

**DRAFT**

**SHEET PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Chris Wilton

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Sheet Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.**

|                 |                                    |                  |             |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <u>Present.</u> | Cllrs. Chris Wilton (in the Chair) | Alan Biddlecombe | Brian Bird  |
|                 | Robin Forrest                      | Liz Hartley      | Gail Martin |
|                 | Craig Stevens                      |                  |             |

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

There was 1 member of the public present during the meeting.

- 24/01 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr. James Plant
- 24/02 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared.
- 24/03 Minutes – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December were approved and signed.
- 24/04 Public Comment – None
- 24/05 Anti-Social Behaviour – A meeting has been organised with the new CPSO, Caitlin Cawte, to discuss what can be done in respect of the recent spate of vandalism in the village and break-ins at the allotments. Feedback will be provided at the February meeting.
- 24/06 County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed:
- Residents are urged to respond to the HCC consultation on the future of Hampshire's Waste Recycling Centres.
  - HCC has launched a consultation to identify suitable areas for nature recovery projects – this item will be added to the February PC agenda for consideration.
  - Hampshire Highways Service Annual Review 22/23 is now available and offers useful insights into the team's activities.
  - SDNPA CIL Funding – Cllr. Oppenheimer highlighted local projects which have received CIL funding during 23/24. Sheet PC was delighted to see that Stepping Stones Playgroup has received £4,000 towards improvements to their outdoor learning and play area, including creation of a covered play area.

The full report is appended to the minutes and can be found via the website [www.sheetparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.sheetparishcouncil.gov.uk)

- 24/07 District Councillors Report – Cllr. Drew spoke on the following items:
- Village Street - The recent heavy rains caused a flood at the bottom of Village Street where there is a perennial problem with a blocked drain. Cllr. Drew is following this up via HCC.
  - Allowance Increase – The allowance paid to District Councillors to cover expenses is to be increased for the first time in 8 years.
  - Speedwatch Camera – Cllr. Drew reminded Sheet PC to complete the application.

- Refuse Collection – School Lane – EHDC propose to resolve access issues caused by parked cars by installing yellow lines (Agenda item 24/14 c).

24/08 Planning – Current applications were discussed:

|                       |  |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| SDNP/24/0<br>5142/TCA | <b>Removal of common Beech and Walnut trees</b>  | 6 Broadlands Cottages, Sheet GU32 2AG      | No Objection  |
| SDNP/23/0<br>5285/CND | <b>Variation of Condition 4 (SDNP/19/03476/FUL) to allow for the unit to be used as Airbnb/short term holiday lets</b> | The Workshop, Farnham Road, Sheet GU32 2AP | Objection - There is no reason to over-turn original decision |

24/09 Millennium Field Tree Planting Project – The project is going to plan and there are a good number of local volunteers. Cllr. Biddlecombe said he has acquired some additional beech saplings which will be incorporated into the scheme. Mulch has been ordered and will be delivered to the Millennium Field at an approximate cost of £160.

24/10 Parish Council E-mail – Following the decommissioning of the .gov e-mail provision by Hampshire at the end of 2023, the service is to be provided by Inspired-is – this decision had been made outside of the December meeting due to the end of December deadline and caused by a lack of response to questions by one of the companies quoting for the work. All Councillors will set up a new PC-dedicated e-mail address in the coming weeks and these will be used for all PC business.

24/11 Finance – Cheque Payments - The following cheques were approved for payment:

| Chq No.      | Amount           | Payee            | Service                                      |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| 301609       | £120.00          | DNE Services     | Extension of down pipe - Village Hall        |
| 301610       | £40.00           | T. Morgan        | Additional website updates - e-mail changes  |
| 301611       | £23.99           | A. Biddlecombe   | Refund - clips for SIDs                      |
| 301612       | £886.00          | Michael Smit Ltd | Grass cutting contract + Allotment clearance |
| 301613       | £201.00          | Inspired-IS      | Change of e-mail address & licences          |
| 301614       | £766.51          | Jenny Hollington | Clerk - January                              |
| 301615       | £132.00          | HMRC             | Tax - Clerk                                  |
| 301616       | £185.94          | A. Biddlecombe   | Refund - tools for volunteers                |
| 301617       | £520.00          | Sheet Music      | Caretaking and cleaning - V. Hall            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>£2,875.44</b> |                  |  |

24/12 Mill Lane Sewage Issues – Residents have been further impacted by sewage following the heavy rainfall but following complaints have been promised a meeting with S.W. representatives in the coming weeks to discuss the issue further – date and time to be confirmed however!

24/13 Love Lane – Pavement and Lighting Issues – The pavement has been checked and does not appear to be in bad condition – no further action to be taken. Lighting could be improved if residents cut back foliage from around the streetlights – residents will be notified and asked to carry out the work.

24/14 Roads and Traffic

- Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – Cllr. Stevens reported that the current batteries are lasting less than 10- days and it is difficult to keep the SIDs running continuously. He has approached Petersfield Town Council to find out whether solar power would be a better option but has not yet heard back - he will report further at the February meeting.
- Speedwatch Camera – Cllr. Stevens will work with the Clerk to progress the licence application.

- (c) School Lane Access Issues – A letter will be written to School Lane residents to make them aware of EHDC’s proposal to install double yellow lines to improve access for the refuse lorry and emergency vehicles. It is hoped that with help from residents, the matter can be resolved without the installation of the yellow lines as this would further restrict parking.

24/15 Sheet Assets

**The Old Billiard Room** – It appears that the additional bat survey report has not been received by the Planning Officer – the information will be re-sent to progress the planning application.

**Sheet Common – Tree Work** – Cllr. Forrest will obtain quotes for the work required on the Oak tree which is overhanging a resident’s garden. Cllr. Biddlecombe reported that there is also a Silver Birch within the BMX track that has split vertically – he and Russell Cleaver (from the HMG) will be able to deal with this.

**Millennium Field –**

- Lighting Request – Residents using the car park regularly have raised concerns about safety at night as there is no lighting. Cllr. Bird offered to investigate the cost of solar powered bollards for consideration at the February meeting.
- Byelaw to Prevent Illegal Occupation of the Car Park – In Cllr. Plant’s absence, this item was deferred to the February meeting.
- Millennium Bench – The new bench was installed just before Christmas and looks lovely.

**Sheet Recreation Ground** – The defibrillator has arrived and DNE Services Ltd have been asked to fit it at the Scout Hut as soon as possible.

**Sheet Allotments** – The break in at the allotments over the Christmas/New Year break was noted and will be discussed with the Police at the forthcoming meeting re vandalism. In the meantime, Cllr. Forrest will seek a quote for replacement of the pedestrian gate which is now very old and ramshackle.

24/16 Correspondence (circulated prior to the meeting)

- SDNPA – CIL Funding – Opening of applications for 2024-25 – Proposals for parish projects under this scheme will be discussed at the February PC Meeting.

24/17 Date of Next Meeting – The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.00 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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

**2 JANUARY 2024**

## **1. DIY waste and the Petersfield HWRC**

I mentioned in my last report that from 1 January 2024, residents using Hampshire County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) will no longer be charged for disposing of their DIY waste. I wanted to explain a bit more about this change which has come about following amendments to national regulations.

Up to two 50-litre rubble bags, or one bulky item such as a sink or toilet pedestal, will be accepted for free at each visit, at a maximum frequency of four visits over four weeks. Anything more than this amount will be chargeable at current rates, as permitted by national legislation, to cover specialist disposal costs. Customers must also be able to lift, carry and empty out their DIY waste. The Council estimates that the removal of the charges will impose an additional cost to Hampshire council taxpayers of up to £2 million every year. This is because disposal of DIY waste, such as soil, rubble, asbestos and gypsum board, requires specialist processing. The fees we used to charge helped to cover those expenses.

This extra cost has an impact on our budget situation at HCC. We are still facing a £132 million budget shortfall from April 2025. The Local Government Finance Settlement which was announced on 19 December 2023 contained no new money which was disappointing. HCC has legal and moral responsibilities to look after vulnerable adults and children. Those responsibilities are always at the forefront of our minds and this means that all other services have to be looked at very closely.

A consultation on the future of Hampshire's HWRCs will therefore commence on 8 January, alongside a number of detailed HCC consultations. This will include questions about HWRC opening hours and possible closures. I believe that everyone in Petersfield Hangers appreciates the convenience of having an HWRC in Petersfield. I personally will be advocating strongly for it to continue, working closely with colleagues at EHDC. I would encourage you to look out for the consultation on 8 January and make your views heard. A key point to make is that Alton is not a viable alternative because the road network is unsuitable for the extra traffic.

## 2. Successful crackdown on youth vaping continues

Trading Standards is one of my responsibilities within the Hampshire Cabinet and I am pleased to say that our campaign to crack down on youth vaping scored a major success just before Christmas.

Test purchase operations took place on Monday 18 and Wednesday 20 December 2023, with visits to 17 different premises. Teenage volunteers (with undercover officers always close by) went into the businesses to attempt to buy a vape, also known as an e-cigarette. These items should only be sold to someone over 18. I'm pleased that this operation has found that most retailers are following the law and did not sell to our volunteers. In two cases where a sale was made, the circumstances are now under formal investigation which could lead to prosecution. A very strong message has been sent to the retail vape market by this operation.

The rise of vaping by young people is a real worry for parents, so we will continue with our activities to crack down on the illegal sale of vapes to under 18s. Since September 2023, Trading Standards has also prevented the sale of over £200,000 of illegal vapes and e-cigarettes by removing them from shops across Hampshire.

## 3. Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation

Under the recent Environment Act HCC is responsible for developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the whole of Hampshire including Portsmouth and Southampton. We have launched a consultation to identify suitable areas for nature recovery projects. I hope Parishes will consider submitting a formal PC response. To find out more and complete the survey please click on this link:  
<https://lnrs-hampshireonline.hub.arcgis.com/>

## 4. Highways Service Annual Review

I would like to share with you the County Council's [Highways Service Annual Review](#) for 2022/23 (see embedded link) which offers useful insights into the Highways team's activity over what has been an exceptionally challenging period.

We are continuing with our intensive focus on fixing potholes and other road defects following confirmation of the 3-year Stronger Roads Today campaign in July. This has enabled the deployment of significantly more repair teams and specialist equipment with the primary aim of making our roads better, fixing defects more quickly, and addressing the widespread deterioration from last winter's wet and freezing weather.

You will be aware that in November the Government announced that more funding would be allocated to local highway authorities for highway maintenance. For Hampshire a 'minimum uplift' of £132.3million of funding has been confirmed up to 2033/34, i.e. over an 11-year period from 2023 to 2034. Included within this funding is an extra £4.2million for both 2023/24 and 2024/25, which has already been confirmed, and we await further confirmation from the Department for Transport on how the rest of the uplift funding for Hampshire will be allocated over the remainder of the funding period. This is, of course, welcome news and having such long-term uplift funding confirmed will enable us to plan ahead with greater certainty and commit to longer-term resources from the supply chain.

This year we have seen exceptionally wet weather, with higher than average rainfall in 9 out of the last 12 months. In anticipation of another wet winter, the frontline teams have been undertaking additional checks on highway drains, roadside grips (short channels between the road and ditch) and gullies/chambers in areas where there is a history of high groundwater and/or surface water flooding to make sure the County Council's highway drainage assets are functioning optimally. This is in addition to the year-round cyclical maintenance of our 212,000 gullies and 15,000 manholes/chambers.

Please continue to use our online reporting system to tell us about issues on the road network, including potholes - [Report a problem | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://hants.gov.uk/report-a-problem). The online tools have recently been improved to be more user/customer friendly so I would encourage you to take a look.

#### 5. SDNPA announces CIL Funding

I would like to highlight and celebrate the fact that Petersfield Hangers Division has again done very well in the annual round of Community Infrastructure Levy funding from the SDNPA. The successful projects were announced in December and included these ones in our area or highly relevant to our area:

- Newman Collard Playing Fields, Liss – drainage improvements works. £78,000
- Liss Forest Recreation Ground – improvements including replacement play area, drainage improvements and expansion of basketball area. £40,000
- Churcher's College / Penns Place, Petersfield – 430m permissive path linking south side of Penns Place to River Rother footpath. £50,000

- Hampshire-wide – Hampshire County Council’s Parish Pollinators Project increasing diversity in hedgerows and other planting. £50,000
- Petersfield Open Air Swimming Pool – toilet refurbishment. £50,000
- Petersfield Rugby Club – green energy initiative (renewable energy to reduce increasing energy costs) £40,000
- Petersfield Central Car Park, Park Road – installation of Changing Places Toilet. £15,000
- Stroud – replacement bus shelter. £10,000
- Stepping Stones Playgroup, Sheet – improvements to outdoor learning and play area, including creation of covered play area. £4,000
- Queen Elizabeth Country Park – improvements to South Downs Way, increasing access for all. £60,000
- Queen Elizabeth Country Park – restoration of Butser Dew Pond £20,000

I think you will agree that is a pretty good result and I am most grateful to Members and Officers at the SDNPA for their support for the above projects which will make a real difference in our community.

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**  
**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**