

**DRAFT**

**SHEET PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Ron Dark

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
at Sheet Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.**

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

In Attendance: Clerk, Jenny Hollington

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

23/17 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Chris Wilton

23/18 Minutes – The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

23/19 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared.

23/20 Public Comment –

- The very recent correspondence from Stepping Stones Pre-School about a fundraising Family Fun Run on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> June was noted and Councillors’ support expressed. The use of the Millennium Field for the event will be formally considered and approved at the March P.C. Meeting, although parking for the event will need to be thought about by the Pre School.

23/21 Planning – Current planning applications were discussed:

SDNP/22/05669 /LDP	<b>Lawful Development Certificate proposed – single storey rear extension</b>	Hewletts, Love Lane, Sheet GU31 4BU	No Objection
SDNP/22/05713 /HOUS	<b>Construction of porch and single storey side extension, detached 2-storey double garage with fire escape following demolition of existing garage and alterations to boundary wall with new gate to front access.</b>	23A London Road, Sheet GU31 4BG	Concern – The new garage must remain ancillary to the main dwelling.
SDNP/23/00420 /TCA	<b>Large multi-stemmed Ash tree with extensive die-back. Cut down completely to remove the risk of diseased boughs/trunks endangering lives and damage to property</b>	9 Broadlands Cottages, School Lane, Sheet GU32 2AZ.	No Objection

23/22 Lenthsman Funding – Hampshire County Council has confirmed their continued financial support of the scheme for 2023-24 – Cllr. Clear will draw up a new list of work for the Lengthsman to carry out in the coming months.

23//23 Finance –

- (a) The 10% increase in the cost of the quarterly inspections by Elite Playground Inspections for the BMX track and the play equipment at Sheet Recreation Ground from April 2023 was noted.
- (b) Meon Valley Heartstart - Defibrillator Training Session – There had been good attendance at the very informative January training session. A grant in the sum of £50 towards the good work of the group was approved in recognition of their commitment to providing quality training to community groups free of charge.
- (c) Deposit Interest Rates – The correspondence about deposit interest rates (CCLA Public Sector deposit fund and Cambridge & Counties Bank) from Petersfield Town Council, was noted and will be discussed in more detail at the March Meeting.
- (d) Internet Banking – Various internet banking policies for Parish Councils have been reviewed and best practice will be discussed with the Internal Auditor before an application is made to Unity Trust Bank.
- (e) Bank Reconciliation - The bank reconciliation January 2023 was approved and signed.
- (f) Cheque Payments for February were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301425	£120.00	Emma Hales	Replacement cheque - replacement trees for Rec
301426	£646.80	Arbtech Consulting Ltd	Bat Survey - Old Billiard Room
301427	£38.72	Business Stream	Wastewater rates - Village Hall
301428	£50.00	S. Doe	Refund of deposit - party hire - Village Hall
301429	£50.00	S. Harvey-Forrester	Refund of deposit - Plot 71
301430	£50.00	Meon Valley Heartstart	Donation following Defibrillator Training session
301431	£650.00	Sheet Music	Venue Management - Sheet Village Hall
301432	£90.60	HMRC	Tax - Clerk
301433	£760.23	Jenny Hollington	Clerk - February + expenses (postage stamps)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,456.35</b>		

\*\* Cheque 301425 is a replacement cheque, written following the January meeting.

23/24 The Old Billiard Room –

- (a) Bat Survey – Arbtech Ltd has confirmed that there are no roosting bats within the building or the large tree at the front. However, due to lack of internal access to the roof space and the poor condition of the roof tiles, barge boards and soffits, they are not able to confirm that there are no crevice bats within the roof space. They have therefore indicated the need for a bat emergence survey to be carried out between May and September. Unfortunately, this will mean a delay in submission of the planning application and remedial works. Cllr. McKinney was asked to liaise with Mary Bird in the Planning Department at EHDC about whether this additional survey is entirely necessary and will report back. Cllr. McKinney has negotiated a reduction in the cost of the second survey from £831 to £750 + VAT if required.
- (b) Correspondence about the lack of affordable properties to rent in Sheet – especially for young/low-income residents – (in relation to plans for the future use of the Old Billiard Room) was noted.

23/25 Church Field – There has been no further feedback from the landowner.

23/26 Mill Lane Sewage – County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, will be meeting with a member of Senior Management from Southern Water on 20<sup>th</sup> April to discuss this issue. In the meantime, a wider study, including site surveys, is to be undertaken by Southern Water, with feedback provided in April. Southern Water are also reviewing the performance of the Pumping Station in these investigations.

