

**DRAFT**

**SHEET PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Chris Wilton

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Sheet Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.**

Present. Cllrs. Chris Wilton (in the Chair)      Alan Biddlecombe      Brian Bird  
                 Robin Forrest (for the first part of the meeting)      Gail Martin  
                 Craig Stevens

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

There were 5 members of the public present throughout the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new Parish Councillor, Craig Stevens who was co-opted at the June meeting. He also explained that Cllr. Forrest needed to leave the meeting early and therefore items that he is involved in will be moved up the agenda.

23/116 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Dave McKinney

23/117 Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June were approved and signed.

23/118 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

**Pre-App for Lords Farm** - At the June PC meeting, a resident had introduced herself as working on behalf of the owner of Lords Farm and outlined details of a pre-application which has been submitted to SDNPA for 5 small family homes and 1 industrial unit. She had expressed the hope that the proposal could be promoted within the context of the Parish Priority Statement (PPS) currently being prepared by the Parish Council as part of a broader plan by the South Downs National Park Authority.

A resident present asked to speak on this matter and expressed concern about any pre-app forming a part of the PPS, since the pre-app is an application for preliminary guidance from the planning authority in which the Parish Council has no locus until a formal planning application is submitted. The resident felt that to give an exploratory planning application particular focus in the PPS would be premature and outside its consultative purpose. Cllr. Drew also noted that Lords Farm is outside of the settlement boundary and therefore considered an exception site which would only be considered for affordable housing under current policy.

It was agreed that Sheet Parish Council would continue to maintain a neutral position on the pre-app for Lords Farm, until such time as it is approached by SDNPA as a statutory consultee. It was agreed however, that it would be appropriate to include in the PPS questions about areas of the parish residents would or would not wish to be considered appropriate for development.

23/119 Co-Option Process – As mentioned above, Craig Stevens was welcomed as a new Councillor for Sheet – the Clerk confirmed that Cllr. Stevens' Acceptance of Office had been signed and witnessed, and the Declaration of Interests form completed.

The Chairman reminded those present that a second expression of interest had been received from Sheet resident, James Plant, just prior to the June meeting, and that James had come along to that meeting to introduce himself (although was unable to be present at this meeting due to holiday commitments) -James is a qualified accountant, running his own business within the village.

It was unanimously agreed that James Plant should be co-opted to Sheet Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to contact James after the meeting to confirm his acceptance of Office and arrange for the necessary paperwork to be completed.

23/120 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared.

23/121 Public Comment –

- A resident asked the Council to consider whether the old B.T. Phone Box on the Village Green could be adopted in memory of previous Sheet P.C. Chairman, Ron Dark, with the suggestion that it be used as a book swap and known as “Ron’s Reading Room”? The Clerk was asked to look at the process for adoption to see if it would be possible.
- A resident suggested that the Parish Council should declare a climate emergency in line with HCC and EHDC and consider working more proactively with residents and local schools to highlight the issue. All agreed that although this is an immensely important subject, it is one that Sheet Parish Council has been actively addressing via various projects on the Millennium Field, Sheet Recreation Ground and Sheet Common. Consideration will be given to how this can be showcased and if more can be done.

23/122 Parish Priority Statement (PPS) – The Chairman reported that Cllr. McKinney is making good progress and has been liaising with residents, schools, and local businesses. He is in the process of finalising a questionnaire to be delivered to every household in the coming months.

23/123 Sheet Village Green –Horse Chestnut Tree – Cllr. Forrest had circulated the results of the survey carried out by Trevor Heaps prior to the meeting and explained that it has highlighted the necessity of carrying out further pruning of the canopy to prevent branches breaking and falling (the tree was last pruned in 2021). Three quotes will be sought for this work to be discussed/approved at the next P.C. meeting.

23/124 Sheet Assets

**Recreation Ground** – The quarterly inspection report had been circulated and findings noted. Cllr. Forrest reported that a new post is needed to stabilise the pedestrian gate at the entrance to the Rec which is not closing properly – quotes will be sought for this to be fitted as soon as possible.

Cllr. Forrest left the meeting following discussion of these items.

23/125 County Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and is appended to the minutes. The following items were noted:

- **Pothole Repairs** – An extra £7.5M each year for the next 3-years has been allocated to repairing potholes;
- **Pulens Lane Traffic Calming Project** – Hampshire are now back on track and pushing ahead with the scheme to slow the traffic and make it easier for people to cross the road. Cycling and environmental improvements will also be embedded within the scheme.
- **Budget Consultation** – As mentioned at the June meeting, organisations and residents are urged to respond to the consultation:  
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/budgetconsultation>
- **King William III Statue** – The statue is due to be removed and repaired over the summer months. It is hoped he will be back in Petersfield Square by the end of September.
- **Agroforestry Workshop** – A free workshop for land managers and farmers will take place in Alresford on 28<sup>th</sup> July.
- **Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire** – HCC will work with Southampton and Portsmouth unitary authorities, 2 national parks and 11 district and borough councils across Hampshire on this project.

For more details on these items, please see Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report.

23/126 District Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Drew highlighted the following items:

- **Broadlands Meadow Farm** – A request for conditions to be removed has been received by the Planning Department and this may need to be considered by EHDC Planning Committee – Cllr. Drew urged members of Sheet P.C. look at this in more detail and let him know of any concerns.
- **Shear Hill Residents’ Group** – Cllr. Drew has been engaged with residents of Shear Hill who are concerned about proposed development at Lanzante – however, no formal planning application has yet been submitted.
- **Speedwatch Cameras** – Cllr. Drew urged Sheet P.C. to apply for one of the free speedwatch cameras being offered to local councils by EHDC – the application deadline is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. A working party consisting of Cllrs. Martin, Biddlecombe, Stevens and the Clerk will meet to discuss the application process in more detail.
- **Noise Cameras** – Cllr. Drew continues to research whether these are now commercially available. He hopes for an update at the Noise/Speed Teams Meeting being held on 14<sup>th</sup> July.
- **Litter Picking** – Cllr. Drew can fund litter picking equipment if this is of interest to Sheet P.C./residents?

The District and County Councillor left the meeting after giving their reports.

23/127 Finance –

- (a) Actual – Budget Figures (April – June) – A summary had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The figures appear to be within budget apart from a couple of anomalies - the majority of allotment income will be received during October, the cost against the Old Billiard Room is for the recently carried out Bat Survey, and the high cost of gas at the Village Hall should now balance out over the summer
- (b) Bank Reconciliation – The June bank reconciliation and copy bank statement had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved and signed.
- (c) Cheque payments for July were approved as follows.

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301482	£168.48	Petersfield Town Council	Bin contract - May
301483	£80.40	Elite Playground Inspections	BMX Track and Recreation Ground
301484	£906.00	Michael Smith Ltd	Grass Cutting Contract + Allotment grass
301485	£157.50	Linda Cook - Hedgehogs R Us	Hedgehog Highways - Sheet School
301486	£79.08	Wel Medical Ltd	Electrode Pads - Defibrillator - V. Hall
301487	£385.00	Matthew Weaver	Re-furbishment of wooden posts - Old Mill Lane
301488	£540.00	Trevor Heaps Arboricultural Consultant	Arboricultural report - Horse Chestnut - V. Green
301489	£41.60	HCC	County Supplies - V. Hall
301490	£520.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking and cleaning - V. Hall
301491	£132.00	HMRC	Tax - Clerk - July
301492	£804.01	J. Hollington	Clerk - July + postage stamps
301493	£5,375.98	Elan City Ltd	2 x speed indicator devices
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,190.05</b>		

- (d) As in previous years, details of August cheque payments will be circulated to Councillors, to be approved by cheque signatories, as there is no August Parish Council meeting.
- (e) Outstanding Actions – Current and Deposit Accounts – The Clerk will submit the relevant application form to open the new deposit account with Cambridge and Counties Bank and arrange for the transfer of money from the Cambridge Building Society to close the account. Removal of

Ron Dark from current signatories and the addition of Cllr. Wilton will also be concluded before the September meeting.

23/128 Planning- Current planning applications were discussed:

SDNP/23/025 84/SUPD	<b>Part 8 notification – Installation for a relocatable equipment structure at Sheet Level Crossing</b>	Land at Sheet Level Crossing, School Lane, Sheet	Letter to be written to Network Rail requesting appropriate screening
SDNP/23/023 22/HOUS	<b>Proposed construction of 2 dormers, entrance porch and general door and window alterations</b>	Broadlands Cottage, Ramshill, GU31 4BA	No Objection
SDNP/23/025 27/HOUS	<b>Single storey extension to the rear, new windows to the north elevation, new dormer to the rear and replacement windows throughout</b>	13 Inmans Lane, Sheet GU32 2AN	No Objection
SDNP/23/026 50/HOUS	<b>2-Storey side extension to replace existing single storey porch. Part 2-storey rear extension following demolition of existing single storey rear extensions. Internal alterations</b>	6 School Lane, Sheet GU32 2AS.	No Objection
SDNP/23/027 66/SCREEC	<b>Request for screening opinion for Petersfield Wastewater treatment works upgrade</b>	S.Water Services Ltd., Durford Road, Petersfield GU31 4EZ.	No Comment

23/129 Gov E-mail Addresses – Cllr. Stevens is researching options for Councillors to have individual.gov.uk e-mail addresses - he will report back fully at the September meeting.

23/130 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Petersfield Strategy Group (PSG) – Cllrs. Martin reported that she and Cllr. McKinney had attended a recent workshop and found it interesting and informative. However, they have raised concerns because it appears that the Pulens Lane/London Road junction isn't being included due to cost – feedback on this issue will be provided at the next meeting of the PSG.
- (b) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – The Clerk confirmed that the speed indicators for the London Road and Pulens Lane have been ordered and should arrive in the next week or two. It was agreed that the working group consisting of Cllrs. Martin, Biddlecombe and Stevens would meet with the Clerk to progress installation once they have been delivered.

23/131 Mill Lane

**Sewage** – The meeting between Southern Water representatives and Cllr. Oppenheimer has been re-arranged and feedback will be provided at the September meeting.

**Road Condition** – Residents have raised concerns about erosion of the lane alongside one of the cottages opposite the riverbank as well as the condition of the road at the Farnham Road end of the lane where the bank has been eroded. Councillors were reminded that at one stage Hampshire Highways had agreed to shore up the bank, but the project has been put on hold due to financial limitations. Cllr. Martin undertook to liaise with Hampshire Highways about these issues and to ensure that the mud is scraped off the road surface to improve conditions.

23/132 Lengthsman – The Clerk will submit a worksheet to the Lengthsman for work to be carried out over the summer to include strimming around the Millennium Field Car Park, cutting the grass verge at the bottom of School Lane, cutting back vegetation around the letter box at the bottom of Village Street.

23/133 The Queen's Head – Concerns have been raised about various issues including the temporary structure, the bins being left on the roadside, and noise from live music events – it was agreed that Cllr. Bird would have a word with the landlord about these issues in the first instance.

Residents present also pointed out that the level of noise from music played at the Half Moon is an issue, especially as there are regular wedding receptions over the summer. It was agreed that Cllr. Bird would have a quiet word with the landlord and ask for the sound to be turned down.

23/134 Love Lane – A contribution of up to £50 was approved towards the cost of bulbs to be planted around the noticeboard and at the junction with Pulens Lane. There has been no further feedback on the request for additional street lighting.

23/135 HCC Tree Planting Project – Cllrs. McKinney and Biddlecombe are working with Emily Roberts, the Project Leader for the HCC Tree Planting Scheme to come up with tree planting schemes to enhance the Millennium Field and Sheet Common.

23/136 Sheet Assets

**The Old Billiard Room** – A response to the planning application is expected shortly.

**Sheet Common** – Cllr. Biddlecombe has initiated talks with the BMX User Group about formalising an agreement with them - to be progressed over the summer.

**Millennium Field** – More information is needed before a decision can be made on whether to install a height barrier– this issue will be discussed further at the September meeting.

**Sheet Recreation Ground** – Cllr. Bird reported that he continues to chase quotes for the new path alongside the scout hut – this project is now doubly important as a child with multiple disabilities is starting at Stepping Stones in September. It was agreed that the quotes for these works should be shared via e-mail as soon as possible so that the work can be prioritised to start before the new school term.

**Sheet Village Green** – Delivery of the plaque to be installed adjacent to the circular bench is imminent.

**Sheet Allotments** – Nothing to report.

**Sheet Village Hall** - The improvements to the side passageway have been completed.

23/137 Correspondence – Items of correspondence as listed on the agenda were noted.

23/138 Forthcoming Meetings – Cllr. Biddlecombe will attend the motorbike and noise Teams meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July on behalf of Sheet P.C.

23/139 Date of Next P.C. meeting – The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall.



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

**3 JULY 2023**

1. Pothole repair boost

An extra £7.5 million each year for the next three years will be spent on repairing more potholes across Hampshire under new plans outlined by the County Leader Councillor Rob Humby in June.

Anyone using roads in Hampshire and elsewhere will be fully aware of the impact of sustained severe weather on our highway network. We are currently fixing record numbers of potholes and road defects – currently around 1,000 repairs every week – but it’s still not enough to keep up with the number of defects on Hampshire’s 5,500 miles of roads.

As part of these new proposals, we have asked the County Council’s contractors Milestone to relook at how we programme repairs so that when a single repair is made, smaller ones nearby are also filled at the same time. Currently, repair gangs are being asked to focus on the defects that pose the biggest risk, but under our new approach we want to empower and equip teams to fill more potholes in a single visit and help deliver stronger roads today.

Our firm commitment to fixing the roads will address the demand for action right now, but it does mean rebalancing the highways budget to scale back how much we spend on the larger planned maintenance activity (Operation Resilience) which seeks to prevent potholes forming in the first place. This is not a decision we take lightly, but it reflects the national picture of sustained underfunding which has led to a decline in road conditions across England.

Despite extra money awarded to the County Council by Government earlier this year, to mend potholes, unprecedented levels of damage combined with soaring costs, means that current funding levels are simply not enough. We are not alone in facing this considerable challenge. The cost of repairing roads has risen steeply in recent years, but local authority highways teams in England are estimated to have

only received around two-thirds of what they need from the Department of Transport to maintain local roads.

The County Council currently spends around £13.5 million on reactive pothole and road defect repairs each year. Under the new proposal, funding would increase by £7.5 million starting in this financial year and across 24/25 and 25/26. Excluding one-off grants from the Department for Transport and other temporary budget adjustments, this will mean a core annual budget specifically for reactive highway repairs of around £21m through to spring 2026.

## 2. Repairs to King William III Statue in The Square, Petersfield

The statue of King William III (William of Orange) has been a focal point of our market town for over 200 years. People from right across the Western Downs have visited the markets in Petersfield Square for as long as William has been there.

The Square in Petersfield is actually owned by EHDC but the statue of William III is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and hence it falls under the purview of Hampshire County Council. You may be aware that William's arm has become detached and requires repair. HCC will this month be removing the statue. The timeline is as follows:

- Monday 10th July: Scaffold erection by RHC (Conservator)
- Thursday 13th -Friday 14th July: Removal of William.
- Monday 17th July: Scaffold down, followed by Heras fencing, installed around the plinth by HCC.
- Repair period of 10 weeks (Provisional)
- PROVISIONAL Monday 18th September: Scaffold erection by RHC  
PROVISIONAL Thursday 21st -Friday 22nd September: Reinstatement of William.  
PROVISIONAL Monday 28th September: Scaffold down, Heras fencing removed.

The second batch of dates are provisional as they depend on how the repair progresses in the workshop in London.



William will undoubtedly be missed; no-one likes to look at an empty plinth. But we can look forward to William returning in September in fully restored condition. PTC may wish to consider organising a ceremony to celebrate his return?

Since Petersfield Urban District Council purchased William III for the town in 1911, it has been repaired at least seven times. In September 1913 Petersfield residents held jumble sales and concerts to raise money to repair the statue. The townspeople filled the Square to celebrate the unveiling of the newly restored statue, which was decorated with laurel leaves. Amazingly the event was filmed and that film is available to view at Hampshire Records Office in Winchester (I have watched it myself).

Finally I would also like to mention that Cllr Robert Mocatta and I have recently met with the Petersfield Area Historical Society with a view to developing a new plaque which would provide more historical detail and context for the statue. We are both supportive of the concept of this additional plaque. Work on this is ongoing. Planning permissions are needed so this new plaque may not be ready in time for William's return but hopefully it can be installed before the end of the year.

### 3. Pulens Lane Traffic-Calming Project

This scheme is the highest priority for the Petersfield Strategy Group and for Hampshire County Council. Cllr Mocatta and I have been pushing this scheme strongly behind the scenes for the last three years and we are very pleased to have a great team of people working on it and strong commitment from the HCC and EHDC Leadership and senior officers at HCC to deliver the scheme.

Raised crossings will form the basis for slowing traffic and for making it easier for people to cross the road at key points. Cycling and environmental improvements will be embedded within the scheme.

An in-person Workshop with stakeholders took place in Penns Place on 14th June. I know that the Placemaking Team at HCC found this extremely useful. A second Online Workshop will be held from 4.00-5:30pm on either Tuesday 18 or Thursday 20 July. The date will be confirmed this week.

The purpose of the second online Workshop will be to show emerging designs and discuss them in Workshop Groups, with a view to the Project Team developing the

proposals in more detail over the Summer. If you would like to be invited to this Teams workshop please let me know.

#### 4. HCC Budget Consultation

A brief reminder that the closing date for the HCC Budget Consultation is 23 July. If you have not already completed the questionnaire I would like to invite you to do so by clicking on this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/budgetconsultation>

#### 5. Agroforestry Workshop

At the Hampshire Forestry Partnership we are keen to win hearts and minds when it comes to planting more trees and hedges on agricultural land. There are benefits to the bottom line because farmers can make extra profits from the timber, fruit and nuts whilst also increasing output. Trees can improve grazing pastures by providing shade for animals and improving soil and water retention. And by providing a natural habitat, trees can naturally increase numbers of helpful predators such as spiders and beetles, controlling aphid crop pests without the need for costly and harmful insecticides.

We have organised a free Agroforestry workshop for land managers and farmers which takes place in Alresford on the afternoon of 28 July 2023. It's a great opportunity to learn more from the experts. Please share this opportunity with anyone you know locally who might be interested. To register for the workshop please follow this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/silvoarable-agroforestry-workshop-for-arable-farmers-land-managers-tickets-668673238657?aff=oddtcreator>

#### 6. Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire

Hampshire County Council has been appointed by HM Government to prepare a 'Local Nature Recovery Strategy' for Hampshire, including the areas of Portsmouth and Southampton. £388,000 will be provided to coordinate the development of the new strategy in collaboration with key partners.

The Strategy will bring together organisations and residents to restore precious habitats, protect wildlife and combat climate change. Hampshire County Council is one of 48 individual local authorities across England designated as leads for the delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and will work with Southampton and Portsmouth unitary authorities, the region's two national parks and all eleven district and borough councils across Hampshire.

#### 7. South Downs Park Protectors is launched

The SDNPA has launched a new scheme which gives corporations a significant opportunity to get involved with nature recovery and staff volunteering in the great outdoors. The South Downs Protector scheme is inviting corporate partners to support the South Downs National Park with a £10,000 contribution.

The donation will help fund the National Park's ambition to create 13,000 hectares – or an area almost twice the size of Southampton – of new habitat where plants and animals can thrive. The ReNature initiative is tackling biodiversity loss by creating significant new areas of woodland, hedgerow, wildflower meadow, and wetlands over the next decade.

Businesses that sign up to the scheme receive volunteering days in the incredible landscape of the National Park, a ranger talk, as well as corporate getaway opportunities at the breathtaking Seven Sisters Country Park.

They will also receive a one-year subscription to the Green South Downs Sustainability Certification Program, which focuses on helping businesses reach sustainability goals.

It would be great to get local firms to sign up and I hope Councillor colleagues will help to spread the word. Joining the scheme will be good for businesses and good for nature!

To find out more about becoming a Park Protector visit <https://oursouthdowns.co.uk/page/SupportNP> or email [james.winkworth@southdownstrust.org.uk](mailto:james.winkworth@southdownstrust.org.uk)

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