

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 11th April 2023
at Sheet Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.**

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

In Attendance: County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer (for the first part of the meeting)
 District Councillor, Nick Drew (for the first part of the meeting)
 Clerk, Jenny Hollington

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

23/55 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Ron Dark

23/56 Minutes – An amendment to the Asset Register to include the newly installed noticeboard at Love Lane was noted. With this amendment, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th March 2023 were approved and signed.

23/57 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none received.

23/58 Public Comment –

- The sad news of the death of Terry Turner, a past Chair of the Village Association and key village figure, was noted.
- Residents’ concerns about the condition of the telephone box on the Village Green were noted – the Clerk was asked to contact B.T. about repairs.
- Horse riders are continuing to ride in the Field – Cllr. Bird will investigate appropriate signage to be displayed at the gate and on the bridge.

23/59 Planning – A current planning application was discussed:

SDNP/23/00989 /HOUS	Extension to the rear of the dwelling	Hewletts, Love Lane, Sheet GU31 4BU	No Objection
------------------------	--	--	--------------

23/60 Finance –

- (a) Quarterly Figures (Jan – March 2023) – It was agreed to defer this item until the May Meeting when the accounts will have been signed off by the Internal Auditor.
- (b) Grant Request – It was agreed that the grant request from the CAB should be declined on this occasion.
- (c) Investment Policy – The Investment Policy, circulated for review prior to the meeting, was approved.
- (d) Alternative deposit arrangements – A comparison of deposit interest rates has been carried out by Cllr. Wilton and the information discussed. Currently Sheet Parish Council has £80K invested with the Cambridge Building Society (1.25%) and £85K is held in a deposit account with Unity Trust Bank (2.15%). Following discussion, it was agreed to transfer the £80K from the Cambridge B.S. and £20K from the Unity Trust Deposit Account into a fixed 1-year bond with Cambridge and Counties Bank at a rate of 3.75%.

- (e) Bank Reconciliation – Approval of the March bank reconciliation was deferred until the May meeting, following the internal audit.
- (f) Cheque payments for April were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301447	£335.00	Michael Smith Ltd	Grass Cutting Contract
301448	£75.00	T. Morgan	Website Manager (Jan - March 23)
301449	£336.00	ALE Fire Systems Ltd	Village Hall - Fire Risk Assessment + checks
301450	£82.80	Perspective Facilities Ltd	PAT Testing - V. Hall
301451	£363.94	HALC	Affiliation Fees
301452	£520.00	Sheet Music	Village Hall - Caretaking and Cleaning
301453	£231.00	South Downs National Park	Planning Application - OBR
301454	£132.00	HMRC	Tax - Clerk (April)
301455	£766.51	Jenny Hollington	Clerk - April
Total	£2,842.25		

23/61 Elections 2023 – EHDC has confirmed that the election for Sheet Parish Council is uncontested, with one vacancy due to Cllr. Tony Clear’s decision to stand down. Cllr. Clear was thanked for his hard work over the past 8 years – he will be hugely missed by all at Sheet Parish Council. Cllr. Clear undertook to continue to look after the flower beds at the Village Hall and Village Green and to help and advise the Parish Council on land-related matters, for which members of Sheet P.C. are very grateful.

23/62 Feedback from SDNPA Workshop – Cllr. McKinney attended the Parish Workshop on behalf of Sheet P.C. and had circulated a report prior to the meeting. The following items were noted:

- (a) Buriton Parish Councillor, Doug Jones, is standing down after over 12 years as the Parish representative for SDNPA and a replacement will be sought in the coming months– HALC will be managing this process.
- (b) Digital Hubs – SDNPA are aiming to provide more information via a digital platform and has the following hubs in development – Nature Recovery, Accessible SDNPA, Climate Change, Walking, Community (including funding).
- (c) Community Greenspaces – Plans for a review of greenspaces and parks and how Councils could better manage their open spaces to deliver benefits for communities were explained. The review aims to help parishes understand their assets, carry out an ecology survey, the benefits of enhancement and plans for next steps.
- (d) Parish Priority Statements – All parishes are being encouraged to complete a PPS, the purpose of which is to:
 - Understand Parish dynamics,
 - Inform the Local Plan Review and planning matters in general
 - To be used as a platform for parish vision/aspirations
 - To be used as a planning tool for the future and to guide planning related matters
 - To help access funding for community projects
 - To be the starting point to preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr. McKinney was thanked for his thorough report and following discussion it was agreed that Sheet P.C. would formulate a Parish Priority Statement – the project will be led by Cllr. McKinney – and will include community engagement.

23/63 .Gov E-mail Addresses – The Clerk was asked to contact the current website provider to discuss what they could offer.

23/64 Mill Lane Sewage – Dr. Stephen Dart from S. Water is to meet with the owner of the horses on land adjacent to the pumping station on Tuesday, 18th April to discuss on-going issues – Cllr. Martin will also attend and feedback relevant information at the May P.C. meeting.

23/65 New Noticeboard – The new noticeboard has been installed in Love Lane – Love Lane residents have been very complimentary.

23/66 District Councillor’s Report: Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- He congratulated current Sheet Parish Councillors on re-election for a further 4-year period.
- He noted comments that had been made to him by residents whilst out canvassing in Sheet:
 - (a) The Queen’s Head – Several residents had queried when the temporary building would be removed.
 - (b) Love Lane – Residents would like more street lighting (Cllr. Oppenheimer noted that if Sheet P.C. wanted to take this forward, they should write to HCC copying him into correspondence)
 - (c) Hedges – Several hedges are overhanging pavements, restricting pedestrian access – he suggested the P.C. write to residents whose hedges are causing problems.
- He was pleased to report that the bin collection issues in School Lane appear to have been resolved.
- Green Waste – EHDC will be in touch with residents who use the scheme once the database is back up and running.
- Bottle Banks – He continues to engage with the Chief Executive and Leader of EHDC about the issue of the town’s overflowing bottle banks.

23/67 County Councillor’s Report - Cllr. Oppenheimer’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following items noted:

- Parking and traffic management services have reverted to HCC from EHDC
- The Chancellor has announced a £200M budget for the national pothole fund, with £6M of this being promised to Hampshire.
- Two new off-road mobility scooters are available for hire at QECP
- HCC has launched a campaign to recruit more foster parents.

In response to concerns about another crash on Pulens Lane, Cllr. Oppenheimer confirmed that the funding for the new traffic calming measures is protected and that the drawings of the proposed scheme will be ready for public engagement in the summer. He also confirmed that he would be meeting with S. Water reps to discuss the on-going sewage issues in Mill Lane and would report back at the June meeting.

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

23/68 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Village Gates on Pulens Lane – Cllr. McKinney will mention this proposal at the next meeting of the PSG.
- (b) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – Details of the equipment being offered to parish councils by EHDC had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. Rather than speed indicators, these are an autospeedwatch device which record data to provide evidence of speeding. Application forms for these devices have not yet been circulated. In the light of this information however, it was agreed to progress the purchase of two speed indicator devices, as previously discussed, as well as progressing an application to EHDC for the autospeedwatch equipment. The Clerk was asked to arrange for Cllr. Biddlecombe to meet up with Steep representatives to learn more about the SID they are using.
- (c) Blocked Drains – Love Lane and Long Road – The gully remains blocked outside nos. 5 & 3 in Love Lane and needs industrial cleaning and leaf sweeping. Long Road is still under water during periods of

heavy rain. The Clerk was asked to write to the local engineer to find out when these issues will be resolved, and to copy in Cllr. Oppenheimer.

- (d) Village Parking Spaces – The suggestion of creating parking spaces on the strip of land adjacent to the Church was discussed, but it was agreed that the land is too narrow and therefore impractical.

23/69 Sheet Assets

The Old Billiard Room – The bat emergence survey is due to be carried out on 31st May and the report will follow shortly after that. The Planning Application is ready to be submitted.

Sheet Common –

- **BMX Track** – Information on health and safety regulations for bike tracks received from QECF had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. The issue is complicated, and it was therefore agreed that the Clerk should write to HALC requesting legal advice on the matter and to seek their advice on measures Sheet P.C. could take to protect themselves from liability.
- **HMG Volunteers** – The group has spent a day at Sheet Common, repairing the dead hedge and steps for which Sheet P.C. is very grateful.

Millennium Field – Cllr. Clear reported that the fruit trees are all full of blossom and the wildflower, milkmaid, has appeared for the first time.

Sheet Recreation Ground –

- **Wobbly bridge** – The most recent Inspection Report had noted the slippery surface of the wobbly bridge and it was agreed that this should be repaired using nonslip strips (Safetread £78). Cllr. Wilton undertook to order and fit the strips.
- **Entrance Gate** – Whilst securing the new gate, it was discovered that the Oak post has rotted at the base and needs replacing. Cllrs. Bird and Forrest were asked to source a new post and organise installation as soon as possible.
- **Scout Hut Path** – It was agreed that a new path should be laid at the entrance to the Scout Hut and Cllr. Bird will seek quotes for this work. The same product will be used to improve the entrance to the Recreation Ground via the Half Moon Pub.

Sheet Village Green – A small stainless-steel plaque will be installed adjacent to the Memorial Bench to explain the Parish Council's input – Cllr. Bird will investigate likely cost.

Sheet Allotments – No feedback has been received from Adhurst Allotments on security measures and/or data retention – the Clerk will chase this information and feedback at the May meeting. Cllr. Forrest has turned the water supply back on.

Sheet Village Hall – ALE Ltd has reviewed the Fire Regulation Policy and confirmed that it remains appropriate for use. The improvements to the side passage are due to be started in the next few weeks, but the company undertaking the work will be asked to delay the start of the works until after the Coronation weekend.

23/70 Correspondence

- The request for a copy of the Council's Complaints Procedure was noted.
- PeCAN – The information on the Petersfield Superhomes Project was noted.
- EHDC – Supporting Communities Fund – applications for up to £25,00 for community projects can now be submitted.
- Hedgehog Highway Project – The Clerk was asked to forward details to the Headteacher at Sheet School to see if this would be something the children would be interested in, if funded by Sheet P.C.

- 23/71 The Annual Parish Assembly – The Annual Parish Assembly will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday, 27th April. Network Rail representatives will speak about the improvements being undertaken at the Level Crossing over the summer.
- 23/72 Date of Next P.C. meeting – The AGM will be held on Tuesday, 16th May at 7.00 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall.

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

3 APRIL 2023

1. Parking and Traffic Management

On 1 April 2023 the responsibility for Parking and Traffic Management services reverted from EHDC to HCC.

Requests for new parking controls such as yellow lines, disabled parking bays and access protection markings will henceforth be handled directly by the County Council. Yellow lines and other waiting restrictions can be requested at: traffic.management@hants.gov.uk.

I would like to ask all Parish Councils to ensure that you copy all such email requests for new controls to me please. I can then maintain awareness of volumes and chase things up should it become appropriate.

You can now report a parking contravention online on the hants website. This is apparently proving to be a popular feature. To see this feature please visit our parking pages [online](#).

From 1 April 2023, new on-street residents' parking permits will be digital, rather than paper based, although current permits will remain valid until the date of their expiry. All new permits issued by Hampshire County Council will need to be applied for via MiPermit, which will allow residents to apply through an app, online, or over the telephone.

Responsibility for off-street car parking will remain with the district and borough councils except for Durngate Car Park in Winchester which is already managed by the County Council.

2. Budget provides £6m extra funding to pothole repairs

In March the persistent wet weather created further deterioration in road surfaces. This has been frustrating as February was not as bad as forecast and Hampshire Highways were getting on top of the situation following a very wet and freezing January. Let's hope we have a drier month in April! I can assure you that Hampshire Highways are working round the clock to assess, prioritise and fix potholes. Please continue to report road defects on the website, we really appreciate it.

In the Spring Budget on 15 March the Chancellor announced a further £200m for the national Pothole Fund to help local communities to tackle potholes with £5,954,400 confirmed for Hampshire.

This is welcome additional funding. But the twin challenges of ongoing materials inflation and ongoing severe weather (almost certainly exacerbated by climate change) means that substantial further funding is still needed. We will continue to make the case to Government for further funding and a multi-year settlement.

3. Launch of mobility scooters at QE Country Park

We have two new off-road mobility scooters available for hire at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. This is a joint initiative between HCC and SDNPA and it is a sign of the growing collaborative relationship which we are building. I was pleased to launch the scooters with SDNPA Chair Vanessa Rowlands on 15 March (see photo).



We want everyone to enjoy the splendour of Queen Elizabeth Country Park and so the arrival of two off-road mobility scooters is fantastic news. It means that grandparents who may have mobility issues can accompany the rest of the family for a day out in the park. For the first time individuals using these specialist scooters will be able to access three tracker-friendly trails that wind through woodland and downland. The County Council also has plans to install later this year a Changing Places toilet alongside accessible changing facilities.

To book a scooter please call QECP on 023 9259 5040.

4. Create a Local Nature Reserve

On 20 March 2023 DEFRA and Natural England updated the guidance on declaring a Local Nature Reserve. It is now much easier for Parish and Town Councils to make a declaration. This is a great opportunity for Parish Councils to contribute to Nature Recovery whilst engaging members of the community of all ages in a worthwhile project which leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come.

How to declare a local nature reserve

To declare your site as a LNR, first you should contact Natural England by email: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk or telephone: 0300 060 3900. You'll be asked to formally declare your LNR by sending a draft declaration document - you can use this [declaration document template](#) (MS Word Document, 26 KB). It must be signed by the relevant local authority committees, have a map showing the boundary and a management plan detailing:

- ownership of the land
- any agreements or partnerships
- why the LNR site was chosen
- aims and objectives
- biodiversity management and environmental education
- community participation, access and visitor management
- costs and funding arrangements

Following the consultation you will be asked to send the final declaration document to Natural England, signed by the relevant local authority committees. To read the guidance in full please click on this link:

www.gov.uk/guidance/create-and-manage-local-nature-reserves

5. Campaign to recruit more Foster Parents

While we have been working hard to reduce the number of children coming into care, the gap between the number of children needing a loving home and the number of Foster Carers available in Hampshire, continues to widen.

In order to close the gap, Fostering Hampshire Children has launched its #OpenYourDoor campaign. Dedicated to discovering 150 new fostering households across the county by the end of 2023, the campaign works with local communities across Hampshire to galvanise residents to support vulnerable children who desperately need our help.

Parish Councils can play an important and useful role in supporting the campaign by:

- a) sharing the messages across your PC social media channels and email groups;
- b) including an article in your local newsletters – see below example.

Thank you for supporting the #OpenYourDoor campaign.

6. Purdah period underway

With District Council elections taking place on 4 May, the County Council is now in election purdah and I do not expect there to be any significant announcements in April. My next report to you will therefore be sent out by me in the first week of June. I hope you all enjoy a happy, peaceful and prosperous Spring!

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

SUGGESTED ARTICLE FOR PARISH NEWSLETTERS

Open Your Door to Fostering

Every 12 hours another Hampshire child comes into care in need of a foster carer.

Children deserve to feel safe and happy. They deserve to be cared for. They deserve the opportunity to work towards achieving their potential. They deserve to have a stable home.

While Hampshire County Council has been working hard to reduce the number of children coming into care, the gap between the number of children needing a loving home and the number of foster carers available in Hampshire continues to widen. For every child for whom we find a home, there are others waiting. In order to close the gap, Fostering Hampshire Children has launched a campaign asking Hampshire residents to **#OpenYourDoor**. Dedicated to finding 150 new foster care households across the county by the end of 2023, the campaign works with local communities across Hampshire to galvanise residents to support vulnerable children who need our help.

Foster carers are kind, nurturing and selfless people. They play a vital role in advocating for young people currently in care, nurturing their physical and mental well-being, strengthening their identities, and supporting them on their journeys. It is also important that local communities continue to do all they can to support current foster carers with the hugely important role they play in looking after the most vulnerable children in Hampshire.

Fostering Hampshire Children is an OFSTED-outstanding Local Authority offering generous allowances and pioneering training and support. Our growing community keeps you connected in your vital role enhancing children's lives. Through the Hampshire Hive, buddies, and groups, you will be well supported throughout your fostering journey.

You don't need to own your home or be in a long-term relationship. Sexuality and ethnicity don't matter. You don't have to do fostering as a 'full-time job,' and you certainly don't need to be 'practically perfect in every way.' Fostering Hampshire Children is looking for ordinary people aged over 21 who want to make positive changes within our communities across the county.

There are some things you do need: a spare bedroom, patience, resilience, open-mindedness, and positivity to name but a few. Fostering isn't always easy; there are challenges to overcome and difficult days, but it's also a chance to build new relationships, learn about other cultures and offer stability to a young person at the time it's needed most.

The support and training opportunities provided by Hampshire County Council are excellent, and the peer-to-peer support networks are second to none.

Fostering Hampshire Children urgently needs more foster carers to provide homes for Hampshire children, from babies through to teenagers, asylum seekers, sibling groups and children with additional needs or disabilities. We need your help today.

Can you open your door and become a foster carer in Hampshire?

Please visit the [Fostering Hampshire Children website](https://hants.gov.uk/openyourdoor) at hants.gov.uk/openyourdoor and download an information pack today to discover more about becoming a foster carer. Together, we can make a difference to Hampshire's most vulnerable children.

