

ASHFORD HILL with HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT HEADLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present

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

Councillor Sherlock and members of the public were also present.

Apologies had been received from Councillors Chapman and Woodford.

Declaration of interest

None were declared.

Minutes of previous meeting for approval

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th June 2016 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

Matters arising

The issue of a proposed pedestrian crossing on the Newbury Road in Headley had been raised by the Clerk with the Highways department. Unless there were accident statistics to support such a project was warranted, it was unlikely that such a project would be approved.

Cllr Hellings confirmed that the collapsing drains previously reported had been repaired.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Wilson reported that not a lot of progress had been made and a meeting was being arranged.

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Highways

The Chairman's report indicated that whilst the verges had been cut, this had revealed a lot of litter on the verges. It was suggested that an additional litter pick take place and this was agreed to take place on Sunday 16 October at 10.00am in Headley and at 11.00am in Ashford Hill. The event was to be advertised in the Parish Magazine.

Further highways' issues were raised in the Chairman's report as detailed in the verbatim report below.

Cllr Austin reported on a letter received from HCC regarding the work planned for phase 1 of two phases planned to discourage drivers from using the ford as a crossing point. Cllr Austin would be following up on the letter by asking for more details regarding access for landowners.

Cllr Stewart asked if the Lengthman's scheme would cover work related to litter and/or silt accumulated in ditches. The Clerk would enquire further.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council would not be objecting to the planning applications that had been received.

Borough Councillor

Cllr Sherlock reported on the waste recycling centre and the issues relating to the pending devolution plans.

Chairman

Chairman's verbatim report:

Chairman report 12th August 2016

Highways

We are grateful to see that highways have cut the grass verges however it has uncovered a lot of litter on these verges. I ask the Cllrs if we should arrange another village litter picking to help tidy up these area? If we do can I suggest we do it around 11am.

I mentioned the grass cutting, unfortunately the contractors have caused some damage, one to a signpost (just by Ashford Hill bridge on The Ship side of it) see below has been uprooted. Also at the top of the Hill one of the reflector markers has been cut down next to a raised manhole cover which it was meant to warn vehicles about it.

It is also blocked again and you can see weeds growing out of both drains.!!

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The pavement is also covered in a sandy coating; could we ask to get this cleared and the pavement swept. Many signs are in need of cleaning.

Would like to remind villagers we look dimly on Dog fowling within recreational areas of both villages. It is once again becoming a serious problem, our contractor who cuts the grass is disgusted as his clothing is often splattered with dog poop. This is quite unacceptable conditions to work in and I am sure everyone would agree. Please if any resident spots a person who is obviously showing no intention to collect their dog's mess to get their name and we will take immediate action. The fine can be as much as £1000.00.

The collapsed drain which was such a problem down by the Baughurst Brook last winter has been repaired by Thames water. We hope this will eliminate the problems we have had down there.

During the summer we heard that the Persimmon had been refused to convert the affordable house to market value property by B&D planning. They had originally requested this change to accommodate the cost of connecting the proposed development to Mains Drainage. The implication is they now need to prove that any discharges from the site into the local water courses will meet EA approval. Residents who live close to the Baughurst Brook are very concerned with any additional discharges. They are in discussion with the EA about their concerns and the Parish Council has also written to them expressing our concerns to the water quality this develop could pose to the local community.

The battery on the old Speed Limited Reminder (SLR) is exhausted as it will not hold much charge, if we wish to use it then requires a replacement battery. Current SLR location outside the Primary school. Approx. cost is £65.00.

The Neighbourhood plan, I would also like to remind Councillors we need to make some positive steps toward creating a local work group.

Do we have any further news from other Parish Councils in the area about joining up to create a Lengthsman scheme? An example of this I have seen in

Worcester. <http://www.worcscalc.org.uk/index.php/thelengthsmansscheme/75-what-is-the-lengthsmans-scheme>

This mentioned funding available in Hampshire.

“While there is some flexibility in how each parish can operate its Parish Lengthsman service, the main principle is that small highways jobs can be locally managed, by employing a dedicated resource. Parishes can either employ their own Lengthsman or commission a Lengthsman service from the County Council's term highways maintenance contractor, Amey. Each participating parish will receive a total of £1,000”

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Please reference the “News” part of the Parish council web site, there might be some important changes to access to the Recycle Centre in Newbury from North Hants residents. Also some further news about Faster broadband for Ashford Hill.

Parish Councillors

The Councillors approved expenditure on a new battery for the SLR.

Cllr Tucker reported that there was not a problem with dog fouling on Headley recreation ground.

Cllr Stewart asked for Sovereign Housing to be reminded of their responsibility to have the hedgerows cut on the Hollybush development in Headley.

Cllr Tucker reported on the need to have the pavements swept and cleared of foliage, at the far end of Thornford Road, nearest to the ford,

Cllr Tucker reported on the update of the proposed new changing rooms for the recreation ground at Headley as informed by the Chairman of the Headley Athletic Football Club. Results from bore hole investigations had revealed the existing facility had been built on a clay base and was therefore not on stable ground as the tree roots in the vicinity had been able to dislodge the building. Whilst initial funding for a new facility, consisting of two changing rooms, a referee’s room and a communal space, was available the full cost of the project would need to be met from other sources.

Cllr Wilson confirmed that the request from the developers of the Ashford Hill housing development to alter the affordable housing element of the development due to additional costs elsewhere on the project had been rejected by the Borough Council.

Cllr Hellings explained the new system relating to the availability and calculation of S106 funding whereby proposed projects would need a full costing and feasibility study conducted if they were to be funded from developers S106 funding. The Community Infrastructure Levy would be replacing the existing S106 funding arrangement and a new way of calculating the levy for developers’ contributions was being put out to consultation. There would be a link between granting such funding and the existence of a Neighbourhood Plan which would attract 25% of the available funding as opposed to only 15% of the available funding if a local community did not have a Neighbourhood Plan.

It was requested that the obscured sight lines for drivers exiting from Millgreen Lane be reported to the Highways department so foliage could be cut back thoroughly.

Another serious vehicular accident had recently occurred at the bridge near to Tanhouse Cottages. It was requested that the Parish Council submit a request to the Highways department to install the appropriate ‘priority indicator’ signage to assist drivers in negotiating the narrowing of the highway at the bridge.

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Quarterly Accounts – April-June 2016

The Clerk had presented an account of income and expenditure for the first financial quarter versus the year’s budget. Income was on target and expenditure was well controlled without any of the contingency having to be expended during the first quarter.

11. Financial Statement

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £4453.82 in credit.
The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £10,583.60.

12. Accounts for approval and payment

Mr C Butler – Litter Warden’s salary – Oct - Dec 2016 - £424.20

Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden’s salary – Oct - Dec 2016 - £403.63

Mr S Marshall – Clerk’s salary & expenses – Oct - Dec 2016 - £2679.58

HMRC – PAYE & Tax contributions – Jul - Sep 2016 - £1659.66

13. Correspondence received

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.32pm.