

DRAFT

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: Chris Wilton

CLERK: Jenny Hollington

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th June 2024 at Sheet Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Present. Cllrs. Chris Wilton (in the Chair) Alan Biddlecombe Brian Bird
Liz Hartley Gail Martin James Plant
Craig Stevens

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

There were no members of the public present.

24/95 **Apologies** – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Robin Forrest.

24/96 **Declarations of Interests** – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – None declared.

24/97 **Minutes** – The Minutes of the AGM held on 14th May were approved and signed.

24/98 **Public Comment** – None

24/99 **Feedback and Matters Arising from the Annual Parish Assembly** – The meeting had been very well attended and Tim Slaney's presentation well received. A couple of issues raised by members of the public during the evening were:

- **Concern about speed on the Farnham Road past Tanners Reach** – Current signage will be reviewed.
- **A request for Sheet PC to produce a Housing Policy to sit alongside the PPS** – It was noted that housing was the most prominent concern in responses received to the PPS (92%). A majority of those who responded (63%) wish to see development restricted to low-cost starter homes for young families and those aspiring to become homeowners for the first time. This information has formed the basis of Sheet PC's response to SDNPA and will form the basis of any response to applications for development.
- **A request for a designated disabled parking space for the Village Hall** – As a trial, bollards will be used to keep a space available outside the hall for events at which attendees with mobility issues are expected – this is to try to avoid the permanent loss of a parking space.

24/100 **Planning** – Current planning applications were discussed:

SDNP/24/0 2172/TCA	Crown reductions – Norway Maple and Norway Maple Crimson King	3 Portland Close, Sheet GU32 2BA	No Objection
-----------------------	--	----------------------------------	--------------

24/101 **Mill Lane Sewage** – Nothing has been heard from S. Water which is very disappointing. A resident has now written to them requesting a solution to the issue by 14th June. The matter will be followed up via Tim Slaney, SDNPA and Damian Hinds (or whoever is MP for East Hampshire after the election) if feedback is not forthcoming.

24/102 **County Councillor's Report** – Russell Oppenheimer's monthly report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and, in his absence, was reviewed:

- New Leader at HCC Cllr. Nick Adams-King has been appointed as Leader of the Council

- BOATs Review - Changes to the BOATs (Byways Open to All Traffic) Policy remain under development
- New Parents Meet and Connect – Details of a free weekly event at selected libraries across the county aimed at supporting new parents.
- How roads are chosen for resurfacing and surface treatment – Cllr. Oppenheimer can draw attention to roads of concern where necessary/where he considers there is merit.
- Farming in Hampshire – Cllr. Oppenheimer had an item about farming published in the Hampshire Chronicle - <https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/24233542.comment-practical-help-hampshires-farmers/>
- Grants – Cllr. Oppenheimer’s grant pot is now open.

In respect of resident’s concerns about the use of Glyphosate in the Village, Sheet PC will investigate whether it would be feasible to opt out of the HCC verge maintenance scheme as Froxfield PC has done. The Clerk will liaise with the Clerk at Froxfield PC to find out how they went about this.

Cllr. Oppenheimer’s full report is appended to the Minutes for info and will be made available via the Sheet Parish Council website – www.sheetparishcouncil.gov.uk

24/103 District Councillor’s Report – Cllr. Drew reported on the following items:

- Speed – Cllr. Drew met with the Police and Crime Commissioner and has raised concerns about speed on the C18 and A272 Midhurst Road
- Farnborough Airport – Another consultation is due, but the lack of noise monitors is a concern (the Airport can be fined if there is a 3 decibel increase in noise).
- Herne School Accident – Cllr. Drew is aware of the accident involving a child from Herne School and will support proposals for a holistic approach to traffic calming in the area around the school.
- Sheet Olympics – Cllr. Drew is looking forward to attending and helping at the event

24/104 Roads and Traffic

- (a) Speed on London Road – A meeting has been requested with Alistair MacAdam, HCC Traffic Engineer, to discuss potential improvements to the current pedestrian crossing close to the Inmans/Pulens Lane junction, as this will help to slow the speed of the traffic through the junction.
- (b) HCC 20 mph Policy – Cllrs. discussed the new policy and whether it would be appropriate/achievable for the village – concerns that several of the criteria would be difficult to achieve were noted. Following discussion, it was agreed that this matter should be dropped for now.

24/105 Finance

- (a) Bank Reconciliation – The May bank reconciliation was approved and signed.
- (b) Payments – The following cheque payments were approved:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301654	£746.00	Michael Smith Ltd.	Grass Cutting contract
301655	£120.00	Fair Account	Internal Audit - End of financial year (23-24)
301656	£1,598.00	S. Male	Fees associated with the planning app for OBR
301657	£75.00	T. Morgan	Website management April - June
301658	£80.40	Elite Playground Inspections	BMX and Recreation Ground Play Inspections
301659	£28.00	HMRC	Tax & NI - Clerk
301660	£1,195.04	Jenny Hollington	Clerk - June
301661	£600.00	Sheet Music	Cleaning and Caretaking - Village Hall
301662	£92.06	Jenny Hollington	Refund - APA refreshments and stationery
301663	£47.12	Liz Hartley	Refund - roadside mirror

Direct debit	£72.53	Castle Water	Water Rates - Village Hall
Total	£4,654.15		

24/106 Sheet's Emergency Community Plan – The Clerk's review of the document is on-going.

24/107 Sheet Assets

The Old Billiard Room – A quote to clear the frontage of the property has been received, another two will be sought.

Millennium Field

- (a) The request from Stepping Stones Playgroup to hold a Family Fun Run in the Field on Saturday, 13th July was approved, subject to risk assessment and insurance provision
- (b) Phase 2 Tree Planting – Cllr. Biddlecombe will draw up a plan for the next phase of tree planting. Consideration will be given to planting whips not used at the Millennium Field on Sheet Common.

Sheet Common – Cllr. Forrest will seek quotes for the work to fell the unsafe tree overhanging a resident's garage for approval at the July PC meeting.

Sheet Recreation Ground

- (a) Goalposts – A budget of £500 was approved for the purchase of new goalposts.
- (b) Access – Access was approved for the ice cream van on the afternoon of the Sheet Olympics

Sheet Allotments – Rubbish clearance is proving difficult due to the narrow entrance to the site – the Clerk will continue to seek someone who can remove the rubbish.

Sheet Village Hall – Cllr. Biddlecombe has had the photos printed and will liaise with Cllr. Bird about displaying them on the afternoon of the Sheet Olympics and then afterwards at the Village Hall.

24/108 Correspondence

- Concern about overgrown hedges in Inmans Lane – the Clerk was asked to write to residents whose hedges are causing problems for pedestrians.
- Accident at Herne School – Cllr. Martin is liaising with residents of Love Lane about the incident and will attend the meeting at the school to discuss road safety issues.
- Resident request for double yellow lines at the junction of Pulens Lane/Love Lane – Cllr. Martin will liaise with the appropriate department at Hampshire County Council about the process.

24/109 Forthcoming Meetings

- Herne School – Wednesday, 12th June – As noted above Cllr. Martin will attend
- HALC – Hampshire County Forum Launch – Wednesday, 19th June – no-one from Sheet PC is available to attend.

24/110 Date of Next Meeting – The next meeting of Sheet Parish Council will be on Tuesday, 9th July 2024 at 7.00 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

1 JUNE 2024

1. New Leader appointed at HCC

I am sure you will have heard that a new leader has taken over at HCC following the resignation of Cllr Rob Humby. Cllr Nick Adams-King was elected to the post of Leader at Full Council on 23 May. Many of you will know Cllr Nick Adams-King from his previous role overseeing Highways as Executive Member for Universal Services.

I have worked closely with Cllr Adams-King over the last two years. He has a wealth of senior experience in the private and public sector. Nick is optimistic about Hampshire. I have confidence that Nick will lead us into a healthy period in which HCC will be even more efficient and commercial. Nick has also said that he will listen to the key messages arising from the Future Services consultation and hopes to ensure that vital services for communities are retained and improved.

2. Update on new BOATs policy

You will recall that I commissioned a review of the Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) policy when I was Executive Member for Countryside at HCC. The scope of the review was scrutinised by the Universal Services Select Committee in late 2023. Some of you attended the second Parish meeting on this issue in early May 2024 at which the Byways Manager outlined the latest thinking on the review.

I need to stress that final decisions have not yet been made. The policy is still under development and it will be published in draft form for scrutiny in due course. Having given that caveat, I would now like to share with you some of the areas that are being examined as part of the review of the Byways Operating Procedures (BOP):

1) HCC is considering a proposal to alter the Red/Amber/Green classification system to include a new “AT RISK” Upper Amber category. In addition to the Red routes, these Amber AT RISK byways would also have gates and noticeboards installed. 31 new gates/noticeboards would be needed for all the routes that are classified as Amber AT RISK.

- 2) Adoption of Summer Closures linked to serious adverse weather events, such as flash flooding.
- 3) Working with trained Parish Councils to expedite gate 'closures and re-opening' efficiently, especially during the summer period.
- 4) Application of an advisory Speed Limit, possibly in the realm of 12mph. This is not yet confirmed but it is something I have personally been advocating for some time. So I really hope it makes it into the final policy!
- 5) Removal of the stage of "voluntary restraint" from BOP and Policy process and move directly to active intervention through Temporary Traffic Regulation Order TTRO (winter and summer closures).
- 6) The BOP is to include new scoring for NNRs, LNRs, SSSIs and a greater weighting based on 'Furthering the purposes' of National Parks and National Landscapes.
- 7) The BOP may also include new scoring on safety of users, based on risk to NMUs (Non-motorised Users) on byways. This needs to be defensible against criteria and will take into account the width of the route and frequency of passing places, and visibility.
- 8) The BOP will hopefully identify a more specific route to escalate through to the TRO of a BOAT. It may be proposed that if HCC has operated 2 winter closures and the route continues to deteriorate in the summer months then these routes will be subject to a TRO to ban the most upper level of users (e.g. Motorised).

I hope you will agree that consideration of these changes represents progress. Both Cllr Mocatta and I have been speaking to the new Leader of HCC and the new Exec Member Cllr Kirsty North about this issue. We wish to ensure a strong focus and drive on this issue through to implementation. I look forward to reporting on this issue again once the draft policy is published.

3. New Parents Meet and Connect

[New Parents Meet and Connect](#) is a free weekly event at selected libraries across the county, specifically for parents and carers with newborns. The friendly sessions offer an ongoing opportunity for mutual support while parents take part in baby-friendly play and activities with their children. The County Council is providing this support to families as part of its Public Health responsibilities.

We know the first 1001 days of life is an important time for development, from [research carried out by the County Council](#). The quality of parent/carer interactions with babies during this period profoundly shapes a child's cognitive growth. However, loneliness and isolation can undermine a parent's wellbeing and potentially impact their child's development. New Parents Meet and Connect, can help tackle loneliness and enable parents to get any help they may need.

It seems that Petersfield Library is not currently part of the scheme but I have encouraged them to consider joining in the next wave. Currently the closest library to us with a Meet and Connect morning is Bordon library. I think this is a good scheme and I am hopeful that it will be successful and will be rolled out to all libraries.

4. How are roads chosen for resurfacing and surface treatment?

I was asked about this issue at the Froxfield & Privett APM recently. It is a good question and I have decided that the answer is worthy of inclusion in my monthly report.

All roads in Hampshire are inspected every month. Sites are selected for surface intervention based on an assessment of the road's condition including the level of potholes, cracking and other defects present. Depending on the precise level of defects, and the volume of traffic using the road, they may be selected for treatment to make the road stronger.

County Councillors can draw attention to roads of concern and request that consideration is given to surface treatment. I do not like to play this card too often but I will certainly do it if I feel it is warranted. If any Parish Council would like me to email the Operation Resilience team about a specific road, please get in touch with me at any time. Once a road has been deemed suitable for resurfacing it will be scheduled for the coming financial year.

Carriageway resurfacing is the replacement of the surface of the road, with a new surface layer (between 30 to 105mm of new asphalt). Sometimes the existing road will be overlaid with the new surface. However, generally the existing surface will be removed (referred to as milling or planing) and a new surface put in its place.

In addition to resurfacing, Hampshire Highways undertakes a programme of Surface Dressing treatments. Surface dressing involves the application of fresh stone onto a layer of bitumen binder (a glue that holds together crushed gravel to create a durable, flexible surface, essential to the success of the treatment). The loose stones are then embedded by rubber rollers with remaining loose chippings then swept up. Surface dressing cannot happen if the road is wet as the moisture will prevent the bond between the chippings and asphalt. Hence treatments are usually applied during the summer months because the process needs warm, dry weather to be successful.

Surface dressing treatments help to slow the natural deterioration of roads and reduce the occurrence of potholes and other road defects, as well as giving the road more grip to boost safety. It is a cost-efficient way to target roads that carry the most traffic so are most at risk of wear and tear, helping taxpayers' money to go further at a time when our budget is extremely stretched.

Where surface dressing is being carried out, road closures will usually be in place from 9.30am to 4pm, with a few exceptions. Timings will be flexible, as the process is very weather dependent, but local roadside signage will be updated as promptly as possible to keep people informed.

Hampshire residents can find out more about roadworks taking place in Hampshire, including surface dressing schemes at: <https://one.network/>

This link also provides more information about the resurfacing process.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/plannedmaintenance>

Now that we are entering the drier months, Hampshire Highways are rapidly tackling the backlog of defects from the unusually wet winter. I hope you are all noticing an improvement in the condition of the roads.

5. Farming in Hampshire

In April I had an opinion piece about farming published in the Hampshire Chronicle. In case you missed it, here is a link:

<https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/24233542.comment-practical-help-hampshires-farmers/>

6. Grant year is now open

The County Councillor grant round for the current municipal year has now opened. The total pot available to me is £8,000. I would like to try to limit each of my grants to £800 or thereabouts so that I can support more projects. I am especially keen to fund tree planting and infrastructure improvements. I look forward to receiving some applications in due course!

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER

County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers