

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 10th November 2022
at Sheet Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.**

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

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

There were no members of the public present.

22/156 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Alan Biddlecombe.

22/157 Minutes – The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 13th October were approved and signed.

22/158 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared

22/159 Public Comment – None received.

22/160 Planning –

(a) An amendment to SDNP/21/03715/CND – Variation of condition 2 to allow the operating hours to be made permanent at the All-Weather Pitches at Churchers College, Ramshill – (additional information received 8th November showing new lighting details to supersede those approved) was noted. As this will impact Sheet residents living in Churchfield Road and Love Lane, the Clerk was asked to request that Sheet P.C. is consulted and for an extension to the consultation deadline to enable the Parish Council to consider the changes at their next meeting.

(b) To discuss current planning applications:

SDNP/22/004669 /HOUS	Part 1st floor extension over existing garage, front infill, new timber frame porch and internal alterations	1 Hazelbank Close GU31 4BY	No Objection
-------------------------	--	-------------------------------	--------------

22/161 Finance –

(a) Budget 23-24 – A draft budget proposal had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. The Chairman explained that an estimate of the financial position at March 2023 had been calculated based on actual figures to October 2022. Most of these figures had then been increased by 10% to give a budget for 23-24 but where there are exceptions the reason has been documented (eg Village Hall charges not to be increased). The only capital expenditure in the draft was for one mobile speed camera. It was noted that the forecast yearend reserves are high - this is because, as noted at the October meeting, CIL funding is now available to replace parish funding of the CFI road schemes, and the capital spending for adult gym equipment in the current budget had now been rejected. The draft budget was then discussed in detail and the following amendments were made to be subject to final approval at the December P.C. Meeting.

- The provision for the May elections was amended to £2000 (costs shared with EHDC)
- Two speed indicator devices to be budgeted (for London Road and Pulens Lane) £4000.00

(b) Capital Projects – Various capital projects for 23-24 were discussed – it was agreed to progress the following proposals:

- Two speed indicator devices (as noted above) £4000
- Improvements to the surfacing and lighting of the back passageway at the Village Hall - £2000.00
- Potential pathway improvements between the Recreation Ground and the Half Moon (subject to landlord’s approval) - £2000.00
- A notice board for Love Lane - £1000.00 (Agenda item 22/166)
- A drinking fountain outside the Village Hall - £1000.00 – the Clerk was asked to research health and safety implications

An oak shelter for the old bus shelter site on the Village Green was considered but not agreed.

(c) **Bank Reconciliations** – The bank reconciliation for October was approved and signed. The Clerk was asked to check deposit account interest rates for the next meeting, with a view to transferring a further sum of money from the current account into the deposit account.

(d) **Cheque Payments for November** – These were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301392	£660.00	Michael Smith Ltd	Grass cutting contract
301393	£18.32	Business Stream	Waste water - V. Hall
301394	£999.00	Petersfield Town Council	Bin Contract - June, July, and August **
301395	£72.00	Mythic Beasts Ltd	Domain renewal
301396	£60.00	Mr. & Mrs. Coles	Deposit refund - allotments
301397	£63.57	Mrs. G. Martin	Refund - Plants for V. Hall pots
301398	£300.00	Caines Farm Partnership	Hedges - Mill Lane
301399	£520.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking & Cleaning - V Hall
301400	£90.40	HMRC	Tax - Clerk
301401	£760.43	Jenny Hollington	Clerk + expenses (stamps)
301402	£59.88	Wel Medical Ltd	Replacement pads for defibrillator
Total	£3,603.60		

** The Clerk was asked to check with Petersfield Town Council to understand current bin collection requirements - it appears that parish bins are being emptied twice a week instead of once.

22/162 Church Field – A meeting with the landowner is still to be arranged.

22/163 The Old Billiard Room – A paper outlining options for the Old Billiard Room had been circulated prior to the meeting and conclusions/recommendations discussed in detail:

- (i) It was agreed to go ahead with budgeted minor external maintenance works in the spring to protect the building.
- (ii) It was noted that in its current condition an average rental for a store/workshop would be approximately £300 a month. If rented out as an office it could fetch approximately £500 a month – however, there would need to be considerable outlay to achieve these sums. Both possibilities are uncertain because of access problems, and it was agreed not to pursue either.
- (iii) It was noted that the building has been valued in its current state at £200,000 – the Clerk was asked to raise the level of building insurance to reflect this.

- (iv) It was agreed not to pursue the Affordable Housing option as this would be a high cost for a low return and in effect would mean handing control of the property to an outside agent
- (v) The cost of submitting a planning application for a conversion to residential use and drawing up schedules of works was noted as approximately £3,500.
- (vi) The pros and cons of refurbishment were debated. It was agreed that securing planning consent would enhance the value of the asset even if no immediate progress on works was made. It was agreed to progress to the next stage – a planning application – to help with the decision-making process. Cllr. McKinney was asked to take this forward. The design option omitting a mezzanine floor was agreed on.

These decisions will have an impact on the budget and will be subject to discussion and agreement in December. The planning costs will be incurred in the current year and will affect year end reserves. Consideration of building works has a concomitant impact on reserves, and it was agreed to raise the earmarked reserve for the Old Billiard Room to £75,000.

22/164 The Lengthsman Scheme – Some months ago, Hampshire County Council announced that it was likely that funding for the Lengthsman Scheme would be discontinued in 23-24 due to the budget shortfall at HCC and suggested that individual parishes should budget to cover this cost themselves. Sheet Parish Council agreed that the efficiency of the work carried out by the Lengthsman around the parish is invaluable and that they would budget £1,000 for 23-24 to cover this. County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, suggested that it is possible that the funding may remain – he hoped to be able to confirm in January 2023.

20/165 Mill Lane – A letter has been written to the CEO of S.E. Water, copied to Damian Hinds MP, and officers at SDNPA, HCC and EHDC, requesting feedback and action in respect of the on-going sewage issues being experienced by residents of Mill Lane. No response has been received.

22/166 Love Lane – Noticeboard – A proposal for a noticeboard to be installed in the vicinity of Love Lane, Churchfield and Merryfield Roads was discussed. It was thought this would be a good idea and a sum of £1000 provisionally budgeted for the project – Cllr. McKinney will liaise with residents and report their feedback at the December meeting.

22/167 Roads and Traffic

Community Funded Initiatives – A start date for the proposed works on London Road and Farnham Road has been requested.

Speed Indicator Device (SID) – It was agreed that Cllr. Martin should investigate the legalities and logistics of installing a speed indicator device on Pulens Lane and the London Road via Ian Janes at HCC - feedback will be given at the December meeting.

22/168 Grass Cutting Contract – Cllr. Clear reported that the current contract is working extremely well. It was agreed that the contractor should be asked to incorporate an additional 3 cuts a year at the allotments and re-quote for 23-24 to cover this.

22/169 County Councillor Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed:

- Hampshire Forest Partnership – Details of this collaboration between HCC and key stakeholders including parishes, community groups, landowners, farmers, and residents to ensure the target of one million trees planted in Hampshire by 2050 were noted. There is now a dedicated tree planting officer who can offer help and advice - treeplanting@hants.gov.uk
- Local Warm Hubs – HCC is keen to support communities host warm hubs and are offering grants to support creative ideas and concepts that deliver support. Cllr. Oppenheimer was told about the Winter Warmer Café at Sheet Village Hall on Friday afternoons - the organisers will be made aware of the grant funding opportunity.

- Supporting Farmers in Hampshire – Cllr. Oppenheimer is working hard to support the 30 County Farms in Hampshire and will continue to lobby Government for a better deal for farmers.
- Waste Prevention Community Grants – Grants of up to £5,000 are available for community organisations and groups to come up with projects to help reduce waste.
- BOATS – Following a meeting on Thursday, 20th October, the SDNPA decided to continue with the current arrangements whereby they do not get involved in the management of BOATs and the responsibility is left to HCC – Cllr. Oppenheimer will consider how to take forward the campaign to preserve the byways for people who wish to enjoy the tranquillity of the National Park.

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

22/170 District Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items

- EHDC is moving offices to New Barn in Bedford Road – a more economic and cheaper premises
- Cllr. Drew still has a small amount of grant funding remaining in his 22-23 “pot” and urged community groups to contact him if they had a project with requires funding.
- Cllr. Drew said that he is looking forward to attending St. Mary Magdalen at Sheet on Remembrance Sunday where he will lay a wreath on behalf of EHDC.
- There are a number of BOATs within East Hampshire and Cllr. Drew is aware that off-road vehicles have caused a lot of problems. EHDC will be responding to SDNPA and Cllr. Drew will share communications with Sheet P.C.

22/171 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 has been deferred until Cllr. Biddlecombe returns.
- **Land** – In Cllr. ~Biddlecombe’s absence, feedback on SDNPA grant funding towards the purchase of land was deferred until the December meeting.

Millennium Field –

- **Friends of Sheet School Bonfire and Firework Event** – Cllr. Clear reported that the event had been a great success and despite the weather, there had not been much damage to the field. There is a little bit of tidying up still to do and it is hoped that the school will ensure this is done within the next couple of weeks.
- **CPRE Hedgerow Funding** – Councillors discussed whether it would be appropriate to plant a hedge along the fence line between the car park and the field, but it was agreed to leave it as it is. The Lengthsman would however be asked to retain a bramble strip along the old fence line.

Sheet Recreation Ground – Cllrs. Clear and Bird will replace the trees that have not survived the summer.

Sheet Allotments – Cllr. Forrest will carry out minor works to remove the overgrown branches and new growth.

Old Mill Lane – The Clerk was asked to find out when the wooden posts will be renovated.

Sheet Village Hall –

- **Defibrillator** – The defibrillator is back in place following the software update and the electrode pads have also been replaced. Consideration will be given to running another training course at the Village Hall.

- **Broadband** – Virgin Media Ltd have quoted for improved broadband provision to resolve the current issues. It was agreed to go for the Voom 400 package (up to 400 mbps download and 40 mbps upload) at £33 per month. It is anticipated that a booster may still be required to resolve the Film Club connection issues – Cllr. Bird will look into this after reviewing performance of the new package.
- **Entrance Hall** – Cllr. Bird confirmed that the gulley between the Village Hall and Lion House has been cleared – the damp patch will now be monitored.
- **Stage Floor Improvements** – DNE Services have quoted £60 to sand down the front of the stage. If the whole stage is sanded and treated it would cost in the region of £700. It was agreed that the front of the stage should be sanded initially, to see if this resolves the problem.
- **Plant Pots** – Cllr Martin has re-planted the pots at the front of the hall with spring bulbs.

22/172 Correspondence

- Trees in Town Lane – Concern about the condition of the trees in Town Lane has been raised by residents after a large branch narrowly missed a pedestrian. Cllr. Bird will liaise with the landowner.

22/173 Date of next P.C. Meeting –It was agreed that Sheet Parish Council meetings would be moved to the second Tuesday of each month **from the New Year** to avoid a clash with other local Councils and to enable Cllrs. Drew and Oppenheimer - whose input is greatly valued and appreciated – to attend Sheet P.C. meetings.

The next meeting of Sheet Parish Council will take place on Thursday, 8th December at 7.00 p.m.

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

1. Hampshire Forest Partnership



At Hampshire County Council we are serious about planting one million trees in Hampshire. The Hampshire Forest Partnership is a collaboration between HCC and key stakeholders including Parishes, community groups, landowners, farmers and local residents, to ensure we meet that target of one million trees planted in Hampshire by 2050. We now have a dedicated tree planting officer at HCC and she can help with the following:

- Where they have land available (approx. tennis court sized), parishes can submit Expressions of Interest to trial the creation of mini-forests and share ideas for tree planting in their area.
- We can help with sharing best practice, joining up work with our partners and sourcing trees.
- Parishes that are interested can develop “community tree plans” with us – looking at opportunities for tree planting and mapping of them.

To get in touch with the team, please email: treeplanting@hants.gov.uk

Trees make our towns and villages more beautiful. Trees are also good for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, flooding prevention and providing shade/shelter for people and animals.

2. Opportunity to create Local Warm Hubs

As the colder months approach, we at HCC want to do what we can to support our local communities. We are therefore now inviting voluntary and community organisations to apply for a grant of up to £5,000 to develop and host warm hubs where people can gather together. This might be in the form of a regular coffee morning, or the provision of a shared activity. We welcome creative ideas and concepts that will deliver support especially to our most vulnerable residents.

Applications are open for the financial year 2022/23. Those wishing to apply can find more information and guidance on [the Leader's Community Grants web page](#). Any organisation wishing to apply for a grant to deliver a warm hub will also need to confirm that they will register on the Warm Welcome website.

3. Supporting farmers in Hampshire

Since May I have been responsible for 30 County Farms in Hampshire. I have visited five already and I have five more visits in the diary for this month. I've heard first hand from our County Farm tenants how rising costs are having a major impact on their businesses, whilst this year's weather conditions have also created challenges with a couple of unprecedentedly dry and hot months.

I want to let farmers across the Hangers area know that I am on their side. I would like to thank them for their tireless work in the face of a year of challenges. Their work is sincerely appreciated – not just the production of our food but also their enormous contribution to enhancing our landscape and wildlife.

Through our farm estate, we at HCC have a direct insight into the difficulties currently facing our agricultural sector which is such a vital part of Hampshire's economy. We have lobbied Government regarding the urgent need to offer much-needed financial assistance to our farmers. We will continue to lobby Ministers and MPs for a better deal for farmers.

4. Waste Prevention Community Grants

Now in its fifth year, Hampshire County Council is again offering grants of up to £5,000 for community organisations and groups to come up with projects to help Hampshire's residents reduce waste by making items last longer. This might include Repair Cafes, Swap Events, Upcycling classes, Community Composting,

Reusable nappy libraries, “Library of Things” (I believe this is basically a directory of items available for borrowing in the Parish) and Community Fridges. The deadline for applications is 5pm on Tuesday 10 January 2023.

Over the past four years we have seen how this funding has kickstarted many local businesses and launched several community-based innovative projects, helping us all to waste less. Thanks to grant funding in previous years, over 66,000 items have been swapped, repaired, or reused; 190 waste prevention events have been held; 2,000 volunteer opportunities created; and over £300,000 savings have been generated by residents through reusing, repairing or buying second hand.

Potential applicants are asked to discuss their ideas first with the Waste Prevention Team before applying. Please contact the team by emailing: waste.prevention@hants.gov.uk to arrange an informal discussion.

Organisations and community groups can find out more on the County Council's [waste and recycling webpages](#) including [how to apply for a waste prevention grant](#).

5. Request for grant applications

I still have funds available in my HCC County Councillor pot, but it all needs to be allocated by February otherwise I lose it. I would be grateful for some more applications from Parishes please! The ideal amount to apply for is £700 as this means I can ensure a good spread of projects. Please email me with ideas.

6. SDNPA discussion on BOATs

The SDNPA discussed BOATs at its meeting on Thursday 20 October 2022. Following a long discussion, the Authority decided to continue with the current arrangements whereby they do not get involved in the management of BOATs and the responsibility is left to HCC. I respect the decision of the Authority and I will be considering how we take forward the campaign to preserve our byways for people who wish to enjoy the tranquillity of the National Park.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers