



Minutes of the Highclere Parish Council Meeting

Westridge Studio, Highclere

Tuesday 08 June 2021 at 7.30pm

Members Present: Cllr Norton (Chairman), Cllr Jenkins, Cllr York, Cllr Stoker, Cllr Smith, Cllr Easton, Cllr Leeson.

In attendance: Cllr Falconer, Cllr Carr, Cllr Thacker

Zoom: Cllr Dierks, One parishioner

Clerk: Amy White

The Chairman, Brad Norton welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting of 2021.

1. 09/21 Apologies for Absence

No apologies.

2. 10/21 Declarations of Interest

None.

3. 11/21 Update on actions from 13 April and 04 May 2021

163/20	Cllr Easton to confirm sign locations with Brian Harling. Not actioned but ok to remove as action has changed.	Cllr Easton
202/20	Cllr Stoker to update council on discussion with the other landowner next to Drovers Way before commencing any clearing. Actioned: The Lengthsman has cut most of the way down but a tree surgeon is needed to cut one of the trees. Action: Clerk to ask Greentips to quote to remove tree blocking the path.	Cllr Stoker

4. 12/21 Public Participation

No one requested to participate.

5. Reports from County and Borough Councillors

13/21 Cllr Thacker: Following the election of Hampshire County Council, Conservatives retain an unchanged majority. Cllr Thacker has been appointed Vice Chairman of Hampshire Pension Fund Panel and Board, Vice Chairman of The Policy and Resources Select Committee and Vice Chairman of the Conduct Advisory Panel

Highways- A specialist rubble recycling centre has opened in Micheldever. It is expected to make significant carbon savings (estimated 67500kg of CO2 savings)

Newtown Road- a decision will be made on 17 June whether West Berks will be able to continue offering the service to north Hampshire residents.

Cllr Norton asked Cllr Thacker re what to do re bollard report from Cllr Easton (see Roads and Transport, Item 6). Cllr Thacker recommended to report the issues to HCC and he will follow up with the ref number and ask to be kept informed.

Cllr Thacker spoke with Hampshire Highways about an accident at Penwood. Hampshire Highways was not alerted to the accident, but have agreed to raise the matter at the next Traffic Safety Meeting with the police.

Cllr Thacker has asked Highways to look at the dangers or otherwise of trees between Seven Stones Bridge and the A34 junction on the A343. A resident has reported that overhanging trees pose a danger.

Cllr Thacker pointed the Council to the HCC budget consultation which can be found [here](#). The deadline for responses is 18 July 2021

14/21 Cllr Sam Carr introduced himself as one of the three borough councillors elected to the new Evingar Ward.

15/21 Cllr Falconer updated the council on relevant planning applications.

A meeting has been held with an EWPC rep, HPC rep, Cllr Falconer, Cllr Izett and Bewley Homes last week who are expected to put in an outline application for up to 350 houses by the end of August near the A34 bypass at Wash Water. This affects both Highclere and East Woodhay Parishes.

Basingstoke Council has committed to supporting the waste collection at Newtown Road as it currently stands.

6. Roads and Transport

16/21 SID Update: Cllr Easton

Cllr Easton recommends not buying a new SID at the moment but to buy new batteries.

Council agreed to buy 2 new batteries.

Action: Clerk to get SID to Cllr Easton and buy new batteries.

17/21 Bollards- Cllr Easton shared a report on the broken bollards along the Highclere stretch of the A343. The report can be accessed [here](#).

Action: Cllr Jenkins/ Clerk to ask Lengthsman to kill weeds at the refuge and ask if he's allowed to clean the gutters at Penwood crossroads.

Action: Cllr Easton to report bollard issues to HCC

18/21 Community Funded Initiative: The Clerk has sent in the forms to initiate the project. Kevin Hyde has confirmed that the scheme has now been issued and will be split into two sections: Signs and Gateways; Road Lining. The contractor will now order the gateways and signs for the scheme. The lead in time will be subject to the turn around time at the suppliers.

Upon receipt of all the materials the contractor will need to schedule the works into his programme.

7. Environment

19/21 Footpaths- update on Rights of Way access in Highclere PC

Action: Cllr Stoker will ask Rory Pope to cut path 736 from Pantings Lane to Westridge.

20/21 Take Pride in Highclere

Cllr Dierks has been working on the “Take Pride in Highclere” initiative. Some initial activities to be suggested- verges, ditches, overhanging trees.

Action: Clerk find legal lengths of overhanging trees.

Action: Cllr Smith will laminate footpath numbers on card to place on paths, perhaps with the Take Pride in Highclere logo.

8. 21/21 Recent Planning Applications (see end of minutes for full responses):

- 21/01283/FUL at Pitt House, Mount Road Highclere RG20 9QY- (Submitted: **Object**)
- 21/01182/LBC at Highclere Castle Historic Walled Garden Highclere Park- (Submitted: **No comment**)
- 21/01139/ADV at Shell Tothill A34 Newbury Bypass Burghclere RG20 9BX- (Submitted: **No comment**)
- 21/01281/LDEU at Grantham House and Crawley House Andover Road- (Submitted: **Object**)
- 21/01428/HSE at White Oak House Highclere Park Highclere RG20 9RJ- (Submitted: **No comment**)
- 21/01459/LBC at Zell Farm House, Bartletts Down Lane Hollington Cross Highclere (Submitted: **No comment**)
- 21/01210/FUL at Land at Mount Meadow Pantings Lane Highclere: Submitted: **No objection but concerns re traffic disruption during construction phase.**
- 20/03524/OUT- outline plan for 26 Houses on Andover Road- **Response not decided yet**
- 21/01296/HSE at Glencross Mount Road Highclere RG20 9QZ- Two parishioners (via zoom) expressed their concern over the application. **The Council decided they needed to consider their response outside the meeting. Deadline is 22 June.**
Action: Cllr Jenkins to speak to Cllr Falconer on this application.
- Planning Application at Wash Water. There has been communication with Bewley Homes who are anticipating applying for 350 houses in the Wash Water area. The committee will wait for the application before commenting.

Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Falconer for advice on **20/03524/OUT** response.

9. 22/21 Neighbourhood Plan update

Colin Wall provided the following NP update:

At our last meeting we focused mainly on four items :

- *Budget – PlanET have provided a forward plan and budget and we are debating how to manage and apply it. We are likely to apply for a reduced Grant and use the PC money first to ensure we maximise the funds we have to expediting the process – ongoing.*
- *PlanET have revised the Objectives and Policies into a form which will pass inspection.*
- *PlanET have developed a Community Questionnaire designed to further test the validity of the Objectives and Policies. This caused some concern and we are working on a revised requirement for PlanET to respond to – ongoing.*
- *The site search that all the members of the NPSG were asked to undertake elicited a limited number of sites – nine – most of which were single or two houses, but with a few that could be five or six. This would allow us to reach our target of 15 – 20 as long as we used them all. This prospect raised some serious issues among the Group, and we have decided to get the PlanET view on whether a St Mary Bourne-style approach – defining scale and style of development, but no sites – could work as well.*

Finally, we are aware that Bewley Homes are looking at Common Farm (Wash Water) for 350 houses and we are unsure what effect this would have on the basic viability of the NP. We are also in contact with a developer who is interested in a previously unconsidered site for 6 – 10 houses – Brad is aware.

In summary, many things are moving, but not all in the same direction.

10. 23/21 Broadband update

Highclere and East Woodhay will join forces on the roll out of Broadband across both Parishes. The replacement voucher scheme will amount to £1500 per household or £3000 for a business run from a household. If everyone (identified in the communications both Parishes have obtained) joins, this should cover the full cost of installation.

Action: Clerk to set up a zoom call with Chris Priestley from Openreach with the volunteers from both parishes to decide how to proceed.

11. 24/21 website update

Cllrs Leeson, Dierks and the Clerk have had two zoom sessions to set up a basic new website. The website is not yet live as there is more work to do to make it functional.

12. Financial Matters

25/21 Accounts for Payment, June:

The Clerk presented the following items for payment :

Date incurred	Expenditure	Purpose	Ex VAT	VAT	Total	Method
14/04/2021	HMRC PAYE	Tax & NI June 2021 (Employer NIC £12.75)			222.23	online
27/04/2021	Red76	Payroll Service	12.00	2.40	14.40	online
27/05/2021	Westridge Studio	Room Hire for HPC meeting 08 June	15.00	0.00	15.00	online
20/05/2021	Eleanor Greene	Internal Audit	240.00	0.00	240.00	online
27/05/2021	Litter Warden Salary	June Salary			446.82	online
14/05/2021	Litter Warden Expenses	Travel expenses for May			13.95	online
27/05/2021	Clerk's Salary	June Salary			743.49	online
27/05/2021	Clerk Pension	HPC payment to Clerk Pension			69.84	DD

14/05/2021	Clerk's Expenses	ionos mail storage £17.99 incl domain renewal, Zoom.pro (May), Wix website	128.98	25.80	154.78	online
					Total	£1,920.51

Bank Balance as at 28/05/2021:

Community Account: £794.46

Business Account: £56507.92

26/21 Audit: The Clerk has published the internal auditor's report. The improvement suggestions were noted and the Clerk will action these as necessary.

The date for the exercise of public rights to view HPC's accounts has been set as 14 June to 23 July inclusive.

13. 27/21 Items to take forward to next meeting:

Usual standing items as well as Lengthsman tasks, CFI, Broadband, Take Pride in Highclere initiative.

The meeting finished at 10pm.

28/21 Date of the next Council Meeting 06 July at Westridge Studio, Highclere

Signed _____ Position _____ Date _____

Actions from June Meeting

202/20	Clerk to ask Greentips to quote to remove tree blocking the path at Drovers Way.	Clerk
16/21	Clerk to get SID to Cllr Easton and buy new batteries.	Clerk
17/21	Cllr Jenkins/ Clerk to ask Lengthsman to kill weeds at the refuge and ask if he's allowed to clean the gutters at Penwood crossroads. Cllr Easton to report bollard issues to HCC	Clerk/Cllr Jenkins Cllr Easton
19/21	Cllr Stoker will ask Rory Pope to cut path 736 from Pantings Lane to Westridge.	Cllr Stoker
20/21	Clerk find legal lengths of overhanging trees and hedge depth. Cllr Smith will laminate footpath numbers on card to place on paths, perhaps with the Take Pride in Highclere logo.	Clerk Cllr Smith
21/21	Clerk to ask Cllr Falconer for advice on 20/03524/OUT response.	Clerk
23/21	Clerk to set up a zoom call with Chris Priestley from Openreach with the volunteers from both parishes to decide how to proceed.	Clerk

Planning Applications- full responses

- 21/01283/FUL at Pitt House, Mount Road Highclere RG20 9QY- (Submitted: **Object**)

1. CN9: The exit onto the A343 is dangerous onto a 40 mph road below a blind hill brow. We have data to show that the speed limit is often exceeded in the 30 limit and this high speed will be carried on once the traffic is released from the limit down the hill. The only way that safety could be improved is by extending the 30 mph limit to seven stones bridge, which cannot be agreed by the authorities. The traffic report in the application states that there has only been one recorded accident in the last five years; is this correct or is it a case of under reporting?

2. Further information required on how established trees on the site would be protected - especially given the fact that the Biodiversity survey outlines that a number of trees would need to be removed, along with hedges.

3. Reference is made to HPC objection to the large development further up Andover Road. It should be noted that we support appropriate development and the assumption in the DAS that "this development is locally supported" is not an accurate statement, as each application is judged on its own merits. This application has flaws.

4. We don't see how this development would have "a positive economic benefit to the local community" - other than the applicant.

5. The Biodiversity Report details that a Lighting Plan for bats should be prepared. Has this been completed?

6. Significant risk of overlooking neighbouring properties, namely Pitt Cottage, Dove Cottage and Briarwood House.

7. EM4 Biodiversity: It is known that bats inhabit the area and use it for foraging. Any interference or removal of trees in the area will affect existing wild life for commuting bats from sites like Little Pen Wood.

8. EM10: The proposal is visually unattractive, it is too tall, there is a potential for overlooking adjacent properties.