

HIGHCLERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highclere Parish Council Meeting held remotely, via Zoom.app

Tuesday 12 May 2020 at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Clerk: Amy White

The Chairman, Brad Norton welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

01/20 Apologies received from Cllr Thacker and Cllr Falconer. No apologies received from Cllr Izett.

2. Declarations of Interest

02/20 None.

3. To confirm accuracy and sign the Minutes of the Council Meeting 07 April 2020.

03/20 It was unanimously resolved that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record. They were digitally signed by the Chairman, Cllr Norton.

4. Matters Arising from 07 April 2020

04/20

Item No.	Action	Owner
166/19	Clerk to draft letter to Old Honeyway and neighbouring house to request footpath is maintained. Not actioned due to Covid-19	Clerk
183/19	Clerk to clarify some of the proposed ideas with Kevin Hyde and report back to HPC. Actioned. Actioned but on hold due to Covid-19	Clerk
187/19	Clerk to send SID update to Highclere Society Newsletter. Clerk and Cllr Easton to resolve SID reliability issue. Not actioned due to Covid-19	Clerk Clerk/Cllr Easton
207/19	Cllr Easton to clarify Speedwatch signage request from Brian Harling before any decision can be made. Not Actioned, more clarification needed.	Cllr Easton
214/19	Clerk to add amended regulations to website. Actioned.	Clerk

5. Public Participation

05/20 No members of the public were virtually present.

6. Roads and Transport

06/20 After further contact with Brian Harling, Cllr Easton is still not clear on the road signs required yet by the Community Speedwatch Team. Following on from item 183/19 in Matters Arising, the Clerk will contact Kevin Hyde and ask whether speedwatch signs can be integrated

into the plans for the Community Speedwatch Initiative that HPC is hoping to restart later this year.

Action: Cllr Easton to clarify exact signage requirements with the CSW team.

07/20 Cllr Jenkins reported a lot of abandoned road signs in Highclere.

Action: Clerk to contact HCC to report signs to be collected.

7. Environment

08/20 Lengthsman: The Lengthsman scheme is still running throughout the lockdown. The jobs given so far are:

- Clean out bus shelter and remove leaves - A343/corner of Star lane
- Cut up and remove broken tree branches - SE corner of Penwood Cross Roads between edge of wood and main carriageway (22D8)

09/20 Footpaths: Some broken stiles have been replaced with gates along the path by Thorngrove school.

10/20 Litter: The Litter Warden is able to work regular hours now after Covid-19 work restrictions were lifted on Monday 11th May.

8. Recent planning applications

11/20

Application Ref	Date Received	Location	Deadline for Comment
20/00679/RET	30/04/20	Grantham/Crawley House, Andover Road	
<p>Objection: Highclere Parish Council objects to the retrospective application 20/00679/RET</p> <p>The reinstatement of the 1.8m closeboard fence contravenes the approved planning application 15/00583/FUL which stated that "existing hedgerow would be retained and reinforced"</p> <p>The distance the fence is moved back (0.7 metres) is insufficient to provide adequate growth of the hedge to mitigate the noise reflection from a close boarded fence and not encroach upon the footpath. The hedge should be provided and planted according to the recommendations laid down by the Landscape Team.</p> <p>Tall close boarded fencing is not in keeping with the rural nature of Highclere village as set out in the Village Design Statement and the fence, if it is allowed to be retained as a close boarded fence, should be reduced in height to 1.2 metres to allow retention of the views across to Highclere Park, reduce the noise reflection from the road and match the height of the adjacent property "Fridays" . "</p> <p>The ideal outcome would be the replacement of the hedgerow backed by a chain link fence, if they wanted to keep pets in off the road.</p> <p>The landscape officer proposed that the fence should ideally be replaced with a post and rail fence to allow the view across to Highclere Park. A 3 rail post and rail fence is about 1.2 metres high and obviously the preferred solution. A fence 1 metre high would be even better. The hedge would need to be planted at least 80 cm inside the boundary of the property (i.e. on their land, forget the fence line) to ensure adequate space for it to grow without encroaching upon the pedestrian pavement and any fence should be placed at least a similar distance (80 cm) inside the planted hedge line to allow light for adequate hedge growth and wildlife ingress. If a close boarded fence is used, this distance may need to be increased.</p>			

The use of bare rooted whips for the hedge is also unacceptable they will take some years to grow to a reasonable height and thickness, in addition the proposed ultimate height of the hedge at up to 2.4 metres is also out of keeping with the village.

19/02706/RET		April Cottage, Pantings Lane	
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Object: Obstruction of visibility along Pantings Lane, obtrusive, reduces apparent width of lane.

9. Reports from Cllr Graham Falconer and Cllr Tom Thacker

13/20 See appendix at the end of the minutes.

10. Financial Matters

14/20 Accounts for Payment:

The Clerk presented the following items for payment:

Date incurred	Expenditure	Purpose	Ex VAT	VAT	Total	Online/ Cheque/DD
			£	£	£	
12/05/2020	HMRC PAYE	Clerk Tax & NI			142.45	online
12/05/20	Litter Warden Salary	May Salary incl Apr back pay			572.26	online
12/05/20	Clerk's Salary	May Salary			725.31	online
27/04/20	Clerk's Expenses	IONOS Mail Storage	3.00	0.60	3.60	online
12/05/20	HALC	Affiliation Levy 2020/21			458.86	online
12/05/20	Groundworks UK	Repayment of unspent NP Loan			5552.96	online
Total:					7455.44	

Bank Balance as at 12/05/20

Community: £8607.25

Business: £39634.31

11. Correspondence received

15/20 The Clerk confirmed no other correspondence had been received.

The meeting finished at 8:30pm.

16/20 Date of the next Council Meeting: 09 June 2020

Signed _____ Position _____ Date _____

Actions from Meeting 07/04/20:

Item No.	Action	Owner
06/20	Cllr Easton to clarify exact signage requirements with the CSW team.	Cllr Easton
07/20	Clerk to contact HCC to report signs to be collected.	Clerk

Appendix:

- **Update from Cllr Falconer, BDBC**

A) Coronavirus Emergency

The Highclere and East Woodhay Neighbour Care continues to do an excellent job supporting this area and also Ashmansworth. Our Ward is operating without the need for Basingstoke Voluntary Action which is co-ordinating across the borough and has the £200,000 to grant to administer for the cost incurred by support groups.

The borough has been administering the government financial directives and it seems to have gone well. Organisations such as village halls expressed surprise that they received £10,000 but they may well need such funds to cover as yet unknown costs to conform to new guidelines, as yet unknown, on say toilets and kitchens.

The long term damage to the council's finances are unknown.

B) Planning

20/00679/RET Fence opposite Red House. Still undecided although the applicant submitted revised drawings moving the fence back 2m – because it was on highways land, and reducing the height by 33cm

April Cottage. I chased this and found that the officer has left and his manager, Lucy Page, has taken this on.

There are DC Committee meetings on 20 and 27 May with a restricted number of applications as it will be a test of using Zoom as opposed to physical meetings. I have one at St Mary Bourne where the Officer recommends refusal for solar panels notwithstanding our climate emergency declaration.

C) Other

HWRCs are or will be opened though Berkshire is slow to respond and hasn't yet reopened Newtown Road.

- **Update from Cllr Thacker, HCC**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – helping Hampshire residents most in need

Many kind people have volunteered their help to support our county's vulnerable residents during the Coronavirus pandemic. Local people and community groups across Hampshire are showing great strength and resilience, working hard to assist one another.

In addition to the remarkable efforts of local communities, Hampshire County Council has joined forces with district and borough council partners, alongside the county's community and voluntary sector, to ensure vulnerable people are able to access the support they need during the coming weeks.

How can I get help?

A new helpline is now available to provide information and advice, as well as practical support to frail or vulnerable Hampshire residents.

The Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline – **Hantshelp4vulnerable - can be contacted on 0333 370 4000**. (Calls charged at local rate.) Or you can request a call-back from the helpline by completing the call-back request form, available from <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus/volunteer-welfare>.

The helpline is available seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm, and is for vulnerable people who do not have support from families, friends or their local community, and who need assistance with practical issues.

Further details can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus/volunteer-welfare>

Household Waste Recycling Centres are now open.

West Berks HWRCs

I have contacted West Berks, which has confirmed that it will, in the week of 11 May, announce the reopening of its sites, including Newtown Road Site.

Access will be by appointment only. Appointments should be booked via the West Berks web site or by calling 01635 519080.

Hampshire HWRCs

Hampshire County Council confirmed that all of Hampshire's 24 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), alongside the City Depot site in Southampton and the Paulsgrove facility in Portsmouth, **opened on Monday 11 May 2020** for those who cannot store waste safely at home.

All sites are open under temporary revised daily opening hours of 10am to 4pm.

Use of sites is only for essential disposal of waste whereby storing such waste causes a risk of injury or to health

As per government guidelines, residents in the specified vulnerable category (those who are clinically extremely vulnerable, people over 70 and pregnant women) are strongly advised not to visit a site

Restricted numbers of vehicles will be permitted to access the site at any one time and site staff will enforce this at the site entrance

One person per household visit the HWRC. Only the driver will be permitted to leave the vehicle to handle and dispose of waste. Blue Badge holders are exempt from this rule.

Commercial vehicles are permitted. Vans should be bringing no more waste than that which would fit in an average saloon car boot.

Trailers are not permitted. Enforcement of social distancing on site means severely reduced capacity for manoeuvring trailers.

No walking in of waste is permitted.

Site staff will be unable to provide any assistance with unloading material or carrying material. Please ensure you only bring the amount of waste you can comfortably carry and empty into containers.

All site users must keep a 2-metre distance from others at all times.

Materials not accepted at this time include textiles and chargeable waste streams (soil, rubble, plasterboard and asbestos).

Reuse sales areas will remain closed.

The start date for the HWRC vehicle registration scheme has been postponed. The online vehicle registration system remains open and we encourage residents to take the opportunity to register their vehicles ahead of the scheme opening..

From Monday 11 May residents are asked to display their van permit clearly in the window of their vehicle. Permits will not be handed over for signing. If you have applied for a permit but have not yet received it, please be patient as printing and postage is taking longer than normal at present.

Further details

at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus?second=waste-recycling&third=hwrccs>