

**DRAFT**

**SHEET PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Ron Dark

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 14<sup>th</sup> July 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 Chris Wilton  
and Dave McKinney (following co-option)

In Attendance: County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer  
Clerk, Jenny Hollington

There were 8 members of the public present at the meeting.

22/108 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Gail Martin and District Councillor, Nick Drew

22/109 Minutes – The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June were approved and signed.

22/110 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- PCSO Will Ive has so far been unable to commit to attending a Parish Council meeting to introduce himself – the Clerk will try him again for September/October meetings.
- Cllr. Bird has investigated the problem with the shed roof in the Recreation Ground and will fix the leaking roof in the next few weeks.

22/111 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared.

22/112 Co-option of a Parish Councillor – There were two candidates for the vacant position on Sheet Parish Council and both would have made excellent Parish Councillors. However, following brief presentations and a vote, it was agreed to co-opt David McKinney to the role – the Declaration to Accept Office was duly signed and witnessed, and relevant paperwork completed for EHDC.

22/113 Public Comment –

- A resident has contacted the Parish Council to complain about the large bins from the Queen's Head Pub being left permanently on the road, as opposed to within the boundary of the Pub. Cllr. Bird offered to speak to the landlord about this and will report back.
- Fire Risk documents for the Village Hall – A review of the Fire Risk Assessment is required. The Clerk will follow up via the Village Hall Management Committee and/or ALE Fire Systems.
- An application for a Lawful Development Certificate for 23b Pulens Lane has been received from EHDC in the last couple of days – a separate Parish Council Meeting will therefore need to be arranged to discuss the application.
- SDNPA have confirmed that Otter prints have been seen in the locality

22/114 Sheet Recreation Ground – New Fitness Equipment – Three quotations had been received for installation of adult fitness equipment on the Recreation Ground. This Capital expenditure had been agreed at the budget meeting in December 2021 and detailed at the Annual Parish Assembly. However, several Village Street residents were at the meeting to raise their concerns about the proposed installation of the equipment at the Recreation Ground, close to the boundaries of their properties. The item was therefore moved up the agenda and their comments received during the discussion of the item.

The Chairman explained that the proposal had been under consideration as a capital project for many months and had been generally well supported. He noted that other installations at Buriton and South Harting are popular and well-used. He and Cllrs. Forrest and Martin had met with representatives of Fresh Air Fitness and were impressed with the quality of their equipment (seen at other installation sites) and prices (compared to the two other quotes).

Residents expressed concern about the location and size of the proposed installation – the current proposal shows the equipment close to some back gardens. They also queried the need for this type and scale of equipment, suggesting that improved play equipment for very small children might be a better use of funds.

Following detailed discussion and a vote, it was decided to abandon the project.

22/115 Planning

- (a) Planning and Compliance – The Chairman and Cllr. Wilton had met with representatives of EHDC – Simon Rowberry, Interim Head of Planning and Gill Kneller, CEO – as well as representatives of Steep and Froxfield Parish Councils to discuss planning and compliance issues across the areas. Sheet issues raised included land at Shear Hill and 31 Inmans Lane. Simon Rowberry advised of a change of SDNPA policy in respect of the land at Shear Hill and said it would be necessary for Sheet to write their own local plan if they wished to protect the land from development. EHDC are to arrange for planning training sessions for Parish Councillors to enable a better understanding of the process.
- (b) Planning – Current applications:

SDNP/22/02 515/HOUS	<b>Part single and part 2-storey extensions to either side, single storey extension to front and new windows throughout</b>	10 Hazelbank Close, Sheet GU31 4BY	No Objection
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22/116 Finance –

- (a) **Bank Reconciliations** – The on-line bank statement had not been available – the Chairman will check the bank reconciliation once it has been done.
- (b) **Cheques** - Cheques for July payment were approved as shown below.

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301350	£1,605.00	Matthew Weaver	Re-written cheque - ext dec V. Hall
301351	£496.00	Matthew Weaver	Painting posts around the V. Green
301352	£679.32	Petersfield Town Council	Bin contract - April & May
301353	£75.00	T. Morgan	Website up-dates - April-June
301354	£107.13	Castle Water	Water - V. Hall
301355	£32.05	Business Stream	Wastewater - V. Hall
301356	£660.00	Michael Smith Ltd	Grass Cutting contract
301357	£60.00	E.M. Butler	Allotment deposit - refund
301358	£650.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking and cleaning the V. Hall
301359	£90.40	HMRC	Tax - Clerk
301360	£786.72	Jenny Hollington	Clerk - July + expenses
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,241.62</b>		

- (c) **August Payments** – As there is no Parish Council Meeting in August, a list of regular payments will be circulated to Councillors by the Clerk and cheques will be approved by the signatories. These payments will be formally approved at the September meeting.

22/117 Church Field – There has been no action since the last conversation with the owner of the field about the possibility of part of the land becoming available for car parking – the Clerk was asked to liaise with the Agent to see what will be required to take this forward.

22/118 Mill Lane –

**Sewage** – There has been a changeover of staff dealing with this issue at Southern Water which has held things up. Southern Water have also indicated that further tests are required on the drainage system in Church Field.

**Riverbank** – A Zurich representative confirmed that public liability would cover access provision to the river provided the structure is fit for purpose, well maintained, and regularly risk assessed. The Clerk and Cllr. Martin will look again at the form from the Environment Agency, prior to the P.C. discussing again in September.

22/119 Roads and Traffic

**Consultation on Phase 2 CFI plans to narrow the Farnham Road/Village Street junction** – The response from Ian Janes to the questions raised during consultation with residents about proposed changes to the junction, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was discussed. It was agreed to request a new design to include the widening of the pavement in front of the Church, with resultant adjustments at the junction of Village Street, and to include the installation of the bollard at the bottom of School Lane. Sheet P.C. also accepted the recommendation to wait until the physical changes have been installed and then monitor traffic/parking around the Green to see if other measures are required.

In respect of the London Road crossing, it was noted that there is not enough road width for a refuge in the centre of the road, and that Ian Janes would not be happy to progress the crossing without the other signage measures, and this was understood. It was therefore agreed to progress the crossing point on London Road CFI scheme with associated road markings and safety measures.

22/120 County Councillor's Report - Cllr. Oppenheimer's monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and in his absence the following items were noted:

- Petersfield Eco Fair – The first Petersfield Eco Fair is being held on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> July – 10.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. on Petersfield Heath – all welcome.
- Closure of the A32 – The road has been closed due to flood alleviation works and work is scheduled to last for approximately 15 weeks.
- River Rother Flood Plans – Feedback is being sought from parishes within the River Rother catchment on HCC policies to improve flood risk.
- Tackling Loneliness with Libraries – Cllr. Oppenheimer is keen to promote Libraries as community hubs which bring people together and help combat loneliness.

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)

22/121 District Councillors Report – Cllr. Drew was unable to be present and no report had been received.

22/122 Sheet Assets

**Sheet Common** – The meeting with the BMX User Group and review of the Risk Assessment will be organised as soon as Cllr. Clear is fit and well enough to access the Common. In the meantime, any specific safety concerns will be raised immediately with the Group by Cllr. Biddlecombe.

**Millennium Field** –

- **Long Grass** - Les Milton has indicated that he does not want to cut and use the hay this year – enquiries will be made of other local farmers to see if they are interested.
- **Rope Swing** – Zurich advised that a rope swing which is well maintained and regularly risk assessed would be covered under public liability - the current swing is well constructed and secure and there would be more risk in taking it down. Chris Wilton will regularly visually inspect the swing during his daily dog walk and Stephen Day will also be asked to add it into his regular quarterly play equipment inspections.
- **Memorial Tree** – A request has been received for permission to plant a tree on the Millennium Field in memory of an allotment holder. It was agreed that this would be permitted provided the tree was not isolated and simply extended the existing planting. They will be asked to contact Cllr. Clear to discuss options.

**Sheet Recreation Ground** – The new padlock has been installed and the code will be shared with the Scout Group and Stepping Stones Playgroup.

**Sheet Allotments** – Permission has been sought for the annual Allotment Association barbeque to be held at Sheet Allotments on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> August and this was approved. The grass around the perimeter of the site is to be cut on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

**Sheet Common** – It was agreed that no barbeques will be allowed at Sheet Common during the current very hot, dry period. Laminated posters will be displayed at the entrances to the Common and at the barbeque site.

