

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Ron Dark

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of a Meeting of Sheet Parish Council held on Tuesday, 10th September 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

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

There were 6 members of the public in attendance at the meeting

19/149 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Ron Dark

19/150 Minutes – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th July were approved and signed.

19/151 Declarations of Interests – The Chairman reminded Councillors of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the Agenda – Cllr. Martin declared an interest in the second planning application (to fell a Conifer at Woodside) and left the meeting for discussion of this item.

19/152 Public Comment –

- Representatives of Stepping Stones Nursery outlined proposals for the Memorial Garden in memory of their colleague – they now hope to include a small, raised-bed, allotment for the children and to change the position of the bench – Sheet Parish Council remained supportive of the plans and suggested the group continue to liaise via Cllr. Clear.

19/153 Planning – To discuss current planning applications:

SDNP/19/034 76/FUL	Increase the height of the building to provide a 1st floor office/storage space for the main house	The Workshop, Farnham Road, Sheet GU32 2AF	No Objection
SDNP/19/042 56/TCA	To fell a Conifer	Woodside, 2 Mill Lane, Sheet GU32 2AJ	No Objection
SDNP/19/041 67/HOUS	2-storey rear extension	2 Inmans Lane, Sheet GU32 2AN	No Objection

19/154 Finance

- The Audit for 2018-19 is complete and the notice of conclusion of audit will be available via the P.C. website and parish noticeboards. The External Auditor pointed out that the transfer between bank accounts should have been excluded from the receipts and payments in Section 2 – this will need to be addressed in next year’s figures.
- Quarterly actual to budget figures (April – June) had been circulated prior to the meeting and were discussed. It was noted that the actual cost of the new Scout Hut lease (Legal/Professional) had been £3,090. In addition, now that the bird nesting season is over, the budgeted tree work at Sheet Common will take place. Payments for the budgeted works to improve the disabled w.c. at the Village Hall will show in the next quarter.

- (c) The July and August bank reconciliations had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved and signed.
- (d) Cheques for August payment had been approved during the summer break by cheque signatories:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
300990	£32.91	CNG	Gas - V. Hall
300991	£81.88	Business Stream	Waste water - V. Hall
300992	£302.40	Petersfield Town Council	Bin contract - June and July
300993	£210.00	Nick Rook-Blackstone	Grass Cutting - Sheet Allotments
300994	£1,156.00	DNE Services	Deposit - Disabled w.c. refurb and maint
300995	£650.00	Sheet Music	Cleaning and Caretaking - V. Hall
300996	£84.74	HMRC	Tax + N.I. - Clerk (August)
300997	£731.89	J. Hollington	Clerk - August
Total	£3,249.82		

- (e) Cheques for September payment were approved:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
300998	£27.36	CNG	Gas - V. Hall
300999	£122.51	SSE	Electricity - V. Hall
301000	£480.00	PKF Littlejohn	External Auditors
301001	£4,489.02	DNE Services	Disabled W.C. refurb
301002	£35.00	Petersfield Window Cleaning	Windows - V. Hall
301003	£2,298.00	Waterlooville Carpets	Safety Flooring - V. Hall
301004	£188.37	Frank and Bill	Materials - resurfacing footpath
301005	£40.00	Information Commissioner	Data Protection
301006	£72.00	Elite Playground Inspections	Sheet Rec and BMX Track
301007	£520.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking and cleaning - V Hall
301008	£95.00	Foulstons	Light repair - Sheet Rec
301009	£84.74	HMRC	Tax and N.I. - Clerk
301010	£770.65	Jenny Hollington	Clerk - September
301011	£1,113.55	Zurich	Insurance
Total	£10,336.20		

19/155 Insurance – In view of the service and reasonable cost of the current insurance provision, aimed specifically at local councils, it was agreed to renew the contract with Zurich for a 5-year term at a cost of £1113.55 per annum.

19/156 SDNPA Local Plan – The adoption of the South Downs National Park Local Plan in July was noted. At consultation, Sheet Parish Council had objected to the allocation of the land behind Pulens Lane for development and subsequently the number of houses proposed has been reduced from 30 to 15 - Sheet P.C. await further details.

19/157 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Roads and Traffic Meeting – The meeting held on 4th September to discuss a community speedwatch scheme and proposals for narrowing Village Street had gone well, with many of the 75 people attending actively responding. Written responses have been collated and were discussed:

In respect of proposals for narrowing Village Street, there had been general agreement for the plan for the physical narrowing at the London Road, but many concerns were expressed about the aesthetics and loss of parking places implied in the proposal for the narrowing at the Queen's Head

end of the street. Residents had also commented on the misleading and wrongly placed signage at the top and bottom of Village Street. Ideas for resolving the top end of Village Street had included – making Village Street a 1-way street/shared space, narrowing the entrance to Village Street at the Farnham Road by building out the Village Green and creating a path from the Church to the Village Hall, or via build-outs/pinch points. It was agreed that Cllr. Martin should write to Ian Janes to feed back the feeling of the meeting and to see whether any of these options for the Queen’s Head end of the street would be feasible.

In respect of the Community Speedwatch presentation, there had been an enthusiastic response from Sheet residents concerned about speed on the London Road and Pulens Lane and over a dozen volunteers had come forward. It was agreed to continue to work with the Petersfield group, who appear to have funding for equipment promised from the District Council.

- (b) Farnham Road/School Lane Junction – The project to replace the old and dangerous steps with a ramp is still not finalised despite constant chasing by Sheet Parish Council. The EHDC Project Engineer has sent through an up-date, listing various difficulties and delays beyond his control. Frustration was expressed by members of the public and the Parish Council and it was agreed that the Project Engineer should be invited to attend the next P.C. meeting to explain the problems in more detail.

It was pointed out that this scheme includes improvements to the Farnham Road (the widening of the pavement outside the Church) and that additional problems are now being caused by Tanner’s Reach residents who are parking up to the pedestrian crossing point which reduces visibility. All agreed that this issue needs to be resolved and that work needs to be carried out as soon as possible, before an accident occurs. District Councillor, Nick Drew, will chase EHDC officers responsible for the project on behalf of the Parish Council.

- (c) Mill Lane - Erosion of the bank – The soil samples have now been taken, but nothing further has been heard from Hampshire Highways. Cllr. Forrest will liaise with Highways.
- (d) Mill Lane hedges – Because of the problems with the eroding bank, it was agreed that Peter Caines should only be asked to cut back the hedges from the Millennium Field Car Park to the entrance to the Allotments. The Lengthsmen will be asked if they could cut the remainder of the lane where the bank is eroding with hand held equipment to protect the bank.

19/158 County Councillor’s Report – The County Councillor’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. Items highlighted included the excellent exam results in Hampshire and the opening of the new visitor centre at Queen Elizabeth Country Park. Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available via the Parish Council website (www.sheetparishcouncil.gov.uk)

19/159 District Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Fitzroy – Cllr. Drew has been approached for grant-funding support for an event taking place at the Queen’s Head in October. However, it appears that there are no Sheet residents currently being supported by the Charity, which is based in Petersfield, and it is therefore difficult to justify.
- Campaign to stop cars idling - Cllr. Drew has been liaising with a Sheet resident who is campaigning to stop cars idling especially outside local schools, and who is seeking local support. The resident concerned has been asked to address the October Sheet Parish Council meeting.
- SDNP Local Plan – Cllr. Drew noted that a resident of Steep has filed an application for a statutory review of the Local Plan in the High Court. Although this is in respect of a site in Steep, if approved, it could have implications for other parishes in the National Park.

19/160 Recreation Ground – Various options for replacing the shed have been considered but all are very expensive. Cllr. Clear proposed that, rather than repair or replace the shed which is currently waterproof and serves a purpose, a hedge should be grown around 3-sides to protect it and provide camouflage. The cost of 50 green beech trees would be £432 or if using purple beech (which would retain leaves in winter) it would be £567.50. Cllr. Clear would be willing to install the hedge with the help of volunteers. The doors will need to be replaced (approximate cost £400). It was agreed to go with this proposal. Cllr. Clear was asked to forward the quote for the beech trees to the Clerk and Cllr. Bird will provide a quote for new doors.

19/161 Grass Cutting Contract – Tony Clear is retiring at the end of the year and the grass cutting contract will be put out to tender. Contract details will be drawn up for approval at the October meeting and the contract advertised in November in readiness for interviews in January.

19/162 Millennium Field – Following the article in the Sheet News advertising the Community Orchard approximately 6 people have come forward offering to plant a fruit tree on 30th November. However, more trees will be required (there is space for 30) – village schools and organisations will be approached and Lesley Hall will be asked to send out a message via the village website. A poster advertising the planting will be placed on the gate to the Millennium Field.

Cllr. Clear reported on a set back with the proposal to improve the hedgerow with whips from the Woodland Trust as they have now run out of whips! It was agreed that the planting of 150 whips should go ahead anyway at an approximate cost of £270 to the Parish Council (to include the canes and guards).

19/163 Sheet Common –

Installation of a new gate – At the beginning of the Summer approval had been given for the purchase of a new, wooden, 5-bar gate for the London Road entrance to Sheet Common, to be installed by the BMX User Group. However, progress has been slow for various reasons and, in the meantime, a proposal to refurbish the current metal gate and tidy the signage has been put forward. It was agreed that rather than purchase the new 5-bar gate straight away, the original metal gate would be refurbished in the first instance. If this does not improve the entrance sufficiently, the decision will be re-visited.

Works Required – Cllr. Biddlecombe will seek quotes for tree clearance works on the Common for consideration at the October meeting.

19/164 Lengthsman – The Lengthsmen (Bill Robinson and Frank Spooner) have done a good job on the resurfacing of the footpath between Pulens Lane and Old Mill Lane. They will now be asked to cut back the inside hedge of the Millennium Field and Car Park, as well as along by the eroding bank in Mill Lane.

19/165 Village Green – Quotes for the information plaque for the Horse Chestnut Tree will be obtained for the October meeting.

19/166 Sheet Village Hall –

Upstairs Bay Window – The problems with the window seem to be dictated by the weather conditions. Cllr. Bird will have a look at the wooden joists and report back at the October meeting.

It was also noted that the large windows in the main hall are starting to rot and this will also need to be addressed.

Disabled W.C. – The works to refurbish the disabled w.c. were carried out over the summer and there is a vast improvement. The actual work carried out had been more than budgeted as there were problems with one of the walls (where a window had been covered over), and it had also been decided to replace the old electric fuse box for aesthetic and safety reasons.

19/167 Correspondence

- **EHDC Consultation – Dog Control Legislation** – Cllr. Wilton undertook to complete the consultation on behalf of Sheet Parish Council
- **SDNPA Parish Workshop** – 29th October – Details noted.
- **Fitzroy Firewalk** – A fundraising event is to take place at the Queen’s Head on Friday, 18th October. Cllr. Bird has been persuaded to take part.

19/168 Date of Next Parish Council Meeting – The next meeting of the Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, 8th October 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

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

2 SEPTEMBER 2019

1. GCSE and A Level results in Hampshire.

Hampshire's pupils have achieved impressive results, once again beating national averages.

This year saw the final rollout of the three-year implementation of 1 to 9 grade ratings for GCSEs - with 9 being at the very top of the scale and a pass grade being 4 or above. In Hampshire, secondary schools are reporting that 69 per cent of pupils taking the exams achieved a pass at grade 4 in English and mathematics, compared to 67 per cent last year. The 'attainment 8' outcome, which measures the results across the wider curriculum, has also improved from a score of 47.2 in 2018 to 47.6 in 2019.

The average A-level grade achieved moved up to a "B minus" from a "C plus" in 2018. Point scores (translating to UCAS points) across all types of qualification have also improved to an average of 35.5 at A-level (up from 33.4 in 2018).

2. New Visitor Centre for QECP

Following a £1.2m investment, the new visitor centre at Queen Elizabeth Country Park has opened its doors for the first time. Changes include an entirely fresh new look and reconfigured space comprising of a new reception area, shop, toilets and event space to hire. The café has a fresh new menu and can also seat more people in a larger brighter space (the refurbishment includes new tables and benches as well as a covered seating area in the courtyard).

There is new landscaping to the front and rear of the visitor centre while elsewhere there is new signage for exploring the park as well as improvements to the car parks. Lastly but no means least the kiosk at Juniper has been improved along with the toilets to match the new play area and assault course.

This is the third of four major investments HCC has made into the County Council's country parks following the successful renovation of Lepe Country Park in the New Forest and Royal Victoria Country Park. This work at QE will be followed closely by Staunton Country Park in Havant. These projects are ensuring that our country parks continue to be top visitor destinations in Hampshire but also become self-sustaining so that they can continue to thrive in the future.

3. Brexit preparedness

On 21 August 2019 the Government announced an extra £9m in funding for port towns, including Portsmouth, to make preparations to cope with possible no-deal Brexit scenarios. Some of this funding may come to Hampshire County Council to improve the resilience of the road network.

Hampshire County Council is playing a leading role in the Local Resilience Forum plans for a no-deal Brexit. HCC will continue to work closely with colleagues in other local authorities on planning for disruption at the Port of Portsmouth. Plans are well advanced and the implementation of plans is under daily review. In summary, a lot of work is going on behind the scenes to ensure that any disruption is kept to a minimum.

4. SDNPA declared preferred bidder for Seven Sisters Country Park

I thought it was worth reporting on the decision by East Sussex County Council in July to name the SDNPA as the preferred bidder in the disposal of the Seven Sisters Country Park.

This acquisition by SDNPA does have relevance for all parts of the National Park. Owning a Country Park asset will enable the National Park Authority to grow and develop new skills. It is hoped that the investment and the facilities will in time generate meaningful income which can be spent across the Park. Donations to the South Downs National Park Trust may also increase as fundraising campaigns are planned. And finally, it is hoped that the project will in time lead to further acquisition of country assets by the SDNPA over here in the Western section of the National Park.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers