *

Cllr Stewart agreed with the Chairman to draw up a list of jobs that could be undertaken by the Lengthmans's scheme. *

7. Planning Applications

The Parish Council would not be objecting to the recent planning applications received.

8. Reports

Chairman

Chairman's verbatim report:

"Development by B3051 and C111

I had requested for a representative from Persimmon to attend tonight's meeting so we could hear first-hand what the expectations are for management of the Public Open Spaces, hedges and pond once the site has been handed over to Oak Field Lane residents. They are unavailable to attend but gave us their local management plan documentation and I have asked the clerk to look into their comments to understand if there are any implications to Parish Council or Borough to maintain these areas. I learnt this week that BDBC Planning department have investigated breaches in several pre-conditions stipulated to the developers before foundation works could be carried out. It would appear several have not been met. The response from the Foreman representing Persimmon was "they will continue to build regardless". This response has promoted BDBC to seek legal actions against the developers. I am pleased BDBC planning are upholding their planning conditions and supportive of the needs of residents effected by the development by these actions.

Field above the development

I have been made aware that preliminary discussions by Persimmon have been made with BDBC Planning to extend their development into this field. Further housing development of this scale is NOT something which Ashford Hill is in need of. In fact, we are not yet aware of the impact of these new 35 houses will have on the community, local amenities, wild life and water courses in our rural location. The field is outside the adopted settlement boundary in the BDBC local plan so I feel this is not something which should be considered. The Parish Council along with a large proportion of the local residents look to our Borough Cllrs and County Cllr to support this position. We note that the Borough has identified many more suitable locations indicated with its adopted local plan to develop on and "convenience" to this developer should not be a just reason for further development to be considered. I also believe that BDBC Planning do have views against any additional green field space encroachments within their local plan.

AH Play park – Phase 2 Is expected to commence on the 13th November. Parking at the recreational grounds car park will be restricted during the construction.

General comments

The Parish Council is mindful we are here to represent the communities' views, so I would ask that residents share these with Parish Council regularly. Contact information of your councillors can be found on web site, the web site also includes our minutes from the previous meetings (posted 1 month later once approved in the next Parish Council meeting), interesting news and links to HCC Highways and footpaths as well as other useful information. Pot Holes, street repairs can be report to HCC highways direct, so please follow the links and report any issues <https://www.ashfordhillwithheadley.pc.org/> “

Parish Councillors

Cllr Tucker reported that the alleged illegal construction of a dwelling in the grounds of a dwelling in Thornfields was being investigated by a Planning Enforcement Officer from BDBC. Cllr Tucker further reported that the changing rooms on Headley recreation ground had been broken into and the matter reported to the police authorities.

Cllr Hiscock reported that the entrance door had now been secured to prevent any further illegal entry.

Cllr Stewart confirmed that a steering group would be set up to discuss the future design and location of a new changing room facility for Headley recreation ground.

Cllr Hellings reported that the vacant tenant position for affordable housing at the Sovereign Housing development had not been concluded to the satisfaction of the Parish Council.

Cllr Hellings reported that a Tadley PSCO had contacted her with regard to the parish becoming involved in a neighbourhood watch scheme and further information would be forthcoming.

Cllr Hellings concluded her report by informing the meeting of a food tasting session at the Community Shop in Headley on Saturday 18 November 2017.

Clerk to the Council

The Clerk raised the issue of additional cuts to the recreation grounds and it was unanimously agreed by all Councillors that an additional cut on each recreation ground was required as a result of the growing season still continuing. Subsequent to the meeting the Clerk had agreed with the Contractor that the total cost of the additional cuts would not exceed £500.

9. Recess

Strong opposition, led by Mr David Henning, was expressed as to the prospect of developing land adjacent to the housing development currently under construction in Ashford Hill. Mr Henning had seen an email saying that the current situation is very different from the first application, before there had been 3 pre application meetings with officers before submission. He asked when these meetings had taken place, who attended and why the village did not know of them. The email said that this is different because no discussion has been had about building into the second field. A second mail was quoted which says that Vortal Properties have been promoting the further field as additional land supply for housing but this is the only action on that land. He suggested that such 'promotion' sounded very much like discussion about building in the second field. Mr Henning asked that a visit to B&D Planning Department be arranged for himself and a member of the Parish Council to discuss this new application.

Concern was expressed as to the absence of SLR equipment outside the local school. The Chairman explained that this was due to the lack of a suitably charged battery the logistics of which was proving to be a challenge. Mr Jeremy Loxton kindly agreed to undertake sharing the responsibility of charging the battery in the future.

Cllr Mary Cowdery from Brimpton Parish Council made a presentation to the meeting regarding the proposed speed reduction around the cross road junction at Baughurst and Brimpton Common Road near the what was previously the Pineapple public house. A meeting is to be arranged with the Chairman, Cllr Mellor and Brimpton PC to discuss where the HCC review of the proposal stands.

10. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £1269.05 credit.

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £14,424.79.

The Lloyds TSB deposit account for the Ashford Hill Playground Project stands at £15,757.66.

11. Accounts for approval and payment

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

12. Correspondence received

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.31pm.