23/27 New Noticeboard – The new noticeboard is to be installed on the area of grass on the corner of Merryfields Road/Love Lane – Cllr. McKinney will advise residents of the adjacent properties.

23/28 County Councillor Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and the following items were noted:

- The recent severe weather has placed unprecedented strain on the road network and HCC continues to request support in reporting issues promptly via their website and for patience as the Highways Team seek to triage and fix road defects as fast as they can.
- NEU Industrial Action – The National Education Union is taking industrial action during February as part of a dispute with the Government regarding pay. Decisions to close schools as a result of strikes are for individual Headteachers to make and will be based on their ability to open the school safely. Schools have been advised to declare closures using the County Council’s emergency closure system.
- Community Energy projects – A grant of £100,000 has been awarded by HCC to Community Energy South ensuring continued support to resident groups, helping them develop and manage community based renewable energy projects in Hampshire. The funding will be available over the next 2-years as part of HCC’s activity to support the county to become Carbon Neutral by 2050.

In response to an enquiry, Cllr. Oppenheimer advised that there has been some slippage in delivery of the detailed design for the traffic calming scheme for Pulens Lane – however, it is his understanding that things are now back on track. In addition, he explained that the policy for the new 20 mph scheme is due to be published in June – however, this initiative will require community funding. Cllr. Biddlecombe stressed the importance of slowing the traffic on both Pulens Lane and London Road to improve residents’ quality of life. Cllr. Oppenheimer said that he shared Cllr. Biddlecombe’s frustration and would continue to push for action.

In response to a query about the process for applying for additional street lighting in the village as per the correspondence from residents at Tanners Reach, Cllr. Oppenheimer advised that, once agreed, an application could be made via a link on the Hampshire County Council website. This item will therefore be discussed in more detail at the March Parish Council meeting.

Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report will be appended to the minutes and made available via the website - [www.sheet-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sheet-pc.gov.uk)

23/29 District Councillor Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Missed Waste Collections – Both the Leader and CEO of EHDC are now involved in this issue which has unfortunately been occurring across the district quite regularly recently– if waste is not collected on the scheduled date, please report the issue via the EHDC website.
- Litter Picking – EHDC has committed to additional litter clearance in an effort to clear some of the black spots (e.g. Stoner Hill).
- Break in at the Community Garden – Cllr. Drew has offered a grant to replace equipment stolen from the shed at the Community Garden.
- Speed and Noise Group – Cllr. Drew is chasing more detail of the medium-term objectives.
- Enforcement Officers – Funding has been confirmed to provide an additional 2 Enforcement Officers in the Planning Department at EHDC.
- Council Tax Rise – Cllr. Drew confirmed that the rise in Council Tax of approximately 2-3% for 23-24 will be used solely towards the welfare of those residents struggling financially.
- Community drop-in – Froxfield Village Hall – Second Saturday of each month at 10.30 a.m. All are welcome to attend.
- Green Grant – Cllr. Drew still has £300 to be used by the end of the financial year.

23/30 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Proposal for Village Gates on Pulens Lane – Sheet Parish Council had been asked to consider installing Village Gates at the junction of Pulens Lane/London Road to slow the traffic, in a similar style to those at the junction of Village Street designed to deter large vehicles. However, concern was expressed that

this may overlap the plans already being drawn up by HCC for Pulens Lane and the junction. In addition, it was suggested that the proposed new Speed Indicator Device (SID) may have a direct impact traffic speed, and that data from the SID should be analysed before a decision is made about additional Village Gates. It was agreed that as a first step, Cllr. Martin will liaise with Ian Janes at Hampshire Highways to seek his input and advice on process and timing.

- (b) **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)** – Cllr. Martin reported on the very positive meeting with Ian Janes to discuss siting of SIDs in Pulens Lane (30 mph) and on the London Road (40 mph). There are several appropriate lampposts that can be utilised in both locations and the Clerk was asked to complete the appropriate paperwork to request permission for the SIDs to be sited at all the locations discussed and approved by Ian Janes. Whilst the Lengthsman can be utilised to move the SIDs from place to place, a volunteer (or two) would be needed to ensure batteries are kept charged and to download and analyse the data to feedback to the Parish Council – it is hoped that the volunteers could be recruited from the Pulens Lane Residents Against Speed Group. It was agreed that two Speed Indicator Devices should be purchased once the appropriate permissions have been granted (one for London Road and one for Pulens Lane), along with four rechargeable batteries.
- (c) **Flooding Issues – Love Lane and Long Road** – The improved weather conditions mean that the floods have not reoccurred recently. These concerns will be monitored in the coming weeks.

#### 23/31 Sheet Assets

##### **Sheet Common –**

- **BMX Track** – The meeting with the BMX User Group had been very encouraging – the group are experienced and are carrying out regular safety checks themselves. The Clerk will liaise with the group to up-date the Risk Register. The Parish Council’s concern about the health of some of the trees was taken on board and the User Group will liaise with Arboriculturists within their group to see what actions can be taken to improve the situation.
- **Land Purchase Grant** – This item will now be taken off the agenda as the grant is not applicable for Sheet Common.
- **Hampshire Monday Group Volunteers** – Cllr. Biddlecombe confirmed that the volunteers will be back on site in 4-weeks’ time to continue clearing the Common and maintaining the dead hedge – Sheet Parish Council’s sincere thanks were expressed for the group’s help and support.

##### **Millennium Field –**

- **Bonfire & Firework Event** – The bonfire site has now been cleared of nails and Cllr. Clear has re-seeded the site.
- **Broken Fencing** – It was noted that the fence on the right-hand side of the field has rotted at the base and collapsed and agreed that Cllr. Clear would purchase the new fencing which the Hampshire Monday Group are willing to install.
- **Horse Riding** – Recent correspondence about horse riders in the Millennium Field was noted. Riding is not permitted at the Millennium Field and if the problem persists signage may need to be considered. In the meantime, if riders are seen in the Field, Councillors/residents should speak to them to explain that riding is not permitted on the footpaths.

##### **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 coming weeks.
- **Entrance Gate** – It was noted that the entrance gate is falling apart and a new one is required - cost £272 – Cllr. Forrest was asked to go ahead and organise this replacement.

**Sheet Allotments** – Correspondence about non-refund of a deposit was noted.

##### **Sheet Village Hall –**

- **Heartstart Training** – 24 people attended the training session and very positive feedback has been received.
- **Broadband** – The wi fi problems appear to have now been resolved.
- **Sale of Alcohol for Charity events** – It was agreed that provided a Councillor is present at a Village event raising money for local charities, the Village Hall’s alcohol licence could cover the bar licence.
- **Hall Numbers** – The Clerk confirmed that the maximum number of people in the hall (seated) is 80.
- **Drinking Fountain** – Following discussion about the complications involved in the installation of a drinking fountain on the exterior wall of the Village Hall, it was agreed not to pursue this further.

23/32 Correspondence

- SDNPA Parish Workshop – Meonstoke Village Hall, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 6.00 p.m.– Unfortunately Councillors are unable to commit to attending this event.
- EHDC Strategic CIL Funding Window Opening - Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> February – 24<sup>th</sup> March– Parishes within SDNPA would need to provide evidence to show how their projects would benefit residents in East Hampshire.
- EHDC Community Climate Action Fund – Grants up to £25,000 for local projects dedicated to tackling climate change are available.
- Voter I.D. required for Elections 2023 – The information about the requirement for photo I.D. for voters has been advertised via the noticeboards and website.
- EHDC Election Process – The Teams meeting being held on 1<sup>st</sup> March at 11.00 a.m. to explain the process was noted. The Chairman suggested that if current Councillors are not intending standing for another term on Sheet Parish Council let either the Clerk or himself know. The Clerk will advertise the May election via the website and noticeboards.
- HALC – EGM – Hybrid event 23<sup>rd</sup> February – The meeting has been called to vote on the amended articles of the Association.
- The Big Lunch – Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May – There are plans for a picnic style village lunch – details to be confirmed.
- EHAP&TC – A remote meeting of the Group is to be held on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March.

23/33 The Annual Parish Assembly – Initial suggestions for speakers were discussed and the Clerk was asked to approach PeCAN to see if they would like to provide a speaker for the event – the Clerk will check availability of the Main Hall in April.

23/34 Date of next meeting – The next meeting of Sheet Parish Council will take place on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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

**1 FEBRUARY 2023**

1. Highways Update

The recent severe weather has placed unprecedented strain on the road network. We continue to ask for your support in reporting issues promptly on the website and for your patience as the Highways Team seek to triage and fix road defects as fast as they can.

Whilst the weather has improved slightly in the last week, the overnight freezing temperatures have continued to exacerbate the pothole situation with many more now appearing, particularly in rural areas. Service demand across the county remains extremely high. Both our officers and contractors continue to work extended hours (including weekends) to try and keep on top of the situation. However, demand far exceeds capacity at the present time and consequently all work is having to be prioritised so that the highest risk issues are repaired first, and this will include the continued use of temporary ‘infill’ repairs. Milestone are doing everything they can to secure more gangs and equipment for Hampshire and when more resource becomes available it is being deployed immediately. It will be many weeks, if not months, before we are back to anything like business-as-usual.

Some of our senior officers attended a briefing session with both the Met Office and the Environment Agency last week. Unfortunately, it looks like there is more unfavourable weather on the way. The Met Office are suggesting that the weather in February is most likely to be unsettled, with the potential for more periods of stormy conditions and some further cold spells.

Heavy and prolonged rainfall during late December and early January has resulted in saturated catchments in many Hampshire areas with consequential surface water flooding (and ice problems) on some routes. The Highways Team is currently prioritising gully/manhole cleansing and ditch/grip clearance in those areas likely to be most vulnerable to ensure that, at the very least, our highway drainage systems are clear and operational.

We are very grateful to Parish Councils and to communities for your understanding of this challenging situation.

## 2. Lengthsman Funding

I am pleased to be able to officially confirm that the funding to Parishes for the Lengthsman Scheme will continue for the coming financial year 2023/24. This follows the extension of the Milestone contract and an agreement for them to provide funding for this.

The Lengthsman scheme is a good example of successful joined-up government in Hampshire and I am delighted that it will continue.

## 3. NEU Industrial Action

You will be aware that the National Education Union is taking industrial action today (1 February) as part of a dispute with the Government regarding pay. Any decisions to close schools as a result of striking are for individual Headteachers to make and will be based on their ability to open the school safely, and to maintain a full or revised curriculum.

As a County Council, we have communicated with Hampshire schools to reiterate the national guidance on managing strikes provided by the Department for Education, and to support schools in preparing as far as possible for any strike action by staff.

Teaching staff do not have to declare their intention to participate in a strike until the day itself. Consequently Headteachers may not be in a position to gauge the potential impact of planned strike action in advance. However, Headteachers were asked, where possible, to ascertain whether any staff will be striking so that they could determine the likely impact on their school and whether the impact is likely to mean that the school will need to implement a full or partial school closure.

Schools have been advised to declare closures using the [County Council's emergency closure system](#), where you will see a number of schools have already notified HCC of their plans to close.

#### 4. Major investment in Hampshire Schools

On 12 January 2023 the Exec. Member for Children's Services Cllr Edward Heron approved a total planned investment programme in Hampshire schools of £221m over the next three years. The programme includes a number of proposed school expansions; projects for special schools, early years settings and children's social care; as well as other improvements and modernisations across existing buildings.

Ongoing pressure for school places is largely driven by major new housing developments. Additionally, there has been a substantial increase in the number of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who need a specialist school place. The proposed capital programme includes plans for new schools linked to new housing developments, and a number of special school projects, to respond effectively to demand and ensure that sufficient school places remain available, in line with our statutory duties as a County Council.

#### 5. HCC extends its support for Community Energy projects

A grant of £100,000 has been awarded by HCC to Community Energy South (CES), ensuring continued support to resident groups, helping them develop and manage community-based renewable energy projects in Hampshire. The funding will be available over the next two years as part of the Authority's activity to support the county to become Carbon Neutral by 2050 and be resilient to a two degree rise in temperature.

Further support includes a revolving community energy fund which can invest up to £25,000 in any individual community project in Hampshire. Any profits are reinvested to support further community schemes. Communities interested in generating renewable energy can find out more at [Community energy | Hampshire County Council](#)

Renewable energy currently generated in Hampshire is only 5% of the total used, so there is a sizeable opportunity to generate local, low carbon energy.

The funding awarded to CES will enable them to train and guide a growing number of Hampshire communities who want to come together to buy, manage, and generate low carbon heat and power. Examples of ways this might be achieved could include setting up a residents' home energy advice service or building community solar power facilities.



6. SDNPA is recruiting a new Authority Member

There is a vacancy for a Secretary of State Authority Member at the SDNPA and the appointment process is being run by DEFRA. The closing date is 20 February. If anybody is interested or knows somebody who might be interested please find below the link.

<https://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/appointment/secretary-of-state-members-to-national-park-authorities-and-aonb-conservation-boards/>

It is definitely in our interests to encourage strong Hampshire representation on the Board at the SDNPA.

7. Grant pot

I seem to still have £900 in my HCC grant pot. These funds need to be allocated by 18 February so please do get in touch with me as soon as possible if you have a scheme which you think could be suitable for funding.

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