

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 13th October 2022
at Sheet Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

<u>Present.</u>	Cllrs.	Ron Dark (in the Chair)	Alan Biddlecombe	Brian Bird
		Tony Clear	Robin Forrest	Dave McKinney
		Gail Martin	Chris Wilton	

In Attendance: County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer (at the start of the meeting)
District Councillor, Nick Drew (at the start of the meeting)
Clerk, Jenny Hollington

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

22/140 Apologies – None received.

22/141 Minutes – The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 8th September were approved and signed.

22/142 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared. Cllr. Dave McKinney declared a personal interest – members of his family are organising the Bonfire & Firework event on behalf of Friends of Sheet School (item 22/152 Millennium Field).

22/143 Public Comment –

Village Hall - It was noted that the stage area is still rough in places and needs more attention – Cllr. Bird said he would take another look

Parking in Inmans Lane – Builders’ vehicles have been parking across the pavements in Inmans Lane making life very difficult for pedestrians who are forced into the road to get past – this is particularly dangerous for parents with young children and wheelchair users. Cllr. McKinney offered to speak to the builders and ask them to move their vehicles and park appropriately.

River Rother – Otters have been spotted on the River Rother within the parish.

Remembrance Day – Cllr. Forrest has been invited to represent Sheet Parish Council at the Remembrance Day Service and will lay a wreath on behalf of Sheet Parish Council.

22/144 The County Councillor and the District Councillor’s reports were received at the beginning of the meeting as they both had to go on to another meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, explained that his was a short report this month due to the mourning period for the Queen. The following items were noted:

- Proclamation of the King – Cllr. Oppenheimer had attended this event in Winchester on Sunday, 11th September and said it had been a memorable occasion.
- Homes for Ukraine – HCC has announced that it will pay an extra £200 per month to Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government’s Homes for Ukraine Scheme.
- Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) – Many parishes within the Hangers have written to the Chairman of the SDNPJA about damage and noise issues caused by motorcycle use on local BOATs - the SDNPA will discuss the issues at the meeting on 20th October.

Cllr. Oppenheimer was asked for an up-date on the traffic calming scheme for Pulens Lane and he reported that good progress is being made - SDNPA funding has been confirmed and he is confident the scheme will be delivered in 2023. Proposals include pinch points and crossing points intended to slow traffic speed to 30 mph along the length of the road - as soon as final drawings are received Sheet P.C. and residents of Pulens Lane will be notified.

22/145 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr. Nick Drew reported on the following items:

- Glass collections have resumed and EHDC has invested in additional bottle banks for the district.
- Leaf sweeping – The Parish Council were asked to advise Cllr. Drew of any roads/lanes particularly affected by falling leaves.
- Remembrance Day – Cllr. Drew will be attending the service at St. Mary Magdalen and will lay a wreath on behalf of EHDC

Cllrs. Oppenheimer and Drew left the meeting following their reports.

22/146 Planning – To discuss current applications:

SDNP/22/004243 /HOUS	2-storey extension to front	Hewletts, Love Lane, GU31 4BU	No Objection
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22/147 Finance –

(a) **Grant Application** – The application for £500 towards a Winter Warmer Cafe to provide a warm social meeting place in the Village Hall during the winter months was approved.

(b) **General Power of Competence** – Adoption of the General Power of Competence had been suggested in respect of potential plans for the Old Billiard Room and a paper explaining the difference between this and S.137 had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that adoption of the General Power of Competence was not necessary at this time, which means that that Council expenditure must continue to be shown to benefit the community.

(c) **Quarterly Figures (July - September)** – The following points were noted:

- The second tranche of precept has been received, leading to high cash levels
- Village Hall – As previously noted, income is not yet back to pre-Covid levels
- Sheet Allotments – The annual rents are starting to come in, but most rental income will be received during October
- Capital Expenditure – Following receipt of the unexpected grant of CIL monies from SDNPA (£13,000), the budgeted reserve for the Community Funded Initiative will now no longer be required.
- Reserves – The removal of the capital expenditure costs for the CFI road scheme as noted above, as well as the abandonment of the project to install some outdoor gym equipment at the Recreation Ground and with the probability of not converting the Old Billiard Room, will leave a general reserve considerably above recommended levels and will need to be addressed in the 23-24 budget.

(d) **Budget and Precept 23-24** – Councillors were reminded that this item will be discussed in detail at the November meeting. Should no agreed capital expenditure be budgeted, it will be necessary to think carefully about the precept request as it would not be acceptable to continue to build excessive general reserves.

(e) **Bank Reconciliations** – The bank reconciliation for September was approved and signed. It was noted that there is currently £203,000 in the accounts following receipt of the second tranche of precept.

(f) **Cheque Payments for October** – These were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301378	£20.48	HCC (County Supplies)	Cleaning supplies - V. Hall
301379	£660.00	Michael Smith Ltd	Grass cutting contract
301380	£75.00	T. Morgan	Website management
301381	£104.47	Tampen & Tampen Ltd	Dishwasher supplies - V. Hall
301382	£41.80	Business Stream	Waste water - V. Hall
301383	£40.00	E. Dean	Allotment deposit refund
301384	£60.00	Mr & Mrs. Wheeler	Allotment deposit refund
301386	£650.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking & Cleaning - V Hall
301387	£90.60	HMRC	Tax -Clerk
301388	£833.25	Jenny Hollington	Clerk + expenses (stationery)
301389	£500.00	SVCT	Grant application - Winter Warmer Café
301390	£40.00	The Royal British Legion	Wreath for Remembrance Day
301391	£2,182.99	Cyan **	Circular Memorial Bench - V. Green
Total	£5,298.59		

**Note – Cheque no 301391 for the circular memorial bench was approved in principle, and in detail after the meeting once payee details and amount had been confirmed, following discussion of agenda item 22/152 Sheet Village Green.

22/148 CIL Monies - Sheet Parish Council is to receive £13,000 CiL monies from SDNPA – this amount has arisen from 2 recent new builds within the parish. Councillors were reminded that the funds must be ring fenced within the accounts and spent on specific projects and this be discussed under roads and traffic. The SDNPA call for projects to be funded from central CIL funds was also noted.

22/149 Church Field – Peter Cleveland’s response to the letter from Sheet Parish Council was noted and carefully considered. It was unanimously agreed that Sheet Parish Council would be willing, in principle, to discuss a proposal from the landowner for a single exemplar house linked to a community car park, in Church Field. Cllr. McKinney offered to join Cllr. Martin and the Clerk in meeting with the landowner if further discussion takes place.

22/150 Mill Lane – Residents are becoming frustrated at the lack of communication from S.E. Water in respect of the results of the sewer investigations which took place in the summer – it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the Chief Executive on their behalf, copying the correspondence to Damien Hinds.

22/151 Roads and Traffic

Community Funded Initiatives – Up-to-date plans and costings for the 3 current CFI schemes had been received from Alistair MacAdam, Traffic Engineer at HCC

- Scheme 1 - Church footpath and narrowing the entrance to Village Street from Farnham Road - £10,100
- Scheme 2 - Footpath link and pedestrian crossing – London Road – £7,400
- Scheme 3 - Lining, signing and gateway measures – London Road - £7,000

Alistair MacAdam has successfully achieved SDNPA funding of £15,000 towards the works and these would be payable provided Sheet P.C. are content for SDNPA style wooden effect signage to be incorporated into the London Road scheme– the SDNPA style signage was unanimously approved.

It was agreed that the remaining amount payable by the Parish Council of £11,950 would be taken from the £13,000 CiL monies. The Clerk was asked to check whether the admin fee could be included.

Petersfield Strategy Group – Cllr. McKinney explained his role on this group in his District Councillor capacity and the group's objectives to look at walking, cycling and traffic calming in Petersfield. He confirmed that Pulens Lane has been identified as a priority road and £300,000 has been allocated for traffic calming measures. The Group are also looking at a number of other junctions including Hylton Road, Sussex Road, Dragon Street and Torr Way. All three levels of local Government are involved including Officers from SDNPA, District and County Councillors, Petersfield Town Councillors, as well as residents with expert knowledge.

Sheet Level Crossing – The 2-day closure of the Level Crossing in School Lane from 27th October was noted.

22/152 Sheet Assets

Sheet Common –

- **BMX Track** - Now that Cllr. Clear is fit and well again, the meeting with the BMX User Group to up-date the risk register and discuss the condition of the track will be organised by Cllr. Biddlecombe. Cllrs. Forrest and Bird will also attend.
- **Land** – Cllr. Biddlecombe noted that he has been advised that SDNPA will support applications for funding towards the purchase of land and queried whether this might be of interest in respect of the part of the Common not owned by the Parish Council? It was agreed this option should be pursued.

Millennium Field –

- **Friends of Sheet School Bonfire and Firework Event** – Councillors approved the request for the annual fundraising bonfire and firework event to be held on the weekend of 5th/6th November – arrangements were agreed as per last year since everything had worked very well.
- **Rope Swing** – The response from Elite Playground Inspections declining to include the rope swing in their regular inspections was noted – the swing will therefore be regularly visually inspected by members of the Parish Council.
- **Renaming of Field in memory of the Queen**– A proposal to re-name the part of the field between the allotments and the main Millennium Field was discussed – however, concerns were expressed about the confusion this might cause. It was pointed out that the W.I. are to plant a tree in the Millennium Field in memory of the Queen and a plaque will be mounted to note this and this was felt appropriate.

Sheet Recreation Ground –

- **Swing** - The recent repair of the loose bolt on the swing was noted.
- **Scout Hut request re Solar Panels** – E-mail correspondence from the Scout Group requesting permission to install solar panels was discussed – Councillors had no objection to solar panels being installed on the south side of the roof, subject to any planning restrictions.

Sheet Allotments –

- **Trees at the entrance to the site** – Cllr. Forrest reported that signage at the entrance is becoming obscured by low hanging branches from the Oak tree and there are also some young sycamore saplings growing along the fence line – it was agreed that Cllr. Forrest should address these issues.
- **Sunflowers and birdboxes** – The Allotment Association representative was receptive to the proposals discussed at the last meeting for a sunflower strip and for provision of bird boxes which could be installed on sheds – Cllr. Forrest and the Clerk will discuss further how this could be progressed.

Old Mill Lane – The wooden posts will be renovated in the next few weeks.

Village Green – Councillors discussed the design and position of the circular bench which will be installed in memory of ex-Councillor and much-loved villager, Will Glancy. It was agreed that the bench should be installed where the unused bike rack is currently. Cllr. Bird will liaise with the Clerk to progress the order for the bench.

Sheet Village Hall –

- **Management Committee Member** – Cllr. Biddlecombe was appointed to the Village Hall Management Committee to assist Cllrs. Martin and Wilton with the day-to-day queries of running the hall
- **Defibrillator** – The temporary recall of the defibrillator for a software update was noted.
- **Broadband** – The Clerk was asked to investigate the purchase of a new booster for the main hall to resolve insufficient Wi fi coverage as reported by the Film Club.
- **Entrance Hall** – The reappearance of the damp patch in the entrance hall was noted – Cllr. Bird will clear the gully to alleviate the problem. Consideration of re-decoration and the condition of the carpet will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The Old Billiard Room – Cllr McKinney reported that since the last meeting he has received a second opinion on the current value of the building and cost of refurbishment - an updated report had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr. McKinney explained that the second estimate values the property in its current state at a lower figure than the first estimate, but also estimates the cost of refurbishment as significantly lower.

The revised figures sparked considerable discussion about the use of the Old Billiard Room and the best way forward. Ultimately it was felt that Councillors needed more time to digest the up-dated figures within the report and to consider the next steps so that this item could be discussed again, and a decision made at the November meeting. In the meantime, Cllr. McKinney will organise a survey of the building before the winter sets in.

The Council agreed that there were no current plans to sell the building and it was noted that, if it were ever to be sold, then legally the proceeds could only be spent on capital projects.

22/153 Forthcoming Meetings

- SDNPA Parish Workshop – 1st November – Cllr. Biddlecombe said he would look at the agenda with a view to attending.
- HALC AGM – 20th October – No-one able to attend

22/154 Correspondence

- E-mail correspondence from the Head Teacher of Sheet School asking about the possibility of a grant towards the support of two Ukrainian children who have just joined the school. The Chairman has responded explaining that unfortunately this does not fall within Sheet P.C. grant remit.
- The response from Kebbell Homes to the letter expressing Sheet Parish Council's concerns about the impact the proposed development at Shear Hill would have on roads and traffic was noted.

22/155 Date of next P.C. Meeting – The next meeting of Sheet Parish Council will take place on Thursday, 10th November at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed 8.57 p.m.

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

3 OCTOBER 2022

1. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



September was a month of mourning for our late Queen “of blessed and glorious memory”. For most of us Queen Elizabeth was the constant in our lives. A source of inspiration, providing comfort in times of strife and signifying unity in times of division.

Here in Hampshire, we felt Her Majesty's loss all the more keenly. Hampshire was always close to Her Majesty's heart: Hampshire was the place where she spent her honeymoon and the County to which she came most often to visit Her Armed Forces. All Hampshire County Council announcements were put on hold in September which naturally means that this report is a bit shorter than normal.

I attended the Proclamation of the King in Winchester on Sunday 11 September read by the High Sheriff of Hampshire Lady Edwina Grosvenor. Behind the High Sheriff is the King's representative: the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire Nigel Atkinson (who is a resident of Petersfield Hangers Division). On the right is HCC Leader Cllr Rob Humby. We all sang God Save the King for the first time.



The proclamation was a memorable occasion and I know that several Parishes carried out their own proclamations which I am sure will also live long in the memory – as will the joyful Platinum Jubilee celebrations held by Parishes during the Summer.

2. HCC adds £200 top-up to Homes for Ukraine hosts

I am pleased to report that Hampshire County Council has announced that it will be paying an extra £200 per month to Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

The Government has set host payments at £350 per accommodation (tax free). We want to go higher than this to reflect both the important contribution Hampshire hosts are making to this significant humanitarian effort, as well as the current challenges many may be facing, in terms of cost-of-living pressures. We feel this is the fair and right thing to do, particularly over the winter months.

The county of Hampshire has welcomed the third highest number of Ukrainian nationals in England with over 1,100 families now settled here under the national scheme.

3. SDNPA set to discuss BOATs

The SDNPA will discuss Byways Open to All Traffic at its meeting on Thursday 20 October 2022. The Decision Paper will be published on the southdowns.gov.uk website around 10 days before that meeting. Many Parish Councils in Petersfield Hangers have already written powerfully to the Chairman of the SDNPA. A further communication in the build-up to the meeting could be worth considering.

In this very special part of the South Downs National Park, our tranquillity, biodiversity, air quality, safety and basic access to byways are routinely compromised by sports bikers and 4x4 drivers who are damaging the green infrastructure of our park.

I am no longer a member of the SDNPA and I will not attend the meeting as I do not wish to create any appearance of conflict with my HCC responsibilities as Executive Member for Countryside, Culture and Communities. I sincerely hope that the Authority will decide to get involved in this issue and bring their expertise to bear on finding long-term solutions.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers