

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 8th December 2022
at Sheet Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.**

Present. Cllrs. Ron Dark (in the Chair) Alan Biddlecombe Brian Bird
Tony Clear Robin Forrest Gail Martin

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

There were no members of the public present.

22/174 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. McKinney and Wilton.

22/175 Minutes – The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 10th November were approved and signed.

22/176 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared

22/177 Public Comment – None received.

22/178 Planning – Current planning applications:

SDNP/21/03715 /CND	Variation of condition 2 to allow the operating hours to be made permanent at the All-Weather Pitches	Churchers College, Ramshill	Sheet Parish Council maintains their continued concern as per previous Objection
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22/179 Bin Contract – It appears that the litter bins owned by the Parish Council are being emptied twice a week rather than once a week as per the contract with Petersfield Town Council. The Clerk was asked to contact the Town Clerk and ask to revert to once a week to see if this would be adequate over the winter months.

22/180 Finance –

(a) Funding for refreshments at the Christmas Carols – It was agreed to refund Cllr. Bird the cost of the refreshments for the Christmas Carols – invoices will be submitted in time for the January 2023 meeting.

(b) Budget 23-24 – The draft budget 23-24 had been circulated prior to the meeting and the Chairman highlighted the changes made following discussion at the November meeting, being:

- Brought forward cash is lower because of estimated additional costs in the current year of £3,500 for professional costs around the Old Billiard Room of £3,500, and £936 for additional bin costs.
- Bin costs fall from the estimate in current year, reflecting an assumption that it is decided to reduce the number of collections
- Election costs have been reduced from £4K to £2K
- Capital costs have been increased by £8K to cover access work in the Recreation Ground, a new noticeboard in Love Lane, a drinking water fountain at the Village Hall, and 2 speed devices for Pulens Lane and London Road.
- The Old Billiard room earmarked reserve has been increased to £75K.

- During subsequent discussions on the Village Hall detailed in Minute 22/189, the budget was further amended to include £6,000 for capital works around the Village Hall.

Following discussion of the above, the budget 23-24 was approved.

- (c) Precept 23-24 – Precept figures for the coming financial year had been received from EHDC. It was agreed that the precept should remain the same per household for 23-24 meaning a precept request of £40,890.
- (d) Deposit Fund Interest Rate – It was agreed to transfer £75,000 from the current account to the deposit account held with Unity Trust as the current interest rate to 0.98% makes it worthwhile. It was agreed that in future, internal transfers between the two accounts could be approved by the Finance Committee. Cllr. Wilton will be asked to research other savings accounts to see if there are better options.
- (e) Bank Reconciliation - The bank reconciliation for November was approved and signed.
- (f) Cheque Payments for December – These were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301403	£76.32	Elite Playground Inspections	BMX track and Recreation Ground
301404	£719.28	Petersfield Town Council	Bin Contract - Sept & Oct
301405	£63.50	Hampshire County Council	Cleaning Materials (County Supplies) V Hall
301406	£285.00	Fair Account	Interim Audit (to Nov 22)
301407	£120.00	DNE Services	Sanding down stage area/repair of hand drier
301408	£120.00	Kaleidoscope Landscape & Garden Design	Replacement trees for Sheet Rec
301409	£520.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking & Cleaning - V Hall
301410	£660.00	Michael Smith Ltd	Grass Cutting contract - November
301411	£90.60	HMRC	Tax -Clerk
301412	£726.23	Jenny Hollington	Clerk
301413	£20.48	HCC	County Supplies – Village Hall
301414	£500.00	Ryan Kirby	Deposit - landscaping (memorial bench)
301415	£364.83	Brian Bird **	Refund - Christmas lights - V. Green
Total	£4,266.24		

** Cheque 301415 was approved following the meeting.

22/181 The Old Billiard Room – Cllr. McKinney has advised that a bat survey and arborist survey is required for the pre app and that he is in the process of getting quotes for these to be carried out. The pre app will now be submitted in the new year.

22/182 Church Field – The Clerk was asked to follow up on meeting with the landowner in the new year.

20/183 Mill Lane – Southern Water have been in touch with the Clerk to report that they have investigated the pipework in Church Field and have been unable to find any operational issues - there is no further action planned. They assume that the sewage problem affecting residents of Mill Lane is being caused by water infiltration from the Ashford Stream after heavy rain and say they will need the help of the Environment Agency to address this via water run-offs. Residents have been asked to phone the Technical Team after every incident of sewage flooding on 0330 3030368 – as well as logging the problem to enable prioritisation of the work, the team will ensure a clean up of the area each time. The pumping station is due to be upgraded in 2025. County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, offered to escalate the sewage issue via the Flood Management Team at Hampshire and Damian Hinds in the new year to see whether they have any additional advice.

20/184 Noticeboard for Love Lane – Residents of Love Lane are supportive of the installation of an additional noticeboard to cover their area of the parish. A quote will be sought from Pewcorner who built the current noticeboards at the Village Hall and in Pulens Lane, and Cllr. McKinney will be asked to investigate the best place for the noticeboard to be installed. It was noted that the noticeboard at the Village Hall needs a new interior board and that the noticeboard at Pulens Lane is slightly wobbly. Cllr. Bird agreed to take remedy these issues.

22/185 Roads and Traffic

Community Funded Initiatives – A start date for the proposed works on London Road and Farnham Road has been requested but there has been no feedback yet.

Speed Indicator Device (SID) – Information about the installation of SIDs had been received from Ian Janes at Hampshire Highways and circulated prior to the meeting. The specific requirements and costs involved in obtaining a licence were noted. It was agreed that Cllrs. Martin and Biddlecombe (and potentially Cllr. McKinney or Wilton) should get together to put together suggested locations for SID installation and organise a meeting with Ian Janes to discuss next steps.

Flooding on Long Road – The Chairman said he had reported the blocked drains in Long Road via the Hampshire County Council website in mid-November but so far there has been no response. The road has been completely flooded in the recent heavy rain and this has been particularly difficulty for parents dropping young children to school. Cllr. Oppenheimer said he would follow this up and let Sheet P.C know when the issue would be resolved.

Road Lining Scheme – Long Road – Sheet Parish Council have been advised that there were significant objections to the plans to re-line the roads around the Sheet Level Crossing – these objections now need to be reviewed and responded to before the work can be approved.

22/186 Grass Cutting Contract – The quote from Michael Smith for an additional 3 cuts a year at the allotments in the sum of £360 was approved.

22/187 County Councillor Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following items noted:

- Highways preparedness – A lot of work has gone into ensuring Hampshire Highways are fully prepared for the winter. Salting crews are on standby and salt stores are full. Arboriculture teams are also on standby to clear trees. Please report issues vi the Hampshire County Council website.
- Arts Council funding – The Arts Council has increased their funding to Hampshire arts organisations to £1.9m. Ten organisations in Hampshire will receive annual funding to deliver access to high quality cultural experience linked to theatre, music, heritage, arts and dance across the County.
- The Miyawaki method of tree planting – HCC has joined forces with the Tree Council to plant a mini forest on the Adhurst Estate in Sheet suing the Miyawaki method. HCC intend planting more mini-forests using eh Miyawaki method, so if residents know of a suitable location please contact treeplanting@hants.gov.uk
- Extra payments for homes for Ukraine hosts – HCC is to make additional Christmas payments to Homes for Ukraine hosts and guests of £250 to residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government Scheme and £200 per Ukrainian guest to support them over the holiday period.

Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report will be appended to the minutes and made available via the website - www.steep-pc.gov.uk

22/188 District Councillor Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Steep Parish Council has written to Hampshire Countryside Services outlining their concerns over the HCC strategy for dealing with Ash die-back in the Hangers - HCC intend allowing the Ash to fall and for natural regeneration to take place. Steep Parish Council have requested that at least 20% of the area is cleared and re-planted to protect the treescape. Cllr. Drew felt that this is an issue which will also impact Sheet residents and urged Sheet Parish Council to support their neighbouring parish. The Clerk was asked to share the letter with Sheet P.C.
- The person responsible for EHDC leaf sweeping is currently off sick and this is causing a backlog. Any issues should be reported via EHDC.

22/189 Sheet Assets

Sheet Common –

- **BMX Track** – The meeting with the BMX User Group to up-date the risk register and discuss the condition of the track will be organised in the new year.
- **Land** – Cllr. Biddlecombe has met with Paul Bushell from SDNPA who has explained the grant application process for Councils wishing to purchase land for community use. However, the owner of the adjacent land on the Common has asked to see a management plan for the Common - this is something that SDNPA can also help with. Cllr. Biddlecombe will continue to progress this matter.
- **HMG Volunteers** – HMG volunteers will be working at the Common on 12th December and intend thinning the Silver Birch and carrying out repairs to the living fence.

Millennium Field –

- **Trees** – Cllr. Clear reported that two fruit trees which hadn't survived the very dry summer have been replaced with a William Pear and a Golden Gage and the W.I. have planted an Oak tree to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. A former allotment holder has also been remembered via the planting of a Liquid Amber tree.
- **Bonfire & Firework Event** – There is still some work to be carried out to restore the bonfire site – Cllr. McKinney will be asked to remind FOSS.

Sheet Recreation Ground –

- **Improved access to the Half Moon** – Cllr. Bird has not yet had a chance to talk to the Landlord and will follow this up in the New Year
- **Replacement Trees** – The two trees which did not survive the dry summer have been replaced.

Sheet Allotments – Since the announcement of a ban on trampolines, several tenants have requested permission to keep theirs. Retrospective permission has been given to those tenants who are working hard on their plots. The overgrown trees at the entrance to the site have been removed in a joint effort by Cllr. Forrest and Steve Elliott, the Allotment Association representative for Sheet.

Old Mill Lane – The wooden posts will now be renovated in the Spring.

Sheet Village Hall –

- **Resurfacing of side passageway** – This work will improve the surfacing of the fire exit route. Cllr. Clear explained that this is a much larger job than anticipated because the level of the path will need to be lowered to allow room for the damp course. It was recalled that part of the front room flooring and joists had to be repaired in previous years because of rot arising from water ingress through the side wall. Two very competitive quotes have been received. The quote in the sum of £6,028.33 from Oasis was approved, as they had made a good job of the new frontage a year or so ago.

- **Memorial Bench** – Cllr. Bird confirmed that the base for the new circular bench would be laid in time for Christmas Carols on the Village Green.
- **Broadband** – The broadband installation has been delayed by a week and will now be installed on 15th December.
- **Stage Floor Improvements** – DNE Services have sanded down the front of the stage but, following discussion, it was agreed that the whole of the stage should be done – this will be a much bigger job and the Clerk was asked to arrange for the work to be carried out during the school holidays when there are not so many hirers in.
- **Plant Pots** – Cllr. Drew reminded Sheet P.C. that Green funding is available from EHDC and could be used towards the cost of bedding plants and compost for the frontage of the Village Hall and bedding on the Village Green.
- **Drinking Fountain** – The Clerk reported that there are no health and safety concerns involved with the installation of a drinking fountain at the front of the hall. It was agreed that Cllr. Martin and the Clerk should put together a proposal in the New Year. Cllr. Drew advised that community funding could be applied for if required.

22/190 Correspondence

- E.V. Charging Point Scheme – Details of an electric car charging scheme had been circulated prior to the meeting and were discussed. However, it was concluded that parking in the village is already a concern, and this would not be pursued as it would involve reserving space for the recharging.
- PeCan Project – A Fruit Tree for Every Garden – Details of the project to supply half price fruit trees to residents had been made available via the village website.
- Defibrillator Training – Following a request from a village resident for training on the use of the defibrillator, Cllr. Forrest confirmed he had arranged this via Heartstart for Thursday, 26th January 2023. The Clerk was asked to advertise the session to the Village via websites, posters, etc.

22/191 Dates of Meetings 2023 – The dates of Sheet P.C. Meetings in 2023 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved - these will be advertised via the Parish Council website.

22/192 Clerk's Contract – A 10% increment to the Clerk's hourly rate from April 2023 was approved – this will equate to a new hourly rate of £15.95 (13 hours a week).

22/193 Date of next meeting – The next meeting of Sheet Parish Council will take place on Tuesday, 10th January at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.53 p.m.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS
1 DECEMBER 2022**

1. Highways preparedness

A lot of work has gone into ensuring that Hampshire Highways are fully prepared for the winter. Salting crews are on standby and salt stores are full. Arboriculture teams are also on standby to clear trees. It is crucial that we keep our roads clear so that residents can get to work, school and college safely, as well as travel for their essential shopping needs.

Heavy, intense rainfall can result in localised flooding, and trying to keep surface water off Hampshire's 5,500 miles of road surfaces is at the forefront of our highways preventive maintenance work throughout the year.

Since January, the service's year-round maintenance programme has seen the cleaning and clearance of over 107,500 roadside gullies and 22,500 metres of linear drainage, 10,076 catchpits (chambers near to the carriageway that act like gullies and from which silt has to be cleared) and nearly 16,000 intercepting ditches (known as grips, which generally run between the road and adjacent ditch and help prevent surface water from pooling on the road), as well as the completion of 13 major drainage improvement schemes across the county.

We have achieved this despite a reduction in real-terms funding brought about by inflation. I would also like to mention that Hampshire Highways won two awards at the National Highways Awards last month: the Environmental Sustainability Award and the Judges' Special Merit Award.

Parish Councils play an incredibly important role in keeping our roads clear by reporting issues to us as they happen. We are very grateful to you all for this – please keep it up.

The direct links to report road issues are here:

Potholes:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

When reporting an issue, you will be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

2. Arts Council boosts funding to Hampshire

In its latest round of funding, which was announced on 4 November, the Arts Council has increased their funding to Hampshire arts organisations to £1.9m. Ten organisations in Hampshire will receive annual funding from 2023-2026 to deliver access to high-quality cultural experiences and provide the opportunity for everyone to engage in arts, culture and creativity. These organisations will deliver projects linked to theatre, music, heritage, arts and dance across the County.

One of the organisations to receive new funding is in East Hampshire: the Phoenix Theatre will receive £81,000 annually for the three years of the funding period. The package also includes £0.5m for the Hampshire Cultural Trust which runs museums across Hampshire including two in East Hampshire.

Arts are a key part of our community vibrancy and our quality of life. The boost to arts funding is also good for the economy as many jobs will be safeguarded or created by this funding.

3. The Miyawaki method of tree planting

HCC has joined forces with the Tree Council to plant our first mini-forest on the Adhurst estate (in Sheet) using the Miyawaki method. We are very grateful to all the allotment holders on the estate who have helped with the planting.



Akira Miyawaki was a Japanese botanist and an expert in plant ecology who specialized in seeds and natural forests. He was active worldwide as a specialist in natural restoration of degraded land.

Miyawaki developed a method of planting trees which achieves growth **ten times faster than normal planting** on an area usually around the size of a tennis court. The method involves careful soil preparation: first you aerate the soil and then add some mulch. The method then involves densely planting a range of native woodland trees. As well as creating faster growth, this method is also proven to be more beneficial to wildlife.

At HCC we intend to plant more mini-forests using the Miyawaki method and so please do contact us at treeplanting@hants.gov.uk if you know of a suitable location.

4. Extra payments for Homes for Ukraine hosts

Hampshire County Council is to make additional Christmas payments to Homes for Ukraine hosts and guests. HCC will be making an extra one-off £250 payment to Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme this Christmas, and £200 per Ukrainian guest to support them over the holiday period

We remain hugely grateful to the local hosts who continue to provide a safe haven for more than 1,300 Ukrainian families across our county. The county of Hampshire has welcomed the third highest number of Ukrainian nationals in England, which I think is a record we can be proud of.

The new payments will be distributed in mid-December and will be funded via the grant paid to upper tier local authorities to specifically support implementation of the Homes for Ukraine scheme locally. This funding is ring-fenced and cannot be used for any other purpose.

The new payments are in addition to the extra £200 discretionary payment being paid per month over a five-month period to local hosts by the County Council.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers