

HAMBLEDON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Alison Scott-Bishop (Clerk) Tel: 07471 506 244 Email: clerkofhpc@outlook.com

Hambledon Parish Council meeting on 1st March 2022 at 8pm in Hambledon Village Hall.

Present

Cllr Stewart Payne (Chairman), Cllr Alison Scott-Bishop (also Clerk), Cllr Sean Sinnott, Cllr Philip Underwood, Cllr Mary Grove (Vice Chairman) and Cllr Kevin Deanus (SCC & WBC).

22/37 Questions from members of the public. None present.

22/38 Apologies for Absence – Cllr Jude Milan, Cllr Robin McKeith, Cllr Jan Floyd-Douglass (WBC), Cllr Trevor Sadler (WBC).

22/39 Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st February 2022 were agreed, as was a document outlining a number of amendments to the Minutes which Councillors wished to record. Both were signed by the Chairman.

22/40 Declaration of Interests:

- a) Cllr Mary Grove: Member, Village Hall Committee; Trustee, Hambledon Football Club.
- b) Cllr Sean Sinnott: Member of the Management Committee, Hambledon Village Shop; Member of the Management Committee, Hambledon Festival Association; Member, Hambledon Community Fund; Trustee, Hambledon Almshouses.
- c) Cllr Alison Scott-Bishop: Chair of Management Committee, Hambledon Village Shop.
- d) Cllr Phillip Underwood: Parish Council representative of the Parochial Church Council, Hambledon Parish Church.
- e) Cllr Stewart Payne: Trustee and Parish Council representative, Hambledon Nursery School; Member of the Village Website Team.

22/41 Brief Verbal Report from the County Councillor on matters from Surrey County Council (SCC) affecting this Parish. Cllr Deanus reported that, following receipt from Alfold Parish Council of the final response to the Council's letter regarding HGVs on rural routes, funding was now being sought for the necessary surveys and other work required. Although the matter was not currently on the agenda for the forthcoming Local Committee Meeting, Cllr Deanus would ensure that the matter was discussed. Little was likely to happen until after the start of the new financial year on 1 April, but another hurdle had been overcome.

Cllr Deanus reported that the Surrey County Council precept had been increased by 4.99%. 3%, equating to circa £22m, had been earmarked for adult social care and 1%, equating to circa £8m, for mental health services, leaving 0.99% for other uses. There is to be an additional circa £120m investment in roads.

Cllr Deanus noted that the new purchaser of Dunsfold Park was still undertaking due diligence on the site and associated proposals. The main concern for local Parish Councils would be any attempts to revise the approved plans.

Cllr Deanus reported that Michael Gove had announced that the planning White Paper, which had been proposed in 2021, was being abandoned, although some of its proposals would be included in a national levelling up White Paper. The abandonment of the planning White Paper was good news as it meant an end to the proposals on planning zones and development within the Green Belt.

Cllr Deanus noted that Waverley Borough Council's lack of a five-year housing supply plan and out-of-date policies were leading to a lot of successful appeals against planning application rejections. This made it even more important for Parish Councils to ensure that any objections they submit to planning applications provided as much detail as possible to support the objection and referenced relevant sections of the Waverley Local Plan Part 1. Cllr Sinnott queried whether Waverley Borough Council might be able to take local Parish Councils through planning basics to assist with this. Cllr Deanus suggested that a lot of useful reference material could be found in previous successful planning application rejections.

Cllr Deanus was asked about the proposal to reroute and reopen a section of the disused Wey and Arun Canal, using part of the Downs Link walking/cycling route for this purpose (Planning Application WA/2021/02003), comments on the latest iteration of which were invited by 21 February 2022. It was noted that, while generally supporting the canal as a venture, the Parish Council had previously argued that, in line with Government policy to re-open disused railway lines, in order to support increased commuter traffic, the former track bed could be used to re-open a light railway link between Guildford and Cranleigh. Rerouting the canal as proposed would make this impossible. It was agreed that Cllr Payne should draft an objection to this planning application.

Action: Cllr Payne to draft an objection to Planning Application WA/2021/02003.

Cllr Deanus was asked about the bid from English Rural Housing Association for a Waverley Rented Housing Grant of £100,000, details of which had been forwarded to Cllr Payne by Cllr Floyd-Douglass. It was agreed that the Parish Council would have no objection to the awarding of such a grant, given its consistent support for the development which will be to the benefit of locals.

22/42 Brief Verbal Report from the Borough Councillors on matters from Waverley Borough Council affecting this Parish. Cllr Floyd-Douglass and Cllr Sadler were not present at the meeting.

22/43 Finance

- Verbal update on monthly finances, month 11 budget update
Cllr McKeith was not present at the meeting. Cllr Sinnott reported that funds held at the bank were as follows:

Current Account - £7,492.64
Reserves Account - £10,845.00
Henry Smith Account - £2,023.14
- Payments to be approved:
 - Julie Flenley final salary £275.40. Agreed prior to the meeting by email circulation.
 - Julie Flenley final expenses claim (December 2021 – Feb 2022) £421.20. Agreed prior to the meeting by email circulation.
 - Village Hall hire for Parish Council meetings. Invoice awaited. Cllr Grove to follow up.
 - Grants to Cricket Club, Football Club, St Peter's Church, Hoppa, Citizens Advice Bureau and Village Hall of £100 each. Agreed.
 - Grant to Surrey Playing Fields Association of £40.00. Agreed.
 - Cllr Grove claim for £65.94 for replacement pads for the defibrillator at Hambledon Village Shop. Agreed.
 - Cllr Grove claim for £22.40 for village welcome packs. Agreed.
 - Cllr Sinnott claim for £460.76 inc. VAT for the purchase of a Parish Council laptop, mobile telephone and accessories. Agreed.

- Henry Smith Charity verbal update
As agreed at the February meeting, £150 of Henry Smith funds had been donated to Waverley Citizens Advice Bureau and an acknowledgement had been received. £120 of vouchers had been cashed in at Hambledon Village Shop. Cllr Grove will arrange for payment from the Henry Smith account.

Action: Cllrs Sinnott and Grove to authorise and action all outstanding payments.

22/44 Planning Matters Update

No further matters were discussed.

22/45 New Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications for consideration.

22/46 Recent Planning Applications

- **WA/2022/00442 – Land at Tigbourne Farm, Petworth Road, Wormley, Godalming.** Witley Parish Council had forwarded their brief comments objecting to this application to the Parish Council for information. Councillors noted that there had been no objections from residents of Hambledon and only one other objection to the application from a direct neighbour. Accordingly, Councillors saw no need to comment on the application.
- **WA/2022/00415 – Enton End, Station Lane, Enton, Godalming, GU8 4AN.** PENDING
- **WA/2022/00398 – Stone Cottage, Vann Lane, Chiddingfold, Godalming, GU8 4XU.** PENDING
- **WA/2022/00294 – Vann Lane Piggeries, Vann Lane, Hambledon, Godalming, GU8 4EB.** PENDING
- **WA/2022/00109 – Burgate House, Markwick Lane, Loxhill, Godalming, GU8 4BD.** PENDING
- **WA/2021/03181 – 1 & 2 Redroof Cottages, Malthouse Lane, Hambledon, Godalming GU8 4HH.** PENDING
- **WA/2021/03180 – 1 & 2 Redroof Cottages, Malthouse Lane, Hambledon, Godalming GU8 4HH.** PENDING
- **WA/2021/03147 – Feathercombe Farmhouse, Feathercombe Lane, Hambledon, Godalming, GU8 4DP.** PENDING
- **WA/2021/03135 – The Bungalow, Feathercombe Lane, Hambledon, Godalming, GU8 4DP.** PENDING
- **WA/2021/03122 – Burgate House, Markwick Lane, Loxhill, Godalming, GU8 4BD.** GRANTED
- **WA/2021/03079 – Feathercombe Farmhouse, Feathercombe Lane, Hambledon, Godalming, GU8 4DP.** PENDING
- **WA/2021/03064 – The Old Coal Yard, Hambledon Road, Godalming, GU8 4DR.** PENDING
- **WA/2021/03038 – Hambledon Cricket Club, Cricket Club Pavilion, The Cricket Green, Godalming, GU8 4HF.** GRANTED
- **WA/2021/03007 – 9 The Hydons, Salt Lane, Hydestile, Godalming.** PENDING
- **WA/2021/02969 – Sunfield, Petworth Road, Wormley, Godalming, GU8 5TU.** PENDING
- **WA/2021/02315 – Feathercombe Farm, Feathercombe Lane, Godalming, GU8 4DP.** PENDING
- **WA/2021/02085 – Former Nutbourne Brickworks, Roundalls Lane, Hambledon.** PENDING
- **WA/2021/02019 – Enton End, Station Lane, Enton, Godalming, GU8 5AN.** GRANTED

Councillors noted for the record.

22/47 Village Matters

- Maintenance, highways, hedges, ditches and rights of way

Cllr McKeith was not present at the meeting. Cllr Payne noted that the village had suffered from the effects of Storm Eunice on 18 February. A number of trees had been brought down and roads had been blocked. On behalf of the Parish Council, he expressed his gratitude to the volunteers who had cleared so many blockages, especially in the Church car park.

Cllr Payne noted that, although heavy machinery had been seen in the vicinity of Rock Hill, flooding was continuing so it was not clear what work had been undertaken to deal with the problem.

Cllr Payne noted that the Nursery School had been concerned about the debris on the road on Rock Hill following Storm Eunice and their potential responsibility for the trees involved. It had been confirmed that the trees involved were not the responsibility of the Nursery School. The need for the debris to be cleared had been logged with Surrey County Council who had indicated that it will be cleared but it is not a matter of priority.

Cllr Grove noted that the damaged post by the village pond which was discussed in the February meeting had not yet been repaired. She undertook to raise the matter with Cllr McKeith to see if Tim Coleman had been tasked with the repair.

- Traffic and Speedwatch

Cllr Grove noted the receipt of the HGV letter from Alfold Parish Council and that she had spoken to Paul Osborne about it. Mr Osborne was happy to leave it to Surrey County Council to deal with the matter with the Local Committee.

Cllr Grove reported that she had advised Witley Parish Council that Hambledon Parish Council was currently only in a position to offer a few hundred pounds towards the cost of the installation of a vehicle activated sign by King Edward's School on the Petworth Road. No response had been received.

- Fly Tipping

Cllr Payne noted that the issue and contact details for reports had been posted on the village website and in the Parish Magazine as requested by the Waverley Borough Council Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Officer.

- Farnborough Airport Noise Group

Recent updates from the Farnborough Airport Noise Group were noted. Councillors agreed that no issues with noise from Farnborough Airport had been raised by villagers so the Parish Council had no comment to make on the latest developments.

Parish Assembly

In response to a request from Cllr Payne for suggestions for suitable external speakers, Cllr Grove noted that Andrew Smith, the Head of Housing Delivery for Waverley Borough Council had offered to speak. However, it was agreed that the meetings were already long, so an external speaker was probably no longer required.

Cllr Payne noted that it would be necessary to ask all the usual village organisations to provide updates at the Assembly. The Clerk had a list of contributors to the 2021 Assembly and Cllr Payne would provide her with wording for an email to send to them. A poster used to publicise previous Assemblies had been updated and information would be published on the village website and in the Parish Magazine. The Assembly would be run along the lines of previous face-to-face events and villagers would be invited to pose questions after hearing from each speaker, rather than at the end.

The village clean up would take place on the following Saturday, 23 April. Cllr Grove will approach Jane Woolley for information on how to obtain litter pickers and bags. Cllr Sinnott will arrange the post-pick up barbeque with Jon Petersen and will make sure the Village Shop has an extra rubbish bin and an extra rubbish collection to deal with the litter that is collected.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Information had been posted on the village website and in the Parish Magazine. Councillors expressed support for the proposal to invite villagers to bring their own rugs, food and drink and join a village picnic outside the Village Shop, spreading on to the Cricket Green if necessary, on the afternoon of Sunday 5 June to coincide with The Big Jubilee Lunch. It had been confirmed that there would be no home cricket match on that date.

Cllr Grove reported that she had been approached with an offer of help from one volunteer. George Pitt had also kindly made a number of suggestions including him arranging for the Union Jack to be flown at the Church for the duration of the Jubilee Weekend. Other suggestions included the production of a booklet describing previous village jubilee celebrations and a treasure hunt, either on foot or by bicycle.

Moving all Councillors to HPC email accounts

Cllr Sinnott asked whether Councillors might wish to use specific Hambledon Parish Council email addresses, such as Sean.Sinnott@hpc.com for Parish Council business. He noted that, while adding a layer of complication, it was a practice that had been adopted by other Parish Councils and would facilitate compliance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. Councillors agreed that Cllr McKeith should be asked to investigate the possibilities and what would be involved.

Recruitment of new Parish Clerk/Proper Officer/RFO

Cllr Payne noted that an initial deadline of 28 February had been set for applications. None had been received by that date, so the deadline had been extended. Subsequently, an application had been received from an individual who lives some way from the village. Advice received from SALC was that many Clerks travel to the Parishes they support and the use of Councillors to act as Clerks and Responsible Financial Officers ("RFOs") should only be seen as a short-term measure.

Councillors agreed that the application deadline should be set at 18 March, after which any applicants should be invited to interviews with Cllrs Payne, Sinnott and Scott-Bishop to enable a decision on recruitment to be made at the Parish Council meeting on 5 April.

Action: Cllr Payne to provide the Clerk with wording for an email to send to all likely contributors to the Village Assembly.

Action: Cllr Grove to contact Jane Woolley for information on how to obtain litter pickers and bags for the village litter pick up on 23 April.

Action: Cllr Sinnott to arrange the post-litter pick up barbeque and an extra rubbish bin and collection for the Village Shop.

Action: Cllr Sinnott to ask Cllr McKeith to investigate the scope for the use of specific Hambledon Parish Council email addresses by Councillors for Parish Council business.

22/48 Village Organisations

- **Almshouses** – Cllr Sinnott noted that there was no update.

- **Nursery School** – Cllr Payne reported that Cllr Milan would attend the next Trustees meeting with him on 30 March and he would then complete his handover of his position as a Trustee to her.
- **Village Hall** – Cllr Grove noted that Graham Guthrie and Sarah Stuckey had been appointed as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. There will be a quiz on the evening of 7 May and possibly a play on another date. Advice to village halls continued to suggest that gatherings be restricted in size. As the Parish Council would have no control over the number of attendees at the Village Assembly, Cllr Grove was asked to speak to Ruth Canham about the size of gatherings that can take place in the Village Hall.
- **Hambledon Festival 2021** – Cllr Sinnott noted that a planning meeting was scheduled for later in the week. The intention was to run a full festival programme.
- **Village Shop** – Cllr Scott-Bishop reported that a lot of work was being done to create an appropriate set of policies and procedures for professionals and volunteers to support them and the shop.
- **St Peter's Church** – Cllr Underwood reported that all was well at the Church.
- **Village Defibrillator** – Cllr Grove reported that the pads had been replaced and queried whether the village should purchase child key at the cost of £85 as the defibrillator cannot be used on children without one. Councillor expressed concern about the use of the defibrillator on a child.

Action: Cllr Grove to speak to Ruth Canham about the size of gatherings that can take place in the Village Hall.

22/49 Reports from outside meetings – Cllr Payne reported that he had attended the Town and Parish Council's Meeting with the Borough Police Commander, Samantha Adcock, on 21 February. The message he had taken from the meeting was that the police were not focused on solving local crime. Cllr Payne will write an article on the meeting for the Village website and Parish Magazine.

22/50 Forthcoming outside meetings – Tree Summit 2022, 10.00am to 2.00pm on Thursday 10 March at Wisley. The event is mainly aimed at farmers, landowners and land managers.

22/51 Correspondence – Councillors noted a query received by Cllr Payne regarding a plaque on a tree in the village.

22/52 Dates of next meetings:

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| - 5 th April 2022 | - 10 th January 2023 |
| - 21 st April 2022 (Parish Assembly) | - 7 th February 2023 |
| - 10 th May 2022 | - 7 th March 2023 |
| - 7 th June 2022 | - 4 th April 2023 |
| - 5 th July 2022 | - 27 th April 2023 (Parish Assembly) |
| No meeting in August | - 9 th May 2023 |
| - 6 th September 2022 | |
| - 4 th October 2022 | |
| - 1 st November 2022 | |
| - 6 th December 2022 | |

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED AT 22.05.