

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 12th November 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall

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

In Attendance: Jenny Hollington, Clerk

There was 1 member of the public in attendance at the meeting

** Although Cllr. Dark was present at the meeting, he was unsure whether he would be able to stay for the whole evening – Cllr. Martin therefore chaired the meeting.

19/193 **Apologies** – The County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer, and District Councillor, Nick Drew. had sent apologies

19/194 **Minutes** – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th October were approved and signed.

19/195 **Declarations of Interests** – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the Agenda – Cllr. Biddlecombe declared an interest in item 19/198 (a) as a volunteer for the Hampshire Monday Group – he left the meeting for discussion of the grant application.

19/196 **Public Comment** – None

19/197 **Planning** – Current applications

SDNP/19/049 48/CND	Variation of conditions 13 and 14 of SDNP/19/02821/FUL	41 Pulens Lane, GU31 4BZ	No Objection
SDNP/19/051 74/HOUS	Single storey extension to side and rear	18 Pulens Lane, GU31 4DB	No Objection

19/198 **Finance**

(a) Grant Applications - Three applications were considered:

- Oasis (Films for the Elderly) – The first year’s running cost of £680 was approved with a proviso that if, for any reason the films did not continue through the year, any unspent money would be returned.
- Hampshire Monday Group (Cllr. Biddlecombe left the room for discussion of this item) - a grant request of £200 towards equipment was approved, subject to appropriate insurance being held by the Group.
- Sheet Anti-Idling Campaign – A contribution of £30 towards costs of advertising and a book token prize for the School poster competition was approved.

(b) Actual to Budget Figures (April – September) – Actual to budget figures to end of September had been circulated prior to the Meeting and were discussed. Figures had been split into cost centres and

showed results for 6 months, budget for the year, and variance. Cllr. Dark confirmed that Sheet P.C. are broadly on budget, with the exception of:

- Sheet Village Hall – Property maintenance costs of £6960 relate to the disabled wc. The balance in the budget of £9,000 for repairs to the upstairs bay window may no longer be required. However, the condition of windows in the main hall has become a concern and quotes are being sought for repair.
- Sheet Allotments – Rents are due from 1st October, so income not currently showing.
- Sheet Common – Tree work still to be carried out
- Recreation Ground – The unspent budget for maintenance relates to the planned up-grade/replacement of the shed.
- Overheads – Sheet P.C. election had been uncontested – therefore budget not required.
- Capital – This sum included £10,000 for the new play equipment and £3,000 for speed limit technology. However, the play equipment had been installed at the end of the previous financial year and speedwatch equipment has been funded by EHDC.

Due to the explanation above, it is likely that the year end position will be a surplus rather than the deficit budgeted for 19-20.

- (c) The October bank statement and bank reconciliation were not available – this will now be approved at the December meeting.
- (d) Cheques for November payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301023	£25.00	Royal British Legion	Wreath for Remembrance Day
301024	£60.00	Brian Pritchard	Allotment deposit refund
301025	£145.82	Contract Natural Gas	2 months gas - V. Hall
301026	£134.40	Petersfield Town Council	Bins - October
301027	£650.00	Sheet Music	Cleaning and caretaking - V. Hall - Oct
301028	£785.07	Jenny Hollington	Clerk - November + exp (advert P Post)
301029	£84.74	HMRC	Tax & N.I. Clerk - November
301030	£680.00	PCC St. Mary Magdalen	Grant – Oasis Films for the elderly
301031	£200.00	Hampshire Monday Group	Grant - Equipment for volunteer group
301032	£30.00	Mrs. A. Saunders	Refund of expenses- Anti-Idling Campaign costs
Total	£2,795.03		

19/199 Budget and Precept 2020-21 – Cllrs. Dark, Biddlecombe and Wilton will meet to discuss a draft budget 20-21 which will be circulated for approval at the December P.C. Meeting. Since taking over from Petersfield Town Council, Sheet P.C. has kept the precept at the same cost per household each year. However, a significant reserve has been built up and it may be appropriate to consider reducing the amount charged. Councillors were asked to give thought to up-coming projects and costs for inclusion in the budget and detailed discussion at the December meeting.

19/200 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Narrowing Village Street – A meeting had been held with Ian Janes to discuss feedback from the Roads and Traffic meeting held in September. In general residents had been content with proposals for the grassed narrowing of the entrance to Village Street at the London Road end and Ian Janes will check the cost of kerbing to help determine whether to go with this option or just to leave it as grass. At the Village Green end of Village Street, the proposals for narrowing the street outside Lion House had not been supported and suggestions made by residents at the meeting were discussed with Ian.

Ian felt that the option for narrowing the entrance to Village Street at the Farnham Road end by extending both the Village Green and the pavement to narrow the width of the junction on the Village Hall side of the green, was worth consideration. This option will be more aesthetically pleasing and mirror the change at the London Road end. Ian Janes will arrange for a Highways engineer to visit the site to look at this proposal in more detail and will report back.

- (b) Farnham Road/School Lane Junction – At the instigation of the Parish Council, a site meeting had been held with representatives of SDNPA, Hampshire Highways, the EHDC Engineer, and the Parish Council to discuss the proposed improvements to the steps at the School Lane/Farnham Road junction. The current ramp scheme was discussed. It now appears that projected costs are in the region of £100k for the ramp construction, £50k for moving existing utilities and a potential increase of up to £50k if more sympathetic materials are considered. This was the first time the Parish Council were informed that costs would be vastly greater than the £50k S.106 monies SDNP are holding that we had earmarked for this project. Considerable extra funding would need to be found for this project to be able to go ahead, and neither Highways nor SDNP appeared to think that there was much chance that they would fund the scheme. Alternatives to a ramp were then discussed and an option for removing the steps and extending the pavement down School Lane to a tactile pedestrian crossing point was examined. This would involve making the junction a “no left turn” for traffic emerging from School Lane onto Farnham Road, and “no right turn” for traffic coming from Steep Marsh on the Farnham Road as it would have the effect of narrowing the entrance to School Lane. It was agreed that a traffic count at the junction would be organised to assess traffic flow and feasibility and a Highways’ Engineer will re-visit the site to consider this option in greater detail. If the project is considered feasible, a design will be drawn up. It was thought that this option would be closer to £50,000 in costs. Whilst this alternative proposal is yet another delay in the process, it is hoped that this will satisfy our safety requirements within the funds we have.
- (c) Campaign to Stop Cars Idling – Posters for the Anti-Idling Campaign have been displayed around the parish. Hampshire County Council has designed signage to highlight the campaign for cars waiting at level crossings - Sheet Parish Council will consider installing signage at Sheet level crossing and will liaise with Russell Oppenheimer re next steps. The Head Teacher at Sheet School has confirmed she will meet with Ann Saunders to discuss the campaign and poster competition.
- (d) Speedwatch – The new Sheet/Petersfield Speedwatch Group have received District Council funding and two cameras and associated equipment have been ordered. In the meantime, volunteer training sessions have been organised and it is hoped the group will be up and running in December.
- (e) Mill Lane - Erosion of the bank – Andrew Wood from Hampshire Highways, has confirmed that shoring up the receding bank has been made a priority scheme for 20-21.
- (f) Love Lane Grass Verges – Sheet P.C. had been made aware of damage being caused to the grass verges by parked cars. On investigation, this appears to be a temporary issue (work is being carried out at a nearby property). No further action will be taken unless the issue continues.

19/201 Condition of Bus Shelter – The Bus Shelter on the London Road requires refurbishment - the Clerk was asked to establish whether this would be an EHDC or HCC responsibility.

19/202 County Councillor’s Report – The County Councillor’s report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting for info. The report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the website.

19/203 District Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Drew had sent through a short report to say that he has approved grants to two Sheet projects - SCVT towards fruit trees for the community orchard and the anti-idling campaign.

19/204 Grass Cutting Contract – An advert had been placed in the Petersfield Post with a deadline date of 29th November. So far, three contractors have expressed interest, and their tenders will be discussed in detail at the December P.C. meeting.

19/205 Recreation Ground –

- New hedge – The whips will be planted in front of the shed once the weather improves.
- Replacement doors – Cllr. Bird is waiting for quotes to come in. It was suggested that he ask DNE Services.
- Scout Hut Garden – Cllr. Clear clarified that it is the triangular bed in front of the Scout Hut that is to be included in the Grass Cutting Contract.

19/206 Sheet Allotments – Cllr. Forrest will attend the Sheet & Tilmore Allotment Association AGM on 20th November to present the prize for the best plot at Sheet.

He queried whether consideration should be given to increasing rents for 20-21 as 1-years notice has to be given to plot holders. The Clerk was asked to find out what other local sites are charging for comparison - this will be considered in the budget setting process.

19/207 Millennium Field –

- FOSS Bonfire and Firework Display – At short notice the event had been moved to Sunday evening (from Saturday) because of the bad weather – however, FOSS had been unable to change the date of the alcohol licence which meant there had been no mulled wine on sale. Councillors who had been at the event also felt that the fireworks had been slightly disappointing. FOSS have done a good job of clearing up the field and the bonfire area is to be re-seeded shortly.
- Community Orchard – There has been a good amount of interest in planting fruit trees - SVCT had obtained a grant from EHDC and will be providing 17 trees altogether, along with other individual donations. All volunteers should meet at the Millennium Field Car Park at 9.00 a.m. on 30th November and bring a spade.

19/208 Sheet Common –

Refurbishment of the gate – The BMX User Group have made a start on the work – the gate post has been straightened and paint purchased.

Tree Works – As discussed at the last meeting, various tree works will be carried out on 24th and 25th November. The Hampshire Monday Group will also be available to help clear debris on the 25th.

A Woodland Advisory Report has been received from Bob Epsom, Woodland Manager at SDNPA following a site visit – this will be looked at in more detail and any recommendations discussed at the December meeting.

19/209 Village Green – The Information Plaque for the Horse Chestnut tree looks very smart and will be installed on the post of the Village sign by Cllr. Forrest

19/210 Sheet Village Hall –

Main Hall Window Frames – The window frames in the main hall are starting to rot – Cllr. Glancy will obtain quotes so that these can be included in the budget

19/211 Correspondence

- SDNPA Consultation – Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document – No response will be sent as Sheet P.C. don't have a stance on this subject
- HCC – The date of the Workshop on Hampshire 2050 Commission of Inquiry on Thursday, 9th January 2020 was noted.

19/212 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting – The next meeting of the Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, 10th December 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

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

1 NOVEMBER 2019

1. Mobile phone coverage receives funding boost

On 25 October 2019 the Government announced that it has agreed a £1bn plan with the UK's four main mobile phone companies to create a "shared rural network" which should banish areas of poor network coverage in rural areas. The agreement is badly needed to address our own "not-spots" and is the outcome of years of pressure from rural local authorities including HCC and local business groups. The plan should provide a practical route to secure 95% 4G coverage by 2025. The four networks plan to contribute a total of £530m with the government supporting this with another £500m once the deal is finalised in the New Year. This is welcome news but we will need to keep up the pressure a little longer to make sure that the promised improvements are delivered.

2. Hampshire signs Mental Health concordat

Hampshire County Council has announced that it is the latest signatory to Public Health England's campaign to improve the nation's mental wellbeing. This is known as the **Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health** initiative. By becoming a signatory, organisations commit to developing an action plan to prevent mental ill health and promote wellbeing locally. The Hampshire action plan will build on some of the comprehensive work already being undertaken to support Hampshire residents with their mental wellbeing. This includes:

3. New round of Pocket Parks funding announced

On 27 October 2019 the Government announced a new round of funding for pocket parks. Grants of up to £15,000 are available for new pocket parks from a total fund of £1.35m. Applications must be supported by a Local Authority who can apply to the fund on behalf of Parish Councils.

Pocket parks are considered to be small areas of inviting public green space where people can relax, exercise, socialise and play. They must be openly accessible for the communities they will serve, and ideally offer open access for anyone wishing to use them. The formal definition of a Pocket Park is:

“a piece of land of up to 0.4 hectares (many are around 0.02 hectares, the size of a tennis court) which may already be under grass but which is unused, undeveloped or derelict”.

They can be both natural and more formal in character (and perhaps ideally a blend of both) on the basis that they either will provide a green open space that also offers habitat opportunities and opportunities for people to connect with nature. The prospectus can be found at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pocket-parks-helping-communities-transform-unloved-neglected-or-derelict-areas-into-new-green-spaces>

4. Hampshire Rural Forum

The Hampshire Rural Forum brings together people with an interest in rural Hampshire. It was re-established in June 2016 and already has 54 organisations, groups and individuals signed up as members. The Forum works to raise awareness and understanding of rural issues and find solutions. The Forum is open to anyone with an interest in rural Hampshire – simply email joanna.dixon@actionhampshire.org to be added to the Forum’s mailing list.

The next “Hot Topic Discussion” from the HRF is about “Putting the rural into Hampshire’s Local Industrial Strategy”. It takes place from 11.00 -13.00 on Tuesday 12 November at South Wonston Village Hall. The Enterprise M3 LEP is working with Central Government to produce a Local Industrial Strategy for Hampshire - visions for clean growth, inclusive prosperity and productivity for Hampshire (and Surrey).

The rural perspective is critical to the success of these strategies which is why Hampshire Rural Forum has organised this session. This is a great opportunity

for us all to contribute, share and discuss our ideas with representatives of the LEPs. Please let Jo Dixon know at the above email address if you would like to attend.

5. South Downs National Park Rangers: Keeping rural crafts alive

Keeping traditional rural crafts alive is key to conserving our cultural heritage. In the case of hedgelaying it can be of immense benefit to wildlife too. The South Downs National Park Authority's **Western Area Ranger Team**, along with the Western area Volunteer Ranger Service and two work experience students have spent the last week and a half creating a new 100m long hedge at Hatchmoor Farm which is between Liss and Hawkley.



Stems of Hawthorn, Blackthorn and coppiced Hazel were ‘pleached’ – a hedgelaying term to describe a partial cut made through the base of the stem. This then allows the stem ‘pleacher’ to be bent over, whilst still attached, to form a low dense living hedge that acts as a stockproof barrier and a safe haven for birds and small mammals.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers