

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 10th May 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
Locum Clerk, Rachel Gorvin

There was 1 member of the public present at the meeting.

- 22/72 Apologies – Apologies had been received from the County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, and Jenny Hollington, Clerk and RFO/
- 22/73 Election of Chair - Cllr. Ron Dark had previously indicated his willingness to continue in the role - Cllr. Forrest proposed that Cllr. Dark be re-elected as Chairman of Sheet Parish Council - this was seconded by Cllr. Wilson and unanimously agreed. The Declaration to accept Office was signed by Cllr. Dark and witnessed by the Locum Clerk.
- 22/74 Election of Vice Chair – Cllr Gail Martin indicated that she was prepared to continue unless another Councillor was interested. Cllr Dark Proposed that Cllr. Martin be re-elected as Vice-Chair of Sheet Parish Council – this was seconded by Cllr Forrest and unanimously agreed.
- 22/75 To confirm Parish Councillor Roles - The Chairman went through the Councillor roles and the following responsibilities were agreed:
- Governance; Cllrs Dark and Wilton
Finance: Cllrs Dark, Biddlecombe and Wilton
Planning: Cllr Wilton
Roads and Traffic; Cllr Martin
Village Hall: Cllrs Martin, Wilton and Bird
Allotments: Cllr Forrest
Common: Cllrs Biddlecombe and Clear
Grounds: Cllr Clear
Recreation Ground: Cllrs Bird and Forrest
Old Billiard Room: Cllrs Dark and Forrest
Play equipment: Cllr Forrest
BMX track: Cllr Biddlecombe
- 22/76 Minutes – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th April 2022 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed accordingly.
- 22/77 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared.
- 22/78 Public Comment – None received

22/79 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor – The meeting noted that the notice of vacancy was posted on 3rd May 2022, so deadline for electors claiming an election is 23rd May 2022. If no or insufficient requests for Election are received, then the Parish Council will co-opt a councillor.

22/80 Finance

(a) **End of financial year actual to budget figures** – Cllr. Dark gave a report on the end of year actual to budget figures 21-22. He noted that the year was broadly on budget with these exceptions:

Village Hall – Income at £11.5K is £3K higher than budget. However, the original budget was half that of previous years because of the uncertainties surrounding Covid. The provision for repair and repainting of the exterior woodwork was not used but the works are now scheduled for summer 2022.

Capital Expenditure – Capital expenditure was well below budget. Road improvements to the London Road end of Village Street cost £9K rather than the £12K budgeted. The works at the Church end, budgeted at £7K have not been started by Highways. A £10K budget for work on the junction of School Lane and the Farnham Road was not needed as developer’s contributions covered the costs of the revised scheme.

Reserves – Funds are at a high level because of the shortfalls in expenditure as explained above and because of earmarked reserves as follows:

£6270	Funds due to 3 rd parties (deposits)
£50,000	Asset refurbishment
£30,000	Church Field
£20,000	Old Billiard Room
£27,000	Capital projects budgeted 22-23
£47,122	General reserve

In the absence of the Clerk items (b), (c), (d) and (e) were deferred until the June P.C. Meeting.

(f) **Cheques** - Cheques for May payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301330	£1,320.00	Michael Smith Ltd	Grass Cutting Contract - March and April
301331	£36.00	Business Stream	Waste Water - Village Hall
301332	£390.00	Sheet Music	Cleaning and Caretaking - V. Hall
301333	£90.60	HMRC	Clerk
301334	£748.89	Jenny Hollington	Clerk plus expenses (postage stamps)
Total	£2,585.49		

(g) **Water rates** - The correspondence from Love Energy re water rates for the Village Hall and the Allotments was discussed but it was decided a more detailed explanation was required from the Clerk to enable full understanding. A decision was deferred to the next meeting.

22/81 Planning appeal hearing – AA/Y9507/W/21/3275512 – Rural workers dwelling and retention of farm track – Broadlands Meadows Farm, Town Lane, Sheet GU32 2AF -- Cllr Dark reported that the Appeal Hearing is on 25th May, 10am, and it can be joined by Teams or telephone only, there is no physical access to the hearing. Parish Council comments remain as per the original application.

22/82 Church Field – Cllrs Dark and Martin previously reported that they had a meeting with the owner and were awaiting feedback from the agent, Henry Adams. As nothing has been received the Clerk will be asked to chase a response.

22/83 Mill Lane –

Sewage – No further update (the suspected blockage in the garden at Sheet Mill House is still being investigated)

Riverbank – There was a discussion around provision of access to the river from parish land in Mill Lane. The Environmental Agency (EA) have agreed that it is possible to put steps in. Some concern was voiced around potential environmental impact issues and the impact on neighbours, however numerous local dog owners are known to be in favour. The meeting felt it is impractical to prevent access to the river here and it would be safer to have something solid so children and dogs could get out, as the bank is eroded and soft. Steps would help shore up the bank. Cllr Martin reported that the EA require a flood risk exemption form if the Parish Council decides to proceed. The Parish Council has public liability cover but agreed that the Clerk should check insurance implications. Meeting agreed to install access, subject to insurance cover being confirmed and consent from the EA.

22/84 Roads and Traffic

Community Funded Initiative to narrow Village Street/Farnham Road junction – Cllr Martin provided feedback from the meeting with Ian Janes and Alastair Stewart. Three proposals for traffic calming schemes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- Scheme 1. Cost of £6600 - Church end of Village Street. -Local consultation recommended by Highways as this project is Community funded and will involve the loss of 2 parking spaces. The meeting agreed to proceed with this scheme subject to local consultation.
- Scheme 2. Cost of £7400 - London Road Crossing to Sheet Common – installation of dropped kerb area with tactile paving and reflective sleeved bollards on both sides. Some concern was expressed around having a crossing with no island in the middle of the carriageway. Cllr Martin will raise this with HCC but the meeting agreed to proceed with the scheme.
- Scheme 3. Cost of £5600 - London Road from Village Street to Ramshill roundabout. Re-marking of the road and installation of Dragon’s teeth, 40mph Roundels to be marked on road and relocation of some existing signage with Gateway fencing - the intention being to prevent speeding. Cllr. Martin will check with Hampshire Highways representatives about how this scheme would relate to a future programme of works arising from development on Pulens Lane.

22/66 County Councillor’s Report - Cllr. Oppenheimer’s monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following items were noted:

- Ukrainian Refugees – Hampshire County Council’s response (see Russell’s report for details).
- Street Lighting – Energy consumption has reduced but costs have doubled because of rising prices.
- Weed control trial – alternative methods to Pesticides for weed control being piloted in the Petersfield area for evaluation.

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

22/67 District Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Planning – Shear Hill and 31 Inmans Lane are being discussed with Planning department.
- Grants – Cllr. Drew has approved a grant to Pecan for £500, their area includes Sheet.- details of an additional grant request from an external body will be circulated by the Clerk.

22/68 Sheet Assets

Sheet Common –

- Feedback received from Zurich Insurance on cover for the BMX track was that there is no standard for BMX tracks, but the Parish Council should have a current Risk Assessment and take reasonable

steps to ensure the site is well maintained. It was recommended the track needs more than quarterly inspections and these should be logged, and photographs taken to record detail. Cllr Biddlecombe agreed to undertake weekly visual checks going forward. The Chairman suggested a meeting is arranged with BMX users to review what they are doing and whether it is acceptable to the Parish Council. Cllrs Dark, Biddlecombe and Clear to meet on site with the BMX user group and identify potential hazards and the impact of excavations and drainage on adjacent trees.

- The meeting agreed to review and up-date the current Risk Assessment for the BMX track. Cllrs Dark, Biddlecombe and Clear to action.
- Clearance of scrub on other areas has allowed more wildflowers to appear.

Millennium Field – The saplings planted last spring were watered and are still surviving despite the dry conditions. The fencing in the top right-hand corner by the railway needs some attention and some rotten posts need replacing.

Sheet Recreation Ground – The trees that were planted are doing well. Stag beetles have been seen here, so the verges on the driveway have been left uncut to provide habitat. The budget for the proposed Keep Fit equipment, has been agreed but the Council are still awaiting feedback from a Sheet resident who is looking into options.

Village Green – A proposal for a bench to commemorate Will Glancy to be sited on the Village Green was discussed. The Meeting agreed that the unused bike rack should be removed, and a paved area with a bench installed in its place. The Parish Council to fund the bench as this is for public use, however individual contributions required for memorial plaque. Cllr Bird to take forward and discuss with Clare Glancy.

Sheet Village Hall – The exterior decoration has started. The Clerk will monitor the contractor's recommendations and cost on extra works required. Cllrs Martin and Bird to discuss colour with Contractor.

