

Annual Parish Assembly – 27.4.17

CHAIRMAN: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE SHEET ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, 27TH APRIL 2017 AT 7.30 P.M. AT SHEET VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Ron Dark (in the Chair) Gail Martin Tony Clear
Robin Forrest Will Glancy Alan Biddlecombe
Brian Bird

IN ATTENDANCE: Jenny Hollington (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: County Councillor, Vaughan Clarke, and District Councillor, Nicky Noble

There were approximately 25 members of the public present for the first part of the meeting

APA17/01 **SPEAKER – DAVID WILLIAMSON, HEARTSTART INITIATIVE**

The Chairman introduced David Williamson, from South Central Ambulance Service and Meon Valley Heartstart Initiative.

David gave a presentation on basic life support as well as a demonstration on how to use the new automated external defibrillator (AED) which has recently been installed at the Village Hall. The session was extremely informative and well received and it was agreed that a more in depth session would be held at the Village Hall in the coming weeks so that Sheet residents would feel comfortable in using the defibrillator if necessary.

Refreshments were served following the presentation and demonstration.

Approximately 9 members of the public stayed for the remaining agenda items:

APA17/02 **MINUTES – ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2016** – The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Friday, 6th May 2016 were approved and signed.

APM17/03 **ANNUAL REPORT** – The Chairman, with input from Parish Councillors with responsibility for various areas/assets, gave a report of Parish Council activities over the year, as follows:

Planning – Last year landowners interested in developing their land were asked to put the land forward to be assessed for suitability as part of the SDNPA SHLAA process. Following this assessment, two parcels of land were approved as suitable for development in Sheet – land behind School Lane and land behind Pulens Lane. SDNPA indicated that out of an allocation of 100 houses to be built in outlying villages, 20 new houses were to be allocated to Sheet. Permission has since been given for 11 (+ a further 3) houses on the land behind School Lane (4 of which will be affordable) but a planning application for 5 houses at the site known as Remount (behind Pulens Lane), was refused. An application for 3 houses on the site of 39 Inmans Lane has also been approved (although these houses are what is called “windfall” and therefore do not count towards the Sheet allocation of 20 houses). The proposal for a house at Church Field (with remaining land being gifted to the parish) has gone very quiet and nothing more has been heard recently.

Enforcement – EHDC Enforcement Officers and the Parish Council continue to monitor the on-going planning issues at Broadmeadow.

Contracts – The litter collection is now carried out weekly by Petersfield Town Council and as well as being cost effective is very efficient. Grass cutting throughout the parish has been carried out by A.W. Clear and the standard has been excellent. Caretaking at the Village Hall continues to be carried out by Sheet Music Ltd and regular hirers are very happy with the service provided.

The Lengthsman Scheme – This is a Hampshire County Council sponsored scheme whereby parishes within a cluster are allocated £1000 each for repairs/work on parish roads and public spaces to be carried out locally by the Lengthsman. Sheet Parish Council have used their allocation of £1000 for the year and, amongst other work, have had the debris at the bottom of School Lane cleared.

Transparency Code – Although Sheet Parish Council doesn't fall under the regulations of the Transparency Code, a new website has been set up (www.sheetparishcouncil.gov.uk) to make it easier for members of the public to access information (e.g. parish councillor register of interests, cashbook, audit reports, etc.).

Sewage – The problems in Mill Lane appear to have been resolved following the work carried out by Southern Water last year.

Community Resilience Plan – This is an HCC/EHDC initiative which encourages towns and villages across Hampshire to draw up an emergency plan for the types of emergency they may face within their community. As a result of this initiative, a Community Resilience Plan has been drawn up for Sheet which highlights local resources and a range of people with appropriate skills who can be contacted via a telephone tree. The plan will be made available via the website and at key locations around the parish.

Flooding – A key element of the Community Resilience Plan is the possibility of flooding from the River Rother and following receipt of a grant from SSE for £2000, a flood pod has been installed in the Millennium Field car park to provide storage for synthetic sandbags – access to the flood pod will be made available to those people whose properties are at risk of flooding in Mill Lane.

Roads – White lines have now been reinstated at the junction of Mill Lane and Village Street and at Long Road and Waterworks Road. The proposed alterations at the junction of Town Lane/Inmans Lane have been delayed but it is hoped they will be carried out in the summer. Various attempts have been made by the Parish Council and the School to engage with HCC over the safety of children walking to School, but this appears to be a non-starter. The School have now set up a Travel Safely to School Group and the Parish Council are working closely with them to try to address problems. A Parish Council grant of £350 was approved to issue all the children with a hi-vis safety jacket.

Parish Assets –

The Village Hall – This is one of the parish's main assets and improvements have been made to enhance the way it looks and feels for users - landscaping has been carried out at the front of the hall and the badly cracked wall at the rear of the property has been rebuilt and now incorporates a fire escape gate. New stage lighting has been installed and the hall is now used regularly by the Lion & Unicorn Players for their productions. As already discussed at the beginning of the meeting, the new AED defibrillator has also been installed.

The Millennium Field – The field has now been maintained by Tony Clear for 17 years and his hard work is appreciated by all who use it. As well as an open public space, the field is used for community events, e.g. the very popular annual bonfire and firework display organised by FOSS.

Sheet Common – Sheet Common has been cleared of the Himalayan Balsam which covered the woods resulting in more native species appearing, e.g. bluebells, red campion and daffodils. Many of the brambles at the edge of the green have also been cleared, giving a more open feel, and work is on-going to reduce the bracken. In addition, holly and laurel trees are being cleared to provide glades and vistas to the South Downs.

BMX Track – The BMX track has been redefined and wooden stakes installed to confine the area. Parish Councillors carry out weekly inspections and liaise regularly with the BMX track user group to ensure safety. Quarterly inspections are also carried out by Elite Play Inspections.

Allotments – Several plots sited under the trees backing onto Mill Lane have been removed and seeded over – these plots were neglected and surplus to requirements - there are still plots available.

Village Green – The Horse Chestnut is showing signs of bleeding canker – however, this is not currently threatening any limbs and the situation will continue to be monitored. As per last year, the leaves will be swept and burnt in the Autumn to remove shelter for the Chestnut Leaf Miner.

APM/17/04 **FINANCE REPORT**

The Chairman confirmed that in general figures are broadly in line with those projected for the year. The reserves remain healthy and there are no financial issues. A full copy of the accounts will be made available on-line for anyone interested.

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Copies of the budget and actual expenditure (attached) were circulated to those in attendance and the Chairman explained variations where appropriate:

- Village Hall – Maintenance costs are up due to the improvements to the electrics and replacement upstairs window
- Allotments – General maintenance costs are up as catch-up maintenance has been required
- Sheet Common – Costs are up slightly because of the replacement of the BMX track boundary posts
- Capital Projects – These include the flood pod, the defibrillator and landscaping at the Village Hall

Precept - Due to an administrative error at EHDC, householder bills showed a drop of approximately 12% for the year 2016-17 when in fact the Parish Council had calculated the amount per householder to remain the same. EHDC made up the loss of income from other sources and consequently, householder bills for 2017/18 appears to show an increase of approximately 12% despite Parish Council efforts to keep the precept level.

Pension Scheme – As an employer, Sheet Parish Council is required to make a statutory declaration - a formal letter will be sent to the Clerk in July.

Sunnymeade – This has been a long on-going saga but confirmation has been received from Simon Jenkins, Head of Planning at EHDC advising that there is no future in chasing the developer of the Sunnymeade site for the S106 contributions, as the developer has no assets - this response has come as no surprise to Sheet Parish Council. EHDC have now closed the case.

APM17/05 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT** - County Councillor, Vaughan Clarke, was unable to be present at the meeting, however, his annual report for the year 2016/17 is appended to these minutes. It was noted that, after 8 years in the role, Vaughan is standing down as County Councillor - his hard work and commitment to the HCC role have been much appreciated by all at Sheet Parish Council. Vaughan is continuing in his role as Sheet Parish Councillor.

APM17/06 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT** – The District Councillor had sent apologies that she was unable to attend the meeting - no report had been received.

APM17/07 **OPEN FORUM**

- Land behind Pulens Lane – The Parish Council were asked if the planning application at Remount had been refused by SDNPA because the neighbouring plot of land had become available and a coherent plan for the whole site preferred? The Chairman confirmed that there had been no news on proposals for the land and until an application is received the Parish Council is unable to comment.
- Proposed roadworks at Inmans Lane – Plans appear to show that parking places will be reduced. Cllr. Martin confirmed that this had been raised with Hampshire Highways and they have confirmed that no parking spaces will be lost.
- Parking – Parking in the village, especially around the Village Green, is a real issue - it was queried whether Sheet would ever get a car park? The Chairman confirmed that if land at Church Field became available this would be one of the options to be considered – however, the land may never be forthcoming!
- Old Mill Lane – Tony Clear was thanked for his care and grass cutting at Old Mill Lane – the condition of the grass area is now much improved.
- Members of the Parish Council were thanked by members of the public present for their hard work in looking after the parish since taking over from Petersfield Town Council.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the Sheet Annual Parish Assembly 2017 and closed the meeting at 9.55 p.m.