

**DRAFT**

**SHEET PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Ron Dark

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Teams Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllrs. Ron Dark (in the Chair)                      Alan Biddlecombe                      Brian Bird  
                         Robin Forrest    Will Glancy    Gail Martin  
                         Chris Wilton

**In Attendance:** County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer  
                         District Councillor, Nick Drew  
                         Clerk, Jenny Hollington

There was 1 member of the public present for part of the meeting

- 21/34 **Apologies** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Tony Clear.
- 21/35 **Minutes** – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and will be signed by the Chairman after the meeting due to current Government restrictions.
- 21/36 **Declarations of Interests** – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the Agenda – none declared
- 21/37 **Public Comment:** During the coronavirus pandemic it has been agreed that public comment can be sent via e-mail as some residents do not have the appropriate equipment to join Teams meetings.
- A resident had spoken to the Chairman about whether Village Street could be designated as a “Quiet Lane” (cycle, pedestrian, horse rider friendly)? The Chairman suggested this is something that can be considered, if necessary, when the CFI initiative to narrow each end of Village Street has been completed and the traffic situation assessed.
  - The Chairman of the Sheet Village Charitable Trust raised concerns relating to roads and traffic - in particular, speed and road structure/surfacing on the A272. These concerns will be followed up and reported in more detail at the April Parish Council meeting.
  - A Village Street resident suggested a Village Hollyhock Festival to celebrate the beautiful annual display of Hollyhocks along Village Street. Her plan for a mid-summer event includes closure of the road, with street vendors - plant stalls, bric a brac, etc. Cllrs. Bird and Glancy will discuss the idea with other residents and investigate the implications of road closure – to be discussed again at the April Meeting.

21/38 **Planning** – Current planning applications were discussed as follows:

SDNP/21/00 893/TCA	<b>To fell a Copper Beech which has self-seeded within 0.5 m of mature Sycamore</b>	21 Village Street, Sheet GU32 2AH	No Objection
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21/39 **Finance**

- (a) The February bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting – the reconciliation was approved and will be signed by the Chairman following the meeting.
- (b) Cheques for March payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301195	£60.00	J. Pearcey	Allotment deposit - refund
301196	£72.00	Elite Playground Services	Play equipment inspections
301197	£430.00	Sheet Music	Cleaning/caretaking - V. Hall
301198	£95.49	HMRC	Tax/NI and Emp Contr - Clerk
301199	£733.05	Jenny Hollington	Clerk - Feb
301200	£302.40	Petersfield Town Council	Bin contract - Jan & Feb invoices
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,692.94</b>		

21/40 Asset Register – This had been up-dated for the 20-21 financial year to include the new dog bin at the Millennium Field - the up-dated asset register was approved.

21/41 Investment Strategy – The detailed investment proposal prepared by Cllr. Wilton will be looked at in more detail by Cllrs. Dark and Biddlecombe before the April Meeting.

21/42 Grass Cutting Contract – The current contractor, Bill Robinson, has resigned – Sheet Parish Council has very much appreciated the high standard of his work and all were sorry to hear he is leaving. The vacancy will be advertised via the website, noticeboards, and word of mouth. A sub-committee consisting of Cllrs. Clear, Dark and Biddlecombe will assess applicants and report back at the April Meeting.

21/43 Lengthsman Scheme – The Clerk reported that Steep Parish Council is currently advertising for a new Lengthsman to work across the cluster – the role is being advertised via individual parish noticeboards and websites. Steep Parish Council hope to appoint a new Lengthsman during April.

21/44 Roads and Traffic

(a) School Lane/Farnham Road Junction – Cllr. Martin reported that the successful contractor is unable to carry out the work during the Easter holidays and the work is now due to start on 12<sup>th</sup> April. The contractor will work around School drop off and collection times to minimise disruption - Cllr. Martin has informed the Headteacher at Sheet School of the situation.

(b) Community Funded Initiative to narrow Village Street – Cllr. Martin has now managed to speak to Alistair MacAdam who has advised that although a date for the work to start has not been confirmed, it is expected 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 issues raised in public comment regarding speed on the London Road will be followed up after the meeting and addressed at the April Meeting.

21/45 County Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s written report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following items were highlighted:

- Census – Cllr. Oppenheimer urged Sheet P.C. to raise awareness of Census Day on 21<sup>st</sup> March. It is important that residents submit their responses so that there is an accurate recording of the East Hampshire population – this will ensure a fair allocation of resources in a wide range of areas.
- Consultation on Walking and Cycling Improvements to Petersfield – HCC has been awarded £3.8m for Active Travel measures and are proposing to spend some of that in Petersfield. Residents are encouraged to make their views on proposals known via the consultation which can be found at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/22022021PetersfieldATFPR>
- PECAN - Cllr. Oppenheimer highlighted the work of a local group, Petersfield Climate Action Network, a new environmental charity based in Petersfield. They would like to hear from homeowners interested in benefitting from subsidised retrofitting of energy saving measures such as insulation, double-glazing, or air-source heat pumps

Councillor Oppenheimer's full report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the Sheet Parish Council website.

21/46 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Compliance – Because of current Government guidance in respect of Covid-19, EHDC Compliance Officers will only carry out site visits in urgent situations. Members of the public who have concerns are therefore being asked to send photos so that the situation can be assessed.
- Elections – May 2021 – Cllr. Drew confirmed that elections will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> May - residents can be confident in attending venues to vote as full safety checks are being carried out.
- Democracy – EHDC Legal Team is seeking clarification on whether the current legislation allowing public authorities to hold meetings electronically can be extended beyond 7<sup>th</sup> May and will feed back info to Sheet P.C. as soon as possible.

21/47 Sheet Assets

**Recreation Ground** – It was agreed to up-grade the quarterly inspection reports to PSS Live at an additional cost of £3.50 per report. The enhanced report will include up to date images of each piece of equipment.

**Millennium Field** – Cllr. Biddlecombe will continue to chase the Bee lines wildflowers grant – the seed will need to be sown April/May.

**Sheet Village Hall** –

- **Broadband** – Comparison quotes for broadband provision had been circulated prior to the meeting. Whilst not the cheapest option, Virgin is extremely reliable. Other providers would need to utilise the old B.T. line to the building and it is not clear if this is still live. It was therefore agreed to continue with Virgin Broadband.
- **Current Government Guidance for Community Buildings** – The Village Hall remains closed due to the National Lockdown. However, current guidance indicates that children's indoor activities will be able to restart on 12<sup>th</sup> April, with fitness classes, etc. being able to re-start on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**Sheet Allotments** – Cllr. Forrest reported that he met with a contractor to discuss repairing the large potholes in the track at Sheet Allotments. 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 it to the allotments - it may therefore be difficult to get comparison quotes. Cllr. Forrest will continue to work on this and will report further at the April P.C. meeting.

21/48 Annual Parish Assembly – The Annual Parish Assembly is an opportunity for Sheet residents to learn about the work of the Council over the year and is held annually between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> June. Last year, the meeting was unable to go ahead due to Covid-19 and Sheet Parish Council has been hoping to be able to hold a face to face meeting this year – however, currently social contact restrictions are not due to be fully lifted until 21<sup>st</sup> June. At this moment in time, legislation only covers electronic meetings until 7<sup>th</sup> May– HALC are therefore recommending that Parish Councils fix a date and time of an annual parish meeting to be remote and held before 7<sup>th</sup> May. It was therefore agreed to pencil in the date of Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> April for an Annual Parish Assembly via Teams subject to change if there is clarification on regulations in the meantime.

21/49 Banners on Sheet Roundabout – Cllr. Biddlecombe will continue to chase EHDC on this subject.

21/49 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 20.36 p.m.

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

**1 MARCH 2021**

1. Supporting the Census this month

Census day for England and Wales is 21st March 2021. I would be very grateful for Councillors' support with raising awareness of the Census and encouraging participation. By accurately recording our population in East Hampshire we can ensure that we get a fair allocation of resources in a wide range of areas, from school places to mobile signals.

Every 10 years the census gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. For the first time, there is a "digital first" approach. This means people can complete their census where and when they want to online. Paper forms are available for those who need them.

Everyone will receive a 16-digit code in the post which they can use to submit their Census response at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk). There is a process for requesting a new code in the event that someone does not get a letter for whatever reason. The new code can be sent by text. It would be great to ensure that everyone in our community knows that they need to look out for their code, go online and complete the questionnaire in the week ending 21 March.

2. Consultation on Walking and Cycling improvements to Petersfield

In January of this year HCC was awarded £3.8m for Active Travel measures and they are proposing to spend some of that in Petersfield. A consultation is underway which invites public comment on the proposals. Here is a link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/22022021PetersfieldATFPR>

I am very conscious that Parishioners from across Petersfield Hangers Division use the shops and markets in Petersfield on occasion, and so I hope that the current consultation will be of wide interest. The consultation ends on 21 March 2021.

### 3. Supporting Families programme receives funding boost

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government awarded £2m of funding to HCC on 12 February which will ensure that our successful Supporting Families programme continues for another year. The funding announcement from MHCLG is particularly significant this year, when the adverse impacts of the coronavirus pandemic are being keenly felt, especially by families who were already struggling to cope under normal circumstances.

The HCC Supporting Families programme brings together a wide range of Hampshire agencies including local councils, the Police, voluntary sector, Health and Criminal Justice. Between January 2015 and December 2020, the Programme engaged with 7,696 vulnerable families with multiple and complex needs. To date, positive outcomes have been recorded for 1,923 families, who have accepted and engaged with support and achieved sustained changes within the family as a result, such as sustained employment or improved school attendance. Independent evaluation by Solent University demonstrated that between 2015-19, the support given to families to get back on their feet successfully translated into savings of £27million to the public purse.

### 4. Revamp of the South Downs Partnership

Following the launch of its new Partnership Management Plan for the period 2020-25, the South Downs National Park Authority is relaunching its South Downs Partnership. If you are interested, or anyone you know is interested, please could you let me know by 3 March 2021 so that I may put your name forward.

In line with the Glover Review of Protected Landscapes, the SDP will have a crucial role to broaden and deepen the participation of individuals, communities and organisations in in the National Park and to bring its benefits to a much wider audience. As Julian Glover said in his report:

“We need to reignite the fire and vision which brought this system into being in 1949. We need our finest landscapes to be places of natural beauty which look up and outwards to the nation they serve. More must be done for nature and natural beauty. More must be done for people who live in and visit our landscapes.”

The diverse membership of the new SDP will increase the breadth of experience and skills available to the SDNPA and help to expand and develop the networks which will be needed to make the long-term outcomes of the National Park a reality. Members of the South Downs Partnership will:

- Be champions and advocates for the National Park,
- bring with them, or rapidly build up, strong networks in particular sectors or parts of the community – both inside and outside the Park
- use their own expertise and their networks to broaden and deepen the participation in the NP and help deliver its Partnership Management Plan,
- provide constructive advice and feedback to the Authority and to the rest of the SDP.

SDP Members will be expected to attend at least four meetings a year plus sub-groups. This will require preparation beforehand and follow through afterwards. Members will receive payments for all reasonable expenses incurred in delivering the role. Members will be appointed for a three or four-year term, at the end of which they may be considered for reappointment.

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**  
**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**