

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 8th September at Sheet Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

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

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

There were no members of the public present

20/112 Apologies – None received.

20/113 Minutes – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th August 2020 were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

20/114 Declarations of Interests – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the Agenda – none declared.

20/115 Public Comment –

- The new road markings/dragon's teeth on Pulens Lane at the crossroads with Heath Road/Durford Road, following a serious road accident in August, were noted. In view of the speed of cars on that stretch of road, it was felt that harder measures are required to be effective. Cllr. Oppenheimer confirmed that the junction is on the list for further consideration - possibly a pinch point or raised crossing – and that S.106 monies would be available for further work from Petersfield funding.

20/116 Planning – The application to vary the Premises Licence at the Queens Head was considered. It was agreed that providing the detailed terms of the agreement do not extend the current hours, there was no objection to the plans.

20/117 Finance

- (a) The August bank reconciliation had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved and signed.
- (b) Cheques for September payment were approved as follows:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301121	£32.00	Russell Cleaver	Refund - Iron stakes for Berme
301128	£40.62	Hampshire County Council	County Supplies - Village Hall
301129	£151.20	Petersfield Town Council	Bin Contract
301130	£122.51	SSE	Village Hall electricity
301131	£40.00	Information Commissioner	Data Protection
301132	£54.00	Perspective Facilities Ltd	PAT testing - V. Hall
301133	£550.00	Honey Tree Specialists Ltd	Horse Chestnut Tree - Report
301134	£540.00	Gifford Tree Service	Horse Chestnut Tree - Sonic Survey

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301135	£72.00	Elite Playground Inspections	BMX track and Recreation Ground
301136	£600.00	Bill Robinson	Grass Cutting contract
301137	£1,130.65	Zurich Municipal	Insurance
301138	£460.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking/cleaning - V. Hall
301139	£95.49	HMRC	Tax, N.I. and Emp Cont - Clerk
301140	£764.61	J. Hollington	Salary & expenses
301141	£43.20	Alpha Graphics	Signage for Millennium Field
Total	£4,696.28		

- (c) Receipt of SDNPA S.106 monies in the sum of £4693 towards the refurbishment of the disabled toilet and the Government coronavirus small business grant of £10,000 for the Village Hall were acknowledged.
- (d) The Chairman confirmed that the Pensions Regulator's legal requirements had been complied with in respect of the Clerk's salary.

20/118 Roads and Traffic

- (a) School Lane/Farnham Road Junction – The Traffic Regulation Order has now been advertised with a consultation deadline date of 4th September – no feedback has been received yet. In the meantime, Alex Hawkins, the Project Engineer, has been advised by a HCC Client Manager, that due to the change in highway, there will be a need for a commuted sum to be put forward for the maintenance implications upon completion – Sheet P.C. will fight this on the grounds that the scheme replaces very old and dangerous steps. Cllr. Oppenheimer is also aware of the issue and liaising with the relevant department on behalf of Sheet.
- (b) Community Funded Initiative to narrow Village Street – Nothing further has been heard - Cllr. Martin will chase Alistair Macadam for an update.
- (c) Receding Riverbank– The small area of erosion on the riverbank has been repaired by the Hampshire Monday Group – the Chairman asked that the Parish Council's thanks be recorded to Russell Cleaver and Alan Biddlecombe who carried out the repair.
- (d) Drainage issues in Mill Lane – There has been some progress and the drain has been jetted from both ends. Further work will be required, however.

20/119 County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer's monthly report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. Items highlighted at the meeting included:

- Green recovery boost from Active Travel measures
- The Back to School Safely campaign
- GCSE and A Level results
- Career guidance for young people
- Library consultation up-date
- Financial position of HCC

The full report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the website.

20/120 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Despite Officers working from home, it is very much business as usual at East Hants. In particular - household waste collections, and the planning service has carried on without disruption.
- Motorcycle Noise – A zoom meeting with Damien Hinds has been arranged for Friday, 2nd October to address this issue – Cllr. Wilton is attending on behalf of Sheet P.C.
- Fly-tipping – This continues to be a concern and residents should report incidents to EHDC as soon as possible. Appointments are now readily available for the Hampshire Waste and Recycling centres, but there is still no ability to drive in on the off chance when there are empty

slots. Councillors noted that the site is often empty, and it appears that a higher number of bookings could be accepted.

20/121 Sheet Assets

Sheet Flood Pod – Cllr. Wilton undertook to research appropriate specification and cost of synthetic sandbags and feedback to the next meeting.

Sheet Common – The problems of anti-social behaviour experienced during lockdown have decreased now that Schools and Colleges have resumed. However, there is still evidence of bonfires being lit - it was agreed to consider “No Fires” signage that can be attached to signage poles already in place.

Millennium Field – The new signage seems to be having an effect – residents have reported less dog waste and rubbish in the field. The P.C. will continue to monitor the situation.

Sheet Village Hall

- (a) Windows and Facias – The windows and facias at the front of the building are looking rather shabby - it was agreed to seek quotes for re-decoration in the Spring.
- (b) Covid-19 – The Village Hall has been re-opened to regular hirers with special conditions of hire in place due to coronavirus. These special conditions include limited class sizes, extra cleaning requirements for hirers, low impact exercise, good ventilation and a 1-way system in and out of the hall.
- (c) Outside lighting – The purchase of low-cost solar lights for the back alleyway was approved as a safety requirement

Village Green

- (a) Horse Chestnut Tree – The report from Michael Honey and the results of the sonic survey were discussed – pruning of the loading points and a crown reduction of 2m has been recommended. Cllr. Forrest was asked to seek quotes from appropriately qualified tree surgeons
- (b) Litter Problems – The problem with litter appears to have been resolved by the Pub landlord.

Recreation Ground – Cllr. Bird will obtain quotes to repair the hole in the wet pour beneath the table tennis table.

20/122 Lengthsman – There is still work within the parish for the Lengthsman to undertake, but the grant allocation for Sheet has now been used up. It was agreed that quotes should be obtained for the work still outstanding (clearance of Footpath 28 on Sheet Common and cutting back and clearing the banks around the Millennium Field Car Park) and in the meantime, the Clerk will check whether there is any unused funding within the cluster that can be re-allocated.

20/123 Correspondence –

- A proposal for the conversion of one of the carriageways into a cycle route along the old A3 north of Sheet was tabled - e-mail correspondence from a resident of that area seeking support for the proposal was discussed - full details of the proposal had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Sheet Parish Council broadly supported the idea as it might help reduce traffic speed through Sheet but had concerns about how the busy junction at the A272/A3 would be dealt with. It was felt that Hampshire Highways might give this a low priority as their budgets are under such pressure.
- EHDC Tree Warden Scheme – E-mail correspondence about this scheme operated by the District Council had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that Sheet Parish Council has two unofficial tree wardens (Cllr. Forrest and Cllr. Biddlecombe) but SPC would not want to discourage anyone else interested in the role – Cllr. Biddlecombe was asked to respond to the correspondence to this effect.

20/124 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday, 13th October – 7.30 p.m. – details to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020**

1. Green Recovery boost from “Active Travel” measures

Over 40 new temporary footpath and cycleway measures have been installed in Hampshire since June, providing people with the space to travel by bike or by foot.

As well as helping people to keep their social distance, these schemes are also helping to tackle the climate emergency and the obesity crisis. At HCC we are planning an online Active Travel Summit in October to which many Town and Parish Council representatives will be invited. Please let me know if you have a particular interest in attending (virtually).

The temporary “pop-up” scheme in Petersfield received a mixed response and the barriers in Lavant St and Chapel St were consequently removed. The temporary barriers on the High St will be replaced by planters later this year which will look a lot better.

A bid to HM Government for a further £3.45 million has been submitted by Hampshire County Council to deliver a range of schemes to help redesign roads and high streets to support social distancing, assist economic recovery and support people who want to continue walking and cycling more. The outcome of this bid is expected in the Autumn.

2. Back to School Safely campaign

Hampshire’s schools are preparing to welcome all children back this month, with support from the HCC team. On 17 August the Government launched its #backtoschoolsafely campaign, which aims to reassure parents and students that schools and colleges are ready for their return in September. The campaign, which forms part of the Government’s wider Stay Alert campaign, will show

teachers welcoming students back into school in a range of newspaper, digital, radio and billboard adverts.

3. GCSE and A Level results

At this time of year I have always mentioned the exam results of Hampshire pupils and congratulated both schools and pupils for their strong performance. This year I would like to do the same.

Although exams did not take place this year, there were plenty of other sources of stress for pupils, not least the uncertainty over the results process. I feel that pupils fully deserve their grades and I would therefore like to congratulate them and their teachers for their hard work and strong performance.

4. Careers guidance for young people

Hampshire Futures and the Hampshire Careers Partnership have launched a new website called “Flying Start Hampshire” to support the county’s young people, especially Year 11 students as they prepare to move on from secondary education to further and higher education, training or employment, having secured their GCSE results.

Flying Start contains links to resources that will help when considering a course at sixth form, college, apprenticeship or future employment options, and helps young people explore their options and achieve success. Young people who may be feeling anxious either due to the pandemic or any other reason can find, on the website, a section dedicated to improving mental health and wellbeing. The website can be accessed at this link:

<https://www.sunoutreach.org/resource-category/flying-start-hampshire/>

5. Libraries consultation concludes

Parish Councils will recall that HCC launched a consultation on the future of the Library Service in January 2020. Over 21,200 people and organisations responded which makes it one of the most successful consultations in Hampshire in recent years. As a result of feedback received, the decision has been taken to close 8 libraries (rather than 10 originally proposed) and reduce opening hours by an average of 20% in all libraries (rather than the 15% originally proposed). The 8 libraries set to close are: Blackfield, Elson, Fair

Oak, Horndean, Lee-on-the-Solent, Lyndhurst, Odiham and South Ham. Uptake of HCC's digital library offering has continued to increase in 2020 which supports the Library Transformation process. Residents can borrow books and audiobooks via the BorrowBox app.

6. Financial position of HCC

There has been a lot of comment in the media about the financial difficulties facing local government, so I wanted to say a few words about this.

Hampshire County Council is facing exceptional costs from the Covid-19 crisis due to the extra care costs involved in looking after the elderly and the lost income during the lockdown (e.g. at the Country Parks, which were all closed). These costs are still being counted but will certainly run to over £100m. A key question for us now is how much of these losses will be compensated by Government. So far, HCC has received three tranches of emergency payments from central government, totalling £61.5m. We are hoping for further compensation.

The crisis has understandably delayed implementation of our Transformation to 2021 programme under which HCC was identifying needed annual savings of £80m. The Hampshire Cabinet and officers are working hard to get back on track.

Hampshire is not in imminent danger of going bust, as Northamptonshire County Council did last year. We are one of the best-run County Councils in the country with services that are rated good or outstanding across the Board and strong reserves which enable us to invest in new schools and infrastructure.

Nevertheless, the future funding of social care clearly needs to be resolved in order for HCC to maintain its strong financial position. There are signs that the Government intends to put forward a new plan for social care in the Autumn. The Comprehensive Spending Review launched in July is another opportunity to put local government onto a sustainable financial footing, as is the Devolution White Paper (also promised for the Autumn). I am therefore optimistic that our County Council will get through this challenging period in relatively good shape.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers