

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 9th November 2021
at Sheet Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

Present. Cllrs. Ron Dark (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 was 1 member of the public present

21/144 **Apologies** – Apologies had been received from Councillor Gail Martin and County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer.

21/145 **Minutes** – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th October 2021 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

21/146 **Declarations of Interests** – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – Cllr. Bird declared an interest in item 21/149 (a) community carols, which he organises each year. He also declared an interest in item 21/152 (Village Sign) as a quote had been received from a family member - he left the room for discussion on these items.

21/147 **Public Comment:**

- Concerns had been expressed in relation to a potential compliance issue on land at the rear of Shear Hill. Cllr. Wilton will follow this up via EHDC.
- Comments had been received from a resident concerned about parking in the village, especially in relation to the FOSS bonfire and firework event. It was confirmed that whilst the Parish Council shares the general concern re parking in the village, they support the annual bonfire and firework event which raises funds for Sheet School.

21/148 **Planning** – Current planning applications were discussed as follows:

SDNP/21/04 974/TCA	Ash Tree – Crown reduction and removal of all dead wood	Hurst Lodge, 16a Pulens Lane, Sheet GU31 4DB	No Objection
SDNP/21/05 315/TCA	Fell Western Red Cedar and Lawson Cypress. Replace with Rowan and Silver Birch elsewhere in garden	21 Village Street, Sheet GU32 2AH	No Objection
SDNP/21/05 075/HOUS	Pitched roof to garage	19 Shear Hill, Sheet GU31 4BB	No Objection

21/149 **Finance**

- (a) Grant Application towards Community Carols refreshments (Cllr. Bird left the room for discussion of this item) – It was agreed that Cllr. Bird should submit expenses for a refund of the cost of the

refreshments for the Community Carols, rather than apply for a fixed sum grant. Costs will be in line with previous years.

- (b) Royal British Legion – A payment of £35 was approved to cover the cost of the wreath for Remembrance Day and a small donation to the RBL.
- (c) Bank Reconciliation - The bank reconciliation for October had been circulated prior to the meeting along with a copy bank statement and was approved and signed.
- (d) Cheques - Cheques for November payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301259	£27.73	CNG Ltd	Gas supply - Sheet V. Hall
301260	£151.20	PTC	Bin Contract - September
301261	£200.00	A.W. Clear	Grass Cutting - Sheet Common+Planting (V. Hall)
301262	£145.00	M. Downham	Refund - deposit and rent - Plot 26
301263	£83.16	G. Martin	Refund - Village Hall pots
301264	£487.50	Ginkgo Landscaping & Tree	Grass Cutting contract
301265	£564.00	ALE Fire Systems Ltd	Service and replacement of fire extinguishers
301266	£520.00	Sheet Music	V. Hall Management
301267	£82.78	HMRC	Tax and N.I.
301268	£762.41	J. Hollington	Clerk + expenses (postage stamps/paper)
301269	£35.00	Royal British Legion	Wreath and donation
301270	£25.00	M. Rapley	Refund of overpayment - plot 64
Total	£3,083.78		

21/150 Budget 2022-23 – Projected end of year figures had been circulated prior to the meeting along with an initial budget proposal for 2022-23 for discussion. A final decision on the precept request will not be made until the tax analysis figures are received from EHDC but for the purpose of the budget, it had been assumed that the precept would remain the same as 2021-22. In projecting end of year figures, assumptions have been made that the 19k budgeted for the Community Funded Initiatives to narrow Village Street will have been used which would leave Sheet Parish Council in a breakeven position. In thinking about capital projects for 2022-23, a £10,000 provision has been made for repairs and re-painting of the Village Hall frontage. Other suggestions to be considered included restoration of the Old Billiard Room, high quality insulation for the Village Hall and/or outdoor adult fitness equipment for the Recreation Ground. These items will be considered in more depth before further discussion and formal approval of the budget and precept at the December meeting.

20/151 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Parking – Parking around the Village Green continues to be an issue. However, it has been noted that the temporary planning permission which was approved for the Queen’s Head during the pandemic, expires in January 2022 when it is hoped that onsite parking spaces will be restored. Cllr. Bird offered to have an informal discussion with the Pub owner to see what his intentions are.
- (b) School Lane/Farnham Road junction – It was agreed to continue the line of hedgerow along the bank with a Privett bare root hedge as per the quote provided by Kaleidescope in the sum of £1,900. The cost of the bare root hedge will be applied for under the EHDC Welcome Back grant fund.
- (c) Mill Lane Flooding – Sheet Parish Council has been advised that Southern Water has now attended the site and propose to investigate the manholes towards Steep to find the source of the problem. Sheet P.C. will continue to follow this issue with interest.

21/152 EHDC Welcome Back Grant – As well as the bare root Privet hedge for the junction of School Lane/Farnham Road, the following projects and quotes were approved and will be applied for via the EHDC Welcome Back Grant:

- Planting trees for shade at Sheet Recreation Ground – A quote in the sum of £1650 for a selection of 8ft standard trees was approved
- Verge planting – A quote in the sum of £2,200 for the provision of a selection of shrubs for the verge on the Farnham Road, just before the bridge, was approved
- Restoration of the Village Sign – Cllr. Bird left the meeting for this item. A quote in the sum of £475 to restore the Village Sign received from Tabs & Nut was discussed and approved. It was noted that the quote does not include taking the sign down or re-hanging it, and a separate quote will be required for this – Cllr. Forrest said he would speak to Peter Caines on this matter as the sign is particularly heavy. It was agreed that a grant application for this project should be submitted to EHDC once the full cost is known.

21/153 County Councillor's Report – Although unable to be present, Cllr. Oppenheimer's monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following items highlighted:

- Climate Change Grants – HCC is offering grants to make community buildings more energy efficient as part of its commitment to combatting climate change.
- Bus Service Improvement Plan – HCC's immediate challenge is to get bus journeys back to pre-Covid levels but following the approval of the Bus Service Improvement Plan, they are now in a strong position to bid for a share of £3bn funding available.
- Extra Funding to Expand Woodlands and Protect Trees – Grants of £250,000 to £500,000 will be awarded to projects across England as part of the "Trees Call to Action Fund". If Parish Councils would like to be part of a bid to the Action Fund, they should let Cllr. Oppenheimer know as HCC, EHDC and SDNPA would be interested in forming a partnership to bid.

Cllr. Biddlecombe had hoped to ask Cllr. Oppenheimer about an article which had appeared in the Petersfield Post reporting on the availability of a funding pot for improvements to Pulens Lane. Cllr. Wilton said he would be meeting with Cllr. Oppenheimer in the next couple of days and would clarify details with him.

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

20/154 District Councillor Report – The following items were noted:

- Cllr. Drew will be laying a wreath at Froxfield on Remembrance Sunday and is therefore unable to attend Sheet Church - it was agreed that Cllr. Bird would lay the wreath at Sheet on behalf of Cllr. Drew.
- Cllr. Drew regretted that he is unable to provide a grant for the Sheet News this year as he is unable to fund running costs. He hoped Sheet Parish Council might provide additional funds for Sheet News on this occasion.
- Cllr. Drew reminded Sheet Parish Council that he can fund tree planting schemes from his District Councillor funding pot.
- Cllr. Drew reported on correspondence from residents at Tanners Reach who are concerned about an element of the S.106 agreement with the developer – this is now in the hands of EHDC's Legal Department.
- There has not yet been any feedback from the Planning Officer on 31 Inmans Lane – Cllr. Drew said he hoped to be able to cover this at the December Sheet P.C. meeting.
- Cars parked at School Lane – it appears that the cars permanently parked on the verge close to the level crossing have now been removed.

21/155 Sheet Assets

Sheet Common –

- Drainage Issues – Following discussion at the last meeting, work to create the dams to prevent excess water from the BMX track entering the gardens of the cottages at the bottom of the slope will be undertaken by the Hampshire Monday Group and will commence on Monday – there will be a small cost to cover the costs of screws, etc. and invoices will be submitted at the December meeting.
- BMX Track – Photos had been circulated prior to the meeting showing the site of a bonfire pit – bonfires are not allowed on Sheet Common, and it was therefore agreed that the BMX User Group should be asked to remove it. It will also be suggested to the group that the use of a permeable waterproof fabric (such as tyvac) rather than the current plastic sheeting, would be more environmentally friendly.

Sheet Village Green –

- Litter – It was noted that the accumulation of litter on the Green has been cleared but that the bins at the Recreation Ground have not been emptied – the Clerk was asked to follow this up via PTC.
- Christmas Lights – The purchase of new lights for the Horse Chestnut tree was approved – approximate cost £200.

Millennium Field – The FOSS Bonfire and Firework event on Saturday, 6th November had been a great success and extremely well managed. Generally, the Millennium Field has been left in very good condition - however, the Clerk was asked not to destroy the deposit cheque until the bonfire site has been cleared of all metal objects.

Sheet Village Hall –

- The Clerk confirmed that the annual PAT testing has been carried out
- Eco Retrofit Solutions – A teams meeting between members of the Management Committee and PeCAN had been very interesting and informative. PeCAN has agreed to add Sheet Village Hall as a project in the Rural Community Energy Fund stage 1 bid which looks at getting feasibility studies/costs for a project to progress.

Sheet Recreation Ground –

- Overgrown Trees – Unfortunately Chris Brooker sustained an injury whilst on site at Sheet Recreation Ground. The tree work will now be postponed until he has recovered.
- Lights – The lights to the Scout Hut are not working – Carl Foulston has been asked to investigate the cause of the fault and feedback will be provided at the December meeting.

21/156 Correspondence

- E-mail correspondence re dead trees on the verge of Village Street/London Road – HCC has confirmed that the trees are their responsibility.

21/157 Date of Forthcoming Sheet Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday, 14th December at Sheet Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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

1 NOVEMBER 2021

1. Parish Councils are invited to apply for climate change grants

Hampshire County Council is offering grants to make community buildings more energy efficient as part of its commitment to combatting climate change. Measures that could be funded include: solar panels, LED lighting, window replacements or insulation for buildings such as village halls and community centres.

The amount of funding available for any one project will depend on the overall level of demand, but there will be an absolute upper limit of £30,000 for any single organisation. Smaller grants are also available to undertake energy performance audits prior to any larger work taking place. For more information, visit:

www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/parish-town-council-investment-fund

Whilst we are on the subject of climate change, I would like to mention that the first HCC Annual Report on Climate Change was approved by the Cabinet on 12 October and highlights impressive progress across the board. It can be read here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/ClimateChangeAction2020-21>

2. HCC approves new Bus Service Improvement Plan

The Government published its Bus Back Better strategy earlier this year. £3bn of funding is available nationally for Counties and Regions who are able to successfully partner with the Department for Transport.

Hampshire is now in a strong position to bid for its share of this funding, thanks to the approval of our Bus Service Improvement Plan on 28 October 2021. HCC has worked with bus operators and engaged with business to understand the barriers to improved services and passenger growth.

The immediate challenge is to get bus journeys back to pre-covid levels. The BSIP includes headline targets as follows:

- Reduce average bus journey times across Hampshire by 4% by March 2025 and 9% by March 2030.
- Improve bus journey time reliability with 87% of services operating on time (between 1 minute early and 5 minutes late) from March 2025 onwards and 92% by March 2030.
- Assuming that bus passenger numbers will return to around 80% of pre-Covid-19 levels by the end of March 2022, we will recover bus passenger numbers to 100% of pre-Covid-19 levels by March 2023.
- Increase bus passenger numbers by 5% from 2022/23 levels over period April 2023 to March 2025 and 10% between April 2025-March 2030.
- Increase bus passenger satisfaction by 5% from a base of 89% in 2019/20 to 94% by March 2025.

For those who are interested and wish to read it I include a link to the BSIP here: <https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s86267/Appendix.pdf>

In addition, earlier this year Councils outside London were granted powers by HMG to fine vehicles using bus lanes and bus-only turns. HCC has now adopted a new policy that will enable the County Council, as the local transport authority, to take enforcement action when unauthorised vehicles use bus priority measures.

3. Dissecting HMG's Autumn Budget

The Chancellor delivered his budget on Wednesday 27 October 2021. At this stage there is limited information on the detailed aspects of the announcements relating to Local Government and, as is usually the case, we will have to wait until December's Local Government Finance Settlement before we receive any detailed figures for the County Council. From what we can determine now, the overall picture seems mixed.

On the downside, the most significant announcement relates to the adult social care precept, which is expected to be set at a maximum of 1% per annum for the Spending Review period. This compares to our forecasts of 2% per annum meaning that by 2023/24 there is a shortfall in funding of £14m which will impact on our budget setting position for 2023/24 as we implement the Savings Programme to 2023.

More positively, Local Government in England will receive £1.6bn new grant funding a year, paid for three years (so £4.8bn in total). £200m of the £4.8bn total is funding for the Supporting Families programme. The Spending Review documents say the other funding will help resource items such as adult and children's social care. This £1.6bn a year is in addition to funding for the adult social care reforms which were recently announced, such as the cap on care costs (council funding for these reforms is £3.6bn over 3 years). No information has been published yet about how any of this funding will be allocated between councils. As mentioned above, we will know more in December.

4. Extra funding to create jobs, expand woodlands and protect trees

Action to get more trees in the ground, create more jobs and improve access to nature across the country has been stepped up with a new £6 million 'Trees Call to Action Fund'. Grants of £250,000 to £500,000 will be awarded to projects across England to create woodlands at a large scale and improve people's access to nature.

The fund will competitively allocate funding to up to 24 regional or national projects managed by partnerships of environmental charities, not-for-profit organisations, local authorities and protected landscape bodies.

Funding will be targeted at regions, activities and costs which are not supported by other government funding for trees, aiming to increase community understanding of and access to trees and woodlands, and boost efforts to increase woodland cover in areas that need it most. To increase the capacity and skills of the sector, the fund will also support projects to engage people with trees, create new jobs and develop skills and knowledge.

If any Parish Council would like to be part of a bid to the Trees Call for Action Fund, please let me know. I am sure that HCC, EHDC and SDNPA would all be interested in forming a partnership to make such a bid.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers