

**DRAFT**

**SHEET PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Ron Dark

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
at Sheet Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

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

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

There were 2 members of the public present at the meeting.

22/01 **Apologies** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Will Glancy

22/02 **Minutes** – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

22/03 **Declarations of Interests** – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda.

22/04 **Public Comment:**

- A representative from Shine Radio has been in contact as they are keen to engage with Sheet representatives about producing a podcast on the history of the Village and local events. Cllr. Will Glancy has expressed interest in taking part and Vaughan Clarke will also be invited for his valuable knowledge of local history.
- A resident has approached Sheet Parish Council querying ownership of a strip of land on the riverbank in Mill Lane – Sheet Parish Council owns a small part of the land, but ownership of the rest of the riverbank is currently unknown.

22/05 **Finance**

- (a) Grant Application – The application for £600 towards production of Sheet News was approved.
- (b) Bank Reconciliation - The bank reconciliations for November and December had been circulated and were approved and signed
- (c) Interim Audit – It was noted that an interim audit is being carried out by the Internal Auditor on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> January
- (d) Cheques - Cheques for January payment were approved as follows:

<b>Chq No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Service</b>
301286	£340.20	Petersfield Town Council	Bins - November and December
301287	£8,925.00	Hampshire County Council	CFI - narrowing Village Street/London Road
301288	£35.00	G. Hobday	Window cleaning - Village Hall
301289	£75.00	T. Morgan	Website updates - Oct - Dec
301290	£30.00	Mythic Beasts Ltd	Website hosting
301291	£520.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking and cleaning
301292	£900.00	Arbrook Tree Care	Trees - Sheet Rec

301293	£100.00	Tabs & Nut	Deposit - restoration of Sheet sign
301294	£55.44	Perspective Facilities Ltd	PAT testing - re-written chq - lost in post
301295	£82.78	HMRC	Tax and NI - Clerk - Jan
301296	£745.70	J. Hollington	Clerk + expenses - Jan
301297	£600.00	SVCT	Grant to newsletter
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,409.12</b>		

22/06 Budget 2022-23 – An up-dated budget forecast reflecting items discussed at the December P.C. Meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting – the amendments were noted and approved - cash bought forward has been increased by £10,000 because the CFI project to narrow Village Street at the London Road had cost £3,000 less than forecast and the £7,000 budgeted for the Village Green end of Village Street won't now be spent within this financial year. In addition, capital spending for 22-23 now includes £10,000 for improved pedestrian access on the London Road and £10,000 towards adult gym/leisure equipment for the Recreation Ground. In addition, the reserve for the Old Billiard Room has been increased by £20,000 to cover expected building maintenance.

22/07 Sewage Flooding in Mill Lane - A response has been received from Chris Dixon, Executive Review Team at Southern Water, stating that investigations are to be expanded, with increased CCTV survey work to be undertaken in conjunction with sewer cleaning work where required. Feedback on the results of their investigation has been promised by 8<sup>th</sup> February.

22/08 Grass Cutting Contract – The current contract is due for renewal following the 1-year trial period and the job spec needs to be up-dated due to additional requirements. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr. Clear about changes required to the job spec, prior to seeking new quotes for the work required.

22/09 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Community Funded Initiative to narrow the Village Street/Farnham Road junction – Cllr. Martin reported that she had spoken to Alastair MacAdam about the current parking and sight-line problems being experienced around the Village Green and had asked whether there was potential for improvements to be incorporated into the CFI initiative. It appears that consideration of any kind of 1-way system (as had been suggested by a resident) would be a very protracted and expensive option for the Parish as a complex survey and consultation process would be required. However, Alistair undertook to liaise with Ian Janes to see if they can come up with a simpler/less expensive solution.
- (b) Parking Issues – It was confirmed that access to the car park at the Queen's Head is not currently restricted – however, it was thought pub users may not always be aware of it and suggested that signage may be helpful – the landlord has agreed to supply this. It was also confirmed that the landlord hopes to retain the temporary structure and thought possible that when people are sat outside during the summer, the car park may be less accessible. The situation will continue to be monitored by the P.C.
- (c) Bridge Mill – Thanks to Cllr. Oppenheimer's speedy intervention, the missing/stolen cap stones on the bridge have already been replaced. Cllr. Oppenheimer was thanked for his help in organising this. However, the drainage issues continue - Cllr. Oppenheimer explained that during heavy rainfall the surface drainage systems just can't cope - flood teams at HCC are doing their best to catch up with problems being reported but it may take some time to resolve.
- (d) Pulens Lane – Cllr. Oppenheimer confirmed that he has seen initial plans for a traffic calming project for Pulens Lane which show a mini roundabout at the Durford Road crossing and build outs to provide a safer crossing for Herne School. S.106 monies has been allocated to the project, but the scheme may take a couple of years to come to fruition. Speed Limit Reminder signs will be installed in Pulens Lane very soon.
- (e) Speed – The correspondence from Twyford Parish Council seeking support for 20 mph speed limit throughout Hampshire was noted along with the further e-mail from Charles Cockborn, the E. Hants Co-ordinator for a 20 Is Plenty campaign, seeking support for a motion for 20 mph to be the default speed limit through Hampshire villages. Cllr. Oppenheimer explained that Cllr Rob Humby is carrying out a review of the County's policy on implementing 20 mph schemes but there are significant concerns over compliance, enforcement, and financing of such schemes. It was felt that the specific motion

proposed by the 20 is Plenty campaign is too prescriptive to be supported by Sheet P.C. although it was agreed that roads within the village would feel much safer if speed was reduced, especially on the London Road and Pulens Lane. Cllr. Oppenheimer said that he has spoken to Highways' representatives about a speed reduction to 30-mph on the London Road, but HCC won't budge on the current 40-mph. However, he suggested that if the London Road were to be urbanised – e.g. pedestrian crossing – this would help to slow the traffic. It was agreed that Sheet P.C. would write to Russell to express interest in an extension of the 20-mph speed limit but would not sign up to the prescriptive motion. The Chairman will respond to Charles Cockburn on this matter.

22/10 EHDC Welcome Back Grant – The Service Level Agreement is still to be signed. Feedback on projects/grants applied for is as follows:

- Planting trees for shade at Sheet Recreation Ground – The grant towards a selection of 8ft standard trees has been approved (although the figure quoted for maintenance has been amended to reflect that the funding is only until the end of March).
- Restoration of the Village Sign – The grant for the restoration of the Village Sign has been approved. The sign has been taken down in readiness for the work to start in the next few weeks.
- Verge Planting – Three quotes are required for this work as it exceeds the amount that can be approved automatically - Cllrs. Clear and Wilton to action.

22/11 County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer's monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following items were discussed.

- A grant for £450 has been approved as a contribution towards the Street Party being organised by the Village Association to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- A Teams Meeting has been organised to update Parishes on the progress made on the issue of Motorbike Noise and nuisance on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> January – Cllrs. Biddlecombe and Wilton will attend.
- Salt Bins – HCC guidance on the use of salt bins was noted and it was agreed to request an additional salt bin for the junction of Pulens Lane.

Cllr. Oppenheimer's full report is appended to these Minutes and can be found on the Parish Council website – [www.sheetparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.sheetparishcouncil.gov.uk)

22/12 District Councillor Report – The following items were noted:

- Cllr. Drew advised that residents should not use plastic bags to contain recycling in bins as they won't be collected if this is the case.
- Shear Hill Planning Query – Cllr. Drew is liaising with a resident over a query and hopes to have an answer soon.
- The long-term agreement between EHDC and Havant has come to an end – this is apparently a positive move which means that EHDC Officers will be fully focussed on EHDC residents and more responsive.

22/13 Sheet Assets

**Sheet Common** – The new drainage system appears to be working well and the item will now be removed from the agenda.

**Millennium Field** – The field is now clear of bonfire debris and the deposit cheque will be destroyed. Cllr. Clear will re-seed the bonfire site next month.

**Sheet Village Hall** – The new Film Club cupboard to house the P.A. system, is to be paid for by the Film Club, and is in hand.

**Sheet Recreation Ground** – The work to reduce the height of the trees along the entrance path has now been completed and the area looks much smarter and lighter.

**The Old Billiard Room** – A small working party consisting of Cllrs. Bird, Dark and Forrest will inspect the condition of the Old Billiard Room to see what maintenance work needs doing- if necessary, a conversation will be had with the Lion & Unicorn Players. The Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of a change of use via EHDC planners.

22/14 Tree Planting Request – A resident has suggested that a couple of new trees could be planted on the verge at the junction of London Road/Village Street to replace the dead trees in the hedge. The Clerk confirmed that HCC has accepted responsibility for the trees in the hedge line and it was agreed that she should contact Hampshire to confirm that if they would clear the dead trees, Sheet P.C. would plant new ones.

22/15 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – A resident's request for the Parish Council's support for a white horse to be painted on Butser Hill was noted but there was little support for an artificial incursion in the National Park. However, Sheet P.C. confirmed they were happy to support the Street Party being planned by the Village Association for Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June and will make the Recreation Ground available for Village activities and games.

22/16 Correspondence

- HALC – The request for comments on the procedure to increase membership of Councils was discussed, but Sheet Parish Council are content with the current situation and had no specific comment to make.

22/17 Forthcoming Meetings –

- Teams Meeting re motorbike noise/nuisance – Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 1.00 p.m. – as discussed earlier in the meeting, Cllrs. Biddlecombe/Wilton will attend.

22/18 Date of Forthcoming Sheet Parish Council Meeting –It was decided to move the meeting from the second Tuesday to the second Thursday for February and potentially March, to enable the use of the main hall for social distancing purposes. The next meeting of Sheet Parish Council is therefore **Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and the meeting will start at the slightly earlier time of 7.00 p.m.**

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

**TO  
ALL PARISH COUNCILS  
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS**

**4 JANUARY 2022**

1. Local Government Finance Settlement

On 16 December 2021 the Government announced only a 1-year settlement for the 2022/23 financial year. We had been expecting a 3-year settlement, so this “provisional settlement” was rather a disappointment. It is very difficult to plan services and capital expenditure when you only have funding clarity for 12 months.

There was some more cash announced in the settlement. But despite additional general funding of £22.9m, the County Council is still in the position of needing to draw £61.7m from the Budget Bridging Reserve to balance the budget next year. This is mainly due to rising prices in the adults’ social care market, together with other inflationary pressures.

The settlement also announced a review of the local government funding formula in 2022, with the reforms being implemented in 2023/24. It seems possible that this funding review will be conducted alongside the County Deal consultation (the County Deal White Paper is scheduled for January).

Whilst the increased funding is welcome, some of it has already been taken into account in meeting our Savings Programme 2023 (SP2023) and the County Council is also facing significant additional pressures which were not known when the original savings target of £80m was set. Of particular concern is the increasing cost of buying adults’ social care in the market which could lead to extra costs of over £35m next year over and above those allowed for in our projections.

The Council is expecting additional staffing costs of £2.3m next year due to the increase in employer national insurance contributions. This is also expected to knock through to increased charges from the Council's contractors along with other inflationary pressures in areas such as energy. All this creates additional uncertainty.

2. Motorbike Noise and Nuisance Parish Forum

Councillors may recall that I chaired a well-attended online Parish Forum on this subject on 25 June 2021. Since then I have met several times with Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones, Damian Hinds MP and Flick Drummond MP.

We want to update Parishes on progress and a Teams meeting to this effect has been scheduled by the PCC for 1300 on Friday 14 January 2022. The main items of progress relate to Average Speed Cameras on the A32 around the Meon Hut and signage which will instruct bikers to keep noise to a minimum. If you would like to attend the meeting on 14 January 2022 you can do so with this link:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

### 3. ReNature - still time to answer the Call for Nature Sites

The South Downs National Park Authority has an ambitious plan to increase the proportion of the National Park which is managed for nature from 25% to 33% by 2030.

A call for sites is still underway. Parishes and Landowners have until 17 January 2022 to make submissions of sites where a wildlife habitat could be created or enhanced. More information is available at this link:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/nature-recovery-information-for-delivery-partners/call-for-nature-sites/>

The SDNPA are looking to identify sites/projects at varying scales, ranging from well-developed project ideas, through to expressions of interest in putting forward a site to explore further.

The SDNPA will work with interested landowners and land managers to identify and develop nature recovery projects by providing specialist advice and help to “match-make” funding opportunities for suitable sites. Due to the rapidly emerging offset market (for both carbon and biodiversity), I have reason to believe that considerable private funding is going to be available in the coming years and so I would strongly encourage Parishes to consider putting in an expression of interest for suitable sites by 17 January.

#### 4. Salt Bins

With some cold weather likely to arrive later this month I thought it would be helpful to share this County guidance on the use of Salt Bins.

##### **Where to use salt:**

The salt/grit in the community bins is for use only in the community on public paths, pavements and roads. The salt is not for private use on driveways or garden paths. Bins will not be refilled where people have taken the contents for their own personal use, and Hampshire County Council reserves the right to remove bins where the contents are being continually taken for private use.

##### **Who can use the salt:**

Anyone can use the salt to put on the roads or pavements. This can be particularly useful for example, to 'join up' salting from the main road carried out by County Council salting vehicles - to smaller access roads or on the pavements to the local school.

##### **How much salt to use:**

One tablespoon of salt (20 grams) is sufficient to treat one square metre of road / pavement surface. Please use the salt carefully – overuse will result in it being used up too quickly.

##### **How the bins get refilled:**

To request a salt bin refill please click on this link:

<http://roadenquiries.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems/highwaydefect/refillsaltbin.aspx>

We will refill the salt bins as soon as reasonably possible, and in bad weather we will endeavour to fill up empty bins on route.

At times of prolonged severe weather, the priority of the winter maintenance teams will be to salt the main roads and we may not be able to refill the salt bins as quickly as at other times.

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**

**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**