

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 10th February 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
Chris Wilton

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

There were 4 members of the public present at the meeting.

- 22/19 Apologies – Apologies had been received from County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer
- 22/20 Minutes – Following an amendment to Minute no 22/13 Sheet Common - to read “*The flood prevention scheme is working well*” as opposed to the “new drainage scheme is working well”, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January 2022 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed accordingly.
- 22/21 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – Cllr. Biddlecombe declared an interest in item 22/26 (a) the HMG grant application as he is a member of the volunteer group and did not take part in the decision-making process.
- 22/22 Public Comment:
- Horse Chestnut Tree – A local resident has suggested that a replacement Horse Chestnut Tree is planted on the Village Green to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and in case the current tree succumbs to old age. However, it was not thought appropriate because of the lack of space on the green – in effect the new tree would be growing under the canopy of the old tree.
 - Trees on the junction of Village Street/London Road – Several trees suffering from Dutch Elm disease have recently been removed from the hedge line at the junction of Village Street and London Road – it is not clear whether the work has been carried out by HCC or Southern Electric (who are in the area). The verge is currently in a terrible mess and the Clerk was asked to liaise with HCC to find out if they are aware of the work and when it will be cleared up. This item will be discussed again at the March P.C. Meeting, when hopefully there will be a clearer picture.
- 22/23 Resignation of a Parish Councillor – The resignation of Will Glancy due to ill-health was noted. The Chairman reminded those present that Will had been one of the founders of the new Sheet Parish Council and his spirit of enthusiasm and his open, friendly, and cheerful manner had motivated all involved and helped shape the Council. He will be very much missed. The Chairman will write on behalf of the Council to thank Will for all his hard work.
- 22/24 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee – Details of a community street party to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee organised by members of SVCT had been circulated to the Parish Council before the meeting and were discussed. Parish Councillors agreed they were happy to support the event in principle (Provision of Entertainment LGA 1972 S145) – however, there were some concerns about the current plans:
- Funding surplus – The organisers confirmed that any surplus would be retained by SVCT for future events. This would mean that the Council will effectively be providing funds for unspecified future purposes which is outside its powers.

- Street Party - The current proposal is for a sit-down meal for 150 at a cost of £10 a head - there was concern that some members of the community may not be able to afford or want to attend this type of event and it is important that all residents are able to join in if they want to. The organisers confirmed that arrangements are still fluid, and they were happy to consider alternative catering arrangements.

Following in depth discussion it was agreed that a joint working party should get together to consider options for the event (which address concerns raised) – Cllrs. Bird, Wilton and Clear agreed to be part of the working party-and amended proposals will be discussed at the March P.C. Meeting.

The W.I. are also keen to be involved with celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee and have offered to plant a tree to commemorate the event – it was agreed that a tree would be planted at the Millennium Field – Cllr. Clear will liaise with the group to organise this.

22/25 Planning –

(a) Two current issues were noted:

- Land to the rear of Shear Hill – The land at the back of Shear Hill is no longer protected under the SDNPA Local Plan and is now subject to potential development. Cllr. Wilson will continue to liaise with residents who are closely monitoring the site.
- 31 Inmans Lane – Permission has been granted for an extension but there appears to be a lot of extra building work going on – EHDC Compliance Teams are involved.

SDNP/21/0 5746/FUL	Replacement 2-storey dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling and double garage	Lhiannon Thie, Midhurst Road, GU31 5AT	No Objection
SDNP/22/0 0069/TPO	T1 Oak – Lift lateral overhanging turning circle and remove deadwood. T2 Oak – Crown reduction including lifting canopy	5 Parsonage Close, Sheet GU32 2AL	No Objection
SDNP/21/0 4092/OUT	Use of land as lodge park for tourism use including landscaping, access road, footpaths, recreational space and management office/reception	Petersfield Golf Club, Tankerdale Lane GU33 7QY	Strong Objection to development of recreational greenfield site and potential problems of volume of traffic in the village if the existing access from the Farnham Road was utilised as well as Tankerdale Lane

22/26 Finance

- Grant Application – The application received from the Hampshire Monday Group Volunteers for grant funding towards maintenance of tools and new equipment was considered and a grant of £2,649.34 was approved in recognition of the amount of landscaping work the group are carrying out within the parish. Commercial contractors would cost far more than the amount of the grant. It was noted that the group have also sought funding from Petersfield Town Council and HCC Countryside Services.
- Actual to Budget Figures – Oct–December – A breakdown of the figures and summary had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting – the budget is broadly on target and there were no additional comments.
- Interim Internal Audit – The Internal Auditor’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was noted that overall internal control procedures are adequate for regulatory needs. The Clerk was asked to ensure that un-presented cheques were addressed via the cashbook before year end. The

Internal Auditor’s recommendation re. cyber insurance was discussed but is not currently thought necessary.

(d) Bank Reconciliation - The January bank reconciliation and copy bank statement had been circulated and was approved and signed

(e) Cheques - Cheques for February payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301298	£100.00	Jessica Kiddle	Re-written deposit cheque (Tabs & Nut)
301299	£335.00	Fair Account	Interim Internal Audit
301300	£61.31	Castle Water	Village Hall
301301	£520.00	Sheet Music	Cleaning & caretaking - V. Hall
301302	£82.78	HMRC	Tax & N.I - Clerk
301303	£734.05	J. Hollington	Clerk - Feb
301304	£2,649.34	HMG	Grant application
Total	£4,482.48		

Additional payments for the restoration of the Village sign (£375) and the hedging at the bottom of School Lane (£1409) were authorised for payment prior to the March Meeting because of time constraints of the Regeneration Grant Fund.

22/27 Mill Lane –

(a) Sewage – Despite assurances from S. Water that feedback on their investigations into the overflowing sewage would be provided by 8th February, nothing further has been heard. The Clerk has chased a response and will liaise with residents affected.

(b) Riverbank – Following enquiries from members of the public, the Parish Council has ascertained that the newly hedged-in area opposite Mallards Reach is privately owned. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the resident requesting a lower-level hedge to keep the riverbank views as open as possible. The request for a new access point to the river was also discussed and it was agreed that Cllr. Martin would enquire via her contact at the Environment Agency to see if this would be permissible. Russell Cleaver (HMG) has offered his help if a new access is approved by the Council.

22/28 Grass Cutting Contract – The up-dated grass cutting contract will be advertised via the website and noticeboards.

22/29 Roads and Traffic

(a) Community Funded Initiative to narrow the Village Street/Farnham Road junction - Alastair MacAdam continues to work on the project in conjunction with Ian Janes – they have undertaken to focus on resolution of the current parking issues.

(b) Bridge Mill – The drainage issues remain unresolved – the Clerk was asked to write to the local Engineer to request a site meeting to discuss.

(c) Motorbike Noise and Nuisance – Cllr. Wilton had attended the meeting and said he was very disappointed that the current focus finishes at Stroud – he will continue to fight Sheet’s corner, but it appears that evidence is key. He suggested Sheet P.C. consider lobbying both District and County Councillor for a noise camera to be sited on the London Road or A3 slip road.

(d) Pulens Lane Against Speeding Facebook page – Cllr. Biddlecombe reported that a Pulens Lane Facebook page initiated a couple of weeks ago already has 234 members - the group are keen to see the speed limit in Pulens Lane reduced to 20 mph. Cllr. Wilton suggested that all members sign a petition and send it to Hampshire Highways. Cllr. Biddlecombe will ensure that group members are made aware of Sheet Parish Council’s continuing concern over speeding via a link to the website and minutes.

22/30 EHDC Welcome Back Grant –

- Planting trees for shade at Sheet Recreation Ground – The planting of the new trees by Kaleidoscope is complete and Cllr. Clear was thanked for his help in co-ordinating the project – the new trees will provide shade which will be appreciated by users of the Recreation Ground.
- Restoration of the Village Sign – The restoration of the Village sign is underway - it is hoped the sign will be back in situ very soon.
- Verge Planting – The quote received from JWP Gardens in the sum of £1409 to continue the row of hedging and turf the area at the new junction of School Lane/Farnham Road was approved.

22/31 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Shear Hill and Inmans Lane Planning issues – Cllr Wilton was thanked for his involvement and support in this matter – EHDC Officers are involved
- Motorbike Noise and Nuisance – It is fortunate that Cllr. Oppenheimer is HCC Executive Member of Highways and has taken the lead for the group. The Police Commissioner is also very supportive and has agreed to spend £0.5m on average speed cameras for the A32 and A272 focussing on the vicinity of the Loomies motor café. The concern is that the new cameras will have the effect of displacing the motorbikes to surrounding villages - a medium- and long-term plan is required.

22/31 County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer's monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following items were noted.

- Government Response to Landscapes Review – The item on the protection of Green Lanes in the National Park was noted, although it is not an issue that affects Sheet.
- Motorbike Noise and Nuisance – Already covered elsewhere on the agenda
- BOATS – Cllr. Oppenheimer continues discussions with SDNPA to consider TROs to protect BOATS, and this will be discussed further at a public meeting of SDNPA either in March or May
- Non-crete Bollards – These are made from an eco-friendly sugarcane-based plastic which reduces carbon emissions. The bollards are being trialled across Hampshire.

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

22/32 Sheet Assets

Sheet Common – The Hampshire Monday Group volunteers will continue their clearance of Sheet Common on Monday, 7th March.

Millennium Field – Cllr. Clear has sought a quote from James Rapley to repair the gate post. The Hampshire Monday Group will also do a half day's work at the Field to help tidy things up.

Sheet Village Hall – The new Film Club cupboard has been installed.

Sheet Recreation Ground – The new trees have been planted adjacent to Stepping Stones Playgroup and will provide shade for the children during the summer months – there are also currently an abundance of very pretty snowdrops.

The Old Billiard Room – Cllrs. Dark, Forrest and Bird checked the condition of the Old Billiard Room and found it is not as bad as first feared. Although there is a musty smell, it is thought this is because it is not opened very often. The Clerk will liaise with EHDC Planning Department about a potential change of use and Cllr. Bird will liaise with the Lion & Unicorn Players. The possibility of conversion of a Victorian building to a passive building would also be investigated via PeCAN.

22/33 Correspondence -

- The Glover Review – This item is not considered particularly relevant to Sheet

- Rural EV Car Clubs – The correspondence about the creation of an electric car club in rural communities to help address the decline in public transport was noted and thought interesting. It was also suggested that installation of an electric car charger for public use might be appreciated - - this item will be considered further, possibly at the Annual Parish Assembly.

22/34 Forthcoming Meetings – The HCC Parish and Town Council event on 17th March was noted.

22/35 Date of Next Sheet Parish Council Meeting –It was agreed to move the meeting from the second Tuesday to the second Thursday for March – therefore the next meeting of Sheet Parish Council is:

Thursday, 10th March 2022 at the slightly earlier time of 7.00 p.m.

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

1 FEBRUARY 2022

1. Government response to Landscapes Review

I usually put National Park items at the end of my report; but this month something very important has happened so I am putting it at the front! The Government published its response to the Glover Review of Protected Landscapes on 15 January 2022. The response can be read at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/landscapes-review-national-parks-and-aonbs-government-response/landscapes-review-national-parks-and-aonbs-government-response>

Of particular interest to Parish Councillors in Petersfield Hangers Division is a long section in the Government response relating to the protection of Green Lanes in National Parks. I was very pleased about it and hope you will also be pleased. I have included it in full below:

Some country public rights of way and unsealed unclassified roads known as ‘green lanes’ allow for the legal recreational use of motor vehicles. Whilst many users make use of these rights in a responsible way, we have become increasingly aware of damage and disturbance caused by excessive use of off-road motor vehicles on some unsealed routes. This can result in impacts on local wildlife, the special qualities of an area e.g., tranquillity, and make the route less accessible for other users such as those on foot, bicycles, horseback, or in vehicles used by disabled people. In protected landscapes, these impacts could undermine the statutory purposes of the area.

We are also aware that these unsealed routes often provide essential vehicular access for local residents and businesses, and recognise that many people enjoy using motor vehicles responsibly on green lanes without causing damage or disturbance. Vulnerable groups such as disabled or elderly people are also likely to be particularly reliant on vehicular access in rural areas including via community transport.

We therefore would like to explore the options available for protecting our green lanes while maintaining most public and private access rights, particularly for residents or businesses. This could be achieved by giving greater discretion for National Park Authorities and local highway authorities to use existing powers to restrict use on a case-by-case basis. Alternatively, the government could consider restricting the use of certain motor vehicles on unsealed roads through legislation, but only if this could carefully balance the needs of all users including motorised vehicle users, horse riders, cyclists and walkers, whilst also protecting private access rights.

The response goes on to say that the Government will consider giving National Park Authorities enhanced powers to make Traffic Regulation Orders and Public Space Protection Orders. This would be welcome.

I believe that the Government plans to strengthen the statutory purposes and create a National Landscapes Partnership are also to be welcomed.

There is now a public consultation on the response which runs until 9 April. I would encourage Parish Councillors to consider making collective PC responses as well as individual responses to the Government. We have an opportunity here to highlight the damage done to our byways by vehicles and to encourage the government to make good on its intention to give NPAs more powers to protect green lanes. You can respond to the consultation at this link:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/future-landscapes-strategy/government-response-to-the-landscapes-review/>

2. BOATs

Following on from the above, Members of the National Park Authority discussed BOATs at a workshop on 27 January. This was an important milestone. The specific problems in East Hampshire (chalky lanes, population density) have been understood and acknowledged. The relevance of this issue to the SDNPA's statutory purposes (to conserve the park and to safeguard access) have been explained. The relevance to the duty to communities has also been appreciated.

I spoke about BOATs in the morning because I had to depart for a Decision Day but I believe my contribution had an impact. The key points I made were the SDNPA can act: it has the power to make TROs and it has the right skills to ensure that the correct admin procedures are followed and that the signage and

gate features installed are appropriate to the setting. I also explained why the County Council does not have the resources to fix this issue due to funding demand pressures in social care and children's services and inflation.

The outcome of the workshop was that a paper would come to a public meeting of the SDNPA either in March or May. I look forward to having a full, transparent discussion on this issue with other Members and will report back again after that.

3. Motorbike Noise and Nuisance Parish Forum – reporting back

On 13 January Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones hosted a Parish Forum to set out the plans to tackle motorbike noise on roads in East Hampshire. Thank you to all who attended. The two key measures to report on are;

- Two sets of Average Speed Cameras will be placed on the A272 and A32 at the approach to the Meon Hut.
- During the Summer season, prominent signs saying “Meon Valley – Keep Noise to a Minimum” will be displayed along the length of the A272 and A32.

In addition, the police will be undertaking enforcement across East Hants using new tactics such as unmarked police bikes with cameras to record offending. There will also be publicity campaigns on social media to improve compliance.

It is hoped that this package of measures will start to reduce the attractiveness of the area to inconsiderate bikers and will encourage more responsible driving by those bikers that do continue to come here. At the meeting it was agreed that District Councillors will explore the use of Public Space Protection Orders to tackle noisy bikers in our area. We will be taking this forward.

4. Non-crete bollards

I was surprised and pleased by the national coverage for my non-crete bollards initiative. Instead of ghastly concrete, the bollards are made from an eco-friendly sugarcane-based plastic. This reduces carbon emissions involved in concrete production. Carbon is also captured by the sugarcane as it grows. This is a UK first and it was picked up by the Times, the Telegraph, Daily Mail and BBC. We are trialling the bollards across Hampshire.

5. Mast in Hawkley

The new EE mobile phone mast in Hawkley has been commissioned. I believe that this has improved mobile phone coverage in the Hangers area for both the EE and O2 networks. It also means that mobile broadband over the 4G network may become a good option for those rural houses awaiting better fibre broadband.

6. Highway Code Changes

The changes to the Highway Code, which came into effect last Friday, are good news for our area. Many of our country lanes are regularly used by pedestrians and cyclists. It is welcome that these road users will now be at the top of the hierarchy and motorists will be obliged to give way to them. To avoid confusion and confrontation it is important that motorists understand the changes and adjust their driving habits.

Parish Councils may wish to consider publicising the changes to the Highway Code in their newsletters to raise awareness. The full changes can be read here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022>

7. Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations

Hampshire County Council is putting in place plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year. These will provide opportunities for residents across the county to participate, including through schools, libraries, care homes, and outdoor sites. The primary focus is during the extended bank holiday weekend of Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022. Two initiatives I would like to highlight are:

- The Queen's Green Canopy in Hampshire – a £0.5million initiative to support tree planting in line with the County Council's wider climate action plan. Advice, guidance, and practical support will be made available to assist schools, organisations, and communities to plant successfully – with the right tree in the right place across Hampshire, and during the planting season (October-March). Activity will include a new woodland at River Hamble Country Park. Commemorative trees will also be planted at Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

- Licoricia statue in Winchester – a life-size bronze statue of Licoricia, an influential medieval Jewish woman, will be unveiled outside The Winchester Arc (formally Winchester Discovery Centre) on 10 February marking the start of Hampshire’s Platinum Jubilee programme. This will be a major interfaith event, a key theme of the Jubilee. The County Council is supporting the Licoricia of Winchester Appeal Trust to develop educational materials about Winchester’s medieval Jewish community, its role in society and its royal connections, and to promote religious tolerance and understanding.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers