

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 9th July 2019 at 7.30 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall

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

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

There were 3 members of the public in attendance at the meeting

19131 **Apologies** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Robin Forrest and County Cllr. Russell Oppenheimer.

19/132 **Minutes** – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th June were approved and signed.

19/133 **Declarations of Interests** – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the Agenda – none declared

19/134 **Public Comment** –

- It was noted that the South Downs Local Plan has been adopted and will have implications for the land behind Pulens Lane. This issue will be discussed further at the September meeting.

19/135 **Planning** –

Current planning applications:

SDNP/19/025 07/HOUS	Loft conversion to provide additional accommodation in roof and conversion of existing garage to annexe	8 London Road, Sheet GU31 4BD	No Objection to conversion of main building but objection to conversion of garage to dwelling
SDNP/19/030 81/CND	Variation of condition 1 of SDNP/17/00574/FUL to allow substitution of plans to reduce the width of the belmouth of the new access way	Land North of 27a London Road, Sheet GU31 4BG	No Objection but defer to Highways' advice
SDNP/19/028 21/FUL	Detached 3-bedroom dwelling with new vehicular access, following demolition of existing detached dwelling	41 Pulens Lane, Sheet GU31 4BZ	No Objection but defer to Highways re the entrance to Pulens Lane

Appeal Notification – SDNP/18/01456/FUL – Extension of the Tennis and Netball Court Footprint at Churcher's College – no further comment made.

19/136 **Finance**

- The June bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved and signed.
- Cheques for July payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
300982	£134.40	Petersfield Town Council	Bins
300983	£119.60	East Hants District Council	Election admin costs
300984	£2,162.60	A.W. Clear	Grass cutting contract & planting V Hall & Green
300985	£178.35	DNE Services	Emergency repair - broken glass at noticeboard
300986	£520.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking/cleaning - V. Hall
300987	£87.74	HMRC	Tax and NI - Clerk
300988	£802.75	J. Hollington	July + expenses (stamps/recorded delivery)
300989	£42.53	Contract Natural Gas	Gas - V. Hall
Total	£4,047.97		

- (c) As the Parish Council don't meet in August, it was agreed that cheques for August payment will be approved by the finance committee and reported at the September meeting.

19/137 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Village Street – Basic plans showing proposals for width restrictions to either end of Village Street to prevent large vehicles accessing the lane had been sent through from Highways and were discussed. All agreed that road markings alone would not have an effect in deterring vehicles from turning into the lane and that the more expensive option of build-outs would be necessary - this would mean a cost implication for the parish. Cllr. Drew said that he would be pleased to allocate funds to the scheme and he thought Cllr. Oppenheimer would be prepared to consider grant funding this project. It was agreed to move to the next stage of the Community Funded Initiative process and hold a public meeting to discuss the proposals. This meeting will be held at 6.00 p.m. on 4th September at Sheet Village Hall.
- (b) Proposed TRO for Inmans Lane/Town Lane/Village Street – A report on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order to deal with parking issues in Inmans Lane, Village Street and Town Lane had been received from EHDC and was discussed. Concerns were expressed that this scheme could overlap the CFI proposals for Village Street as above, but it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to hold up the TRO because of the safety issues involved. Residents will be consulted on the proposals via public notices and should respond to EHDC directly.
- (c) Pulens Lane – E-mail correspondence from Petersfield Town Council reference an on-line debate about dangerous road junctions (of which Pulens Lane came out top) and proposing a report to provide a holistic vehicle, cycle and pedestrian plan for Petersfield's main traffic routes was discussed. Sheet P.C. confirmed they would be strongly in favour of improvements to the junctions and will ask to be kept informed of any meetings to discuss this issue.
- (d) Speedwatch – It was agreed to incorporate a demonstration and talk about the speedwatch scheme currently running in Steep and Stroud into the Roads and Traffic meeting being organised for 4th September.
- (e) Mill Lane - Erosion of the bank – The Chairman met with the contractor taking the borehole samples - the work is due to be undertaken imminently
- (f) Signage at Tanner's Reach – The Clerk has been unable to contact the Chairman of the Residents' Association. It was agreed to follow up this item via the Compliance Officer at EHDC.

19/138 County Councillor's Report – Although unable to be present, the County Councillor's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. Items highlighted included the Climate Emergency declared by HCC who have pledged a bold Action Plan, and the on-line Budget Consultation – www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget. Cllr. Oppenheimer's full report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the Parish Council website (www.sheetparishcouncil.gov.uk)

19/139 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- **EHDC Planning Committee** – Cllr. Drew highlighted changes to the process for Parish Council’s requesting contentious planning applications are considered by Planning Committee rather than the Case Officer alone. Decisions on whether applications should go to Planning Committee are now made by the Head of Planning and the Portfolio Holder.
- **Enforcement** - Cllr. Drew highlighted the work of the litter enforcement team and said that if there are any known hotspots in the parish, officers are able to attend.
- **Resident Campaign** – Cllr. Drew has been contacted by a Sheet resident campaigning to reduce the number of people who leave their ignitions running whilst waiting for their children to come out of School. Cllr. Drew confirmed he is happy to support the campaign and has asked EHDC to up-date their Environmental Policy accordingly.

19/140 Data Protection – HALC have confirmed that they are unable to help provide the hants.gov.uk e-mail to parish councils. The Chairman reminded Councillors to copy all correspondence via the Clerk.

19/141 Lengthsman Work – Cllr. Clear outlined the work completed within the parish by the Lengthsman which includes clearing the footpath at Sheet Common, cutting the hedges at the corner of School Lane and the top of Town Lane and clearing the bank opposite the Church. Work still to be carried out includes resurfacing the footpath from Pulens Lane to Old Mill Lane and hedges at the Millennium Field.

19/142 Recreation Ground – The shed is in poor condition and needs to either be re-clad or a new shed purchased. Various options and quotes had been sought and were discussed. It was agreed that Cllrs. Bird and Clear should investigate an option for a shed at £3339 (to include installation) and provided it is good quality and robust, they should go ahead with the purchase as soon as possible.

19/143 Noticeboard at Pulens Lane – The broken glass frontage of the noticeboard at Pulens Lane has now been repaired. Concern was expressed at the damage being caused around the parish by local youths – there have also been problems at the Recreation Ground where youngsters have damaged equipment belonging to Stepping Stones and to the new light fittings.

19/144 Millennium Field – Cllr. Clear has marked out an area for trees for the new community orchard and prepared an article for the Sheet News to advertise the project and request fruit trees from community groups and individuals. Further consideration will need to be given to how the trees will be watered (working party/hose from the allotments?) in due course.

19/145 Sheet Common – There has been no up-date on the installation of the new gate by the BMX User Group – this item will be deferred until Cllr. Forrest returns.

19/146 Village Green – Wording for an information plaque giving a short history of the Horse Chestnut Tree was discussed and approved. Cllr. Forrest will be asked to obtain a quote for a metal plaque to fit on the back of the seat under the tree– approximately A4 size.

19/147 Sheet Village Hall –

Management Committee – Now that Vaughan Clarke has stood down from the Parish Council, there is a vacancy on the management committee for the Village Hall. Cllr. Wilton agreed to take Vaughan’s place on the Committee alongside Cllr. Martin (and Glancy).

Bay Window – The problems with the window seem to be getting worse and it was queried whether a Surveyor should be asked to investigate further. Cllr. Wilton agreed to look into the issue.

Safety Flooring for the refurbished disabled w.c. – Two local companies have provided quotes for various options of safety flooring. This item was delegated to the Management Committee to come to a decision on which option was most appropriate.

Maintenance Issues – The repair of the upstairs cupboard (where the glass has broken) was approved as was the re-decoration of the back corridor to the stage and other minor works (installation of pictures and coat hooks to the upstairs room). These works will be carried out over the summer while the hall is closed for the refurbishment of the disabled w.c.

Water Fountain – A resident had asked the Parish Council to consider installing a water fountain outside the Village Hall for environmental reasons (saving on plastic bottles) – however, it was queried how much use this would have against the cost of installation and the Parish Council decided against following up on this.

19/148 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting – The next meeting of the Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, 10th September 2019 at 7.30 p.m. The Roads and Traffic Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 4th September at 6.00 p.m.

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

1 JULY 2019

1. HCC declares a **Climate Emergency** and pledges a bold **Action Plan**

The new Cabinet of Hampshire County Council met for the first time on 17 June. Top of the agenda was the issue of climate change and four deputations were heard from local activists. It was acknowledged that HCC had a strong track record on reducing emissions. The Leader Cllr Keith Mans proposed that the Cabinet agree to propose to Full Council that they sign up to the motion to declare a climate emergency. A bold and deliverable Action Plan will be developed to reduce emissions further and faster. This Action Plan would take into account the emerging recommendations of the Hampshire 2050 Commission which had looked carefully at climate change issues and was due to issue its final report and recommendations in the coming month.

Hampshire County Council has been tackling climate change issues for many years, both in terms of making Hampshire more resilient to changes already coming, and also to mitigate future climate change through reducing carbon emissions. This includes reducing carbon consumption by over 40% since 2010, seven years ahead of target; reducing energy costs in its buildings by £30 million since 2010; installing photovoltaic panels on County Council owned buildings, and delivering energy savings of £240,000 each year through street-lighting operations. By the end of the year, 80 new electric car charging points will be installed across Hampshire, and a programme is underway to convert the County Council's small vehicle fleet to electric vehicles.

2. HCC Budget Consultation

Hampshire County Council is asking for residents' and stakeholders' views on ways to balance its budget, in response to growing demands on council services and continuing pressures on local government funding. The consultation can be completed online: www.hants.gov.uk/balancingthebudget

By April 2021, the County Council will be facing an anticipated budget shortfall of £80 million. With less money available and growing demand for council services, decisions will need to be made about what it can and cannot provide in the future. HCC is required by law to deliver a balanced budget and therefore cannot plan to spend more than is available.

The County Council would like to hear your views on the following options for balancing its budget, as well as any alternatives that you may wish to propose:

- introducing and increasing charges for some services
- encouraging central Government to make legislative changes
- generating additional income
- continuing to use the County Council's reserves prudently
- reducing and changing services
- increasing Council Tax
- changing local government arrangements in Hampshire.

Any changes to specific services will be subject to further, more detailed consultation, at a later date.

3. Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme

The UK Government has officially launched a new £200m Rural Gigabit Connectivity (RGC) programme, which was originally announced during the 2018 Budget and aims to encourage an “outside-in” approach to building new ultrafast broadband ISP networks by focusing on helping to connect rural areas.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be in a rural area (as classified by DEFRA)
- Only group projects are allowed (a group being 2 or more residents or businesses).
- A group of residents or businesses or a combination of both can apply
- Applicants must have current internet speeds below 30Mbps

Funding available

- £3,500 is available per SME
- £1,500 is available per resident

- The voucher is to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections only.

For more information see <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/rural/> where there is also a postcode checker to find out if your area is eligible.

4. HCC Childrens Services rated “outstanding”

Following a thorough inspection, OFSTED has rated Hampshire County Council’s Childrens Services as “outstanding” across all areas. This is a rare achievement and a tribute to the work of all the staff who work hard every day to ensure the best possible outcomes for vulnerable children.

In an unconnected but interesting development, the Government announced in June that HCC is to undertake the role of Commissioner for Children’s Services at West Sussex County Council. This follows West Sussex’s “Inadequate” judgement in their recent Ofsted inspection. The Commissioner role will be covered by a Statutory Direction from the Minister and will be fully funded by the DfE. It will be a challenging task given the severity of the Ofsted judgement in this case.

5. National Park Entry Signage project completes first phase



Bespoke signs that reflect the unique heritage of the South Downs and create a sense of arrival have been installed at 19 pilot sites at specially chosen locations at, or near, the National Park’s borders across Sussex and Hampshire. The signs will help people know that they are in a unique landscape that has been designated for the whole nation and deserves special care and attention. Every location has been carefully selected at key entry points to the stunning landscape and each sign’s size and design have been tailor-made to fit its surroundings.

The signs are made from iron or a mixture of wood and iron – reflecting the history of iron work in the South Downs during the 17th and 18th centuries and that the South Downs has the most woodland of any English National Park. The sweet chestnut wood used in the signs has been locally sourced from the Stansted Estate by English Woodlands. The white lettering reflects the iconic chalk landscape of the South Downs.

The public’s response to the signs is an important part of assessing the success of the pilot phase. After the first batch of signs were installed in early spring, we issued a press release which resulted in 12 pieces of separate media coverage in print media across the three counties, with a reach of over 220,000 people. The coverage was all positive. At the same time we went out proactively on social media and asked people “What do you think of our new bespoke entry signs?”. We had a large response with over 1450 liking the post and well over 100 comments. The majority of the comments received have been extremely positive comments on the design, their appropriateness for this important landscape and a few comments referring to it being ‘about time’.

We have been approached by a number of parishes excited by the project wishing to have an entry sign or a parish sign for their community. There are now 11 variations of sign so there is one for every location. Within Petersfield Hangers I hope that East Tisted and West Tisted will receive signs in due course.



RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers