

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 9th June 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Ron Dark (in the Chair) Gail Martin Vaughan Clarke
Brian Bird Robin Forrest Tony Clear
Will Glancy Alan Biddlecombe

In Attendance: Clerk - Jenny Hollington

There were 4 members of the public in attendance throughout the meeting.

15/117 **Apologies** – Apologies had been received from the new District Councillor, Nicky Noble.

15/118 **Minutes** – The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19th May were approved and signed.

15/119 **Co-Option of a Parish Councillor** – Two candidates had put their name forward for co-option to the Parish Council and had given a short presentation at a separate meeting held immediately before the Parish Council Meeting, explaining what they could offer to the Council and the community. Both candidates had been considered extremely strong and worthy of the position. Following a vote, Alan Biddlecombe had been selected, based on geography.

Mr. Biddlecombe was welcomed to the Parish Council and the declaration to accept office was duly signed and witnessed.

15/120 **Declarations of Interests** - Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest which they may have in any item on the Agenda, as they go through the meeting.

15/121 **Public Comment** –

- It was pointed out that the mesh promised for the bottom of the gate at the Millennium Field to stop dogs escaping has never materialised. It was agreed to remedy this oversight as soon as possible and Cllr. Clear was asked to action. In addition, the fence knocked down by a fallen branch will be checked.

15/122 **Up-date from Southern Water** – Nothing has been heard from Dr. Dart. The Clerk was asked to write to strongly worded letter to Southern Water, requesting that the jetting of the sewers in Church Field and the installation of the replacement valves for the cottages next to the pumping station are now carried out.

15/123 **Finance** –

(a) The request that the Parish Council consider purchasing a marquee for Village events was discussed. It was suggested that this may be something the new District Councillor's grant funding pot could be used for and agreed to carry this item over until the next meeting (which it is hoped she will be able to attend) to discuss this further.

(b) The bank reconciliation for May had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved.

(c) The following cheques were approved:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
300333	£50.86	E-on	Electricity - Village Hall

300334	£2,628.96	Broxap	Outdoor T. Tennis - Rec
300335	£457.14	Earth Anchors Ltd.	Litter bin - V. Green
300336	£624.00	Sheet Music Ltd	Caretaking - Village Hall
300337	£102.80	DNE Services	Repair flush - disabled WC - V.Hall
300338	£119.70	EHDC	Uncontested election
300339	£65.48	HMRC	Tax and N.I.
300340	£632.73	J. Hollington	Salary + AGM Expenses (£22.71)
300341	£90.00	S. Warr	Grass cutting
Total :	£4,771.67		

15/124 Planning – Current planning applications were discussed –

SDNP/15/02087/CND	Variation of condition 1 of SDNP/14/04933/HOUS – introduction of a window to bedroom 1 (facing west)	Thistledown, Love Lane, GU31 4BU	No Objection
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15/125 Developer’s Contributions for Sunnymead – Mrs. Potter (Head of Planning at EHDC) has confirmed that no response has been received from Starwood Developments - EHDC have now sent a final demand for the developer’s contributions. The situation will continue to be monitored by the Parish Council.

15/126 Network Rail – Sheet Crossing – Network Rail has hand delivered leaflets to all houses in the parish inviting residents to attend one of the information sessions at the Village Hall on Saturday, 13th June. However, Network Rail has since cancelled the planned 6.00 p.m. workshop because of a lack of attendees for that particular session. It was agreed that at least one Parish Councillor should attend each of the other workshops.

ERS are sending out the referendum ballot paper by 2nd class post on Friday, 12th June to arrive early the following week. The wording of the referendum, and Network Rail’s comments, were discussed and a final version agreed.

15/127 Allotments – No further up-date on devolved management has been received but it is assumed that the application is progressing through the system – Cllr. Forrest will check with Mr. Mogg prior to the next meeting.

The request for more scalplings to fill the potholes in the track was discussed. The sum of £300 was approved if access and delivery can be easily arranged. Cllr. Forrest will liaise with Mr. Hart.

15/128 Sheet Common – Various issues were raised including brambles, ferns, broken seating and accessibility of the footpath. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr. Clear should treat the brambles and ferns with the appropriate chemicals and be reimbursed for the work.

It was queried whether a barbecue could be installed on the Common – currently squares of grass are being cut out, where people are holding their own barbecues. Cllr. Biddlecombe said he would look into the source and cost of the type of public barbecues in place at Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

The seat requires a new slat (as do several others in the parish) – it was agreed that Cllrs. Bird and Forrest should take a look at benches within the parish in general and report back on which ones need attention and an estimate for repairs.

The blocked footpath will need careful consideration and consultation with Hampshire County Council Rights of Way Department – it was agreed that Cllr. Biddlecombe, who has experience with SDNP

Rangers, would look at the situation and report back to the next meeting. Cllr. Biddlecombe will also review the position regarding invasive plants.

- 15/129 Millennium Field – A request for a bench to be installed in memory of Robin Smith, a well-known and popular parishioner who used to walk his dog in the field, was considered. Members of the Council were supportive of the proposal, which was agreed in principle, subject only to design and location.
- 15/130 Village Green – Cllrs. Forrest, Glancy and Dark have now installed the new litter bin on the Green and removed the old bases which were a safety hazard. The litter will now be monitored to see if 1 bin (rather than the previous 2) is enough to cope.
- 15/131 Village Hall
- (a) Broadband – Details of the Virgin standalone business broadband package - £50 installation and £40 monthly for 36 months (50 Mb) - were discussed. Broadband provision would be a benefit to the community and the Film Club. Following the discussion it was agreed that the broadband should be installed for the 3-year term.
 - (b) Front area – The planters are now in position and looking lovely. The purchase of a watering can for dry spells was approved and it was also agreed that DNE Services should be asked for a quote for an outside tap. In addition, the fence will be painted/treated by Cllrs. Dark and Forrest to smarten it up.
- 15/132 Sheet Recreation Ground – DNE Services will be chased up with regard to the installation date for the storage shed.
- 15/133 Grass Cutting – Comments have been received about the standard of the grass cutting at the Recreation Ground and Old Mill Lane. In addition, it was pointed out that the Rec needs more than just mowing – seeding, grass fertilisation and cutting back of trees and bushes are also necessary. It was agreed to continue with the current contract for this year, but a tighter spec will be drawn up for next year. Cllr. Forrest will discuss the situation with the current contractor.
- 15/134 Roads and Traffic – Cllr. Martin confirmed that she is to meet with Mr. Janes, Hampshire Highways, in Village Street on 16th June, to discuss signage for large vehicles following sat navs through the village. Cllrs. Bird and Glancy will also attend. It was agreed that the focus should be on Village Street initially but that School Lane will be considered in due course.
- 15/135 The Parish Lengthsman Scheme – the Clerk said that she had spoken to Mike Pillans who administers the scheme for East Hampshire, who confirmed that as long as the work carried out by the Lengthsman was highway related, the invoices would be covered by HCC (from the £1000 contribution to each parish on the Scheme). The contribution works out to be the equivalent of approximately 50 hours work and this, and the type of work covered, were discussed further to ensure that there would be enough work for a Lengthsman, to make it worthwhile Sheet being involved. The type of work allowed includes hedges (where they are overhanging the road), strimming roadside verges, cleaning road signage, sweeping leaves, footpath clearance, etc.
- Following the discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should advise Mr. Pillans that Sheet Parish Council would wish to join the scheme if it continues in the next financial year (it is currently a trial).
- 15/136 Meeting with SVCT Representatives – The Chair and Vice-Chair had been invited to meet with representatives of the Sheet Village Charitable Trust to discuss their proposal of a transfer of parish assets to the Trust to provide better protection for assets if the Parish Council were to collapse. As a Charity, they believe they have better access to grants for maintenance and improvement.

Councillors queried whether the Trust would be any safer than the Parish Council, which is currently robust in terms of finance and corporate governance. It was agreed that, although the Sheet Village

Charitable Trust have only the best motives in mind, the assets should remain with the Parish Council for the foreseeable future.

15/137 Church Field – Nothing further has been heard with regard to planning for a dwelling on the land – it is believed that Mr. Wake will now liaise direct with EHDC in this regard, and come back to the Parish Council with his plans in due course.

Cllr. Forrest has made Mr. Wake aware of the dangerous poplar trees next to the Church and suggested that perhaps he could ask the tenant of the land to cut them down.

15/138 County Councillor's Report – The County Councillor's report is appended to these Minutes.

15/139 Electoral Review of Hampshire – Correspondence on this matter was noted with interest – however, no action is required.

15/140 Training – Petersfield Town Council has organised a training session on Roles and Responsibilities and invited new Councillors in local parishes to join them. The session will take place on Wednesday, 24th June at 7.00 p.m. at a cost £10 per head. It was agreed that both Cllrs. Clear and Biddlecombe should attend if possible.

Date of Next Meeting – **Tuesday, 14th July - 7.30 p.m.**

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.