

**DRAFT**

**SHEET PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Ron Dark

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. Ron Dark (in the Chair) Alan Biddlecombe Brian Bird  
Tony Clear Robin Forrest Will Glancy  
Gail Martin

**In Attendance:** Nick Drew, District Councillor  
Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There were 2 members of the public in attendance at the meeting

19/213 Apologies – Cllr. Chris Wilton and County Cllr, Russell Oppenheimer had sent apologies

19/214 Minutes – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November were approved and signed.

19/215 Declarations of Interests – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the Agenda – Cllr. Bird declared an interest in item 19/217 (a) as he organises the Community Carols on the Village Green.

19/216 Public Comment –

- A concern was raised by a member of the new Speedwatch Group that the Police appear to regard the London Road as a safe highway. Indeed, no provision is to be made for speedwatch on the London Road, because traffic is going too fast! The Chairman confirmed that this issue would be discussed later in the meeting under the relevant agenda item.

19/217 Finance

(a) A grant application for £100 towards hall hire costs and refreshments for the Community Carols being held on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December was discussed and approved. Proceeds from the event are donated to the Rosemary Foundation.

(b) The October and November bank reconciliations were approved and signed.

(c) Cheques for December payment were approved as follows:

<b>Chq No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Service</b>
301033	£102.71	Contract Natural Gas	V. Hall
301034	£160.47	SSE	V. Hall
301035	£134.40	Petersfield Town Council	Bins - November
301036	£58.87	HCC	County Supplies - V. Hall
301037	£540.00	Frank & Bill	Allotment Clearance - 38a and 2b
301038	£72.00	Elite Playground Inspections	BMX Track and Sheet Rec
301039	£504.00	ALE Fire Systems Ltd	Service and repairs - Emerg. Lights V. Hall
301040	£3,228.76	A. W. Clear	Grass Cutting, planting V. Hall & hedge - rec
301041	£32.50	A. Biddlecombe	Refund - volunteer lunch - Sheet Common
301042	£520.00	Sheet Music	Cleaning/caretaking - V. Hall (Nov)

301043	£84.94	HMRC	Tax & N.I. - Clerk (Dec)
301044	£731.89	J. Hollington	Clerk - December
301045	£100.00	B. Bird	Grant - Community Carols
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,270.54</b>		

19/218 Budget and Precept 2020-21 – Cllrs. Dark, Biddlecombe and Wilton met to discuss the budget 20-21 and their draft document had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman explained that £6,000 has been budgeted for repair of the rotting window frames in the main hall at the Village Hall and £20,000 for the CFI to narrow Village Street to wide vehicles. Earmarked reserves include £50,000.00 for asset refurbishment, £30,000 for the long-hoped for car park on Church Field, £10,000 for improvements to the Old Billiard Room, plus £6250 deposits (allotments and village hall). It was agreed that the proposal to install an electricity supply to the Village Green (considered in 2019-20 but postponed until Cllr Glancy returned) should be re-visited as it might be possible to spur from the supply to the B.T. phone box – Cllr. Glancy will investigate. Following the discussion, the budget proposal for 2020-21 was approved.

19/219 Precept 2020-21 – A document had been circulated prior to the meeting setting out the different amounts which would be received by Sheet P.C. depending on precept decisions – e.g. if the precept demand is kept at the same level as 2019-20, then the charge per property will rise by 1.5%. Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the charge per property should remain the same as 2019-20 giving a total precept of £41111.50 (a fall of 1.4%).

19/220 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Narrowing Village Street – Ian Janes has re-visited Village Street with an engineer to consider the proposal to narrow the entrance to the street at the Farnham Road end (Village Hall side) in greater detail. The differential cost of kerbing or not at the London Road end of the street is also being calculated. More details will be available in the new year.
- (b) Farnham Road/School Lane Junction – The proposal to create a “no left turn” for traffic emerging from School Lane onto Farnham Road, and “no right turn” for traffic into School Lane from Steep Marsh, extending the pavement down School Lane to a tactile pedestrian crossing point, narrowing the entrance to School Lane, is being progressed. However, in effect this will mean that vehicles travelling from Steep Marsh wanting to turn right into Village Street will be directed around the Village Green and there is a concern that this may impact the Community Funded Initiative plans to narrow the entrance to Village Street. Cllr. Martin will write to Ian Janes to ensure that he is aware of the plans for Farnham Road/School Lane and that the plans can be linked. SDNPA have agreed to fund a traffic count to assess feasibility of the narrowing of School Lane - it is hoped the traffic count will be carried out in February. Due to the lengthy timescales envisaged, it was queried whether there would be a benefit in repairing the steps as an interim measure – however, this was not felt appropriate due to the number of toddlers and pushchairs currently using the junction, who are the prime concern and would not benefit. It would also use funds needed for the main proposal, for a temporary fix.
- (c) Campaign to Stop Cars Idling – Hampshire County Council has designed signage to highlight the campaign for cars waiting at level crossings and Sheet Parish Council have been advised that HCC will meet. costs of installation at Sheet Level Crossing – a plan showing where the signs would be installed will be drawn up for consideration.
- (d) Signage at Tanners Reach – The Chairman has been advised that less assertive signage is to be installed at the entrance to the development. Sheet P.C. are grateful to residents for taking on board their concerns.
- (e) Speedwatch – Health and Safety training sessions have been undertaken and volunteers are now ready to go. However, Sheet volunteers are disappointed that the Police have been unable to identify suitable locations in Pulens Lane (towards the junction) nor the London Road (because of speed of traffic). Cllr. Drew said he would follow this up with Cllr. Julie Butler at EHDC as she is keen for Sheet to be involved in the scheme. Cllr. Biddlecombe will talk to Pulens Lane residents who live

near the London Road junction to see if they would give permission for their driveways to be used for speedwatch sessions (if appropriate). In respect of speed on the London Road it was pointed out that speed limits of 30 mph are in place on the A272 through Langrish and Stroud and queried why the same cannot be achieved in Sheet, where speed of traffic is equally as dangerous? It was agreed that Sheet Parish Council would re-engage with Ian Janes on this subject in the New Year.

19/221 Condition of Bus Shelter – The Clerk has written to EHDC about the poor condition of the bus shelter and awaits a response. Cllr. Drew said he would chase this item.

19/222 County Councillor's Report – The County Councillor's report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and was discussed:

- **Consultation on Local Flood and Water Management Strategy** – Cllr. Martin will look at this in more detail and report back at the January P.C. Meeting
- **Digital Library App – BorrowBox** – This app offers library members a catalogue of e-audiobooks and e-books for free and the number of people using this app has quadrupled in the last year. Residents can join online by visiting: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/jointhelibrary>
- **The Natural Health Service** – SDNPA has appointed a new Health & Wellbeing Officer to develop a strategy to harness the health benefits of getting out and about in the National Park.

Cllr. Oppenheimer's report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the Parish Council website.

19/223 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following Items:

- **Flood Management** – Cllr. Drew reminded all present that EHDC has a flood response team if advise is required.
- **Horse Riding Incident** – Following a recent horse-riding accident in Steep Marsh, Nick has sent information from the British Horse Society through, which can be used in educating motorists about driving safely around horses.
- **Fly Tipping** – East Hampshire have recently been successful in prosecuting the owner of a horse livery yard after investigating a fly-tip at Whitehill Cemetery. Nick urged residents to continue reporting any incidents of fly-tipping.
- **Increase in Air Traffic** – Nick has made representation to SDNPA on behalf of a neighbouring parish with reference to the recent increase in air traffic following a change of flight path at Gatwick – he anticipates this will get even worse when changes at Farnborough are initiated.
- **Community Orchard Planting** – Cllr. Drew said that he was extremely pleased that EHDC has supported this initiative with grant funding via SVCT.
- **Refuse and Waste** – Cllr. Drew was thanked for his help in re-starting garden waste collections. He reported that the new waste collection service has been very successful and are able to offer a more thorough service. If anyone is experiencing any difficulties, they should contact Cllr. Drew.

19/224 Recreation Ground –

- New hedge – Cllr. Clear confirmed that the whips have now been planted
- Replacement doors – Cllr. Bird reported that he has received two quotes and is waiting for one more to come in. However, the roof is now leaking and will need to be repaired. He will obtain quotes for this work at the same time and report back in January.

19/225 Sheet Allotments – Cllr. Forrest attended the Sheet & Tilmore Allotment Association AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Various concerns had been raised at the meeting, including:

- Difficulty of using the padlocks on the entrance gates (the padlock on the pedestrian gate has now been removed)

- The condition of the tracks (plot holders requested more scalplings)
- Concerns over access to the site for emergency vehicles (following the fire in the summer)

These issues will be discussed further in January along with concern over the use of carpets to suppress weeds on various plots at the site (following the high cost of clearing plot 38a).

19/226 Millennium Field – The morning of the community orchard planting had dawned bright and clear and the event had been a great success with over 30 trees being planted. There had been a truly impressive turnout from keen and enthusiastic volunteers who had done a great job - Cllr. Clear was thanked for all his hard work in organising the event.

19/227 Sheet Common –

**Refurbishment of the gate** – There has been no further progress with the refurbishment of the gate.

**Tree Works** – Cllr. Biddlecombe reported on tree clearance work carried out on Sheet Common - the help of the Hampshire Monday Group in clearing debris had been much appreciated.

19/228 Sheet Village Hall –

**Main Hall Window Frames** – Cllr. Glancy had obtained a quote for repairs to the rotting window frames to include fitting five new casements to the two rear windows in the sum of £1605. This was felt to be a very competitive price for such specialist work and in view of this it was agreed to accept this quote and for the Clerk to arrange to have the work carried out in the Spring (either February half term or the Easter Holidays).

19/229 Grass Cutting Contract

Four quotes had been received for the Grass Cutting Contract. Three of these had been very competitive but one could be easily discounted due to the much higher cost. Councillors discussed the pros and cons of the three remaining organisations and costs involved and, following the discussion, it was agreed to award the contract to Frank & Bill from January 2020 at a cost of £5000.00 per year - Frank & Bill already cover the Lengthsman role for the local cluster of parishes and although, not quite the lowest quote, they both live locally so are more able to respond to any issues promptly - the quality of their work is known to be excellent.

19/230 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting – The next meeting of Sheet Parish Council will be on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT  
TO  
ALL PARISH COUNCILS  
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS  
2 DECEMBER 2019**

1. Consultation on Local Flood and Water Management Strategy

A new Strategy for Local Flood and Water Management was approved by the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and the Environment at his Decision Day on 12 November 2019. The Strategy will now be subject to an 8-week consultation which will commence in January 2020.

Under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010), Hampshire County Council became the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Hampshire. In accordance with the legislation, all LLFAs across the country are required to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The new strategy includes a “Catchment Approach” and sets out tangible actions which identify what the County Council, working with its partners, will do to improve flood and water management across Hampshire. The strategy seeks to further improve existing working relationships with partner organisations such as the Environment Agency, water companies, Catchment Partnerships and local authorities at all levels of government including Parish Councils.

Parish Councils may wish to consider whether they would like to respond to the consultation. The Strategy is available to read on the Internet at this link:

<http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s40463/Appendix%201.pdf>

2. Hampshire Libraries sees success with digital app BorrowBox

The number of young people and adults using the range of digital resources at Hampshire Library Service has quadrupled in the last year.

The BorrowBox app offers library members aged 16 and over a catalogue of e-audiobooks and e-books for free. Raising awareness of this app amongst the community may help more residents to access the free services. All you need to do is download the BorrowBox App from the App Store (Apple or Google Play) and then log in with your library membership credentials.

If you are not currently a library member, do not worry. You can join Hampshire Libraries online by visiting this link and clicking on “Join online now”

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/jointhelibrary>

Over the last twelve months, the App has seen a rise from 4,668 registered users in November 2018 to 22,912 in November 2019. It would be great to quadruple it again over the next year!

### 3. The Natural Health Service: National Parks

The South Downs National Park has appointed a new Health & Wellbeing Officer, Kate Drake, to develop a strategy which harnesses the health benefits of getting out and about in the National Park.

On the back of mounting medical evidence of the strong link between getting active in green open spaces and wellness, the National Park is devising new strategies that encourage people to make the most of this tranquil oasis for its wider health benefits.

Although still in its early development stages, this is likely to include “social prescribing” – where health professionals will be able to refer patients to benefit from activities in the National Park delivered by the National Park Authority and its partners.

You can read an interview with Kate at this link:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-parks-natural-health-service-meet-woman-looking-develop-mental-health-benefits-south-downs/>

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