

**Greatham Parish Council**  
**Parish Council Meeting**  
**Greatham Village Hall – Committee Room**  
**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30 pm**

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of Greatham Parish Council for the transaction of business set out below.

*SJ Bartlett*

Sarajane Bartlett, Temporary Clerk to the Council

9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**AGENDA**

- 1. Chairman’s Announcements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence:** To note any apologies received from Councillors
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** *Councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State under the Localism Act 2011. You must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses & votes on the matter*
- 4. Approval of Minutes:** To approve minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.
- 5. Update on previous actions arising from council meetings :** (Appendix 1)
- 6. Report from District Councillors:** (Appendix 2)
- 7. Report from County Councillor:** To note a report from Cllr Russell Oppenheimer (Appendix 3)
- 8. Public Question Time:** Adjournment of the meeting for 15 minutes to allow the public to raise questions
- 9. Parish Council Finances/Administration:**
  - a) Clerk’s Report** (Appendix 4)
  - b) Finance Report:** To note finance report for September 2023 (Appendix 5)
  - c) Payment Schedule:** To approve current payments (Appendix 6)
- 10. Playground :** To discuss the playground start date and funding of additional equipment items. (See Appendix 7)
- 11. Grants :** To discuss the request for providing support to the GVEC summer event 2024, and to discuss the request for support for maintenance of the Zip Wire at Greatham Village Hall.
- 12. Working Group Terms of Reference :** To discuss the terms of reference for the newly created Parish Statement working group, and to review the requirements of terms of reference for all other working groups of the parish council.
- 13. Planning and TPO Applications received :** Nothing to Review
- 14. Grass Cutting :** To discuss the village grass cutting requirements and the issuance of new contracts.
- 15. Defibrillators :** To confirm locations of 2 x defib units and discuss the location of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## 16. Items for next agenda

## 17. Date of next meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### Appendix 1 : Previous Meeting actions arising

- Meeting date being co-ordinated for setting terms of reference for parish statement working group. Further discussions and information received from Mr Jerrard regarding Liss terms of reference.
- The clerk has been in contact with Cllr Oppenheimer regarding a number of items where his input has been requested and is waiting a response on when these can be discussed.
- The maintenance of the footpaths is being addressed with the Lengthsmen. Footpath 14 was focused on in February as a number of fallen trees had made it virtually impassable. Footpath 9 will be the next to be reviewed.
- The clerk has contacted the environmental agency and discussed the issues with the river under the bridge at the junction of Longmoor and Petersfield Roads. It is a Hampshire County council issue and they have also been contacted.
- The parking at Bakers Field is an ongoing issue where funding is required. This will be reviewed in 2024.

### Appendix 2 : Report from the District Councillors

We had the meeting at the school towards the end of February and I believe you were going to put together an agenda. I think that, as we cannot really promote a car share, it would be good to look at more regulated parking and the option of a minibus?

The Apple Pie have finally sorted their electric feed and will be ready to go in the next couple of weeks. It will not take long to build and will bring about 300 jobs to the community.

We have also been on a meeting about the water in the area which was looking at recycling water. We are not sure how well this will be received, and there is nothing definite as yet, but we will keep you posted on that.

The Local Plan is online so please do encourage people to take a look - we don't think it will increase the number of new builds in Greatham, but it may increase some traffic to the area.

Mike and I have now used up all of our councillor budget, which we are pleased to say, the majority of which went to Greatham. We used the final bits on the playground equipment. We will have new funds in March so if there is anything else coming up which would fit the criteria, please do let us now and get the applications in.

### Appendix 3 : Report from our County Councillor

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS

# IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

1 FEBRUARY 2024

1. Highways update and weather impacts

Hampshire Highways coped well with a difficult month in January due to the high number of storms. The teams have been on virtually constant duty clearing fallen trees and branches. Ground water is also 5 metres higher than usual at this time of year which has led to a surge of flooding issues. The seasonal challenges are not interfering with routine maintenance thanks to pre-emptive work clearing gullies and storm drains. I am extremely grateful to the Highways teams for their dedication and professionalism in difficult conditions.

Luckily the two-week cold snap in January did not coincide with rainfall. We have not seen the same weather pattern as last year which involved heavy rain followed by overnight freezing, and which led to a surge in road defects. I am hopeful that we are past the worst now this year and that the overnight temperatures will remain above zero as we head into the Spring. Time will tell if I am being overly optimistic!

2. New 20mph policy approved at HCC

At his Decision Day on 15 January, Executive Lead Member for Universal Services Cllr Nick Adams-King approved a new policy on 20mph speed limits. The development of this policy followed a review by the Select Committee. The Decision report, including the new Position Statement, can be read at this link:

<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s115742/Report.pdf>

A process whereby Parish Councils can nominate their area for consideration will be in place on the hants.gov.uk website by April 2024. This helpfully gives some time for Parish Councils to consider formally whether this is something they want to do.

3. Hampshire Forest Partnership update

The Hampshire Forest Partnership is having a busy planting season. So far, we have planted 24,300 trees and hedges which is more than double what we achieved in our first year. We have an ambition to plant one million trees by 2050 and so we are determined to keep building each

year. I would like to highlight two exciting opportunities to work with the Hampshire Forest Partnership:

- **Free Elm Trees available!** We have purchased 700 disease-resistant elms and we are still looking for homes for about 600 of them. Please help us by coming forward with a request for up to 20 Elm trees in your patch! The English countryside was once dominated by elms, but since the 1960s these trees have been ravaged by Dutch elm disease, accidentally introduced to Europe in the early 20th century. The Hampshire Forest Partnership with support from The Tree Council are funding disease resistant hybrid elm trees to help local nature recovery. Selective breeding of elms now means that we can bring these back to Hampshire; trials have shown that these hybrids show resistance to the disease and also support our native wildlife. We are particularly interested to plant the trees within hedges, in community spaces and as specimens in areas that have lost trees from ash dieback.
- **Shoots along the Routes** scheme seeks more projects. This scheme aims to improve landscape connectivity outside woodland areas. We'll be providing free trees to landowners and land managers to create over 630km of new green networks across the county. These networks will follow the routes of several A and B-roads across Hampshire. The scheme will also support eligible tree planting schemes within a 2km wide corridor along the routes to boost nature recovery.

If you are interested in proposing a location for either of the above, please email [treeplanting@hants.gov.uk](mailto:treeplanting@hants.gov.uk). And by the way, it is the same email address for Community Orchards and Mini Forests! We have funding for both so we can provide trees, stakes, guards and even information panels.

#### 4. Ashford Hangers: closure of contour path

It has regrettably become necessary to close the contour path (also known as the middle path) at the Ashford Hangers National Nature Reserve. I went up there last week with Pete and Hazel from the Countryside Service to see the situation for myself.

At this time, the path is incredibly dangerous due to fallen trees and surface damage to the path caused by uprooted trees and erosion.

These two photos illustrate the issues:



The steep slope means that anyone who falls could potentially end up falling quite a long way down. And we all know that the chalk and clay get slippery. I have therefore agreed that HCC has to take the difficult decision to close the path. HCC is the owner of the land and so we have extra responsibility for safety here. We have a duty of care to ensure that people do not access dangerous parts of the site. The closure of the contour path will come into effect from 2 February 2024. I would strongly encourage people not to side-step the closure. It is really not safe.

I would like to explain that the contour path is a “permissive path” – it is not a formal Right of Way and so does not appear on the definitive map. The bridleway along the bottom will remain open, and the permissive path across the top will also remain open.

The cost of removing fallen trees and removing trees which pose a clear threat to the contour path has been estimated at £40,000. The cost of resurfacing the path is unknown. It may be difficult to find a contractor willing to undertake the work, as there is no vehicular access. HCC will explore the costs further and see what funding may be available from partners. The Countryside Service is facing budget cuts and does not have funding available in-house, so external funding will be required.

I realise that the Ashford Hangers is a much-used and much-loved site and that many people will be disappointed by the situation. I give my commitment that I will continue to work with the Countryside Team and with all key stakeholders to try to find a way to get the path made safe and re-opened, however long it takes. Finally I am pleased to report that this Summer HCC will reconstitute the Ashford Hangers Consultative Committee and we will invite local representatives to attend a meeting in June.

##### 5. Future Services Consultation

As mentioned in my January report, HCC commenced a consultation on 8 January about possible service changes which are needed to bridge our budget gap of £132m.

I would like to stress that no decisions have been made yet. The consultation is designed to garner views from the public and elected representatives. The responses will then inform the decision-making process. In my experience, HCC is genuinely good at consultations (unlike some public bodies). All responses will be carefully analysed by the Insights and Engagement Team and the HCC Cabinet will meet to discuss the analysis. Parish Council responses will be grouped, so I would encourage Parish Councils to submit a collective Parish Council response. Councillors can also then submit their individual responses.

The consultation questionnaire at this link must be completed by 31 March 2024:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/future-services-consultation>

You may have seen that the Government announced on 24 January £500m of extra funding for social care. We believe that Hampshire will receive about £10m of this which is very welcome. It is not enough to fix our budget problems but it certainly makes it a bit easier for HCC to bridge the gap through the use of reserves.

#### 6. Dark Skies Festival gets underway

In February the South Downs Dark Skies Festival gets underway, celebrating our National Park status as an International Dark Skies Reserve. There is an early evening event taking place at QE Country Park on 15 February called Walk the Planets, where the planets will be laid out to scale and stargazing through telescopes will be happening. Please help us to spread the word about this! You can book tickets at this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryparks/qecp/visit-us/whatson/SDNPA-dark-skies-2024>

The SDNPA page which lists all the events during the Festival can be found here:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/dark-night-skies/dark-skies-festival/>

Let's hope we get some clear skies so that we can all enjoy looking up at the stars.

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**

**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**



#### Appendix 4 : Clerks Report

- Focus this month has been on the financial side of the role. Meeting with internal auditor ensured all key dates for the year end have been planned. Complete review of all processes took place with a couple of tweaks to be put in place.
- Attended the Meet the Funders event organised by EHDC which proved very informative. Fully aware of possible funding streams available to the council for 2024 projects and beyond. Plan to be put in place for some longer term projects to be managed by the Parish council.
- Applied for the Councillor funding available from Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Steevens to support the additional items required for the full list of playground equipment. Including updating the financial data to receive a bit more funding than expected.
- Applied for the CIL funding to all the playground build to go ahead, including several calls to the SDNP to discuss their requirements and provision of necessary paperwork to back up application.
- Negotiated with Sawscapes the payment of the deposit amount required to start the playground build, to allow for funding to be provided in stages as available in the Parish council bank account.
- Attended the EHDC Chairman's Civic service in Petersfield with Cllr Sally Pond, as her guest.

#### Appendix 5 : Financial Report

The Financial records as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 are as follows :

##### Receipts 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

**Total Receipts** £10,165.71

##### Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

Current Account £31,199.08

Deposit Account £30,923.13

**Total at Bank** £62,122.21

##### Earmarked Funds Held

Trees £ 900.00

Community Engagement £ 0

Elections £3500.00

CIL + £2K grants (old church repair) £1720.00

Telephone Box £ 410.00

King's Coronation £ 0

**Total Earmarked Funds** £6530.00

**General Reserves Balance** £55,592.21 (Total at Bank less Earmarked funds)

**Appendix 6 : Payment Schedule**

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Net Total	Vat	Total
25/01/2024	Sawscapes play limited	Deposit of 50% against Q003216 total value £109,000 + vat	£54,500.00	£10,900.00	£65,400.00
08/02/2024	Greatham village hall	Hall booking	£12.38	0.00	£12.38
	Reg white	Graveyard maintenance	168.00	0	168.00
06/02/2024	B&Q Black Type 171 letterbox	New GPC post box at Village Hall – expensed by R.Lafferty	£28.42	£7.10	£35.52
10/12/2023	GL White	Building base for telephone Box	£229.00	£0.00	£229.00
	Giff Gaff Phone	Expensed by SJB for Nov – Jan inclusive	£15.00	£3.00	£18.00
31/12/2023	Hexius	24 months of email accounts and storage	£409.50	£81.90	£491.40

Approved .....

Date .....



Appendix 7 : Playground Layout