The Old Billiard Room – Feedback from EHDC on change of use - deferred to future meeting.

22/69 Correspondence – None received

22/70 Annual Parish Assembly – 12th May – Speaker - Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Terry Noble.

22/71 Date of next P.C. Meeting – Thursday, 9th June 22 – 7.00 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall

Meeting finished 20:22

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

3 MAY 2022

Due to the local elections taking place in parts of Hampshire this week, the County Council has been in purdah throughout April. As a consequence the County has not made many significant announcements over the last month.

1. Ukraine: Refugee Update

The County Council continues to work with key local partners to enable support and assistance to Ukrainian refugees (guests) arriving in Hampshire under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. The focus remains on conducting home visits and ensuring key information is shared with guests and sponsors efficiently. The total number of visas issued to Ukrainians in Hampshire is now 1,128.

Visits to sponsors' homes continue to be arranged and undertaken at pace across the county and these visits continued over the Easter and bank holiday periods. Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) checks are undertaken by Hampshire County Council. These checks are required of all sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Collaborative safeguarding processes have also been established between Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Constabulary in support of DBS requirements.

Work is ongoing by Hampshire County Council and District and Borough authorities to develop local information for guests to complement the Government's Welcome Pack for Ukrainians arriving in the UK. On 25 April, 'Ukraine Connections' groups commenced in several Hampshire libraries. The sessions offer a welcoming space for Ukrainian guests to meet and find out more about library services, begin to meet others socially, and to find out more about life in their new, temporary home. There is also now a welcome page for Ukrainian guests with helpful links at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine/guests>

2. Street Lighting

In my role as Executive Member for Highways at HCC I visited the SSE base at Port Solent last week. Maintenance for all of Hampshire's 133,952 streetlights is undertaken from this depot. I would like to share some interesting facts which I learned during my visit as follows:

- Our contract partner for streetlighting is now called Enerveo. Last year SSE sold their infrastructure arm to a company called Aurelius which is a German investment company. The new company Enerveo will be moving out of the SSE base over the next year. They plan to seek a location in central Hampshire.
- The streetlighting Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract was signed in 2009 and commenced in 2010. It is a 25-year contract so we are coming up to the midway point later this year. The procurement process for the next contract term will need to commence in six years' time in 2028.
- All streetlights in Hampshire can be controlled remotely through the Mayflower system. This system employs a network of sub-masters around the county which all have SIMs and use the mobile network. These sub-masters then create a wireless network with nodes on other streetlights within 250 metres.
- This flexibility has enabled us to respond to a variety of requests. In Winchester we have reversed part-night lighting at the University's residential halls and in Basingstoke we have maintained night lighting to benefit a woman who is allergic to daylight and so can only leave her house at night.
- Due to the increase in electricity prices, our energy budget at Hampshire has gone up from £3.3m to £7m over the last ten years. This is despite substantial reductions in energy usage. In 2009, streetlighting consumed 53 gigawatts; by 2021 that was down to 21 gigawatts which is a 66% reduction. This has primarily been achieved through LED replacements, dimming and part-night lighting.
- In 2009 there were around 46,000 faults reported per year. There are now approximately 30,000 faults per year. The average repair time is 2.42 days. This repair performance makes Hampshire the fourth best county in the UK.

- Heavy bunting and heavy festive lighting should not be placed on streetlights because it can damage the column integrity. Nothing should be tied at the top or bottom of the light because it might interfere with the operation of the light. Ladders should not be placed against the column. Permission must be sought for the hanging of any items such as the flashing speed limit reminder (SLR) signs. The email address to seek permission is hampshirepfi@enerveo.com

3. Weed control trials

HCC will be undertaking a trial of alternative methods of weed control this year. This follows local campaigning on glyphosate concerns.

The trials are being based in the Petersfield area and will commence in May. Regular monitoring will then be undertaken over the following months, through to October.

The weed control methods to be used in the trials are as follows:

- Acetic Acid
- Pelargonic Acid
- Hot Foam
- Burning
- Mechanical Removal
- Electricity

On conclusion of the trials a report will be produced comparing the effectiveness, cost and suitability of the various treatments for use on the wider highway network. The findings in the report will help determine the future approach to weed control.

Environmental factors are a key concern but we must also be mindful that weeds can cause damage to the road infrastructure and they can also look very unsightly so they must be effectively controlled.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers