

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 11th February 2020 at 7.30 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. Ron Dark (in the Chair) Alan Biddlecombe Tony Clear
Will Glancy Gail Martin Chris Wilton

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

There were 11 members of the public in attendance at the meeting

20/19 Apologies – Cllrs. Brian Bird and Robin Forrest had sent apologies

20/20 Minutes – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th January 2020 were approved and signed.

20/21 Matters Arising from the January Minutes

- Improvements to Cycle Route – Cllr. Oppenheimer suggested that Sheet P.C. refer to the EHDC Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan ([LCWIP draft Technical Report \(PDF 13MB\)](#)) to see whether the route from the A3 to Petersfield is currently included – comments can be made via an on-line survey if the route is not shown. Funding for improvements may be available via S.106/CIL.
- Climate Emergency – Cllr. Biddlecombe had circulated a statement on Sheet’s response to Climate Change prior to the meeting and this will be made available via the website (www.sheetparishcouncil.gov.uk)

20/22 Declarations of Interests – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the Agenda – none declared

20/23 Public Comment –

- Several Town Lane residents were present at the meeting, concerned that they had not been made aware of a planning application for a rural worker’s dwelling at Broadmeadow Farm in time for the Parish Council’s discussion at the January meeting. They explained that only a few Town Lane residents had been sent consultation details by EHDC even though several residents would be affected - the Parish Council had therefore made their decision before those residents had made their views known. The Chairman said it was unfortunate that EHDC had not sent the details to more residents, but the planning application had been discussed and a “No Objection subject to conditions” response had been agreed - the application could only be reconsidered if new information has come to light. He added that the site has previously been the subject of discussions, and the issues raised then had been taken into account on this occasion. District Councillor, Nick Drew confirmed that only properties adjacent to the application are informed by EHDC but that on this occasion an extension to the consultation period has been agreed. Cllr. Drew has also spoken to Simon Jenkins, Head of Planning, to request that the application is considered by EHDC Planning Committee - Town Lane residents thanked Cllr. Drew for his efforts on their behalf.

** Later in the meeting Sheet P.C. confirmed that they would support the application going to Planning Committee if there are policy concerns (see item 20/30).

- A Mill Lane resident said she was concerned about the Ivy smothering an Oak Tree at the Millennium Field – Cllr. Clear confirmed this would be dealt with.

20/24 Planning – Current applications were discussed:

SDNP/19/06021/FUL	Retrospective application for a swimming pool	Lords, School Lane, Sheet GU32 2AS	Objection because of retrospective aspect of application
SDNP/20/00115/CND	Variation of condition 1 of 15/00732/FUL – to allow substitution of plans to allow reduction in size of garage	The Willows, 3 Love Lane, GU31 4BU	No Objection

20/25 Finance

(a) The Internal Auditor’s Interim Report (April – December) had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. The Internal Auditor is required to evaluate the effectiveness of the Parish Council’s risk management and control and governance processes. The Auditors concluded that the internal control procedures in operation are adequate to meet the needs of Sheet Parish Council. Details of good practice were noted, and no formal recommendations had been made. Matters which were brought to the Council’s attention included:

- VAT return – The Clerk confirmed this would be completed after the end of financial year
- Risk Review – To be included on the March Agenda
- Website Accessibility Regulations – Sheet P.C. will need to comply by 23rd September - the Clerk will follow this up with the Website Manager

(b) A grant request from Sheet News for £500 towards printing costs was approved

(c) The January bank reconciliation was approved and signed.

(d) Cheques for February payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301055	£161.24	Contract Natural Gas	V. Hall
301056	£168.00	Petersfield Town Council	Bins - Jan
301057	£520.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking & Cleaning - V Hall
301058	£64.26	A. Biddlecombe	Refund - Hire of brush cutter - Sheet Common
301059	£84.74	HMRC	Tax & N.I. - Clerk (Feb)
301060	£732.09	J. Hollington	Clerk + Expenses - Jan
301061	£500.00	SVCT	Grant - Sheet News
301062	£296.25	Lightatouch	Interim Internal Audit
Total	£2,526.58		

20/26 Roads and Traffic

(a) Narrowing Village Street – Plans are being progressed but there is no recent up-date.

(b) Farnham Road/School Lane Junction – A traffic survey is due to be carried out at the junction during February. The results will show whether the proposed new scheme for the School Lane/Farnham Road junction is viable (and will also affect proposals for the Farnham Road end of Village Street).

- (c) Speed Reduction on the London Road – An accident at the Pulens Lane junction in December has been reported to Ian Janes to see if this affects the accident reporting levels, but nothing further has been heard.
- (d) Speedwatch – The Speedwatch Group has been active on the edges of Sheet and they continue to work with the Police to identify speedwatch locations closer to the Pulens Lane junction.
- (e) Campaign to Stop Cars Idling – The new signage designed by Hampshire County Council to highlight the campaign has now been installed at Sheet Crossing. A poster competition organised at Sheet School proved very popular (over 90 posters) and Cllr. Martin attended a special assembly to present the winners with their prizes – she reported that it had been a delightful experience and the children were enthusiastic and energised about the issue. The winning posters will now be laminated and displayed around the parish.
- (f) Mill Lane – A concerned resident approached the Clerk about whether the emergency services would be able to get through Mill Lane in the event of an incident. This has been taken up with the Emergency Services, but no response has yet been received.
- (g) Blocked Culvert in Mill Lane – This issue has been added to the Highways works list for 20-21 and the work is due to be carried out within the next few months. Cllr. Oppenheimer was thanked for his help in resolving this issue.

20/27 Resilience Plan – This is in the process of being up-dated and made available on-line.

20/28 Condition of Bus Shelter – E-mail correspondence has been received from Hampshire who are in the process of conducting a survey of bus shelters. HCC have agreed to assess the condition of the bus shelter once survey results are known.

20/29 County Councillor's Report – The County Councillor's report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The following items were highlighted:

- Libraries Consultation – A 10-week public consultation is open until 18th March (www.hants.gov.uk/library-consultation) – Cllr. Oppenheimer urged everyone to take part.
- HCC Budget – HCC are determined to continue to provide high quality care for vulnerable children and the elderly and a 3.99% increase in Council Tax is proposed (this will generate an additional £25 million for delivering services).
- Climate Change – An interim report has been developed following the declaration of a climate emergency.
<http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s42787/Interim%20Progress%20on%20Climate%20Change%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan-2020-01-06-Cabinet.pdf>
- Dark Skies – A free stargazing event is taking place at the Petersfield Festival Hall on 18th February between 4.00 and 8.00 p.m.

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

20/30 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following Items:

- EHDC Sports Awards – Nominations are welcomed
- Climate Change – EHDC have grants available for “green” projects
- Council Tax – For the first time in 6 years EHDC are proposing a 2% increase in Council Tax– the additional income will be earmarked for welfare programs.
- Speedwatch – Cllr. Drew is keen to see Sheet included in this programme – he will speak to District Councillor, Julie Butler, about the difficulties currently being experienced with Sheet locations.
- Planning (Broadmeadow Farm) – Cllr. Drew said he has been liaising closely with Town Lane residents about the application for a rural worker's dwelling at the site. He asked whether Sheet Parish Council would support the application being reviewed by the Planning Committee? The

Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would support this proposal if there were appropriate policy concerns.

- Fly-tipping - Cllr. Drew undertook to chase up an incident of fly-tipping next to Sheet Common on the Midhurst Road, reported to EHDC but not yet collected/

20/31 Recreation Ground –

Shed Repairs - No feedback received

20/32 Sheet Allotments –

Ban on Synthetic Carpets - It was agreed that tenants should be encouraged to pile any synthetic carpet from their plots on the open space adjacent to plot 63. A skip will be arranged over the Easter holidays to give tenants time to prepare. The use of synthetic carpet as weed suppressor will be banned at Sheet Allotments for the future. It was queried whether all plastics could be banned from the site and this would be considered and discussed further at the March meeting.

20/33 Sheet Common –

Refurbishment of the gate – No feedback received.

Dead Wood Hedge – The Hampshire Monday Group of Volunteers are continuing their good work by creating a dead wood hedge at Sheet Common – this is looking very impressive and Sheet Parish Council expressed their thanks for the group’s enthusiasm and hard work.

Tree Works – Three quotes had been received for the work required to the large Sycamore overhanging the cottages. It was agreed that Joe Jackman should be asked to carry out the work, as his was the lowest quote and his work record is excellent. The householder has indicated that he would also be happy to contribute to the cost. To further keep costs down, any brash from the tree will be used in the dead wood hedge rather than removed from site.

20/34 Sheet Village Hall –

Film Club – The Film Club are in the process of up-grading their sound system and will be installing new speakers in addition to purchasing a portable P.A. system – they will keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

Photo Competition – It was noted that there is to be no Film Festival this year - however, SVCT are organising a Village Party. Enquiries will be made to see if a photo competition can be incorporated into the Village event with the winning entries being enlarged and used as pictures for the Village Hall. Cllr. Biddlecombe will liaise with the Chairman of SCVT about this proposal.

20/35 Correspondence – The following items of correspondence were noted:

- EHDC – Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan – Survey – All residents are encouraged to complete the survey as discussed under item 20/21
- HALC/NALC survey related to Practitioners Guide – the Chairman offered to look at this in more detail.
- SDNPA Workshop – 6th March – Details were noted
- HALC Annual Conference – Details of the conference on 18th March were noted.
- HCC – Feedback and presentations from the January Hampshire 2050 meeting have been circulated.

20/36 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting – The next meeting of Sheet Parish Council will be on Tuesday, 10th March 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS
3 FEBRUARY 2020**

1. Libraries consultation gets underway

A 10-week public consultation opened on 9 January 2020 asking Hampshire residents for their views on the emerging vision for Hampshire's Libraries to 2025 and the level of need for library services in specific local communities.

As previously reported, at HCC we are facing an anticipated budget shortfall of £80 million by April 2021 and are having to look across all the County Council's services to find savings which can help to bridge this gap as demands for services rise, particularly in social care. The Library Service is required to identify £1.76 million towards the County Council's overall savings target.

There are 10 libraries which have been identified for possible closure, following an elaborate scoring process. None of the 10 libraries identified for closure is in East Hampshire. The alternative to closures is to reduce opening hours everywhere. The proposals in the consultation include options for the community to step in to run independent community-managed libraries.

The consultation is open until Wednesday 18 March 2020. Feedback received will inform decisions to be made by the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage Cllr Sean Woodward in summer 2020. No decisions will be made on any of these proposals until people have had the opportunity to give their views. To take part in the consultation just visit www.hants.gov.uk/library-consultation or fill in a printed copy from any Hampshire County Council library.

2. HCC Budget news

Care pressures continue to top the list of priorities for the budget. We are determined to continue to provide high-quality care for vulnerable children and the elderly despite substantial financial pressures. At Cabinet on 3 February there will

be considered the following additional budget decisions and indeed it is quite likely that they will be put forward to Council:

The proposed council tax precept for 2020/21 would generate an additional £25 million for delivering County Council services in 2020/21 and would mean that Hampshire is still likely to remain the 2nd lowest council tax of counties in the country.

3. Cabinet receives Interim Report on Climate Change Action Plan

Cabinet considered the Interim report on 6 January 2020. The Interim Report was developed following the declaration of a climate emergency on 18 July 2019 and the endorsement of the Hampshire 2050 Commissioners Summary report on 23 September 2019.

Cabinet approved the target of **carbon neutrality by 2050 for the wider Hampshire area** which aligns with national government target. The Cabinet also approved a “resilience target” which is to plan for the impacts of a two degree Celsius rise in temperature. There are three other noteworthy initiatives:

For anyone who wishes to read it the report is available at this link:

<http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s42787/Interim%20Progress%20on%20Climate%20Change%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan-2020-01-06-Cabinet.pdf>

4. Dark Skies Festival takes place in February across the National Park

The South Downs National Park was designated as an International Dark Skies Reserve in 2016. Every year we celebrate this with a festival, now in its fourth year.

2020 also marks the 10-year anniversary of the South Downs becoming a National Park and throughout the festival we'll be suggesting 10 actions you can do to protect our night skies.

In East Hampshire our local Stargazing South Downs event takes place at the Petersfield Festival Hall on **Tuesday 18 February between 16.00 and 20.00**. No booking is required and it is a free event. Activities include:

Unfortunately, I will miss this event as I am taking my children to Paris for half term. I do hope that some of you can attend!

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers