

- (b) **Intermediate Review** – It was noted that Sheet P.C. has been selected as part of the 5% sample for intermediate review for external examination of the 20-21 accounts. The Clerk will liaise with the Internal Auditor about the extra information required.
- (c) **Grant Application** – A grant application submitted by Citizen’s Advice was considered and because they were able to demonstrate their support of a number of residents within the Ward during the pandemic, a grant of £250 was approved.
- (d) **Bank Reconciliation** - The March bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting – the reconciliation was approved and will be signed by the Chairman following the meeting.
- (e) **Cheques** - Cheques for April payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301201	£69.51	CNG Energy Ltd	Gas - V Hall
301202	£466.34	Castle Water	Sheet Allotments
301203	£358.56	HALC Ltd	Affiliation Fees
301204	£75.00	Tom Morgan	Website management Jan-March
301205	£530.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking - V. Hall
301206	£734.25	Jenny Hollington	Clerk
301207	£82.58	HMRC	Tax and N.I.
301208	£70.00	EHDC	Premises Licence - V Hall
301209	£250.00	Citizens Advice East Hants	Grant
Total	£2,636.24		

- 21/56 Investment Strategy –The Chairman thanked Cllr. Wilton for preparing the detailed investment proposal which had been studied in detail by the Finance Committee. It was agreed that, for time-being, Sheet Parish Council would remain cautious and keep deposits as they are currently.
- 21/57 Code of Conduct – EHDC has recently reviewed and revised its code of conduct and are now inviting Town and Parish Councils to consider formally adopting the new code as their own to standardise governance across the district. It was agreed that this is a sensible approach and that the new code should be adopted by Sheet P.C.
- 21/58 Police Community Support Officer - Sheet has a new Community Support Officer - Acting Sergeant Kieren Mansell - kieren.mansell@hampshire.pnn.police.uk. It was suggested that once social distancing regulations have been lifted, Sgt Mansell should be invited to a Parish Council meeting to discuss local concerns.
- 21/59 Grass Cutting Contract – Following the recent interview process, Tom Hartley has been appointed. Many residents will know Tom as he regularly helped Bill, the previous contractor, and has been involved in volunteer work on Sheet Common.
- 21/60 Roads and Traffic
 - (a) School Lane/Farnham Road Junction – Work has started on the junction and is due to be completed within 2-weeks.
 - (b) Community Funded Initiative to narrow Village Street – Cllr. Martin has spoken to Alistair MacAdam who is still chasing a start-date for the work. However, he remains confident that work will start imminently.
 - (c) London Road – Cllr. Martin has been advised that the resurfacing has been postponed until August (after the work to narrow Village Street has been completed). The area around the bridge has now been re-seeded. Cllr. Biddlecombe will liaise with Cllr. Clear about whether it would be appropriate to consider any other planting ideas (shrubs, etc)?
 - (d) Issues raised by SVCT – The issues raised by the Chairman of SVCT at the March Meeting under public comment have been followed up and Cllr. Martin confirmed the following points:

- The work to narrow the entrance to Village Street at the London Road junction is now imminent (as discussed above)
- HCC Engineers have been on site to check the structure of the bridge over the River Rother on London Road and confirmed there have been no changes since their last visit – they had no concerns.
- The sewage smell at the cottages adjacent to the River may have been caused by a problem with one of the septic tanks rather than broken drainage – the issue with the septic tank is now being addressed.
- Reverberation from large vehicles – This had been a problem 3 or 4 years ago but following resurfacing of the bridge area it has not been noticed since. Cllr. Wilton reported that it is now noticeable further up the London Road and Cllr. Martin undertook to follow it up with HCC.
- Village Gates/Pedestrian Crossing – Concerns around the speed of traffic on the London Road through the village and especially the safety of the increasing number of pedestrians trying to cross to Sheet Common was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr. Martin should follow this concern up with Ian Janes at HCC to see if there are appropriate safety measures he can suggest.

Cllr. Martin will write to the Chairman of SVCT.to clarify the points above.

21/61 County Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s written report had been circulated prior to the meeting and is appended to the Minutes - it will also be made available via the Sheet Parish Council website.

21/62 District Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Planning/Enforcement - EHDC is currently experiencing a high number of planning applications and enforcement queries which is causing pressure on officers.
- Litter – The increase in roadside litter is a continuing problem and is especially unsightly on the A3 slip roads. Another Council has been suggested that the Probation Service may be able to provide labour to alleviate the problem, and Cllr. Drew is following up on this idea.
- Motorcycle Noise – Another meeting of the Noise Committee will be held once the County Council elections are over. Cllr. Drew suggested that in the meantime it might be worth Sheet P.C. looking into whether noise reducing surfacing could be used to re-surface the London Road – Cllr. Martin will follow this up via Cllr. Oppenheimer.

21/63 Sheet Assets

Sheet Common –

- (a) The dry hedge which had been badly damaged by fire has now been repaired by the Hampshire Monday Group.
- (b) Cllr. Biddlecombe reported that he has been contacted by a new owner of one of the cottages just off the London Road who has purchased a small area of Sheet Common adjacent to the cottage, from the Adhurst Estate - he has indicated his desire to work with the Parish Council to naturalise the area. This has raised the possibility of Sheet Parish Council purchasing the remainder of the Common land held by Adhurst to safeguard it in perpetuity - it was agreed that Cllrs. Dark and Biddlecombe should make initial enquiries.

Village Green – A recent newspaper article about the phone box on Sheet Village Green being available for adoption via the BT “Adopt-A-Kiosk” Scheme was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk should find out whether the phone box would be removed if not adopted. Cllr. Forrest noted a concern that access to a public phone may be necessary if there is an emergency involving the community accessible defibrillator at the Village Hall. It was agreed that the Clerk should find out more about the Scheme for further discussion at the May meeting.

Recreation Ground – The Rude Mechanicals are coming to Sheet on 11th July – the use of the Recreation Ground for their production as per previous years was agreed.

Millennium Field – Cllr. Biddlecombe has had no further response about the Bee Lines grant.

Sheet Village Hall – Sheet Village Hall will re-open on 12th April (Step 2) for supervised children’s activities (e.g. Dance Academy and Sunday School).

Sheet Allotments – Cllr. Forrest reported that he met with a contractor to discuss repairing the large potholes in the track at Sheet Allotments and has had a verbal quote of approximately £250-£300 to repair the potholes with road surface planings. Because of the difficulty of access to the site, it is going to be necessary to store materials off site and use small vehicles to transport them to the allotments and it will therefore be difficult to get comparison quotes. It was agreed to go ahead with the repairs at the above cost once the planings are available.

21/64 Website –

- (a) Sheet Parish Boundaries - The boundary map available via the website was slightly inaccurate - a correct version is now in place.
- (b) History Page – Cllr. Biddlecombe has been looking into the possibility of a Sheet History page to be made available on the website. Following research however, he has come to the conclusion that in order to make the page more accessible, it will be better to set up a face book page or google web page and provide a link from the website – he will continue to look into the best option.

21/65 Banners on Sheet Roundabout – Cllr. Biddlecombe reported that the banners cluttering the railings at the roundabout have now been removed.

21/66 Village Street Closure – Following an enquiry at the last meeting about the possibility of closing Village Street to hold a village Hollyhock Festival, Sheet P.C. confirmed they had no objection provided the event was well organised and all legal requirements fulfilled.

21/67 Correspondence –

- Mill Lane/Village Street flooding – A resident has contacted the Parish Council about the blocked gully at the bottom of Village Street which causes flooding on a regular basis. It was agreed that the Clerk would report the problem via the HCC website and write to Andrew Wood at the Petersfield Depot to see if the gully can be jetted.
- Water run-off from agricultural fields at Broadmeadow Farm – Cllr. Drew confirmed he has been involved with this issue and has asked residents to raise their concern with HCC who have the power to ensure the run-off problem is resolved.
- Additional traffic on Pulens Lane – Copy correspondence has been received for information from a resident concerned about the impact of additional traffic on Pulens Lane caused by the new houses being built at Penns Place. The resident has queried intended S.106 improvements for Pulens Lane. EHDC have responded and referred to planning conditions linked to the scheme.
- SDNPA Parish Webinar – A webinar focussing on Dark Night Skies is being held on Wednesday, 21st April.

21/68 Dates of Forthcoming Meetings – Sheet Parish Council’s AGM will be held on 18th May (after Step 3 of the Government road out of lockdown) in the main hall at Sheet Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Tuesday, 25th May at 7.00 p.m. in the main hall at Sheet Village Hall - because of social distancing concerns there will be no speaker this year.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS
1 APRIL 2021**

1. Hampshire is included in Project Gigabit

I was pleased by the Government announcement on 19 March about Project Gigabit, in which Hampshire is included in Phase 1b (we are Lot 27). This is an “outside in” approach which aims to subsidise broadband delivery in the hardest to reach places. Building Digital UK (BDUK) will manage this £5bn process.

I was also pleased that the Government is planning to continue to work with Local Authorities on delivery. There had been some uncertainty as to whether the Government would deal directly with the telecoms industry. It is not yet completely clear to me how it is all going to work but I am working hard to find out. In the meantime, I include the relevant extract from the White Paper below:

“For these and subsequent procurements, we will be managing the Open Market Review and/or Public Review as centralised and scalable BDUK processes, working with local authorities and telecoms providers to build an accurate picture of commercial and subsidised gigabit build plans. From this, we will be able to assess procurement boundaries for Regional Supplier and Local Supplier contracts, and how best to time procurements.”

2. Community Champions programme

I would like to let you know about the Community Champions initiative. The new scheme, which was launched on 9 March, aims to tackle health inequalities by finding people who can help members of their community to pursue better, healthier lifestyles. This may involve supporting someone to give up smoking, take up exercise or eat more healthily, or encouraging someone to get more involved in local activities. Champions will get training, networking invitations and support.

I think it is especially welcome that the programme covers mental health as well as physical health. There is a focus on men's health and the funding comes from the Step by Step programme.

Anyone who might like to consider registering as a Community Champion can visit this web page for more information.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/communitychampions>

3. New Campaign to encourage businesses to move to Hampshire

The campaign - 'Make Hampshire work for you' - has been devised by the County Council's Economic Development service, Business Hampshire, in collaboration with local authority partners, and invites London commuters to 'Work Smarter - Live Happier - Commute Closer'.

The COVID pandemic has transformed the way lots of people work, with many re-thinking the need for a long commute five days a week. In Hampshire, as we emerge out of lockdown and enter recovery, we are moving towards a greener and more digital working future. Offering satellite business offices in this way is just a first step to recognising our county as an even greater place to do business, in the light of the accelerating change arising from the pandemic and with all its existing advantages as a flagship green economic powerhouse and international gateway.

With support from Commercial Property specialists, the campaign showcases flexible office solutions across key locations in Hampshire including Basingstoke, Farnborough, Hart, East Hampshire and Winchester. Find out more at: <https://businesshampshire.co.uk/land-property/satellite-offices>

4. South Downs Enterprise Partnership

Last month I mentioned the revamp of the South Downs Partnership (SDP) which is set to get a new Chair and a more prominent role. This month I would like to let you know about another new initiative: the South Downs Enterprise Partnership (SDEP). We must be careful not to confuse these two entities!

The SDEP is a business community for likeminded local economic and social enterprise partners who positively contribute to the National Park. It is our aspiration that the creation of a business community will strengthen the rural economy, improve collaboration between SDNP businesses, promote stronger & shorter rural supply chains, promote a 'think and act locally' approach, promoting social responsibility & environmental sustainability, facilitate the positive contribution of SDNP businesses to meeting the challenge of climate change and compliment and add value to existing business support offered by our partners.

Priority sectors will be land-based, the visitor economy and food and drink producers. Networking events will be organised and other benefits include:

1) Association and Connection with the South Downs brand - use of the South Downs logo and wording stating that they are 'accredited' Members of the South Downs

2) Marketing - Widen marketing reach and benefit sales through the South Downs website, e-newsletters to the public and between Members, social Media platforms and through events

3) Business Skills - Build business skills through workshops, seminars and information sharing.

4) Connection between Members - Inspire collaboration & support with other businesses. Shorten and strengthen rural supply chains, and use of B2B platform

5) Access to evidence and research - SDNPA hold useful research for businesses, i.e. Market Segmentation Report, Visitor Surveys

There will be no initial fees for participation in the SDEP. It is hoped that after four years there may be between 3-5 “corporate partners” who will contribute fees but these will probably be larger businesses such as vineyards.

If you or anyone you know would be interested to find out more or join, please contact: enterprise@southdowns.gov.uk

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers