

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 13th October 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were 6 members of the public in attendance.

15/203 **Apologies** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Robin Forrest and District Councillor, Nicky Noble.

15/204 **Minutes** – the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th September were approved and duly signed.

15/205 **Declarations of Interests** – None declared

15/206 **Public Comment** -

- Sheet Scout Hut – It was confirmed that renovation work is due to be started early in the New Year - the work is being carried out by REME free of charge.
- Bonfire and Firework Display – A representative of Friends of Sheet School requested permission for the annual bonfire and firework display to take place in the Millennium Field on Saturday, 7th November. He confirmed that, as per previous years, a full risk assessment would be carried out and the event insured by the School. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council were happy to support the event as long as the Millennium Field was cleared up afterwards. The bonfire committee should liaise with Cllr. Clear to agree arrangements.
- A representative of the Sheet Village Charitable Trust requested that the Parish Council consider buying a speed indicator to act as a deterrent and encourage people to obey speed limits around the parish. It was agreed that Cllr. Martin should look into effectiveness and cost and follow up with Mr. Janes, HCC.

15/207 **Finance**

- (a) The bank reconciliation for September had been circulated and checked prior to the meeting, and was approved.
- (b) The actual to budget figures for the second quarter (July-September) were discussed and the main variances noted –
- Village Hall – maintenance - £2,500 over budget due to refurbishment of the main hall;
 - Capital expenditure - £16.5 over budget because of installation of new play equipment and storage shed at the Recreation Ground, and the new ceiling tiles and lights in the Village Hall;
 - Grants and Developers Contributions received were £9,000 higher and relate to capital expenditure as above.

With regard to income, the second instalment of the precept has been received, and income for the Village Hall is on budget.

- (c) A list of cheques for October payment had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
300451	£152.30	Coomers	Scalpings - Allotments
300452	£72.00	S.D. Playgrounds	Quarterly play inspections
300453	£638.65	Landscape Group	July-Sept - bins
300454	£462.00	Arbrook Tree Care	Cut back trees - Rec and Allots
300455	£46.31	E-on	Electricity - V. Hall
300456	£138.39	Zurich	BMX Track
300457	£300.00	N.Rook-Blackstone	Clearing Allots 70b & 87
300458	£780.00	Sheet Music Ltd	Caretaking/cleaning - V. Hall
300459	£65.48	HMRC	Tax & NI - Clerk
300460	£644.69	J. Hollington	Sal (Oct) and exp (£34.17)
300461	£150.00	S. Warr	Grass Cutting - September
300462	£738.00	Pewcorner Woodworks	Wood to repair broken benches
300463	£60.00	D. Lynam	Allotment deposit (plot 5a)
300464	£60.00	Mr & Mrs. D. Hall	Allotment deposit (plot 21)
300465	£60.00	B. Coleman	Allotment deposit (plot 53b)
300466	£60.00	Nina Gresham	Allotment deposit (plot 41)
300467	£270.00	Caines Farm Partnership	Hedges Mill Lane
Total :	£4,697.82		

(d) Deposit Fund – options for appropriate accounts will be circulated in time for decision at the November meeting.

15/208 Planning – A current planning application was considered:

SDNP/15/04372/HOUS	Single storey extension to side/rear	25 Town Lane, Sheet	No Objection
--------------------	---	---------------------	---------------------

15/209 SDNPA Local Plan Consultation – The proposed changes to the parish settlement boundary and the implications for the proposed housing allocation of 20 houses were discussed. It was noted that the land behind School Lane has now been allocated as draft housing (11 houses proposed) in the plan, but the land behind Pulens Lane has been removed (although originally approved as suitable for development). Concern was expressed as to where the remaining allocation of houses could be situated.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact SDNPA and request a meeting with a planning officer to explain the implications of a reduced settlement boundary, as soon as possible, to enable a response to the consultation to be submitted before the closing date of 28th October.

15/210 Designation of Green Spaces – The issue of whether or not it would be appropriate to designate Parish Council owned land as green space was discussed. It was suggested that there would be no advantage in doing so, as this would tie down the land in perpetuity as we cannot anticipate the needs of a democratically elected council in decades to come. It was agreed that designation of green spaces would be more appropriate for privately owned land of value to the parish.

15/211 Developer’s Contributions – EHDC have confirmed that they have now heard back from the developer, who has queried the validity of the S.106 undertaking, and the matter is in the hands of the Legal Department.

15/212 Land Behind School Lane – Mr. Burton is organising a Public Exhibition at Sheet Village Hall on Friday, 13th November for members of the public to see plans. Further details will be publicised when confirmed.

15/213 Roads and Traffic –

- Condition of Mill Lane – Cllr. Clarke was asked to check when the much needed work to repair surfacing is due to be carried out. Residents are reminded that they can report pot-holes via the HCC website.
- Obscured road signage in School Lane– the signs at the bottom of School Lane have now been cleared. The “road narrows” sign currently hidden in hedging isn’t thought to be essential as it should be very obvious to drivers that the road is narrow!

15/214 Sheet Allotments

- (a) On-going maintenance of vacant plots – Consideration needs to be given to keeping vacant plots maintained and ready for potential new owners. Various contactors have been asked to quote for clearing plots but there is a general unwillingness to take on the work because of the amount of rubbish to be cleared. A proposal received from Mr. N. Rook-Blackstone for on-going maintenance including spraying vacant plots with Roundup to suppress grass and weeds at a cost of £30 per application and then to clear them of vegetation and waste, and rotorvate them in readiness for a new owner at £200 for a full plot and £100 for a half plot was discussed. It was noted that, at this level of cost, the current deposit of £60 doesn’t nearly cover the cost of clearing the plot or incentivise plot holders to leave plots in good condition. In addition the use of Roundup may not be popular with all prospective new tenants. It was agreed that Mr. Rook-Blackstone should be asked to clear 2-plots for people on the waiting list as a trial and on-going plot maintenance will be re-considered in November.
- (b) Proposed plot holder meeting – Cllr. Forrest and the Clerk will attend the Sheet and Tilmore Allotment Association AGM on 11th November to up-date plot holders on the current situation with regard to the devolved management company. The Clerk will liaise with the Secretary of the STAA.
- (c) Site maintenance – A quote has been received for grass and verge cutting at a cost of £250 per monthly visit since the current arrangement appears to have fallen through – this will be considered alongside other quotes in the spring. Cllr. Forrest will be asked to look at the Ash Tree on plot 12 following complaints by the plot holder and, if necessary, arrange for a quote to have the tree cut back.
- (d) Mill Lane – The hedges have now been cut back.

15/215 Sheet Common –

- (a) BMX Track – An additional sum of £138 is required for public liability insurance cover on the BMX Track - this amount will be recouped from the User Group.
- (b) Bonfires and barbeques – the BMX User Group have cleared the Common of rubbish left over from the impromptu camp held in September. It was queried whether the proposal to install a metal barbeque, currently being considered by the Parish Council, would encourage camping and large groups on the Common and agreed that the Clerk should investigate any additional insurance cost before the idea is pursued further.
- (c) The B.T. wire has now been cleared.

15/216 Footpath 25 – There would be a cost of approx. £250 to the Parish Council in match funding the HCC Small Grant Scheme application to create steps on Footpath 25 where the footpath is eroded. In addition the Parish Council is required to undertake any on-going maintenance of the steps. It was agreed to proceed with the application in order to provide an alternative route for people to use.

15/217 Invasive Plants – No further action will be taken over the winter and the problem will be re-addressed next spring.

15/218 Seating – The wood required to repair the broken seating has been sourced and a Cllrs. Dark, Bird and Forrest will meet to carry out the work in the next few weeks.

- 15/219 Village Green – A proposal to improve the area around the Village sign, by building up a wall to create a raised flower bed, was discussed. The cost of materials would be £250 but labour provided free of charge by Cllrs. Clear, Bird and Dark. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead with the plan while the weather is good.
- 15/220 Village Hall
- (a) Broadband – Cllr. Glancy confirmed that Virgin are due to install broadband at the Village Hall very soon – date to be confirmed.
 - (b) Proposed regular hirers meeting – this meeting will now be organised for November.
 - (c) Film Club equipment – Film Club representatives requested permission to install a lockable cupboard on the stage area to protect the film equipment. The cost of building the cupboard is approximately £750 - it was agreed that the Film Club could apply for a grant from the Parish Council towards the cost.
 - (d) Storage of Trestle Tables – Following the re-decoration of the main hall, DNE Services suggested that they could build a wheeled trolley to hold the trestle tables flat under the stage area, which could be pulled out for ease of access, to prevent the walls being marked by the edges of the tables. The Clerk was asked to get a quote for 1 or 2 trolleys as necessary, to be discussed at the next meeting. It was pointed out that the chairs would still be stored on the stage area - it was agreed that this was something that could be discussed at the meeting with regular hirers.
- 15/221 Recreation Ground - The matting for re-surfacing around the table tennis table has been ordered and will be fitted before the November meeting.
- 15/222 The Old Billiard Room – The Lion & Unicorn Players will be hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner at Sheet Village Hall on 28th November – further details will be available soon.
- 15/223 Sandbags – A suggestion that Sheet Parish Council consider purchasing sandbags in case of shortages this winter, was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with EHDC about whether there would be a need to supplement their supply, before any action is taken. In the meantime Cllr. Biddlecombe will price up B & Q bags (which can be filled with water and are easy to store).
- 15/224 Village Pubs as Community Assets – Information on registering pubs as community assets has now been received from EHDC. They have recommended that landlords should be advised of any application prior to it being submitted. It was therefore agreed that the Chairman would speak to the landlord at the Queen’s Head to advise him of the Parish Council’s intention to register the pub. It was agreed that the Half Moon will not be registered at the current time.
- 15/225 County Councillor’s Report – The County Councillor’s report for October is appended to the Minutes.
- 15/226 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday, 10th November at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.