

HIGHCLERE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday 08 December 2020 at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: Cllr Izett, Cllr Falconer, Cllr Titcomb from EWPC, Jonathon Ashby (Newbury Weekly News), Edward Butler-Ellis and Douglas Bond, both from JPP, 6 parishioners.

Clerk: Amy White

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

1. 115/20 Apologies for Absence

No apologies received.

2. 116/20 Declarations of Interest

No declarations made.

3. 117/20 To confirm accuracy and sign the Minutes of the Council Meetings of 10 and 25 November 2020.

It was unanimously resolved that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record. They will be signed by the Chairman, Cllr Norton once current Covid restrictions allow.

4. 118/20 Matters Arising from 10 November 2020

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| 100/20 | Cllr Falconer to send Clerk the name of the contracts manager at BDBC to enquire about the continuing issue of the litter bin at Woolton Hill not being emptied by Hart Council. Actioned- the bin has been emptied. | Cllr Falconer/Clerk |
| 101/20 | Cllr Easton will set up a list of SID locations over the next 6 weeks to get the most useful data. Not actioned- see item 8. | Cllr Easton |
| 102/20 | Clerk: To check with Kevin that community speedwatch signs can be added to the new signage- Actioned- see item 8. Cllr Easton: to liaise with Brian Harling re specifics of signage and feasibility. Not actioned- see item 8. | Clerk Cllr Easton |
| 103/20 | Cllr Dierks to research ideas for highlighting the footpaths in the Parish. In action, see item 9. | Cllr Dierks |
| 104/20 | Cllr Norton to ask Colin Wall (Neighbourhood Plan lead) to provide a response to the Member of the Public about SHEELA sites, particularly Glebe Field. Actioned. Cllr Norton will respond to Member of the Public regarding their concern raised about the Common Farm site in Enborne. Not actioned. | Cllr Norton Cllr Norton |
| 106/20 | Cllr Jenkins to make contact with the Parish magazine for potential advertising. Cllr Leeson offered to assist with the copy. Actioned. | Cllr Jenkins/Dierks |
| 108/20 | Cllr Leeson to update council on removal of highclerevillage.com website. Actioned- see update on item 13 | Cllr Leeson |

5. 119/20 JPP Presentation

Edward Butler-Ellis and Douglas Brown presented the proposed development on the Andover Road in Highclere (from 7:30-8:05pm). They intend to submit an outline application to BDBC by Christmas with a total of 26 houses proposed for the site. Currently 20 people have responded to the proposal via their website: <https://www.andover-highclere.co.uk/>

After the presentation, HPC discussed the proposed application and decided that at this stage, they were unable to comment until the application is submitted.

6. 120/20 Public Participation

The public were invited to ask questions and comment on the JPP proposal. One person spoke and said that they were in opposition to the current proposal.

7. 121/20 reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Falconer updated the PC on the latest planning decisions.

8. Roads and Transport

122/20: Update on SID

The SID battery is not lasting two weeks and it is increasingly difficult to access the data. Cllr Easton suggested considering upgrading the SID to a newer, more reliable model. The Clerk is liaising with Radarlux to see if it is possible to improve the access to data using an app.

Action: Cllr Easton and Clerk to obtain quotes and information regarding SIDs to present to PC in January.

123/20 Community Funded Initiative

Once the Community SpeedWatch signs are confirmed with Alpha Graphics, HPC can proceed. Kevin Hyde from HCC will join the January meeting.

Action: Cllr Easton to confirm Community SpeedWatch signs with Alpha Graphics and send to Kevin Hyde.

9. Environment

124/20 Footpaths, stiles etc

Cllr Dierks has received a call from James Emmett at BDBC regarding adding clearer signs to footpath posts. BDBC can help, but they have very limited capacity at the moment. HPC also discussed the possibility of adding QR codes to posts to highlight footpath walks in the Parish and local area.

Action: Cllr Dierks will continue to research options for upgrading footpath signs and try and make contact with Hartley Whitney Parish for examples of good signage.

125/20 Litter: Currently along Foxs Lane, near Woodlands, Penwood the litter is very noticeable, as well as along the A343. The Clerk confirmed the Litter Warden is very active but the volume of litter and the lack of access on the A343 (for safety reasons) means that HPC has to rely on BDBC for litter clearing in some areas.

Action: Clerk to speak to Litter Warden to make sure he has enough support.

10. 126/20 Recent Planning Applications:

- 20/02950/OUT at Yew Tree Farmhouse, Penwood Drove, Penwood- **No comment**
- 20/02870/HSE at Little Flexford House, Andover Road- **No objection**
- 20/02847/FUL at The Carnarvon Arms Winchester Road Whitway Burghclere- **No objection.**
- 20/03073/RET at Grantham House And Crawley House Andover Road- **Objection;** the gates should not be treated as a separate entity to the two fences. In the original planning application the gates weren't included; HPC feels there should be a cohesive approach to the boundary/fencing.
- SHELAA update; HPC needs to put in a response to the Local Plan consultation. Colin Wall has responded on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Group. Cllr Titcomb of EWPC encouraged HPC to comment on the Local Plan and invited a joint Parish approach to respond to the latest SHELAA sites.

11. 127/20 Broadband update since advertising

An advert by HPC for broadband interest went in the Parish magazine. Currently Cllr Norton has received expressions of interest from 92 houses. Since the last meeting flyers have been received locally for vouchers towards the cost of fibre provision. The HPC deadline for interest will be the end of December, after which Cllr Norton will contact BT Openreach to initiate the process of a survey assessment.

Action: Cllr Norton to initiate survey with Openreach in the New Year.

12. 128/20 Rural policing update

Cllr Norton virtually attended a rural policing update and sent his response to HPC in advance via email:

- A key focus for the Police is theft of quad bikes and other farming plant. Over 80 pieces of plant (mainly quad bikes) have been stolen recently. Some have been recovered

(some as far as Germany and Bulgaria) and in increase in risk (where offenders target the owners of the vehicles) has been seen. The police have undertaken "Operation Slid" and Hants police have collaborated with Wiltshire and Thames Valley constabularies, which allows for cross-border patrols. 10 arrests have been made, but no charges have been levelled as yet. It appears that these thefts are undertaken by organised gangs, so the police know some of the individuals involved.

- The number of available police officers is likely to increase for our Ward. Our current Police constable special officer (PCSO) is Emma Page (for Highclere) and she is supported by 4 police constables and 3 other PCSOs. 4 Special Constables are also available. Two further police constables are expected to be available in the near future.
- Hare coursing is on the increase and it is felt that there are links to this with the theft of the quad bikes. There were reports recently of a gang of 15-20 individuals, in a number of vehicles causing some havoc in Ashmansworth (having first stolen some supplies from Hurstbourne Tarrant's village shop!). Hunting with dogs is illegal.
- Cllr Norton raised the issue of speeding and asked for an increase in the presence of speed cameras/vans in Highclere.
- Anybody seeing illegal activities is encouraged to report this through the online reporting tool ([Report | Hampshire Constabulary](#)) or 101.

129/20 Cllr Leeson has made contact with the owner of highclerevillage.com website; This website is no longer updated and the council would like the HPC website to be the first result seen. The owner of the site does not want it to be taken down, nor provide a re-route option for those trying to access the HPC site.

13. 130/20 Website Changes

Cllrs Dierks and Leeson have made changes to the current HPC website- it is now much clearer and simpler on the homepage. Twitter and Facebook media is now linked to the site.

Ongoing Action: Cllr Dierks will look at the information included in the website and update/amend as necessary, in conjunction with the Clerk.

14. Financial Matters

131/20 Accounts for Payment, November:

The Clerk presented the following items for payment via email to all councillors. Approved by Cllrs Norton, Jenkins and Stoker via email.

| Accounts for Payment December 2020 | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Date incurred | Expenditure | Purpose | Ex VAT | VAT | Total | Online/ Cheque/D D |
| | | | £ | £ | £ | |
| 10/11/2020 | HMRC PAYE | Clerk Tax & NI | | | 150.28 | online |
| 28/11/2020 | Litter Warden Salary | December Salary | | | 540.64 | online |
| 10/11/2020 | Litter Warden Expenses | Travel expenses for November | 13.95 | 5 | 13.95 | online |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|--|------|------|----------------|--------|
| 27/11/2020 | Clerk's Salary | December Salary | | | 760.20 | online |
| 30/11/2020 | Clerk's Expenses | Waitrose Xmas gifts to councillors (Chairmans's allowance) | | | 89.01 | online |
| 28/10/2020 | Clerk's Expenses | ionos mail storage | 5.00 | 1.00 | 6.00 | online |
| Total | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | 1560.08 | |

Current bank balance as at 10/11/20:

Business Savings Account: £53968.65

Current Account: £1879.11

132/20 Draft Budget Discussion: The Clerk circulated a draft budget in advance to the councillors. Discussion was held on the precept for 21/22 financial year. The Council is considering maintaining the precept at the 2020/2021 rate (£23615). The final decision will be made in January 2021.

15. 133/20 Correspondence

The Clerk has received no other items for discussion.

16. 134/20 Items to carry forward to next meeting

- JPP planning application
- Precept and budget setting for 2021/2022
- Broadband update
- SID upgrade proposals
- Alpha sign/CFI update

The meeting finished at 9:45pm.

17. 135/20 Date of the next Council Meeting: 12 January 2021

Signed _____ Position _____ Date _____

Actions for December Meeting

| | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 101/20 | Cllr Easton will set up a list of SID locations over the next 6 weeks to get the most useful data. | Cllr Easton |
| 102/20 | Cllr Easton: to liaise with Brian Harling re specifics of signage and feasibility. | Cllr Easton |
| 104/20 | Cllr Norton will respond to Member of the Public regarding their concern raised about the Common Farm site in Enborne. | Cllr Norton |
| 122/20 | Cllr Easton and Clerk to obtain quotes and information regarding SIDS to present to PC in January. | Cllr Easton & Clerk |
| 123/20 | Cllr Easton to confirm Community SpeedWatch signs with Alpha Graphics and send to Kevin Hyde. | Cllr Easton |
| 124/20 | Cllr Dierks will continue to research options for upgrading footpath signs and try and make contact with Hartley Whitney Parish for examples of good signage. | Cllr Dierks |
| 125/20 | Clerk to speak to Litter Warden to make sure he has enough support. | Clerk |
| 127/20 | Cllr Norton to initiate survey with Openreach in the New Year. | Cllr Norton |
| 130/20 | Cllr Dierks will look at the information included in the website and update/amend as necessary, in conjunction with the Clerk- ongoing | Cllr Dierks, Clerk |

Hampshire County Councillor Update

December 2020

I wish you all a Merry Christmas

We are unfortunately in a very difficult period with Covid. It is likely that vaccinations will be available early in 2021.

Hampshire COVID-19: High (Tier 2)

Hampshire County Council is urging residents to follow crucial new guidance under the county's COVID-19 High Tier announced on 27th November. From Wednesday 2 December, new local Tiers replaced national restrictions across England, with Hampshire placed under **High** (Tier 2).

The HCC position regarding the Government decision to place Hampshire in the COVID-19 High Tier (Tier 2) is that it is not unexpected but is a reflection of the fact that we still have some way to go in controlling the virus. It is vitally important that we continue to follow the rules to help keep the virus under control as we head further into winter.

Further information about the Tiers can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Public Health England continues to provide weekly **COVID19** updates including the number of cases locally as well as links to local and national data on the Hampshire County Council website. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/publichealth/jsna/covid19-data-and-intelligence#step-5>.

1. HCC HWRCs and Country Parks

HWRCs and Country Parks will remain open with social distancing measures in place and in line with Tier 2 restrictions.

2. Vulnerable Families

Hampshire County Council worked with partners to immediately distribute £150,000 of funding to support food banks and charities that are helping support the most vulnerable families in Hampshire during the half term break.

3. Surface Water Drainage and Flooding

We are approaching a potentially really wet Winter. Hampshire Highways routinely maintains Hampshire's 60,000 gullies and 4,600 catchpits, as well as carrying out a continued programme of improvements to highway surface water drainage systems to make Hampshire more resilient to the effects of extreme weather.

If you believe the flooding is from a main river contact the Environment Agency at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency> or phone 0800 80 70 60.

Urgent issues on the public highway can be reported to the County Council via www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems during office hours and via 101 outside office hours.

Surface water flooding on the highway can also be reported direct to Hampshire County Council at www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems

For other incidents of flooding please report these at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/reportingflooding>

Flood prevention guidance on reducing the risks and impacts of flooding is available at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/floodprevention>

Advice from Hampshire County Council and the Environment Agency on managing the risk of flooding is available at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/sandbags>

Advice on how householders can be prepared: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/emergencyplanning/whattoplanfor/floodingadvice>

To sign up for flood alerts visit: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>

4. Great Waste Grants Open

Grant funding is now available to community groups, small businesses, schools, charities and Parish Councils to fund projects to help reduce waste, reuse or repair items. The fund has supported many projects in the past including repair cafes, cookery and upcycling classes in schools, a second-hand school uniform service, swap events and a click and collect service for refillable containers.

For more information <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/02102020Wastegrant>

5. Parish Lengthsman scheme

Local communities across Hampshire will continue to benefit from the County Council's Parish Lengthsmen scheme. Funding for their work to carry on next year was approved by the Hampshire County Council Cabinet.

Funding has been put aside by Culture Communities and Rural Affairs to 2023.

6. Highways Area Management

Highways have changed their operating model for our area. As a result we have a new team of Engineers working in our area. The new team have stressed that they depend on the Parish Councils and residents, reporting issues and problems on the Highways portal and then, with the knowledge of the Job Reference Number, escalating through the County Councillor.

Tom Thacker

Hampshire County Councillor

Whitchurch and the Cleres Division