

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of an on-line Teams Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 9th June 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

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

Also Present: District Councillor, Nick Drew
Clerk, Jenny Hollington

There were no members of the public present

20/77 **Apologies** – Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Brian Bird and Tony Clear. It was noted that Cllr. Clear is unable to access Teams as he does not have the relevant resources. It was agreed that in view of the current difficult circumstances, Cllr. Clear should be excused Teams Meetings.

20/78 **Minutes** – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th May 2020 were approved.

20/79 **Declarations of Interests** – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the Agenda – none declared

20/80 **Public Comment** – Members of the public had been invited to send in public comment in advance of the meeting, but no written comments had been received. The Chairman said that two members of the public had mentioned that they had reported potholes via the HCC website and that these had been dealt with very speedily.

20/81 **Coronavirus Up-date** – The Parish Council is awaiting Government guidance in respect of resuming regular Parish Council Meetings and the re-opening of the Village Hall.

20/82 **Planning**

SDNP/20/ 01522/HO US	Single storey and 2-storey side extension	Derwent House, 3 Shear Hill, GU31 4BB	No Objection, but condition that annexe should remain as part of the main house
SDNP/20/ 02032/HO US	Garage with ancillary accommodation above, following demolition of previous outbuilding	49 Town Lane, Sheet GU32 2AF	No Objection but water ingress to the neighbouring property from the roof construction is a concern
SDNP/20/ 01808/HO US	Single storey extension to rear, addition of new dormers to existing garage block, replacement of existing swimming pool enclosure and new glazed retractable enclosure and masonry flank wall. New standalone office/garden room to existing garden	9 Shear Hill, GU31 4BB	No Objection

20/83 Finance

- (a) The May bank reconciliation has been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved.
 (b) Cheques for June payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301096	£36.35	SSE	Electricity - V Hall
301097	£72.00	Elite Playground Inspections	BMX Track and Village Hall
301098	£722.80	Nick Rook-Blackstone	Carpet clearance - Sheet Allotments
301099	£134.40	Petersfield Town Council	Bin contract - May
301100	£98.71	Bill Robinson	Grass cutting contract + grass cutting at the allotments
301101	£134.40	Petersfield Town Council	Bin contract - April
301102	£210.00	Pewcorner Woodworks	Refurbishment Pulens Lane noticeboard
301103	£74.90	Mrs. G. Martin	Summer planting - V. Hall
301104	£460.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking & cleaning - V Hall
301105	£83.98	HMRC	Tax & N.I. Clerk - June
301106	£789.77	Jenny Hollington	Clerk + expenses (first aid + stamps)
Total	£2,817.31		

20/84 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Junction of School Lane/Farnham Road – Cllr. Martin reported that the HCC Traffic Team now await the start of the formal TRO process. The question of construction materials has been resolved with the more “village-like” materials having been agreed, and the formal Safety Audit Report has raised no issues. Cllr. Martin will continue to push for this project to be finalised before the start of the September term.
- (b) Community Funded Initiative for Narrowing Village Street – There has been no feedback on costings for kerb edging as opposed to grass edging at the London Road end of Village Street. Cllr. Martin will continue to chase these figures.
- (c) Receding Riverbank in Mill Lane – The promised visit to the site by the Environment Agency has not been possible because of a backlog of work due to coronavirus. However, Cllr. Biddlecombe reported that he has been working up-stream on a similar riverbank protection project in conjunction with the Arun and Rother Rivers Trust. It was agreed that he would send details of the work to Cllr. Martin who would liaise with the Environment Agency to see if they would approve a similar solution for the riverbank in Mill Lane.

20/85 Website – The Clerk had not heard back from the website Manager about website accessibility solutions – this will be chased and discussed at the July Meeting.

20/86 County Councillor’s Report – The County Councillor’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. It was agreed that the Clerk should follow up on the grants available for vegetation cutting equipment as it would be extremely useful to have extra equipment available within the parish for volunteers working on Sheet Common. The County Councillor’s full report will be appended to the Minutes and made available via the Parish Council website.

20/87 Cllr. Drew reported on the following items

- Coronavirus – EHDC staff continue to work closely with agencies and residents to provide advice and help.
- Fly-Tipping – Increased incidents of fly-tipping are still being reported, even though the Waste & Recycling Centres have been re-opened. Any incidents should be reported to EHDC.

- Refuse Collections – The bin service continues to run despite the coronavirus pandemic. If residents experience any problems, please advise EHDC.
- Cycling and Walking – Cllr. Drew will share details of a SDNPA survey
- Motorcycle Noise Issues – There has been a noticeable increase in the number of both on and off-road bikes in the Ward recently and the noise is impacting residents. Following several complaints, the issue has been raised with the County Council and Damian Hinds MP. Cllr. Drew will keep Sheet P.C. informed of any developments.

20/88 On-Going Issues

Recreation Ground – There has been no up-date on the shed repair from Cllr. Bird

Millennium Field – The new dog bin has been ordered. Cllr. Forrest will liaise with PTC to see whether they could also provide signage. It was noted that during the recent spell of sunny weather, Cllr. Clear has been keeping the newly planted trees in the community orchard watered – the Parish Council’s thanks were expressed for Cllr. Clear’s hard work.

Sheet Allotments – The synthetic carpet has now been removed from the allotments via a skip in the Millennium Field Car Park. In the end there had been enough space in the skip to also take the used sandbags as well as a large bath from one of the plots at the allotments – all in all it had been a good result.

The Chairman has reviewed water bills following receipt of the large April bill. It appears that the previous year’s bills had been based on estimates and, following a meter read, an additional £800 had been due. As agreed at the last meeting, Cllr. Forrest will read the meter on the beginning of each month, so that future water use can be monitored.

Sheet Common – Recent reports of anti-social behaviour have been communicated to the Community Police Team. The BMX User Group have also reported vandalism of their track during lockdown. It was noted that the BMX track is now back in use – the Clerk will send Coronavirus safety guidance to the group.

Sheet Village Hall – A draft Risk Assessment had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. The wording for the General Policy was agreed and it was suggested that “Pandemic” should be added to the list of risks. It was noted that there are some minor items to be addressed, e.g. fixings for the fire extinguishers and notices to be installed. A new first aid kit and an accident book are in place. The PAT testing will be reorganised for the coming weeks. In general, the Village Hall was found to be a well-run establishment!

Village Green – Problems with the amount of litter on the Village Green have been reported in the last few weeks but it is thought that this is probably a temporary issue (due to the recent sunny weather, and the take-away pizza service being offered by the Queen’s Head during lockdown). It was agreed that the landlord at the Queen’s Head should be asked to provide a refuse bin for the extra rubbish, but also noted that it is hoped that the Pub and garden will be allowed to re-open shortly and this should resolve the problem.

20/89 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting – The next meeting of Sheet Parish Council will be an on-line Teams Meeting and will be held on Tuesday, 14th July 2020 at 7.30 p.m. Details of how to join the meeting will be available via the agenda.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

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

1 JUNE 2020

1. Schools update

As you will be aware, Hampshire schools have remained open for vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers throughout the Covid-19 crisis. We are very grateful to the teachers and support staff for all that they have done. Each day in April and May there were around 7,000 pupils attending Hampshire schools.

As of today, schools are now welcoming more children back. All schools were sent detailed guidance by the Department for Education; Headteachers and their staff have analysed that advice and undertaken careful planning to make sure they can open safely. HCC's School Improvement Team has been actively supporting all Headteachers in the task of preparing risk assessments. HCC officers have also drawn together a series of FAQs and checklists to help Headteachers think through the practicalities of opening and these have been well received.

Precise arrangements vary from school to school but the phased return will hopefully see the majority of children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back at school in smaller class sizes this month. The Government has previously indicated that it will only be *recommending* to parents that they send their children back to schools when they partially re-open. There will be no compulsion for parents to do so and therefore the Government has indicated that parents will not be fined if they choose not to send their children back.

2. Opening hours of HWRCs extended

The HWRCs did reopen in the week of 11 May 2020 as envisaged in my last report. Since the HWRCs reopened, the queues have unfortunately impacted on local people trying to get to work as well as having a detrimental impact on the

ability of businesses nearby to get back up and running. Social distancing means that less people are allowed on site at any one time, so the queues are likely to be around for a while.

I am very conscious that there is a large backlog of waste which needs to be deposited, since many people have been clearing out attics and undertaking DIY whilst under lockdown.

In response to this unprecedented demand, since Saturday 23 May, I am pleased to report that HWRCs have been open until 6pm every day so the hours are now 10.00 – 18.00.

HCC is urging everyone to follow traffic management directions and queue responsibly. In particular the “Do not queue beyond this point” signs are important to prevent people waiting but not getting in, which is obviously a frustrating thing to happen. I would also urge people to consider if they really do need to take their waste to an HWRC at this time. If the waste can be safely stored for another month or so, this would help to ease the current congestion problems.

3. Country Parks car parks have reopened

To enable residents to enjoy the countryside and look after their mental and physical health, Hampshire’s Country Park car parks are open to visitors. All country parks (excluding Staunton Farm and Manor Farm attractions) are operating normal opening hours and normal parking rates. Toilets are open but **cafes, shops, visitor centres and play areas remain closed** until further notice and in line with current government guidance. We are hopeful that it will be possible to reopen the cafes and shops in July.

4. Priority Cutting List

Parish Councils will (I believe) have been contacted by the Countryside Service about arrangements for cutting the Priority routes this year.

The increased popularity of Rights of Way during the pandemic means that our network is busier than ever and needs good maintenance, particularly as we are now moving into the heavy seasonal growth period. Unfortunately, the recommissioning of the cutting contract has been affected by Covid-19, with

contractors unable to start work until mid/late June. Consequently, the Countryside Service has decided to deliver the work directly, for this season only, rather than face the further delays and impacts associated with the re-procurement process. We are now mobilising our teams and will be working closely with Parish and Town Councils to ensure that the network of paths is open to our communities.

On this issue, I wanted to mention one more thing. Grants are currently available from the HCC Rural Communities Fund to Parishes who wish to purchase equipment and take charge of their priority routes with teams of local volunteers.

I hope some Parishes will take advantage of this opportunity. In many years, as we know all too well, one annual cut to priority routes is simply not enough. We have had little rain so far this Summer so growth has not been too severe but next year could be different. It would be great to have more resilience in the community to keep key routes open in years where we face a lot of overgrowth. We all know how important these routes are to the community.

5. South Downs sets up Recovery Fund

A COVID-19 Recovery Fund of £375,000 has been approved by the South Downs National Park Authority to help support local communities and step up the National Park's role as a 'natural health service'. Members of the National Park Authority voted to approve the release of funds at an Authority meeting.

The fund, from earmarked reserves, will be used to help support projects across the National Park as organisations and businesses make steps to move into the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also help to maximise opportunities for people to connect with the National Park and its many health and wellbeing benefits.

The funding has been split into five priority themes: landscape and biodiversity, cultural heritage, sustainable access, connecting people and communities, and economy and tourism, with an additional, smaller amount going towards engaging more people with the National Park during this unprecedented time.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers