

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 14th December 2021
at Sheet Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

Present. Cllrs. Ron Dark (in the Chair) Tony Clear Robin Forrest
Will Glancy Gail Martin Chris Wilton

In Attendance: District Councillor, Nick Drew
Clerk, Jenny Hollington

There were 2 members of the public present at the meeting.

21/158 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Councillors Brian Bird and Alan Biddlecombe, and County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer.

21/159 Minutes – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th November 2021 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

21/160 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda.

21/161 Public Comment:

- Sewage in Mill Lane – The Parish Council were advised of a further incident of sewage overflow during a period of heavy rain just before the meeting. A letter will be sent to Southern Water, copied to Damian Hinds, about this on-going issue.

21/162 Planning –

(a) Current planning applications were discussed as follows:

SDNP/21/05 654/FUL	Circular shelter with green roof	Land East of Waterworks Road, Sheet	No Objection
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(b) Site Visit to 31 Inmans Lane – The Planning Officer has visited the site as requested and has recommended a small change to the current plans. It is likely the application will now be approved.

(c) Land to the rear of Shear Hill - It appears that a piece of land belonging to 11 Shear Hill has been sold to a developer and is in the process of being cleared prior to a planning application being submitted – an EHDC Enforcement Officer has attended the site but there is currently nothing further to be done until a planning application is received. It was noted that there is a restrictive covenant on the land.

(d) Churcher’s College Floodlights – Copy correspondence from a Sheet resident to an EHDC Planning Officer with accompanying photos showing the impact the floodlighting has on residents, was noted.

(e) Broadlands Meadow Farm – Details of the appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission for a rural worker’s dwelling and the retention of the farm track were noted. A copy of Sheet Parish Council’s response to the original application will be forwarded to the Inspectorate.

21/163 Finance

- (a) Bank Reconciliation - The bank reconciliation for November had been circulated prior to the meeting along with a copy bank statement – there is currently a slight discrepancy (0.1p) which will be investigated further – the bank reconciliation will therefore be approved after the meeting.
- (b) Cheques - Cheques for December payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301271	£28.91	CNG Ltd	Gas supply - Sheet V. Hall
301272	£189.00	PTC	Bin Contract - September
301273	£262.50	Ginkgo Landscaping & Tree	Grass Cutting contract
301274	£76.32	Elite Playground Inspections	BMX track and Recreation Ground
301275	£55.44	Perspective Facilities Ltd	PAT Testing - V. Hall
301276	£72.00	DNE Services	Repair hand-dryer & back gate - V Hall
301277	£203.84	Foulstons Domestic Electricians	Lights at Sheet Rec
301278	£80.63	A. Biddlecombe	Refund - materials for drainage works - Common
301279	£650.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking and cleaning
301280	£82.78	HMRC	Clerk - tax
301281	£734.05	J. Hollington	Clerk - December
301282	£40.72	HCC (County Supplies)	Cleaning supplies - V. Hall
301283	£612.00	Caines Farm Partnership	Mill Lane hedges 2020 + 2021
301284	£229.95	Pewcorner Woodworks	Supply of Christmas lights
301285	£83.16	Mrs. G. Martin - replacement chq	planting pots for V. Hall (original misplaced)
Total	£3,401.30		

21/164 Budget 2022-23 – Capital projects for 2022-23 had been discussed at the November meeting and researched in more detail for further consideration:

- Outdoor exercise equipment – This type of equipment is currently very popular and an illustrative quote of £10,000 has been received. The equipment could be tucked into the corner of the Recreation Ground beyond the existing children’s play equipment. It was agreed to allocate £10,000 within the budget for the purchase of some outdoor exercise equipment.
- London Road crossing point (via Community Funded Initiative) – The P.C. has initiated discussions with Highways about the possibility of a crossing point on the London Road to enable pedestrians to access Sheet Common safely – Cllr. Martin will request a ballpark figure for the work from Highways, but in the meantime, it was agreed to earmark £10,000 in the reserves towards this project.
- Retrofitting the Village Hall – There are currently no up-to-date figures available for, e.g. new windows or insulation, but if Sheet Parish Council were to go ahead with up-grading the Village Hall, the money could be earmarked from the asset refurbishment fund.
- The Old Billiard Room – The building continues to deteriorate and whilst there is no current alternative use for it, it has been queried whether a change of use to residential would be a possibility? Illustrative sketch plans had been drawn up and were circulated. An estimated figure for this type of conversion could be in excess of £100,000 and there were concerns that this would use up all the Parish Council reserves. In addition, a conversion could add to the village parking problems. It was agreed to continue to assess possibilities for the building but, in the meantime, to earmark £20,000 in reserves to refurbish the building whilst seeking advice on a potential change of use.

The Chairman said he would incorporate these details into the budget 22-23 and recirculate amended figures for the January P.C. meeting

20/165 Precept 22-23 – Following the budget discussion, it was agreed that the precept should be kept the same per household for the coming financial year. This would amount to an income of £40,902 for Sheet Parish Council based on the figures circulated by EHDC.

20/166 Bin Contract – It appears the problems at Petersfield Town Council have been resolved as there have been no further incidents reported of bins not being emptied.

20/167 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Parking – As yet there has been no feedback on the landlord's intentions re the temporary building which due to its position appears to deter people from using the car park – the Clerk was asked to chase Cllr. Bird who was going to speak to the landlord. Concerns about the difficulty experienced by drivers turning left from Village Street because of the amount of parking around the Green and on the Farnham Road will be addressed via the next phase of the Community Funding Initiative.
- (b) School Lane/Farnham Road junction – Concerns about the narrowness of the junction and the no right turn from Farnham Road/left turn from School Lane were expressed by a member of the public – Cllr. Martin explained that the new junction has been the subject of much discussion and that from the start of the project the emphasis has been on the safety and ease of access for children/parents with buggies and elderly residents. A full safety audit has recently been completed and residents' comments had been invited at that stage. Following the safety audit there is to be a small reconfiguration to make the junction easier for cyclists, but it has been judged to be satisfactory in all other respects. Ironically traffic is now much slower along the Farnham Road – this is thought to be caused by the number of parked cars. The flow of traffic around the Village Green is a concern and, as mentioned above, it is intended to address this problem via the next phase of the Community Funded Initiative to narrow the Village Street/Farnham Road junction.
- (c) Bridge Mill – The correspondence re. drainage issues and missing bridge caps was noted and these issues will be followed up via Cllr. Oppenheimer.
- (d) Pulens Lane – The recent report in the Petersfield Post about the availability of funding for road safety improvements in Pulens Lane was noted – Cllr. Oppenheimer will be asked for more detailed information at the January meeting.
- (e) Speed – The correspondence from Twyford Parish Council seeking support for 20 mph speed limit throughout Hampshire was noted – it was agreed to discuss this in more detail at the January meeting when Cllr. Biddlecombe will be present.

21/168 EHDC Welcome Back Grant – The Service Level Agreement will be signed in the next couple of days. Feedback on projects/grants applied for is as follows:

- Planting trees for shade at Sheet Recreation Ground – A grant towards a selection of 8ft standard trees has been approved (although the figure quoted for maintenance will have to be amended to reflect that the funding is only until the end of March).
- Restoration of the Village Sign – A grant for the restoration of the Village Sign has been approved. Peter Caines will be asked to help take the sign down in readiness for refurbishment.
- Verge Planting – Three quotes are required for this work as it exceeds the amount that can be approved automatically - Cllr. Clear will follow this up.

21/169 County Councillor's Report – Russell Oppenheimer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting – this month he focusses on helping residents stay warm and healthy over the winter period, and the planned enhancement of Butser Hill. A review of HCC policy on implementing 20 mph speed limits has also been announced for 2022.

Cllr. Oppenheimer's full report is appended to these Minutes and can be found on the Parish Council website – www.sheetparishcouncil.gov.uk

20/170 District Councillor Report – The following items were noted:

Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Remembrance Day – Cllr. Drew thanked Sheet P.C. (Cllr. Bird) for laying the EHDC wreath on his behalf on Remembrance Sunday.
- 31 Innans Lane – As noted earlier, the Planning Officer has visited the site and recommended an amendment to the plans
- Tanners Reach – Cllr. Drew has been liaising with residents about a legal issue – this is being progressed via the EHDC legal department
- Compliance – The EHDC Compliance Team are investigating an alleged breach at a property in Love Lane.
- Environmental Grants – Cllr. Drew confirmed that he would be happy to consider a grant towards further tree re-planting projects within Sheet, if required.

21/171 Sheet Assets

Sheet Common –

- Drainage Issues – The work carried out to resolve the drainage issue from the BMX track appears to be working well – thanks were expressed to the Hampshire Monday Group for their hard work on this project
- BMX Track – Cllr. Biddlecombe continues to work with the BMX User Group about the appearance of the site – there is still work to be done but the bonfire site has now been removed.
- Adhurst Estate – There appears to be no interest at this stage from Adhurst representatives in a discussion about the adjoining land – this subject will be put on the back burner for now.

Millennium Field – There are a few remaining items to be removed from the Millennium Field following the bonfire event but once these are removed, the deposit cheque will be destroyed.

Sheet Village Hall – The new cupboard for Film Club (to be installed adjacent to their existing cupboard) to house the P.A. system, was approved. The new Christmas lights on the Village Green look fabulous and thanks were extended to all concerned for decorating the tree!

Sheet Recreation Ground – The quarterly inspection report was noted - there are still a few small items outstanding for Cllr. Bird to resolve. Cllr. Forrest undertook to repair the gate post where the opening mechanism is wearing the wood away. The lights to the Scout Hut have been repaired and are operating well.

The Old Billiard Room - As discussed earlier in the meeting, further thought will be given to refurbishment of the building and future use in the new year.

21/172 Forthcoming Events – Christmas Carols on the Village Green – Friday, 17th December – 6.00 p.m. All very welcome.

21/173 Date of Forthcoming Sheet Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday, 11th January 2022 at Sheet Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. *** Please note – this may change if there are any changes to Government legislation in the coming weeks due to Omicron - it may be necessary to move to the main hall to enable social distancing.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS**

1 DECEMBER 2021

1. Staying warm and healthy over the winter period

As Councillors we can all play a useful role in helping our communities to stay in good health over the winter period. This is especially important as we face new strains of the virus. Thinking of Parish Newsletters, social media and local websites I wanted to share four things which HCC is advising residents to do to help stay healthy over the coming season:

i) Boost your immunity by getting the COVID-19 booster and 'flu vaccine - Residents eligible for the COVID-19 booster will be contacted by the NHS – if anyone has not been contacted within a week of reaching six months since their second jab they can call 119 or book online via the NHS National Booking Service. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Those who are eligible for a free 'flu vaccine can book an appointment through their GP surgery or local pharmacy.

ii) Keep warm: Heat your home to at least 18°C (65°F). You may prefer your main living room to be slightly warmer. Vulnerable people who struggle to keep their homes warm can get help from Hampshire County Council's Hitting the Cold Spots initiative - a county-wide project offering advice and support to people who are having trouble staying warm during the winter, including home visits, help to access funding for heating repairs and replacements and temporary heating. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/coldspots>

In addition to the practical help available, Hampshire residents can also receive advice about tariff switching and referrals to other services for further help, including 'safe and well' visits and healthy living advice. The advisors will be able to talk through the best possible solutions for each caller. If you know someone who is struggling to stay warm and well this winter, please signpost them to an advisor on Freephone 0800 804 8601 (Monday – Friday, 9am to 5pm).

iii) Eat well - Food is a vital source of energy, which helps to keep your body warm. Try to make sure you have hot meals and drinks regularly throughout the day. People should also try to keep an emergency supply of food in the house in case they can't get out during a cold spell.

iv) Look after yourself and others - On cold days try to avoid going outside; however, if you do need to, remember to wrap up warm. If you have an older neighbour or relative, look out for them during winter to make sure they are safe and well. If you are worried about your health or that of somebody you know, ring NHS 111.

2. Support for new "Community Pantries"

As part of a new connect4communities package, I was interested to note that HCC is offering funding for new community pantries in areas of need. I thought this was worth highlighting. See link to the Press Notice here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/211126householdsupportfund>

As well as being an excellent way of supporting vulnerable people, community pantries can also really help to reduce food waste so they are a very good thing. If any Parish Council wanted to set up a community pantry I would be happy to provide a County Councillor grant to purchase a fridge or food cupboard.

3. Review of 20mph policy underway

At a Full Council meeting of Hampshire County Council on 4 November, the Deputy Leader Cllr Humby announced a review of the County's policy on implementing 20mph speed limits. This review will include scrutiny by the ETE Select Committee and will take into account the climate emergency, the obesity crisis, the emerging Local Transport Plan and developments in national best practice. We anticipate that the review will report in the first half of 2022.

4. HCC wins prestigious Green Apple award

In early November I attended the Green Apple awards and accepted an award on behalf of Hampshire County Council which is for our new materials recycling facility in Micheldever.

Our ground-breaking facility is already successfully re-processing large quantities of excavated road material for re-use across the Hampshire network, resulting in significant carbon savings and reduced reliance on external supply chains.

Green Apple Awards are hosted by The Green Organisation which was established in 1994 as an international, independent, not-for-profit and non-political environmental group, dedicated to recognising, rewarding and promoting innovative environmental best practice around the world.

5. Enhancements planned for Butser Hill

The highest point on the South Downs and one of the most visited hills in southern England will be significantly improved for walkers and wildlife, thanks to new funding of £240,000.

At 271m, Butser Hill is one of the crown jewels of the South Downs National Park, visited by over 80,000 people every year who come to enjoy its panoramic views of coast and country and the enchanting wildlife. Now a major investment by the National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council and National Grid will see a raft of improvements, including new trails, resurfacing pathways, enhancing views and restoring ancient chalk grassland.

One of the focuses of the five-year project will be the dramatic chalk scarp slope called Grandfather's Bottom. Around 380m of path and steps also will be resurfaced. Other highlights of the work will be:

- A new walking route on Hillhampton Down, taking visitors into and around a yew wood – an iconic tree in this part of the South Downs.
- Also at Hillhampton Down, scrub will be removed to improve the chalk grassland and encourage wildflowers and butterflies, close to where visitors are walking and preventing encroachment on archaeological features.
- The municipal feel of the summit's car park will be reduced, with a new surface installed. The makeover will blend with the surrounding downland landscape and make the car park a more pleasant environment for visitors and those who have limited mobility.
- New views will be opened up with the removal of diseased ash trees and a new arrangement of parking spaces will encourage views of the landscape away from the existing electricity pylons.
- New interpretation on site to help people better understand the area's rich history and status as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, having been a settlement during Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER

County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers