

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 11th October 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Julie Robinson, Head Teacher, Sheet School
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were approximately 10 members of the public present during the meeting.

16/182 Apologies – Apologies had been received from District Councillor, Nicky Noble.

16/183 Minutes – The minutes of the meetings held on 13th and 27th September were approved and signed.

16/184 Declarations of Interests – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the Agenda. None were declared.

16/185 Public Comment – None

16/186 Sheet School – Road Safety Issues – Mrs. Robinson, Head Teacher at Sheet School, explained that parents and teachers are becoming increasingly worried about the safety of children walking to School in Sheet. The School is keen to encourage children to walk to School for health reasons but there are risks in the lanes around the School and there have been a few near misses. A paper hi-lighting particular areas of concern and possible solutions for consideration had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and were discussed. Photographic evidence was also provided of particularly bad parking and driving. Mrs. Robinson also pointed out that when full barriers are installed at the level crossing, the anticipated longer waiting time will cause waiting traffic to back up to the School causing even more problems.

Councillors felt that the School had come up with some interesting ideas and solutions to the problems, and it was worth pursuing these with Hampshire Highways. It was agreed that Cllr. Martin would make contact with an appropriate Highways representative and arrange a meeting between all parties to discuss the issues further.

16/187 Finance

(a) The September bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved and signed by Cllr. Biddlecombe. The bank account balance is £84,531 as at 30.9.16

(b) Cheques for October payment were approved as follows:

300595	£174.43	DNE Services	V. Hall - fire doors (gloss work)
300596	£23.79	Contract Natural Gas Ltd	V. hall - gas
300597	£180.00	HALC	Training - Budgeting x 2
300598	£45.00	G. Martin	Refund - V. Hall planting
300599	£764.40	Petersfield Town Council	Bins (May-September)
300600	£635.99	Sheet Music Ltd	Caretaking/cleaning - V. Hall
300601	£50.48	HMRC	Tax + NI (Clerk)
300602	£634.02	J. Hollington	Clerk + exp (October)

300603	£60.00	E. Hayler	Refund - deposit - plot 54
Total :	£2,568.11		

(c) Comparison of Actual to Budget Figures – Payments and receipts for the first 6-months (April-September) were compared with budget figures for the year. There were a couple of anomalies:

- Village Hall income is down following a quiet summer – invoicing of regular hirers for the Autumn Term is not yet showing in the accounts.
- Internet – Broadband has been installed at the Village Hall and is paid on a monthly basis;
- Allotment income is not reflected (rents are due October), maintenance costs will be higher for the second half of the year as there is a high turnover of plots this year and hedge work is to be carried out in October/November.
- Precept – The second half of the payment from EHDC has been received.

16/188 Developers Contributions – Despite being chased for a response, there has still been no up-date from EHDC Legal Department as to the current situation.

16/189 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Village Street Signage – The connection of electrics to signage at the Village Green end of Village Street has still not been carried out. Cllr. Martin will continue to chase this.
- (b) HCC proposals for dropped kerbing in Inmans Lane – Plans showing proposed changes to pavements had been circulated prior to the meeting. Representatives of Hampshire Highways will be manning a display in the foyer of the Village Hall on Tuesday, 25th October from 3.00-6.00 p.m. to discuss the proposals - residents and local business owners are encouraged to attend to discuss the changes.

16/190 Community Resilience – The Plan is now almost complete. The Clerk and Cllr. Martin will meet to go through and finalise the document, before final approval by the Parish Council and EHDC.

16/191 Flooding – There has been no response from SSE with regard to the grant application towards the flood pod and sandbags for Mill Lane.

16/192 Lengthsman Scheme – It was agreed that the Lengthsman should be asked to cut back the hedges on the corner of School Lane/Farnham Road (Old Billiard Room) and the overgrown footpath on the London Road (next to the bridge over the Rother). Cllr. Clear will meet with the Lengthsman to explain exactly what is required.

16/193 Sheet Allotments –

- (a) Hedges - The allotment hedges in Mill Lane have been cut back by Peter Caines. Cllr. Forrest has liaised with Chris Booker with regard to cutting back the trees and hedges on the allotment side of the Farnham Road and the tree overhanging the road and neighbouring property from the Millennium car park - the sum of £250 for this work was approved.
- (b) Plot Maintenance – Following the annual tenancy renewal process there are currently 12 empty 10-rod plots and 3 empty 5-rod plots. Several plots adjacent to each other and under the tree line on the Farnham Road have been given up and it was queried whether these could now be grassed over as the plots are not in a good position (being under the trees) and have never done particularly well – there has been no recent demand. It was agreed to obtain quotes for removing the fencing and grassing the area over and to discuss further at the November meeting.
- (c) Pest Control – Following complaints about rats from plot holders adjacent to the railway line, it was agreed that advice should be sought from a pest control expert.

16/194 Sheet Recreation Ground

- (a) Cllr. Bird is continuing to seek quotes for the new lights adjacent to the Scout Hut and these will be approved at the November meeting.
- (b) The dead undergrowth which appears to have been dumped to the right of the entrance of the Recreation Ground is on privately owned land and is therefore not the Parish Council's responsibility.

16/195 Sheet Common

- (a) Wooden Posts – Cllr. Forrest will continue to chase quotes for the replacement wooden posts for the bmx track boundary to be approved at the November meeting.
- (b) Bmx track - summer activities – Following concerns raised about a summer camp/party held over a weekend during the summer, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the bmx user group highlighting the Parish Council concerns. Permission for this type of activity has never been sought and if the BMX User Group want to organise something similar in future years, they will need to ensure that they have permission and be able to show that they have an appropriate risk assessment, full insurance cover for a limited number of attendees, and that appropriate arrangements are made for toilet facilities.
- (c) New Gate - Cllr. Forrest will continue to chase a quote for installation of a new gate at Sheet Common for approval at the November meeting.
- (d) New Signage – Cllr. Biddlecombe has the signage and has asked SDNPA volunteers for help to install it as they have the right equipment.
- (e) European Laurel – Cllr. Biddlecombe has asked SDNPA representatives to take a look at this with a view to removing it – European Laurel is not native and is invasive.

16/196 Sheet Village Hall –

- (a) Quotes for repair of back wall – Two quotes have now been received. An alternative will be sought from either Bob Smallbone or Southdowns Builders – Cllr. Clear will arrange for these in time for the November meeting.
- (b) Landscaping at front of Village Hall – A proposal for landscaping of the front hardstanding of the Village Hall was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr. Clear should sketch out ideas for discussion at the November meeting and obtain quotes for consideration.

16/197 County Councillor Report – The County Councillor's report was noted and is appended to the minutes. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries with regard to the purchase of a wreath for Remembrance Day.

16/198 Meetings Attended –

- HALC Budgeting Training – this was attended by the Clerk and Cllr. Biddlecombe (Finance Committee) who agreed it had been useful and informative.

16/199 Correspondence Received

- HALC Consultation on Precept Capping – It was agreed that the Chairman should respond to the consultation, expressing Sheet Parish Councils concerns at the proposals to extend the current 2% cap and referendum principle to Parish and Town Councils. In addition, a letter will be sent to the local MP, Damien Hinds.
- SDNPA – 2-way communication survey - it was agreed that the Clerk should respond stating that Sheet P.C. is content with current levels of communication.
- EHDC Parish Charter – The draft Charter, which sets out an agreement between EHDC and Town and Parish Councils, had been circulated prior to the meeting – there were no comments.

16/200 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday, 8th November – 7.30 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.