**Village Green** –

- Posts - The boundary posts have been re-painted and look very smart.
- Broken Seating - The broken slats on the seat around the Horse Chestnut have been repaired – Sheet P.C. is grateful to local resident, John Hartley, for this.
- Memorial Bench – Cllr. Bird continues to liaise with the family. The bench is to be sited where the bike rack is currently.

**Sheet Village Hall** – The Film Club have asked whether the Parish Council would consider purchasing a new router, as the wi-fi signal keeps dropping out in the main hall. Cllr. Bird said he would investigate a possible up-grade of the current broadband package to resolve this issue.

**The Old Billiard Room** – Pre-application advice on the possibility of converting the Old Billiard Room into residential accommodation has been received from EHDC. They have advised that full planning application for change of use will be required and pointed the Parish Council to the various policies which will need to be considered. It was agreed to approach local architects to discuss plans to take this forward.

22/123 Correspondence

- SDNPA – S.106 Contributions – Affordable Housing in Sheet – SDNPA have written to Sheet P.C. to advise of a grant application from Petersfield Housing Association for £56,560 from S.106 monies held by them (which can only be used for affordable housing within Sheet parish). The money will be used to fund solar panel installation and associated battery storage. Sheet Parish Council had no objection to this request.
- Review of the SDNPA Local Plan – The Local Plan came into existence in 2019 and is now undergoing a review process – details of the consultation were noted.

- SDNPA – Review of draft methodology of SHLAA – details of the consultation were noted

22/124 Date of next P.C. Meeting – There will be a very short meeting of the Parish Council before 4<sup>th</sup> August to discuss the planning application for 23b Pulens Lane, but the next full meeting of Sheet Parish Council will be on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 p.m.

Meeting finished 8.40 p.m.

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

**1 JULY 2022**

1. Petersfield Ecofair to be held on Sunday 17 July – 10.00 to 16.30

The first ever Petersfield Ecofair takes place this month. There will be a multitude of stalls and activities on the Petersfield Heath and it promises to be a fun, informative day-out for all the family. Please come along and help spread the word! Here is the spiel about the fair:

*Get tips and ideas for reducing your carbon footprint whether it be by saving energy in your home, upcycling those clothes you no longer want or by getting back on your bike. Learn how you can help increase biodiversity with good gardening practice or by letting your garden grow a little wilder. There will be talks, an art exhibition, children's activities and live music throughout the day, with a choice of food and drink and things to buy, all ethically-sourced and using minimum packaging. Entrance is free so come along on 17 July and have fun.*

**Stallholders:**

East Hampshire Community Rail Partnership, Future Shoots, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hampshire Bat Group, Hepworth Cycles, Juniper, Liss Men's Shed, Petersfield Area Nappy Library, Petersfield Bicycle Buddies, Petersfield Town Council, Alton Climate Action Network, Proud Mary Soaps, Refill and Replenish, Shine Radio, Southern Water, Wild Candles

**Food and drinks provided by:**

Jo's Kitchen, Earth to Oven, Langhams Brewery

2. Flood Alleviation works and closure of A32

I am very conscious that the closure of the A32 has caused great inconvenience for residents in many parts of the Hangers. I use the route through Farringdon frequently as I have children at school near Alton so I can personally testify to the annoyingness of this closure.

I would acknowledge that engagement with Parishes prior to the commencement could have been better. The reality is that the team did not have a long lead-in time and so they did not have the opportunity to do a more proactive engagement. They are now working hard to develop that dialogue with Parishes.

The aim of the flood alleviation scheme is to improve the management of both surface and groundwater conveyed by ordinary watercourses adjacent or near to the A32 highway through the village of Lower Farringdon, and by a main river to Chawton village. The scheme will achieve this by ensuring that the existing drainage system, which consists of ordinary watercourses (ditches and pipes), less well-defined overland flow paths, the main river and highway drainage can function to its maximum capacity. The flood alleviation scheme will benefit the communities of Farringdon and Chawton and enable a major highway to remain open if a similar flood event to that which occurred in the winter of 2013/14 were to occur again. This will of course bring benefits to a much wider area.

Hampshire County Council has appointed Milestones to carry out the drainage works and the work began on Monday 27th June. The construction phase is scheduled to last up to 15 weeks. Due to the nature of the work and for safety reasons it is necessary to close the A32, Gosport Road during this time. Some weekend working may be required to complete certain elements of the work.

There will be 24hr/7day road closure however there will be a period from 5th-16th August when the road will be open to allow increased traffic movements associated with the Jalsa Salana and Boomtown festivals. A signed diversion route via A31 and A272 is in place and a diversion route plan is available on the scheme website (see link below). Further details and updates on the progress of the scheme are available on the County Council's webpage:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/strategies/scheme-a32-farringdon>

A letter was sent out to residents and businesses prior to works beginning. Subsequent to those, a meeting was held with the local Parish Councils to look at concerns about the volume of traffic that may occur through their villages from those drivers that choose not to follow the official diversion. The project team is carefully considering each point that has been raised and, where possible, implementing actions immediately. The effectiveness of the diversion routes will be closely monitored.

### 3. Rother River Flood Plans: Feedback sought

Councillors may be aware that flood management is now undertaken on a “catchment” basis. There are 12 catchments in Hampshire and here in Petersfield Hangers we are all within the Rother catchment area.

Policies have been identified to tackle flooding issues and information has been provided for producing more detailed Action Plans in the future. The [draft Catchment Plans](#) are now available for view on the County Council’s website and the Authority is inviting people to comment on those plans via an [online survey](#) before it closes at midnight on Thursday 21 July.

The proposed policies that could be applied in priority areas involve stricter measures for consenting works on rivers, ditches and streams and surface water drainage in planning applications; lowering the threshold for significant flood investigations (known as Section 19 Reports); and identifying where new flood defences could be needed. We aim, with the final plans, to establish an efficient, effective, and consistent approach to address flood risk within Hampshire.

### 4. Tackling loneliness with our Libraries

In my new role as Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage and Rural Affairs I am keen to promote Libraries as community hubs which bring people together and reduce isolation. Our libraries offer a welcoming environment where people can meet, relax, or learn in a safe and welcoming environment. Some examples of the services from Hampshire libraries include:

- Book Clubs and [Digital Readers](#) - keen readers can join groups that meet in person and online.
- [Classes and courses](#), including wellbeing classes, baby rhyme time, story time, baby play, construction club, yoga, computer skills, knit and natter, scrabble club, craft clubs and more.
- The [Home Library Service](#) for those who can’t get to the library due to ill-health, disability or caring responsibilities - books are delivered to homes on a regular basis.
- Ukraine connections - local libraries are hosting events where Ukrainians can meet for a friendly chat and find out about library services.
- [Volunteering](#) opportunities.
- Free public Wifi and [help to get online](#)



Loneliness is an important issue that can affect both mental as well as physical health and affects people of all ages. Being able to connect with others can help enormously and our libraries offer a fantastic way to do this. If any resident or someone they know is feeling lonely or isolated, I would urge them to contact their local library or go online to find out what is available.

I was delighted that Emma Noyce, Hampshire County Council's Assistant Director of Culture and Information Services, was awarded a British Empire Medal in The Queen's Jubilee Honours in recognition of her role in how public libraries supported communities throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### 5. Community preparedness

Councillors may be interested to learn more about local incident response during emergencies. There are three free Zoom webinars taking place this month which I would like to bring to your notice. These take place at the following times:

6.00pm Monday 4 July

2.00pm Thursday 14 July

6.00pm Thursday 21 July

This module is an introduction to what you can expect from the emergency services when responding to emergencies in your community. You will gain an overview and understanding of the structure and roles that are undertaken, to allow you to understand where your role fits in and who you should be communicating with on the ground. This module also provides tips and guidance on setting up procedures for community volunteers to cope with a variety of scenarios.

This free training comes thanks to funding from Scottish & Southern Electricity Network's (SSEN) Resilient Communities Fund.

To Register for one of the events please visit this link:

<https://www.communitiesprepared.org.uk/online-events/>

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**  
**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**