

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 10th November 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

15/227 **Apologies** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Alan Biddlecombe and District Councillor, Nicky Noble.

15/228 **Minutes** – the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th October were approved and duly signed.

15/229 **Declarations of Interests** – None declared

15/230 **Public Comment** – None received.

15/231 **Finance**

- (a) The bank reconciliation for October had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved.
- (b) The grant application submitted by the Sheet Film Society for £250 towards the cost of building a secure cupboard to protect the film equipment was approved.
- (c) Deposit Fund – The Chairman explained that funds up to £75,000 are protected under FSA regulations. Occasionally however, Sheet Parish Council’s account with Unity Trust exceeds this amount (especially when the precept is first received) and he therefore proposed that the sum of £30,000 be transferred to the Cambridge Building Society. The Cambridge Building Society is regulated by FSA and has a specialist account for Parish Councils. This proposal was unanimously agreed.
- (d) Following discussions as above, the following cheques for November payment were approved:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
300468	£20.85	E-on	V. Hall
300469	£37.24	Contract Natural Gas Ltd	V. Hall
300470	£442.40	S. Male	Planning - store at Sheet Rec
300471	£1,900.00	A.W. Clear	Millennium Field/V. Green
300472	£19.60	County Supplies	V. Hall
300473	£70.94	G. Martin	Plants & Compost - V. Hall
300474	£626.40	Sheet Music Ltd	Caretaking/cleaning - V. Hall
300475	£65.48	Tax & N.I.	Clerk
300476	£611.04	J. Hollington	Sal (Nov) + 0.52 p correction (Sept)
300477	£50.00	STAA	1st Prize - Allotment AGM

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300478	£250.00	Sheet Film Club	Grant for cupboard
300479	£30,000.00	Cambridge Building Soc	Transfer to new Deposit A/c
Total :	£34,093.95		

15/232 Budget and Precept – The Chairman explained that EHDC will ask for Sheet Parish Council’s 2016/17 precept request in January. In order to arrive at the sum required, a budget will be prepared to be discussed and approved at the December meeting. The Chairman and Cllr. Biddlecombe will meet to discuss costs and future projects and prepare the budget. Any projects to be considered should be sent to the Chairman.

15/233 Planning – A planning application for 11 dwellings on land behind School Lane has been received by the Parish Council with a consultation deadline of 23rd November. A Public Exhibition is being held by Burton Property at the Village Hall on Friday, 13th November and members of the public are encouraged to attend and put forward their views. It was agreed that the Parish Council would meet to consider the plans on Tuesday, 17th November.

15/234 Developer’s Contributions – This matter is still in the hands of the EHDC Legal Department and, as yet, there has been no feedback.

15/235 Roads and Traffic –

- White lines and condition of Mill Lane – Cllr. Clarke will attend a Highways Workshop in the next couple of weeks and will check whether Mill Lane is on the list for re-surfacing. The white line painting at the junction of Village Street has been passed as a job, but no date for the work to be carried out has been received.
- Speed Indicators – Research into the possible hire of a mobile speed indicator for the village has shown that they are very expensive and very heavy, and have to be moved every 2-weeks. The mobile indicators record speeds which are then fed to HCC to make a case for speed restrictions. The permanent flashing displays are only installed on very dangerous roads.

15/236 Sheet Allotments –

- (a) Plot Maintenance – there are now 13 vacant allotment plots which all require maintenance. The Chairman pointed out that Sheet Parish Council had taken their foot off the pedal over the summer when it was thought the devolved management company would be taking over the site, as rental income would have passed to them to spend as they felt fit. As this has now fallen through and there is a current underspend on maintenance, it was agreed that £1000 should be budgeted to get the site looking a lot better. Cllr. Clear said that contractors may be more willing to quote competitively knowing that there are more plots to be cleared and maintained, and it was agreed that further quotes should be sought for this purpose, to be discussed further at the next meeting. In the meantime, if plots are allocated to new tenants the Clerk should use Nick Rook-Blackstone (at previously agreed cost of £100 for a small plot and £200 for a large plot).
- (b) Site efficiency – It was queried whether there are certain areas of the allotments that could be avoided when taking on new tenants (under hedges/trees), in order to create open spaces for community areas? Cllr. Forrest confirmed that plots 37 and 65 (which are opposite each other and under trees) have been earmarked for clearing and future use as parking spaces.
- (c) Ash Tree behind plots 10 and 12 – a quote of £450 has been received to cut down the tree following complaints by the current tenant that is blocking out the light and overshadowing her plots. The tree is outside the boundary fence and there is a concern with regard to setting a precedent. This item will be kept under review.
- (d) Deposits – the current deposit is £60 per person regardless of whether they are taking a small or large plot. It was agreed that next time allotment hire charges are being discussed, consideration should be given to increasing deposits to reflect the true cost of clearing the plots when they are left in bad condition.

- 15/237 Sheet Common – Advice from current insurers, Zurich, regarding installation of a barbeque for public use had been circulated prior to the meeting. Zurich confirmed that there would be no increase in cost, but safety requirements will need to be considered and applied. Additional signage and an extra rubbish bin would also be a consideration. It was agreed to go ahead with the installation of the barbeque in the spring. Cllr. Biddlecombe will be asked to follow this up.
- 15/238 Footpath 25 – A grant application has been submitted to the HCC Small Grant Scheme for match funding to create steps on Footpath 25 where the footpath is eroded.
- 15/239 Seating – One of the benches at the Recreation Ground has been repaired. However, another bench has had to be demolished as the concrete was deteriorating. Cllr. Martin queried whether a new seat could be purchased to replace this and it was agreed that this would be considered in the budget for 2016/17. Seats at Mill Lane and Sheet Common will be repaired in the coming weeks.
- 15/240 Village Green – The new raised wall and flower bed around the Village sign has been much admired. Cllr. Clear was thanked for his excellent and speedy work on this project.
- 15/241 Village Hall
- (a) Broadband – This has now been installed. It was agreed that DNE Services should be asked to quote to chase the router up the wall to the upstairs meeting room, as the cable is in the way in the meeting room. If the quote is below £100, the Clerk was asked to go ahead with this.
 - (b) Regular hirers meeting – this will take place on Thursday, 19th November.
 - (c) Storage of Trestle Tables – A quote of £197 + VAT from DNE Services to provide 3 trolleys to store the tables under the stage area was approved.
- 15/242 Recreation Ground –
- (a) Surface around table tennis table - Tony King (Hand Made Places) has offered to donate matting to improve the surface around the table tennis table. As soon as this is received Cllr. Bird will install it. This item will now be removed from the Agenda.
 - (b) The shrub outside No. 15 which was obstructing the telephone engineers has now been cut down by the householder.
- 15/243 The Lion & Unicorn Players – The Lion & Unicorn Players will be hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner at Sheet Village Hall on 28th November – tickets are available from the Queen’s Head. This is following the Parish Council request that they become more involved within the village in return for the use of the Old Billiard Room for storage.
- 15/244 Sandbags – The Clerk has not yet made contact with the relevant person at EHDC to check the process for provision in case of floods within the parish but this will be followed up in time for the December meeting.
- 15/245 Village Pubs as Community Assets – The Chairman confirmed that he has now spoken to the Landlord, and the information required to register the pub as a community asset has been obtained and is ready to be sent to EHDC. Photos of community events held at the pub will be forwarded to the Clerk for inclusion with the application form.
- 15/246 County Councillor’s Report – The County Councillor’s report for November is appended to the Minutes.
- 15/247 Dates of Meetings for 2016 – It was agreed to continue holding Parish Council Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month in 2016.
- 15/248 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday, 8th December at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.