

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 10th January 2023
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: Clerk, Jenny Hollington

There were 2 members of the public present.

- 23/01 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Alan Biddlecombe, County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, and District Councillor, Nick Drew.
- 23/02 Minutes – The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 8th December were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 23/03 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – Cllr. Bird declared a pecuniary interest in item 23/11 (new noticeboard for Love Lane) as he is the business owner of Pewcorner Woodworks - he left the room when this item was discussed.
- 23/04 Public Comment – None received.
- 23/05 Planning – Current planning applications:

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| SDNP/22/05276 /HOUS | Proposed rear ramped access from the driveway | 20 Inmans Lane, Sheet GU32 2AN | No Objection |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|

- 23/06 Bin Contract – The bin contract has now reverted to one collection per week for the winter and will be monitored to see whether two collections are necessary in the summer months.
- 23/07 Finance –
- (a) Funding for refreshments for Christmas Carols on the Village Green – This year donations had exceeded expenditure, so no Parish Council funding is necessary.
 - (b) Quarterly figures (September to December) – The Chairman confirmed that figures are mostly on target, although the Village Hall income remains lower than pre-pandemic because some regulars have remained online, rather than resuming classes at the hall. The special rate for the Church was discussed (as this had been discontinued during the pandemic) and it was agreed that now that the Church are back to their regular weekly hire, the old rate should be offered to them from January 2023. The cost of water at the allotments over the very hot, dry summer was thought to be very low – the Clerk was asked to ensure that a correct reading is sent through to Castle Water. The additional cost of cutting the hay in the Millennium Field (£720) was noted along with the capital expenditure (£3,200) for the new memorial bench for the Village Green.
 - (c) The transfer of £75,000 to the instant access deposit account from the current account with Unity Trust bank was noted.

- (d) Deposit Fund Interest Rate – Cllr. Wilton reported that he has investigated alternative deposit account rates but had not been able to find anything better than the current Unity Trust (1.7%) available currently. He will liaise with the Clerk at Petersfield Town Council, to see whether they are aware of anything better and will feed back any relevant information.
- (e) Bank Reconciliation - The bank reconciliation for December was approved and signed.
- (f) Cheque Payments for January – These were approved as follows:

| Chq No. | Amount | Payee | Service |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 301416 | £900.00 | Ryan Kirby | Base for Memorial Bench** |
| 301417 | £660.00 | Michael Smith Ltd | Grass Cutting Contract - December |
| 301418 | £49.35 | Castle Water | Water rates - Village Hall |
| 301419 | £30.00 | Mythic Beasts Ltd | Website Hosting |
| 301420 | £359.64 | Petersfield Town Council | Bin Contract |
| 301421 | £650.00 | Sheet Music | Caretaking and cleaning - Sheet V. Hall |
| 301422 | £90.60 | HMRC | Tax - Clerk |
| 301423 | £773.90 | Jenny Hollington | Clerk - January |
| 301424 | £60.28 | HCC | Supplies - V. Hall |
| Total | £3,573.77 | | |

** Cheque 301416 had been approved by the cheque signatories just before Christmas to ensure that the memorial bench could be installed in time for the Christmas Carols on the Village Green.

23/08 The Old Billiard Room – Cllr. McKinney reported that he met with Stan Male before Christmas to run through the details of the planning application which will be submitted once the bat survey and arborist report have been carried out. However, despite approaching four companies about the surveys required, only one quote has been received, as the other companies do not have the resources currently to carry out the work. The quote from Arbtech in the sum of £539 for the bat roost survey and £439 for the tree protection plan** was discussed and approved, although it was noted that Cllr. McKinney hoped to negotiate on the price of the tree protection plan (as there is only one tree and the refurbishment is to the interior of the building).

** Following the meeting, Mary Bird, Principal Planning Officer at EHDC agreed that a proforma arborist report could be completed by Cllr. McKinney on Sheet Parish Council's behalf.

23/09 Church Field – There has been no further feedback from the landowner – the Clerk will chase again.

23/10 Mill Lane Sewage – County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, has written to John Penicud, Director of Wastewater at S. Water, asking for an on-site meeting. He is also liaising with the Flood Management Team at Hampshire to see whether they have any additional advice. It is hoped to receive feedback shortly.

23/11 Noticeboard for Love Lane – Cllr. Bird left the room for discussion of this item.

The quote from Pewcorner Woodworks for a new Oak noticeboard in the same style as the other 2 noticeboards in the parish in the sum of £1,500 was discussed and approved. Cllr. McKinney will liaise with residents who live adjacent to the grass area on the corner of Merryfields as this would be an ideal location to install the noticeboard. Cllr. Bird will order a replacement backing for the Village Hall noticeboard in parallel with this work.

23/12 Roads and Traffic

Community Funded Initiatives – Cllr. Martin reported that the London Road scheme is now in the works list. Alistair MacAdam had been in touch to clarify details of the style of bollards required at the entrance

of the narrowed Village Street/Farnham Road junction and Councillors unanimously agreed that the slightly more expensive wooden bollards were the preferred option. Cllr. Martin will feed this back so that this scheme can also be moved into the works list.

Proposal for new Village Gates for Pulens Lane – This item was deferred until the February meeting when it is hoped that Cllr. Biddlecombe will be present.

Speed Indicator Device (SID) – Ian Janes has walked along the London Road and Pulens Lane to have an initial look at appropriate positions for a SID and is happy to meet with Sheet P.C. representatives to discuss recommendations in more detail – a date for this meeting will be arranged for the week commencing 30th January.

Flooding on Long Road – The Chairman reported that the drains remain blocked and the road continues to flood during heavy rain. Sheet P.C. has been advised that the issue is on the HCC contractor’s “to do list”. Cllr. Oppenheimer will be asked if he can find out when the work might be carried out.

Love Lane – Correspondence about maintenance issues in Love Lane was noted. -However, the very large pothole in the middle of the road has since been repaired but the roadside gullies and drains are full of leaves, and this is exacerbating the on-going overflowing drain/sewage issue on the corner of Love Lane/Pulens Lane – Cllr. McKinney said he would follow this up via Cllr. Oppenheimer.

23/13 County Councillor Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and, in his absence, the following items were noted:

- The deadline for school place applications is 15th January 2023. Parents of children due to start school in September are urged to indicate 3 school preferences on their application.
- Consultation on the revised Minerals and Waster Plan – The site allocation for sand extraction at Goleigh Barm, next to the Ham Barn roundabout was flagged. The deadline for responses is 31st January 2023.
- Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24 – Extra funding is to be provided for social care and to help support the most vulnerable households. However, there is still a gap of around £50m in the budget for the coming financial year.
- National Park CIL funding – Many parishes in the Petersfield Hangers did well in the 2022 round of SDNPA Community Infrastructure Levy funding. This includes Sheet P.C. who are to receive £15,000 towards the Community Funded Initiatives for London Road and Village Street.

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

23/14 District Councillor Report – Cllr. Drew was unable to be present and had not sent a report.:

23/15 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 is still to be organised.
- **Land Purchase Grant** – This item was deferred until the February meeting when it is hoped Cllr. Biddlecombe will have feedback.

Millennium Field –

- **Bonfire & Firework Event** – There is still some work to be carried out to restore the bonfire site – the Clerk will give the organisers a 2-week deadline.

Sheet Recreation Ground –

- **Improved access to the Half Moon** – Cllr. Bird has not yet had a chance to talk to the Landlord and will follow this up in the New Year

Sheet Allotments – All plots are occupied and there are no current issues.

Sheet Village Green – Cllr. Bird was congratulated on the recently installed memorial bench – many positive comments have been received about how much it enhances the Village Green.

Sheet Village Hall –

- **Heartstart Training** – This has been arranged for Thursday, 26th January from 7.00 p.m. Posters will be circulated to small businesses in the village, the nursery and School.
- **Broadband** – Problems are being experienced since the up-grade – the Clerk will contact Virgin Media to try to get this sorted.
- **Drinking Fountain** – This proposal will be progressed further in the coming weeks.

23/15 Correspondence

- The copy of the letter from Steep Parish Council to HCC expressing concerns over their strategy for dealing with Ash Die Back in the Ashford Hangers was noted.
- Petersfield Post Office – The e-mail from EHDC informing the Parish Council that following the consultation responses, Petersfield Post Office will not now be moving.
- CIL Applications – The e-mail from SDNPA extending the deadline for applications for funding to 3rd March was noted. The Clerk was asked to check whether the improvements to the side passage at the Village Hall would be an eligible project.

23/16 Date of next meeting – The next meeting of Sheet Parish Council will take place on Tuesday, 14th February 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.07 p.m.

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

9 JANUARY 2023

1. Happy New Year

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas break! With 2022 and all it brought now firmly behind us, let's hope for a more successful year ahead.

2. Schools news

The deadline for school place applications is 15 January 2023. Hampshire County Council is urging parents of children due to start school in reception year in September 2023 to indicate three school preferences on their application.

Over the last six years, 98 per cent of parents secured a school place for their child at one of their three preferred schools, with between 90 and 93 per cent being offered a place at their first preference school.

3. Consultation on revised Minerals and Waste Plan

An updated Minerals and Waste Plan for Hampshire will put climate change and biodiversity at the heart of decision-making. The emphasis on the Waste Hierarchy should lead to the emergence of a more resilient and reliable waste management system across Hampshire.

There are site allocations which form part of the consultation. Parish Councillors may have views on the proposed site for sand extraction at Goleigh Farm. This site is next to the Ham Barn roundabout between Greatham and Liss. I thought I should flag this up for Councillors.

The deadline for responses is 31 January 2023. The proposed updated plan and the response form can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/minerals-waste-update.

4. Potential boost to the status of Neighbourhood Plans

On 22 December 2022 the Government launched a consultation into proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework.

As has been widely reported, the Government is proposing to remove the strict requirement for planning authorities to have a 5-year supply of housing, with additional buffers for contingency. This is good news for East Hampshire – it will reduce the planning tension between the 57% of the district which is within the National Park and the 43% which is outside the National Park.

Less widely reported has been the proposal to enhance the status of Neighbourhood Plans such as those which exist in Petersfield and Liss.

The Government is proposing additional protections for neighbourhood plans in circumstances where a local planning authority's policies for the area covered by the neighbourhood plan are out-of-date. First, the Government is proposing to extend protection to neighbourhood plans that are up to 5 years old instead of the current 2 years. Second, they are proposing to remove tests which currently mean local planning authorities need to demonstrate a minimum housing land supply and have delivered a minimum amount in the Housing Delivery Test for Neighbourhood Plans to benefit from the protection afforded by the Framework.

These changes would give local communities more control over planning and I think this would be welcome news for East Hampshire. This is not yet firm policy but it would certainly help if the government were to receive a balance of favourable comments in the consultation.

Should you wish to, you can read and respond to the consultation at this link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy>

5. Local Government Finance Settlement

On 19 December 2022 the Government published the Local Government Finance Settlement for the coming financial year 2023/2024.

On the positive side, there was an additional £2bn of funding for social care in recognition of the unprecedented pressures which County Councils are facing. There is also an additional £100m to help support the most vulnerable households. The referendum threshold for Council Tax increases will be 3% for April 2023 with an additional 2% for social care.

This extra funding is certainly helpful. However there is still a projected gap of around £50m in the budget for the coming financial year at HCC. Looking two years ahead to 2025/2026 we face a projected annual shortfall of around £180m.

Inflation and increased demand in the post-pandemic period have combined to create a highly challenging financial environment for all County Councils in England. Hampshire County Council is in a better position than most County Councils and we continue to have the capability to invest in vital new infrastructure. Despite our relative strength, HCC still faces difficult decisions later in 2023 unless there are major changes to the way local government is funded in England.

6. East Hampshire projects benefit from National Park CIL funding

You may recall that Steep, Greatham and Froxfield & Privett Parishes received £10,000 each in the 2021 CIL round towards village highway improvement schemes.

I am pleased to report that many Parishes in the Petersfield Hangers did well from the 2022 round of SDNPA Community Infrastructure Levy funding. Beyond the Hangers there are also welcome awards elsewhere in East Hampshire. It is noticeable that EHDC has done better than Winchester City Council! The full list of projects receiving funding in Hampshire is as follows:

Liss – Newman Collard Recreation Improvements – outdoor fitness equipment and Multi-use Games Area. £118,000

Marwell to Winchester Bridleways – upgrade network of Bridleways in and around Marwell Zoo and Hotel – up to 1.5km of surfacing and drainage works (linked to future project to deliver off-road link from Marwell to Winchester) £100,000

Greatham Village Hall Recreation Ground – creation of all-inclusive accessible playground to replace existing playground. £90,000

Buriton Village Hall Enhancements – energy efficiency improvements – potential for 12kw solar PV and provision of two fast-charge EV charging points. £50,000

Queen Elizabeth Country Park, near Clanfield – Changing Places Toilet. £40,000

Selborne – Traffic calming scheme – improve entrances to Selborne and widen footways £40,000

The Petersfield School – installation of Climbing Wall that will also be open to community groups £29,000

Access Improvements to the Watercress Way, Winchester (such as re-profiling of land, installation of hand rails and changes to existing ramps) – £20,000

Meonstoke C of E Infant School – To improve a wooded area and bark pathways within the school grounds. £18,000

East Tisted – Highway improvements including review and reduction of existing highway signs, bespoke village gateway signs and new fingerposts) £15,000

East Meon – Highway improvements including review and reduction of existing highway signs, bespoke village gateway signs and new fingerposts. £15,000

Sheet – Highway improvements including reduction of junction with Village Green, various measures on London Road – improved crossing points, and decluttering of signage. £15,000

Twyford – Flood Alleviation Scheme (to fund Phase 1 – construct 115m length ditch to replace 90m section of pipe on Hazeley Road). £8,748.26

I look forward to seeing many of you later this month.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers