

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 7th September 2021
at Sheet Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

<u>Present.</u>	Cllrs. Ron Dark (in the Chair) Tony Clear Gail Martin	Alan Biddlecombe Robin Forrest Chris Wilton	Brian Bird Will Glancy
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In Attendance: County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer
District Councillor, Nick Drew
Clerk, Jenny Hollington

There were 6 members of the public present

21/111 **Apologies** – None received.

21/112 **Minutes** – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2021 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

21/113 **Declarations of Interests** – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared

21/114 **Public Comment:**

- A member of the public asked the Council to consider the possibility of making Sheet Village a 20-mph zone to improve people’s enjoyment of walking and cycling and make the village environment safer for pedestrians. Although Sheet Parish Councillors and District and County Councillor were sympathetic to this request, the difficulties around the process were set out by the County Councillor who explained that trials across the County had not shown sufficient benefit and, in addition, the legal process is long, costly, and often not supported by the Police. It was also noted that a traffic speed survey carried out last year, found that speeds in the heart of the village never exceeded 20 mph. Sheet P.C. will, of course, continue to press for speed restrictions on London Road and Pulens Lane.

21/115 **Planning** – Current planning applications were discussed as follows:

SDNP/20/02 936/CND	Variation of condition 2 of SDNP/20/02936/CND to allow the operating hours to be made permanent	Churcher’s College, Ramshill, Petersfield, GU31 4AS	No Objection to earlier start but concern re lighting and inadequate screening
SDNP/21/03 597/HOUS	2 storey rear and side extension	31 Inmans Lane, Sheet GU32 2AN	Objection due to proximity to the boundary and loss of amenity to neighbouring property

21/116 **Finance**

- (a) **Audit 20-21** – The review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) by the External Auditor has been concluded - the Auditor has concluded that the information provided is in accordance with Proper Practices and that no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.
- (b) **Bank Reconciliation** - The July and August bank reconciliations had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved.
- (c) **August Cheques** – As there had been no Parish Council Meeting over the summer, cheques for August payment had been approved by the cheque signatories, as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301233	£40.90	CNG Energy Ltd	V Hall - Gas
301234	£1,062.50	Ginkgo Landscaping	Grass Cutting contract - June
301235	£378.00	Petersfield Town Council	Bin collection - June & July
301236	£19.53	Castle Water	Water - V. Hall
301237	£67.58	Business Stream	Water - V. Hall
301238	£520.00	Sheet Music	Venue management - V. Hall
301239	£82.78	HMRC	Clerk - Tax & N.I. August
301240	£734.05	Jenny Hollington	Clerk - August
Total	£2,905.34		

- (d) **Insurance** – It was noted that Sheet Parish Council is in the third year of a long-term agreement with Zurich. The Clerk confirmed the new dog bin has been included in the schedule and payment of the annual premium of £1148.26 was approved.
- (e) **Cheques** - Cheques for September payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301241	£360.00	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit 20-21
301242	£40.00	Information Commissioner	Annual registration fee
301243	£1,148.26	Zurich Municipal	Insurance 21-22
301244	£76.32	Elite Playground Inspections	BMX track and Rec
301245	£79.59	DNE Services	V. Hall - Broken window latch
301246	£500.00	Ginkgo Landscaping	Grass Cutting
301247	£520.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking - V. Hall
301248	£800.05	Jenny Hollington	Clerk - Sept + expenses
301249	£82.78	HMRC	Tax & N.I - Clerk
Total	£3,607.00		

21/117 Roads and Traffic

- (a) School Lane/Farnham Road Junction – A proposal to continue the Privet hedge along the new grass area was discussed. It was agreed that this would make the area look tidier and Cllr. Clear was asked to investigate permissions required and costs for review at the next meeting.
- (b) Community Funded Initiative to narrow Village Street – The new Village Gates at the London Road end of Village Street were installed at the beginning of the summer. An initial concern about the condition of the gates has since been addressed by the County Council. Attention will now be focused on the narrowing of the Farnham Road end of the Street – Sheet Parish Council will chase the results of the Safety Audit carried out following the installation of the new junction at the end of School Lane to assess the impact on traffic and which is required before the second phase can be considered.
- (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 a CFI feasibility study is in the

process of being prepared for the Parish Council to consider. New road markings will be included as part of the re-surfacing works currently underway.

- (d) Street Furniture Issues – Most of the items identified are “housekeeping” type issues and will be resolved via the Lengthsman and/or HCC.
- (e) Mill Lane – Now that the weather has improved, the eroding bank is starting to knit together again, and the area is not looking quite as bad as it did last month in the very wet weather. The HCC representative dealing with the eroding bank has now left the County Council – Sheet P.C. will continue to monitor the situation. In the meantime, Cllr. Forrest will arrange for the hedges along the Millennium Field and the Allotments to be cut back as per previous years.

21/118 Farnham Road – A proposal to re-plant an area of verge just prior to the railway bridge over the Farnham Road was discussed. It was agreed that Highway’s permission should be sought, and quotes sought to re-plant the verge with small shrubs/trees.

21/119 Community Grant – Cllr. Wilton spoke to Beatrice Hubert-Price about the availability of the European Regional Development grant funding for the “beautification of East Hampshire” and various projects were identified as being appropriate - including the re-painting of the Village Sign, external re-decoration of the Village Hall and the re-planting of the Farnham Road (as above). Other larger projects were discussed – replacement bus shelter (Cllr. Biddlecombe will investigate costings) and the creation of a village pond (not thought a viable at this stage). Cllr. Wilton will follow up on initial suggestions.

21/120 County Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following items were highlighted:

- Project Gigabit – Cllr. Oppenheimer up-dated the meeting on this project to improve broadband speed – Hampshire Hangers falls within the second wave of procurements “Phase 1b”. Residents can check whether their property falls within the procurement area via: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011873/Hampshire IoW OMR Postcode Output.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011873/Hampshire_IoW_OMR_Postcode_Output.ods)
- Preparing for a safe return to School – Cllr. Oppenheimer outlined up-dated guidance for schools and colleges.
- Welcoming Afghan families to Hampshire – HCC is working with local partners to assist Afghan families moving to the UK as part of the Government’s Relocation and Assistance Policy programme.
- PeCAN – Cllr. Oppenheimer was pleased to report that following receipt of substantial grant funding, PeCAN now has two members of staff to help and advise residents on eco retrofit solutions.

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

20/121 District Councillor Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Covid-19 – East Hampshire is experiencing a general increase in Covid-19 cases – residents are urged to remain cautious.
- The Samaritans – Cllr. Drew has been approached for grant funding by the Samaritans but would require the support of the parishes within his ward to take this forward – he requested that consideration is given to inviting representatives of the Charity to parish meetings to find out what services they can offer.
- EHDC Services – Bin collections have continued despite driver shortages
- Crime – There have been several recent instances of break-ins locally to farm buildings and garages – residents are urged to ensure their property is secure.

21/122 Sheet Assets

Sheet Common – There has been no feedback from representatives of Adhurst Estates about the land they own at Sheet Common – this item will be removed from the agenda until there is an up-date.

Sheet Village Green –

- Village Sign – It was noted that the woodwork is damaged – suggestions of people who could carry out this type of small repairs will be sought.
- Wooden Posts – The broken wooden post at the Village Green will be replaced via the Lengthsman (it was noted there is also a broken post at Old Mill Lane).

Millennium Field – The wildflower survey results are now available via the website (www.sheetparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Sheet Village Hall –

- Gas contract – Details of new contract rates had been circulated prior to the meeting – the most competitive quote was from Engie and it was agreed to accept the contract for a 3-year term.
- External Re-decoration – Two quotes had been received for external re-decoration of the Village Hall – a third contractor had been asked to quote, but nothing has been received. It was not clear from the cheaper of the quotes whether scaffolding is an additional cost – the Clerk was asked to check on this point.
- Eco Retrofit Solutions – Cllr. Oppenheimer urged the Council to get in touch with Amy from PeCAN to discuss Village Hall requirements.

Sheet Recreation Ground –

- Stepping Stones – A request for a small storage shed to be sited just behind their vegetable garden was approved.
- Overgrown Trees – Following a complaint by a local resident, quotes will be sought to cut down the overgrown trees along the entrance path to the Recreation Ground which are blocking light from her garden – for further discussion/approval at the October meeting.
- Trees for Shade – A plan showing the siting and best types of attractive small trees to provide shade for children in the summer months was approved. Cllr. Clear will get quotes for the trees which are to be planted by volunteers.
- New Padlock for the Entrance Gate – A new padlock for the gate will be bought, and keys issued to the Scouts and Pre School with strict instructions that they must not be passed on. This is to prevent contractors accessing the Recreation Ground without the Parish Council's knowledge or permission. Notices will be installed advising that permission for access must be approved by the Parish Council.

21/123 Correspondence –

- E-mail enquiry re Sheet P.C. use of chemical sprays – It was confirmed that there is only very limited use of herbicides where necessary on land owned by Sheet P.C. which is carried out by experienced and licenced contractors and not on hard standing or near watercourses. No pesticides are used.
- Findlay's Fish & Chips – Following correspondence with Findlay's Fish & Chips about a regular siting of the van outside the Village Hall, the offer was withdrawn once they had visited the village and realised the difficulties of parking!

21/124 Dates of Forthcoming Meetings – Tuesday, 12th October at Sheet Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.