

**DRAFT**

**SHEET PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Chris Wilton

**CLERK:** Jenny Hollington

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Sheet Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.**

<u>Present.</u>	Cllrs. Gail Martin (in the Chair)	Alan Biddlecombe	Brian Bird
	Robin Forrest	Dave McKinney	James Plant
	Craig Stevens		

In Attendance: County Councillor, Russell Oppenheimer  
Clerk, Jenny Hollington

There were over 30 members of the public present at the meeting for the item on planning.

- 23/150 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Chris Wilton and District Councillor, Nick Drew.
- 23/151 Declarations of Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared.
- 23/152 Minutes – The Minutes of the Meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> August were approved and signed.
- 23/153 Matters Arising from the Minutes -

- Resident request that the Parish Council adopt the B.T. Phone Box on the Village Green in memory of previous Chairman, Ron Dark, to create “Ron’s Reading Room” – it was unanimously agreed that this proposal should be followed up.
- Resident request that Sheet Parish Council consider declaring a climate emergency and work more proactively to highlight the issue – Sheet Parish Council currently works very hard on green initiatives within the parish. However, more work will be done to promote projects already taking place. The Clerk was asked to write to the resident explaining the situation.
- Residents’ complaints about loud music at the Half Moon and the Queen’s Head Pubs – Cllr. Wilton has spoken to the landlord at the Half Moon who has undertaken to improve the situation. The landlord at the Queen’s Head is very careful that music is played only within the licenced hours. If residents have complaints about music, these should be directed to EHDC Licencing Department.

23/154 Public Comment –

- A local resident asked to have a bench sited in the Millennium Field in memory of his late wife who had walked there daily with their dogs. He confirmed that he was happy to cover the cost of the bench and to liaise with the P.C. over design and siting – Cllrs. Forrest and Biddlecombe will liaise with the resident to take this forward.

The following comments were all made by residents in relation to the planning application for Lanzante (21 – 23 London Road).

- The application is completely inappropriate in a residential area.
- Two residential properties will be lost if the application is approved. The loss of the listed building has no public benefit.
- The removal of the hedges would have an environmental impact in respect of residential amenity.
- The claim that the business cannot be located on a shared site is false – Maclaren are sited on other industrial sites.

- The provision of a staff car park in the garden of 19 Shear Hill would constitute a safety issue as cars would have to reverse on to the London Road to exit the site. If the number of spaces were reduced to address this, then not enough car parking spaces are provided.
- There are already issues with noise as late as 11.00 p.m. at night and 6.00 a.m. on Sunday mornings – the business is not 9.00-5.00.
- There is no information about soil management following the excavation of the basement area – where is the soil to go?
- There is no risk assessment in case of subsidence of houses adjacent to the site.
- The exhaust from the air conditioning units will disturb residents wishing to enjoy adjacent gardens.
- There is no accounting for the additional security which will be required for the enhanced facility. In addition to noise at night, there will be additional light pollution from the development which will be detrimental to the local wildlife, particularly bats. There is little compensation for what is being taken away.
- There will be a significant impact on traffic on the London Road with expansion of the business – large arctic transporters would need to cut cross both carriageways of the already very busy London Road. The resultant reduction in the flow of traffic would impact the Pulens Lane junction.
- The road safety reports had not been carried out at peak times (10.00 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.)
- The access to 19 Shear Hill is via a private road frequently used by children walking to School – safety is a big concern. In addition, the access road is maintained by residents.
- The business has outgrown the site and whilst enterprise and employment should be supported it needs to be in the right location – this type of development should be guided towards Petersfield and not it's periphery.
- During the discussion of the above issues in respect of the application, a resident mentioned the lack of visibility when using the new London Road crossing – Cllr. Martin undertook to follow this up with Hampshire Highways.

Because so many residents had attended the meeting because of the planning application for 23 London, it was agreed to move the item on planning to the top of the agenda.

23/155 Planning – Current applications were discussed:

SDNP/23/0 2795/FUL and SDNP/23/0 2796/LIS	<b>Extend the existing vehicle workshop westwards over 3-levels (one subterranean) creating a new main entrance to the building, equipment storage area, additional workshop and office space and a new on-site vehicle storage unit with capacity for 10 vehicles. Associated change of use of a portion of no. 21 London Road's garden, demolition of no. 21's rear garage and existing extension to the front elevation, front extension to no. 21, blocking up of no. 21's existing access and creation of a new access and associated staff car park, creation of parking bays for no. 21, associated change of use of a portion of no. 19 Shear Hill's garden. Demolition of no. 19 and erection a replacement C3</b>	23 London Road, Sheet GU31 4BQ	<b>OBJECTION</b> – the proposals do not comply with the SDNPA Local Plan in respect of the following policies: SD1 Sustainable Development, SD5 Design, SD7 Relative Tranquillity, SD11 Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows, SD13 Listed Buildings, SD19 Transport and Sustaining the Local Economy, SD54 Pollution and Air Quality. Accessibility, SD22 Parking Provision, SD34. <b>**If the application were to be permitted, conditions should be applied in respect of construction times, opening times, lighting, noise and pollution, restricted Class B2 approval, limited parking</b>
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	<b>dwelling. Hard and soft landscaping and associated works.</b>		at 19 Shear Hill and no access to the rest of the site, trees to be planted in the ground, provision of sufficient acoustic fencing and the relocation of workshop exhaust outlets. Sheet Parish Council's full response is appended to the Minutes.
SDNP/23/0 3501/FUL	<b>Proposed tractor shed with store and workshop for use with agricultural land</b>	9 Broadlands Cottages, School Lane, Sheet GU32 2AZ.	No Objection
SDNP/23/0 30324/HO US	<b>Single storey side extension and garage conversion, timber cladding to gable and dormers</b>	Juniper Cottage, Old Mill Lane, Sheet GU31 4DA	No Objection

\*\* The concern raised by Councillors about whether the provision of the conditions appeared to weaken the objection was addressed by contacting the Planning Officer after the meeting, to ask about the possibility of sending the conditions separately – the Planning Officer responded to say that this would be possible as long as they were sent at the same time as they would also need to be uploaded to the website. It was subsequently agreed to respond in this way.

The majority of residents present left the meeting following this item.

#### 23/156 County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Oppenheimer said he was pleased to have been present for the discussion on the planning application for Lanzante as he was concerned about the impact this type of development would have on traffic calming proposals for Pulens Lane and the proposed changes to the Pulens Lane junction. He undertook to liaise with Hampshire Highways about this. He also confirmed there is to be a public consultation on the Pulens Lane traffic calming project in November.

Cllr. Oppenheimer reported on a high-level meeting he attended in August between the new CEO of Southern Water and the Leader of HCC as well as senior officers from both organisations. He was pleased to report that there is a new management team at Southern Water who are keen to progress issues. They have inherited some difficulties but are determined to restore their reputation with responsible infrastructure investment. In respect of specific sewage issues experienced by Sheet residents, Southern Water consider that sewage overflows are due to the frequency of severe rainfall due to climate change. Various prevention methods are recommended – for example, rain from roofs should be directed into soakaways, planters, or a sustainable drainage system. HCC has agreed to play its part by retrofitting their 10,000 buildings, including schools, and improving sustainable highways drainage. Cllr. Oppenheimer confirmed that he will continue to push for replacement of the old pumping station in Mill Lane to be bought forward from 2025.

The County Councillor's full report had been circulated prior to the meeting and is appended to the Minutes.

23/157 District Councillor's Report – Cllr. Drew was unable to attend the meeting and no report had been received.

23/158 Sheet Village Green –Horse Chestnut Tree – The work to severely reduce the canopy of the Horse Chestnut as recommended by Arboriculturist Trevor Heaps following the damage caused by Storm Antoni, is due

to take place on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September. A leaflet has been dropped through the doors of residents' living around the Green to make them aware of the plans and requesting that they move their cars from around the Green that day – cones will be used to prevent other people parking in the vicinity.

23/159 Insurance – Sheet P.C. is in the final year of a long-term contract with Zurich - renewal of cover was approved.

23/160 Finance –

- (a) Audit 22-23 – The External Auditor (BDO) has confirmed that Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return are in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The relevant notice of conclusion of Audit will be advertised via the Parish Council website and noticeboards.
- (b) Grant Application – The application for £100 for the annual prize-giving by the Allotment Association was considered and approved.
- (c) Bank Reconciliations – The July and August bank reconciliations were approved and signed.
- (d) Cheque Payments - The following cheques were approved for payment and signed:

Chq No.	Amount	Payee	Service
301558	£1,575.00	Ryan Kirkby	Balance for path at Sheet Rec
301559	£684.38	Castle Water	Allotments
301560	£1,394.12	Zurich Municipal	Insurance renewal
301561	£379.08	Petersfield Town Council	Bin Contract
301562	£378.00	BDO LLP	External Audit 2023
301463	£63.30	Hampshire County Council	Cleaning supplies - Sheet V. Hall
301564	£40.00	Information Commissioners Office	Data Protection
301565	£80.40	Elite Playground Inspections	Sheet Rec and BMX track
301566	£75.00	T. Morgan	Website up-dates
301567	£490.00	Sheet Music	Caretaking and cleaning - V. Hall
301568	£778.80	Arbtech Consulting Ltd	Bat Survey - Old Billiard Room
301569	£1,558.51	J. Hollington	Clerk - + tax refund
301570	£100.00	Sheet & Tilmore Allotment Association	Grant application - annual prize monies
301571	£746.00	Michael Smith Ltd	Grass Cutting contract - August
301572	£6,240.00	Myers Tree Surgeons	*Horse Chestnut – Village Green
<b>Total</b>	<b>£14,582.59</b>		

\*Cheque 301572 – Payment for the tree work will be made after the work on the Horse Chestnut Tree had been carried out on 14<sup>th</sup> September.

- (e) Deposit Funds – The opening of an account with the Cambridge and Counties Bank and the transfer of deposit from the Cambridge Building Society remains to be completed.

23/161 .Gov e-mail addresses – Cllr. Stevens confirmed that he has begun looking into the provision of a .gov e-mail address for all Councillors and will report back in full at the October meeting.

23/162 PPS Responses – Survey responses are coming through slowly at present – the closing date is 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

23/163 Roads and Traffic

- (a) CFI Project – London Road – This project to slow traffic via the installation of new village gates, white lining, signage, and a crossing on the London Road has been completed. Following the feedback from residents during public comment that visibility is impacted when crossing from the Common side of the London Road, this will be raised as a concern with Hampshire Highways – however, there may also be some scope to improve sightlines via hedge cutting.
- (b) CFI Project – Village Street/Farnham Road – This project remains unfinished after two residents refused to move their car from the corner of the junction. It is hoped that a compromise has been reached over this situation, but Hampshire Highways will ensure that they have the legal means to remove vehicles when they return to complete the work – hopefully in late October/early November. Cllr. Martin explained that she will also liaise with Hampshire Highways about the difficulties being experienced by residents reversing out of their drive because of the position of the bollard.
- (c) Future Roads Projects – The dangerous crossing at the roundabout at the top of the London Road was highlighted and it was suggested that consideration could be given to the installation of Village Gates before the crossing to slow traffic as it approached the roundabout from the A3 slip road. Cllr. Martin undertook to discuss this issue with Alistair MacAdam at Hampshire Highways to see what he thought would be possible.
- (d) Motorbike Noise and Nuisance – Cllr. Biddlecombe attended the on-line forum on 14<sup>th</sup> July and reported that the average speed camera scheme on the A272 is having a positive impact – it is noticeable that there are now far fewer motorbikes using the route at weekends (although residents in other areas, notably Stoner Hill, are now reporting increased issues).
- (e) Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – Cllr. Biddlecombe confirmed these would be installed shortly. However, because of the difficulties involved with initial installation and when it comes to moving the SIDs around, it was agreed to order a further 8 brackets and to hire a small cherry picker from Beaver Tool Hire at a cost of £170 + VAT to make initial installation of the brackets easier.
- (f) EHDC Community Speedwatch Camera – The Clerk confirmed that the application form has been submitted to EHDC.

23/164 Mill Lane

- (a) Sewage – Cllr. Oppenheimer will continue to liaise with S. Water on this issue.
- (b) Condition of the Lane – Cllr. Martin confirmed that she had contacted Hampshire Highways about the condition of the lane, however, they do not feel that further work is required at the moment.
- (c) Ownership of the Riverbank – The Clerk was asked to research land ownership via the Land Registry Office.
- (d) Condition of the Tree on the Riverbank – The tree owner has confirmed that she would have no objection to the Council pruning the tree where it overhangs land owned by the parish council.

23/165 HCC Tree Planting Project – Cllrs. McKinney and Biddlecombe have now met with Emily Roberts, the HCC Project Manager, and discussed proposals in greater detail – a map showing areas of intended tree planting was available for those present at the meeting. It is intended that the Hampshire Monday Group volunteers will help with clearing and tree planting but as yet it is unclear when the trees will be ready for delivery. It is also intended to re-instate the hedgerow around the Millennium Field car park as part of this project.

23/166 Sheet Assets

**The Old Billiard Room** – The HCC Ecology Officer has requested that two further bat surveys are carried out - these will be completed by the end of September.

**Sheet Common** – A suggestion to re-wild an area of the Common, alongside the dead hedge, was discussed and approved – the only cost to the P.C. will be for a small amount of stock fencing but benefits for nature will be high.

**BMX Track** – The comments made via the quarterly inspection about untidiness at the site were noted, but Cllrs. Biddlecombe and Forrest confirmed that the condition of the track is not currently any worse than usual. So far there has been no real progress on the plan to give the User Group more responsibility

for use of the track, but the Clerk was asked to seek an indication of cost for a legal agreement to be drawn up to enable this.

**Millennium Field** – Concerns have been raised by residents living close to the car park about the proposal to install a height barrier to prevent further illegal occupation because of the number of large vehicles that use the car park to turn round in – especially Amazon delivery vans, maintenance vehicles, refuse lorries, etc. The refuse lorry would be unable to continue along the lane because of the narrowness at the Farnham Road end of the lane. It was agreed that Cllr. Bird would research the cost of signage to state “No Overnight Camping” and Cllr. Plant would research the creation of a by-law to make it easier to evict illegal occupants.

#### **Sheet Recreation Ground –**

- The quarterly inspection report had raised no real issues.
- Cllr. Forrest will seek quotes to install a new post for the side gate.
- The new path has been completed and there has been very positive feedback from users.
- The request for a community accessible defibrillator to be sited at the Scout Hut was considered and will be researched further. The Scout Group has confirmed that they would not object to the defibrillator being installed at the Scout Hut, if installation costs are covered. However, installation at the Half Moon Pub could also be considered as this would make it potentially more accessible.

**Sheet Allotments** – The details of the money claim by an ex-plot holder whose deposit had been only partially refunded after the plot had been left in bad condition, was noted. The Clerk was asked to draw up a timeline of events showing evidence of the condition of the plot when it was left, with witness statements where appropriate, to enable the Parish Council to decide whether to proceed with defending the claim. Because of the short deadline allowed by the Court it was confirmed that a decision on whether to proceed would be made by Councillors outside of the meeting.

**Sheet Village Hall** – User group comments and subsequent stock-take of kitchen utensils at the Hall has revealed that many smaller items appear to have disappeared over the years. It was agreed to re-stock the items that are very low.

#### **23/167 Correspondence**

- FoI Request on responses to the CFI Consultation for Village Street/Farnham Road Junction – The details of the FoI request were noted. The Clerk confirmed that the information requested had been sent within appropriate timescales.
- E-mail correspondence from residents in the Westmark Hamlet – their concerns about the speed of traffic and difficulty of access from properties onto the road were noted. Although the correspondence had come from residents living within Steep parish, the issue would impact Sheet residents equally as the A272 runs between the two parishes.
- Letter from the Pageant Master for UK Town and Parish Councils – The request for a beacon to be lit to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 was discussed. However, it was felt there was no appropriate position for this to be done in Sheet itself – the Clerk was asked to find out what Petersfield Town Council’s plans were.

#### **23/168 Forthcoming Meetings**

- SDNPA On-line Forum – Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October – Cllr. McKinney will attend.
- Future Energy Forum – Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> October – Bedales School

23/169 **Date of Next Meeting** – The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.