

Greatham Parish Council
Draft Minutes of Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 8th September 2021, 8pm

Present Cllr A Crick, Cllr T Driver, Cllr C Harris, Cllr M Rodbert (Chair)

Also present Jane Ives, Clerk to Parish Council
District Councillor P Davies
12 members of the public

- 21.79 Chairman's Announcements:** Cllr Rodbert welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 21.80 Apologies for absence:** Cllr Butler, Cllr Rook
- 21.81 Declarations of Interests:** There were none.
- 21.82 Resignation of Councillor:** It was noted that Mr A Cheesman had resigned as a parish councillor and a by-election will be held once EHDC have confirmed the dates.
- 21.83 Council Meeting Minutes:** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th July 2021 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 11th August 2021.
- 21.84 Update on actions arising from previous meetings:**
Bridleway 11 funding – Response from Hampshire Countryside Services has been received advising that the Parish Partnership Fund could be a source of funding. This should be considered at a future meeting.
HCC Traffic Study – HCC to be contacted following lockdown about resuming the traffic study
Telephone Box – Clerk to liaise with neighbours and relevant organisations such as EHDC to see if planning permission is required. Services underground need to be investigated and marked up. The panes in the telephone box need to be replaced.
Annual Report – to be drafted by councillors and circulated to all residents and/or a public meeting held.
Drain in Bakers Field - drain opposite 10 Bakers Field was causing surface water flooding. Clerk has reported it.
Bench in Bakers Field – bench is rotten and needs work. Clerk has investigated and work is required.
Parish Council responsibilities – Clerk to write to resident to explain council responsibilities.
Tree survey outstanding works – Clerk has asked Old Church working group to complete agreed works by end September.
Boundary Commission Review Response – Clerk to respond on behalf of the Council. Complete.
Traffic Working Group actions from July 2021 meeting:
The school had emailed the Council seeking help with parking as the pub car park could no longer be used. The Traffic Working Group will contact the school to see if any assistance can be given with their park and stride scheme.
A member of the public commented that parking spaces for the school drop off are available at Eurotec. She also commented that some parents park in Bakers Field but can cause a nuisance by parking near the junction of Petersfield Road.
Concerns raised about school parents parking on the no parking area in the village hall car park. Cllr Harris reported that lines would soon be painted in the car park.
A member of the public informed the council of a recent accident at the Longmoor roundabout where a car had overturned. Cllr Rook noted this was in Whitehill & Bordon parish and not Greatham. Cllr Cheesman was aware of a second accident and would forward details to the Clerk. The Council will report their concerns to Highways.
Concerns raised about the parking at Bakers Field near the bungalows. The Traffic Working Group would investigate.
- 21.85 District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Davies had no news to report and there were no questions from councillors or residents.
- 21.86 County Councillor's Report:** Cllr Oppenheimer had provided a report which was noted (Appendix 1).

21.87 The Chair **adjourned** the meeting for **Public Questions:**

A member of the public raised a question about the objectives of councillors when they are elected and how the council intended to meet these objectives. Specifically, there were the development of the nursery site, a neighbourhood development plan and the maintenance of the Old Church. The Chair advised that the council will respond in writing.

A member of the public raised a question about an email from the parish council relating to management of the Old Church and interaction between the PC and the working group which he didn't feel is working well. The Chair advised that the council will respond in writing and will liaise with the working group.

A member of the public felt that there was very little activity in Greatham post Covid-19 and compared it to Hawkley which appeared to much more active according to the village magazine. The Chair mentioned the village event taking place on 26th September which was being organised by the vicar and encouraged everyone to attend.

A resident raised concerns about the state of some of the pavements in the village and also issues with drains in some place due to weed debris following weed spraying. There was also a problem with horse manure on Longmoor Road. The Clerk asked residents to email details of any issues so that they could either be reported to Hampshire County Council or be given to the lengthsman to do on his next visit on 23rd September. The Clerk will also continue to find out the verge cutting regime for the village.

A member of the public raised concerns about horse manure on Longmoor Road and bridleway 11. Also, the footpath that starts at the layby on Longmoor Road is being used by horses and the surface is being spoiled due to horse traffic. Additionally, the drain outside Innisfallen on Longmoor Road is blocked due to debris being left there after it was cleared. He reported that following weed spraying on Longmoor Road, the soil debris is now causing a problem with the drains. Grass is also encroaching onto the footpaths from the pub and past the school. The Clerk will write to the stables about the horse manure and will report the pavement and drainage problems to Hampshire County Council. Residents were asked to email all concerns to the Clerk for action.

A member of the public asked how many salaries the parish council are currently paying. The Chair responded that there is one member of staff, the Clerk.

A member of the public asked why the costs of staffing had more than doubled since 2011. The Chair responded that the number of hours may be different and he will investigate and respond in writing.

Meeting reconvened

21.88 **Clerk's Report:** The Clerk reported that the external audit had now been completed and would be on next month's agenda. Additionally, EHDC are running a climate change event on 8th October that councillors and residents may wish to attend.

21.89 **Financial Report:**

The financial records as at 31st August 2021 are as follows:

Receipts 1st June to 31st August 2021 £0

Balances as at 31st August 2021

Current Account	£ 6,116,50
Deposit Account	£30,044.68
Total at bank	£36,161,18

Earmarked Funds held

CIL fund	£ 8,229.00
Community Engagement	£ 500.00
NDP	£ 1,000.00
Election costs	£ 500.00
Tree works	£ 40.00

S106 project	£ 4,802.00
CFI Scheme	£ 1,000.00
Total Earmarked Funds	£16,071.00

General Reserves Balance £20,090.18 (total at bank less earmarked funds)

21.90 Quarter 1 Bank Reconciliation: Cllr Harris reported that she had carried out the bank reconciliation for quarter 1.

21.91 Payment Schedule: It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:
Proposed: Cllr Rodbert. Seconded: Cllr Driver

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Net Total	VAT	Total
		PAYMENTS MADE			
31/08/21	Clerk	Salary Month 5	£674.33	£0.00	£674.33
31/08/21	HMRC	Tax/NI liability month 5	£198.74	£0.00	£198.74
03/08/21	Petersfield Town Council	Grass cutting July	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
05/08/21	Greatham Village Hall	Room hire July	£20.62	£0.00	£20.62
19/08/21	Julian Livingstone	Condition survey Old Church	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
23/08/21	Petersfield Shakespeare Festival	Grant 2021/22	£238.00	£0.00	£238.00
		PAYMENTS TO BE MADE			
31/08/21	Clerk	Expenses & stationery reclaim	£169.98	£0.00	£169.98
03/09/21	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit Fees 2020/21	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00
03/09/21	Nest	Pension July 2021 employee/employer	£57.47	£0.00	£57.47
03/09/21	Nest	Pension Aug 2021 employee/employer	£62.65	£0.00	£62.65
		TOTALS	£2,146.79	£45.00	£2,191.79

21.92 Internal Auditor Appointment: It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Lightatouch as the Council's internal auditor for 2021/22 at a cost of £230.00.

21.93 Member Training: Councillors noted member training attendance and the Chair asked all councillors to email the Clerk with any training requests. Additionally, the Clerk would source a code of conduct training course for all councillors following a suggestion from the Deputy Monitoring Officer at EHDC.

21.94 Planning Committee Vacancy: It was **RESOLVED** to **DEFER** this item until a new councillor is appointed.

21.95 Planning Committee Chairman/Vice Chairman: It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Rook as Planning Chairman until the next Annual Meeting of the Council. It was further agreed to delegate authority to the Planning Committee to appoint a Vice Chairman. **Proposed: Cllr Rodbert. Seconded: Cllr Driver.**

21.96 Greatham Allotment Charity Trustees: Councillors considered all applications received and **RESOLVED** to appoint Tony Godby and Kate Lloyd-Jones as trustees to the Allotment Charity. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write and thank all applicants.

21.97 Playground Working Group: It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Crick to join the playground working group.

21.98 Vacancies on working groups and outside bodies: It was **RESOLVED** to **DEFER** appointments to the following vacancies until a new councillor is appointed: Transport & Traffic Working Group, Facilities Lead, Coryton Trust, Community Partnership meeting.

21.99 Old Church and churchyard maintenance work: Councillors considered the conditions report provided by Julian Livingstone and **RESOLVED** that this would be used to seek quotations for required works. Additionally, the Clerk will seek legal advice regarding Diocese of Portsmouth faculty permission for works required.

- 21.100 Village Gateways:** It was **RESOVLED** to **DEFER** this item pending advice from Highways for work required.
- 21.101 Terms of Reference for a Tree Warden:** It was **RESOLVED** to adopt terms of reference as provided by the Clerk and in line with advice from the Tree Council. Applications would be sought for suitable people to become tree wardens through advertisements placed in the Village Magazine, Facebook, mailing list and the website.
- 21.102 Vexatious Complaints Policy:** It was **RESOLVED** to amend the policy in line with advice from EHDC's Deputy Monitoring Officer. This will now be published on the council's website.
- 21.103 Reports from representatives of Organisations, Outside Bodies, Working Parties, Leads & Groups:**
A report from the Old Church Working Group was noted. A maintenance day would be held on 11th September to rake up grass cuttings and this would be promoted via our Facebook page and mailing list. Cllr Harris reported that a wildflower planting session would be held on Saturday 18th September and this would also be promoted via our Facebook page and mailing list.
Carols by Candlelight will be held at the Old Church on 11th December.
- 21.104 Items for next agenda:** Village Clean Up Days, public meeting (in place of Annual Parish Meeting).
- 21.105 Date of next meeting:** The next meeting will be Wednesday 13th October 2021.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Signed: **Chair**

Date:

Appendix 1: Report from County Councillor

1. Project Gigabit update

The pandemic highlighted the importance of broadband to our communities and I feel great sympathy for those who continue to struggle with slow broadband speeds. As working from home is set to commonplace, the importance of good broadband is set to persist. Hampshire County Council does not have any statutory duties relating to broadband and we are not adequately funded for the statutory duties we do have, such as social care and highways. We are allocating scarce resources and staff time to the broadband roll-out because we recognise the importance of broadband to rural communities and to the local economy.

During August we saw some more details emerge from the Government on Project Gigabit which included some good news for East Hampshire. Hampshire is in the second wave of the initial procurements, called "Phase 1b". Hampshire and Isle of Wight have been allocated a share of between £148-250 million as part of the Government's £5 billion investment. The Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is set to procure contracts for the region's roll out in February 2022, with delivery expected in 2023. This high spending allocation in Hampshire follows months of intense lobbying by officers and councillors and we are delighted to have got this result for residents.

Many of us in East Hampshire (including me) have speeds of between 10-24 Mbps; this is not considered to be superfast and that is why many of our properties are included in the procurement. We now have the consultation postcode list which shows which properties will fall within the procurement area (N.B. this is subject to consultation but it is not expected to change much). I am awaiting a detailed analysis of this postcode list from the Hampshire Superfast Broadband Team. In the meantime, you may wish to check the postcode spreadsheet which can be found at this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011873/Hampshire_loW_OMR_Postcode_Output.ods

(N.B. You need to select and sort the postcodes in the first column. If you are not familiar with Excel this may not be straightforward for you.)

Project Gigabit is a procurement project run by DCMS. It is not yet clear what role the County Council will play in this procurement process. DCMS seems to want the County to act as the interface with the public. The terms of how this would work are currently being negotiated.

If you want to read more about the DCMS consultation then the full documentation is all at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/uk-gigabit-programme-hampshire-and-isle-of-wight-public-review>

Whilst we await the rollout of Project Gigabit, the process of Community Fibre Partnerships managed by Openreach will continue. This means that many communities in East Hampshire will get fibre to the premises earlier than 2023. The CFPs are still supported by the Government's Rural Gigabit Connectivity Voucher scheme which provides £1,500 per premises as well as the "top-up" provided by Hampshire County Council: also £1,500 per premises. The closing date for the voucher scheme and the top-up scheme is December 2021.

2. Preparing for a safe return to school

For the autumn term, the priority for the County Council in all education settings is to ensure that pupils and students can safely and effectively return to learning in the classroom, in a way that keeps any possible COVID-19 risks to the absolute minimum. It has been an especially challenging 18 months for children and young people and we want their lives to return to normal as much as possible.

You may be interested to note the latest updates to Government COVID-19 guidance about nurseries, schools, colleges and universities summarised below.

- Bubbles are no longer required: Students will no longer be required to form bubbles or limited groups.
- When to wear a face covering has changed: Face coverings are no longer required for pupils and staff in school, which means a return to singing and playing brass instruments in school settings. However, face coverings are still recommended when using public transport to and from school.

- Changes to who needs to self-isolate and when: Under 18s and fully vaccinated adults who are identified as close contacts do not need to self-isolate unless they have COVID-19 symptoms. Close contacts should instead take a PCR test. If positive, NHS Test and Trace will inform the individual what to do next.
- Regular asymptomatic testing at home should continue: Secondary school pupils and college students are encouraged to continue taking Lateral Flow Device tests twice each week. At the start of term, schools will carry out two rapid flow tests on the school premises for each person; after this, tests should continue at home.
- Additional age groups can get vaccinated: Anyone aged 16 or 17 can now get vaccinated. Children aged 12-15 with underlying health conditions or who live with someone that is clinically vulnerable can also be vaccinated.
- Children and young people should stay home if they are at all unwell and not use public transport. Even if they don't have COVID-19 symptoms or their COVID-19 test is negative, they may still have an illness which could be passed on to other people.

In line with Government guidance, each education setting also carries out regular COVID-19 risk assessments and may, as part of their assessment, recommend additional precautionary measures such as staggering school start times. Education settings will advise parents and carers directly if there are any further measures that they need to be aware of for their child.

3. Welcoming Afghan families to Hampshire

Hampshire County Council is pleased to be working with local partners including our District and Borough councils, NHS, support providers and local charities to assist Afghan families moving to the UK to re-settle as part of the Government's Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy programme.

A number of families have now been welcomed to the county and we are working hard to ensure they have all the local information they need and are made to feel welcome after what has been a very difficult and disorientating period in their lives.

If you wish to donate an item, please visit the website of registered local charity Community First (see link below) who are co-ordinating collections across the county. In addition to signposting to donation points, Community First has also published a list of priority items that are needed first and foremost. Please can we ask that items are either nearly-new or in good second-hand condition.

<https://www.cfirst.org.uk/donating-to-help-afghan-evacuees/>

4. Possibility of a County Deal

In July, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced new 'County Deals' as part of his vision for levelling up across the UK with the aim of benefitting local communities. The Government asked for expressions of interest for County Deals by quick return and HCC has registered a formal expression of interest.

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Keith Mans explained: "In setting out his vision for County Deals in July, the Prime Minister highlighted how these aim to bring decisions and powers closer to people and places. They aim to deliver the best possible deal for local residents at a local level and give places the tools they need to transform and pilot new ideas, create more jobs, drive growth in the economy, improve public services, boost transport, infrastructure and housing, and tackle climate change – the list goes on.

"This is clearly a very exciting, once-in-a-generation opportunity for Hampshire and the wider geographic and economic area, to build on our collective strengths and boost Hampshire as a whole, to help benefit the lives and opportunities of our residents. By expressing our interest now, this commits us to nothing at this stage, but it's an opportunity we must pursue at pace, for the good of the people of Hampshire. We now wait to hear from Government, their response."

5. GCSE and A Level results

As I always do in September, I would like to congratulate all students on their results which were obtained in highly challenging circumstances. We have good schools in Hampshire and we can be very proud of the way they have coped with the pandemic. I wish all students success in their future studies and endeavours.