

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 13th July 2021 at Sheet Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present. Cllrs. Gail Martin (in the Chair) Alan Biddlecombe Brian Bird
Tony Clear Robin Forrest Will Glancy
Chris Wilton

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

There were 2 members of the public present

Cllr. Martin welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that she would be Chairing the meeting in the absence of the Chairman, Cllr. Dark, who is recovering from his operation.

21/97 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Ron Dark and County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer.

21/98 Minutes – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th June 2021 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by Cllr. Martin.

21/99 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared

21/100 Public Comment:

- Two members of St. Mary Magdalen were in attendance to share the news that St. Mary Magdalen has been awarded a Bronze Eco Church Award. They are now keen to tackle the criteria for the Silver Award and wish to engage with the Parish Council and the community in a tree planting project - perhaps in conjunction with the Queen’s Jubilee? Cllr. Martin said that there are some tree-related items for consideration later on the agenda, which might be appropriate for the Church to be involved in (e.g. the request for trees for shade at the Recreation Ground)?

21/101 Planning – Current planning applications were discussed as follows:

SDNP/21/02 859/TCA	Holly – reduce in height by 3 m to height of previous tree work	Alpine Cottage, Village Street GU32 2AH	No Objection
SDNP/21/02 670/HOUS	Detached car port	24 London Road, Sheet GU31 4BE	No Objection
SDNP/21/02 611/HOUS	2-Storey rear extension following demolition of existing garden store. Replacement porch with new 2-storey extension	7 School Lane, Sheet GU32 2AS	No Objection but request for condition re contractor access

21/102 Finance

- (a) **Quarterly Actual to Budget Figures (April – June)** – A breakdown of the actual to budget figures to the end of June and a commentary on the figures had been circulated prior to the meeting and were discussed - there are no apparent anomalies at this stage.
- (b) **Grant Applications** – The following grant applications were considered
- STAA – A request for £50 1st Prize in the best kept allotment at Sheet was approved
 - Victim Support – A request for a grant of £50 was declined.
- (c) **Bank Reconciliation** - The June bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved.
- (d) **Cheques** - Cheques for July payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301222	£19.33	CNG Energy Ltd	V Hall - Gas
301223	£712.50	Ginkgo Landscaping	Grass Cutting contract
301224	£151.20	Petersfield Town Council	Bin collection - May
301225	£88.00	A. W. Clear	Refund - compost, plants, etc (V Hall & V. Green)
301226	£75.00	T. Morgan	Website management
301227	£13.13	HCC	County Supplies - cleaning supplies
301228	£470.00	N. Rook-Blackstone	Repair of potholes at the allotments & grass cutting
301229	£650.00	Sheet Music	Venue management - V. Hall
301230	£753.55	Jenny Hollington	Clerk - July + expenses
301231	£82.78	HMRC	Tax & NI - July
301232	£50.00	STAA	Grant - 1st prize (best kept allotment)
Total	£3,065.49		

21/103 Roads and Traffic

- (a) School Lane/Farnham Road Junction – The resurfacing of the junction and white line repainting has been completed. Alex Hawkins is in the process of finalising project costs - if there is enough money remaining in the budget to replace the old School Lane road sign, a replacement will be ordered. Cllr. Martin also mentioned that HCC has received several complaints about specific issues caused by the new junction – the first is that the junction is not easy for cyclists who have to dismount to turn left, or cycle around the Village Green, and the second is from owners of larger vehicles who struggle to get past the badly parked cars around the Green. Drivers of vans have also reported that their visibility to the left is reduced making on-coming traffic difficult to see (despite the white van being moved away from the junction) – it was suggested that a mirror could be positioned opposite the junction to address this specific issue. A safety audit is to be carried out by HCC in the next few weeks and these issues will be considered.
- (b) Community Funded Initiative to narrow Village Street – The installation date for the new village gates is not known.
- (c) London Road – Ian Janes has taken on-board the Parish Council suggestions for consideration of a safe crossing point to Sheet Common and for slowing the traffic and will prepare a feasibility study for the Parish Council to consider. New road markings will be included as part of the re-surfacing works due to take place during August.
- (d) Street Furniture Issues – Cllrs. Martin and Wilton have walked around the parish noting the issues highlighted in the presentation sent through last month. Cllr. Biddlecombe has also looked carefully at the issues in Pulens Lane. Following on from this there is now a long list of items for HCC, EHDC or the Parish Council to address which will be reported and/or followed up via the responsible authority.

- (e) Mill Lane – Recent correspondence from Hampshire Highways has indicated that the restoration of the eroding bank and road resurfacing is no longer in their works schedule due to the current budget restraints. Naturally, this is very disappointing news and will be followed up via Andrew Wood and the County Councillor. Considerable damage appears to have been done to the bank by the large vehicles involved in recent tree works on land accessed from Mill Lane and this will be reported to Hampshire Highways too.
- (f) Motorbike Noise – Cllr. Biddlecombe attended the meeting on behalf of Sheet P.C. but was disappointed to learn that rural noise will be difficult and expensive to address. Cllr. Drew said it was very positive that the County Councillor (who is Executive Member for Highways Operations), Damien Hinds and the new Police Commissioner are taking ownership of local issues. There is no simple answer but there is a current commitment to an increased police presence, investigation of new technologies and a campaign to prevent off road motorbikes accessing Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATS).

21/104 Community Grant – Cllr. Wilton reported on the availability of the “Welcome Back” Grant being distributed by EHDC which could fund village improvements. Suggestions included - planting shrubs adjacent to the bridge by the River Rother (where SSE have re-seeded), re-painting the Sheet Village sign on the Village Green, decorating the exterior of the Village Hall and/or a new bus shelter for the London Road. Suggestions will be followed up via Cllr. Wilton.

21/105 County Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting. In his absence, Cllr. Martin went through the report to highlight the issues raised. The full report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the Parish Council website.

21/106 District Councillor’s Report – The following items were noted:

- Froxfield Post Office is now able to offer a parcel hub service for people unable to be at home when parcels are delivered.
- Cllr. Drew re-iterated his offer of grant funding for tree projects being considered by Sheet P.C.

21/107 Grass Cutting Contract – Several comments have been received about the poor quality of grass cutting around the parish - several areas have been left uncut and untidy. It was agreed that the Contractor should be asked to meet with Cllrs. Clear and Wilton to discuss the matter in more detail and the monthly cheque payment retained until the issues are resolved.

21/108 Sheet Assets

Sheet Common –

- There has been no feedback on the land owned by Adhurst Estates - Cllr. Biddlecombe will continue to chase.
- The Hampshire Monday Group have been hard at work at the Common cutting back brambles and bracken.

Sheet Village Green –

- A couple of the wooden posts have been broken but a temporary repair has been carried out and will be monitored.
- Cllr. Bird continues to seek someone to paint the Village sign.

Millennium Field –

- The wildflower audit shows that there is now a wide variety of wildflowers present which are re-seeding themselves naturally. The full list of wildflowers is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the website.

- Ownership of the perimeter fencing needs to be established – it appears that there are several different owners.

Sheet Village Hall –

- Quotes are being sought for re-painting the exterior of the building and these will be discussed in detail at the September P.C. meeting.
- Eco Retrofit Solution – This will be followed up with the County Councillor/PeCan in the coming months.

Sheet Recreation Ground –

- A request from PeCan asking the P.C. to consider planting trees to provide shade for children in the summer months was considered. The only appropriate location for a small group of trees would be the area between the Pre School and the shed – Cllr. Clear offered to draw up a sketch plan to show positioning. The Church confirmed they would be happy to provide manual labour to plant the trees. A grant request towards the cost of the trees will be submitted to Cllr. Drew.
- Contractors have been accessing the Recreation Ground without the Parish Council's knowledge or permission and the gate has been left open on occasions. It was agreed that the locks should be changed, and spare keys restricted to the Pre School and Scout Group who will be asked to commit to the restricted use. Notices will be installed advising that permission for access must be approved by the Parish Council.

Sheet Allotments –

- Cllr. Forrest confirmed that the potholes have now been filled and the perimeter grass cut.
- A new Sheet representative on the STAA Committee has become involved, helping with plot inspections and around the site, which is very positive.

21/109 Correspondence –

- E-mail correspondence from residents in Town Lane concerned about the large overhanging trees at the bottom of the lane (some of which are within the conservation area) was discussed – Cllr. Bird offered to speak to the landowner about residents' concerns.
- SDNPA – Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document Consultation – Councillors were encouraged to read the document and if appropriate, respond in areas where they are competent.

21/110 Dates of Forthcoming Meetings – Tuesday, 7th September at Sheet Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

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

1. Serving Hampshire consultation

Hampshire County Council is currently consulting on ways to find £80m of savings from its annual budget. It is a broad consultation. If you have strong views on things like the importance of Household Waste and Recycling Centres, then I would encourage you to take 10 minutes to complete the online consultation. It is quite likely that there will only be around 4,000 responses so your opinion will carry genuine weight. You can complete the consultation at this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/balancing-the-budget>

The consultation closes on Sunday 18 July 2021.

2. Active Travel schemes

At my first “Decision Day” on 17 June 2021 I decided to remove all the emergency active travel schemes in Hampshire once Covid lockdown restrictions end on 19 July. The only exception is Winchester due to their ongoing Movement Strategy. The plastic barriers in Petersfield will be removed in late July or early August.

Lessons have been learned from the “pop-up” schemes implemented during the pandemic. Those lessons will inform

the next phase of Active Travel measures. Decisions on Phase 2 Active Travel measures will be taken in late July and implemented later in the year. These schemes will be tasteful, permanent and will make no use of plastic barriers. Hampshire County Council is committed to improving walking and cycling networks and this will form a core plank of our Local Transport Plan later this year.

3. Parish Forum on Motorbike Noise and Nuisance

On 25 June 2021 I chaired a Parish Forum to consider actions to tackle the scourge of motorbike noise and damage to BOATs in our area. The meeting was well attended and I am grateful to all those Parish Councillors who attended from Petersfield Hangers Division.

Damian Hinds MP explained that he is working closely with Flick Drummond MP to pursue action at the national level. He is pushing for the outcome of the Department for Transport trial into acoustic cameras to be published. Damian is also following closely the acoustic camera trial at Kensington & Chelsea which uses Public Space Protection Orders to penalise noise as anti-social behaviour with £100 fines. Damian and Flick will continue to seek to build a coalition of other MPs towards the possible establishment of an All Party Parliamentary Group. Damian cautioned that legislative change may be difficult to achieve in a reasonable timescale so we should find interventions within the current regulations.

Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, set out her priority actions with the Roads Police Team. They are undertaking a feasibility study into average speed cameras and she is committed to more patrols, including outside Loomies. Donna also explained that technological progress may provide solutions in the coming years. Donna Jones listened carefully to all the points raised and undertook to redouble efforts with the Hampshire Constabulary to find ways to tackle the excessive noise and

speed of motorbikes. Donna and I will meet to co-ordinate our efforts.

As Executive Member for Highways I explained that I am awaiting an “options report” on possible measures which HCC could take as the Highways Authority. This may include such measures as:

- Signs, lines and coloured surfacing
- Rumble strips and over-run areas.
- Speed limit reminder signs (vehicle activated)
- Speed limit reductions.
- Low noise surfacing
- Traffic calming (e.g. chicanes and build-outs)
- Sound barriers
- Road realignment
- Education, Training and Publicity

On BOATs, it was agreed that it was incredibly unwise to spend public money repairing BOATs so that they could be degraded all over again by vehicles, as seemed to be the current situation. Cllr Robert Mocatta summarised the campaign which he is leading at the SDNPA which seeks to persuade the Authority to use its powers to make Traffic Regulation Orders on the byways open to all traffic (BOATs). This would require the gathering of evidence and working with communities. It was also widely agreed that the National Park Authority had a statutory duty to conserve and enhance the countryside, and to safeguard access to the countryside, and to promote the health and wellbeing of communities, all of which would be well served by meaningful action in this area.

The Campaign Against Noise and Speed set out their progress in progressing their campaign. Parish Councils who are not currently affiliated with them may wish to consider whether they should become members to add to the weight of that campaigning organisation.

Tangible progress in tackling this problem may take some time but your elected representatives will continue to work together

to identify effective and affordable solutions, and we will organise another Parish Forum to update you in due course.

4. Recycling of glass at HWRCs

I wanted to explain why glass bottle banks at the HWRC are being removed.

The use of glass banks at the HWRCs has declined significantly across the county over the past few years, as districts have introduced kerbside services, with between 60-80% less glass being deposited at the sites. In addition, EHDC does provide glass recycling facilities in places such as car parks and supermarkets.

The glass bank provision at the HWRCs incurs significant costs. The haulage costs of the material far outweigh any income that is derived from the material. Due to the ongoing financial pressures we are unable to fund services where more effective provision is made for a material elsewhere in the system. Our focus has to be on waste prevention as the number one remedy so that we seek to avoid creating the waste in the first place, reducing the carbon impact of waste and helping to manage our resources in the most effective way. The move also maximises space at HWRCs for bulkier items for which kerbside collection is less suitable.

5. Boundary Commission review

The Boundary Commission for England has proposed to chop several Parishes out of East Hampshire.

If approved by Parliament following consultation, two Bordon wards (Pinewood and Chase), Lindford, Headley, Grayshott and Bramshott and Liphook wards would join a new Parliamentary constituency with SW Surrey named "Farnham and Bordon". This move will damage the interests of residents

by making it harder to co-ordinate local government services with national priorities. Further boundary fragmentation will inevitably make it harder to deliver joined-up approaches across welfare, economic development, climate change and transport.

Although this does not affect any Parishes within Petersfield Hangers, I would invite you all to consider how you would feel if the Boundary Commission proposed to move your Parish to a constituency with a Surrey MP. Our community will be divided and the impact on Whitehill and Bordon is especially concerning. I feel we need to show solidarity with our neighbouring Parishes and contribute to the outcry. I have made a strong objection and I would be very grateful if Parishes could debate this issue and consider making objections too (or make individual responses if you prefer).

You can respond online at this web link (enter postcode and then click on the map).

<https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>

6. Queen Elizabeth Country Park secures grant to boost family-friendly cycle facilities

Good news for mountain bike enthusiasts in East Hants!
Please see this link for the full Press Release.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/25062021cyclefacilitiesQEpark>

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers