

Greatham Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 10th March 2024, 7.30pm

Present Cllr C Rudd (Chair), Cllr A Cheesman, Cllr S Pond, Cllr SJ Bartlett (acting as temporary clerk)

Also present : 6 residents.

24.48 Election of Chairman and Vice Chair : It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Ron Lafferty will stand for a second year as Chairman of the Parish Council, and that Cllr Carole Rudd will stand for a second year as Vice Chair of the Parish Council.
Proposed by : Cllr S Pond and seconded by : Cllr A Cheesman.

24.49 : Declaration of Acceptance of Office : Both Cllr Lafferty and Cllr Rudd will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the Parish Council Meeting on 8th May 2024.

24.50 : Chairman's Announcements : Cllr Rudd chaired the meeting, and had no announcements.

24.51 : Apologies for Absence : Cllr R Lafferty

24.52 : Declarations of Interest : It was agreed that both Cllr Rudd and Cllr Cheesman step aside from the vote for the planning application.

24.53 : Approval of Minutes : It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13th March 2024.

24.54 : Update on previous actions arising from council meetings :

- The Water Board are still to be contacted regarding the River at the junction of Longmoor Road and Petersfield Road.
- Cllr Cheesman advised that the manhole cover damaged at Todmore is thought to be the responsibility of Green King and the Greatham Inn. He will be following this up and requesting a repair be made.
- A question was asked by the clerk about the presentation of the Agenda and the inclusion of the Appendices. It was **RESOLVED** that the agenda will be kept short and not include the appendices for general distribution.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the payment schedule will be attached to the Agenda for general distribution, so that residents are aware of the invoices being considered for payment.

24.55 : Report from District Councillors :

None Received.

24.56 Report from County Councillor :

- Cllr Oppenheimer has highlighted in his report details of potential community transport opportunities that parish councils can take advantage of. It was requested that residents look at this and suggest options they may wish the council to consider.

24.57 The Chair adjourned the meeting for public questions:

- A resident expressed concern regarding the suitability of the fence separating the playground from the car park at the village hall. This was noted and Cllr Lafferty and Cllr Cheesman will review the fencing once the playground is open and the inspection report has been received.
- School parking issues are still an area of concern. Attention was drawn to the posts outside of the village hall that have been damaged by inconsiderate parking. There were a number of remedies discussed : Travel plan with staggered arrival and leaving times, AMK minibus provision, Use of Cones, HCC providing more verge protection, Closure of the road outside the school during key times, Patrol outside of the school, Re-open the circular in / out of the school car park.

- Parking at Baker's Field an ongoing issue. Particular issue close to the Bungalows. Consider additional parking spaces being created. Request HCC highways review.
- Great to have the telephone box in situ, questions were asked about when it will be completed and what it will be used for.
- Concern was expressed about the pedestrian crossing at Digby way to the Longmoor Ranges, and whether it would be possible to highlight that people are crossing the road.
- There has been another road traffic accident on the Farnham Road and Petersfield Road junction at the entrance to the village, with damage being done to a residents garden fence. It was requested that Cllr Oppenheimer be contacted to see if anything can be done to improve the junction safety.

Meeting reconvened

24.58 Parish Council Finances / Administration :

- Clerk's report** : see appendix 4
- Finance Report** : see appendix 5.
 - It was **RESOLVED** that £10,000 be moved from the Deposit account to the current T1 account to aid cashflow.
 - It was **RESOLVED** that the clerk will process a second VAT reclaim given the large value of invoices currently being processed.
 - The bank reconciliation for March 2024 did not print, so will be approved at the meeting in May. The printer will be assessed for its suitability given its unreliability.
- Payment schedule** : see appendix 6. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule, with the following amendments : the parish online invoice will not be paid until the clerk can ascertain what this is for, and the payment to Sawscapes Play be reduced to £40,000 plus VAT. **proposed by Cllr Rudd and seconded by Cllr Pond.**
- Council Insurance** : The insurance renewal from Zurich is £971.04 an increase due to the increased value of the playground. It was **RESOLVED** that an alternative quote should be sought, and the clerk should update the council on the renewal date.

24.59 Planning and TPO Applications received : An application from Greatham School was considered to carry out some tree work. It was **RESOLVED** that the council have no objection subject to the Arboriculture officer report. **Proposed by Cllr Pond and seconded by Cllr Cheesman.**

24.60 Telephone Box : Cllr Lafferty had supplied a quotation for additional materials to be purchased for the telephone box to enable it to be used. It was **RESOLVED** that use should be made of the perspex windows already purchased, but that a spend of circa £2000 would be acceptable. However a request for additional information was requested for the next meeting. **Proposed by Cllr Pond and seconded by Cllr Cheesman.**

24.61 Playground : It was **RESOLVED** that the new date for the official playground opening be Saturday 27th April, 2024. Damian Hinds MP for East Hampshire unfortunately cannot make the new date, so alternative arrangements will be made for the ribbon cutting. Tina Snelling very kindly has offered to make a cake for the official opening, which the parish council were very pleased to accept. It was **RESOLVED** that the parish council will cover the cost of the ingredients for the cake, and for small cookies provided by The Taste Truck.

24.62 To note reports from representatives of Organisations, Outside Bodies, Leads & Groups : None received.

24.63 Annual Meeting : It was **RESOLVED** that the annual meeting be held on 8th May 2024 at 7.00 pm. (It should be noted that the time of the meeting has subsequently been amended to 7.30 pm after discussion with the Village Hall)

24.64 Annual Parish Meeting : It was **RESOLVED** that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 22nd May at 7.30 pm with Refreshments being served. Councillors will consider the format of the meeting and speakers.

24.65 Items for next Agenda :

Terms of Reference for parish statement working group
Financial Year end 2023/24

24.66 Date of Next Meeting : Wednesday May 8th 2024, at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed (Chairman)

Date

Appendix 1 : Matters Arising

- Discussion with the water board still needed regarding the river at Longmoor Road and Petersfield Road junction. Cllr Lafferty and Cllr Bartlett have this as an action.
- Todmore man hole cover still needs addressing. Clerk to find out who owns the land.
- The playground opening has had to be postponed to 27th April, so there is no longer any clash with the clothes swap with HEN.
- Pot holes near school are an ongoing issue.
- Discussions have taken place regarding the site of the SLR camera's. Push back from other local parish councils about making changes.

Appendix 2 : District Councillor Report

- None received.

Appendix 3 : County Councillor Report

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS**

2 APRIL 2024

1. Highways update

I was delighted to see that the A272 (Winchester Road) through Stroud has been included in a recently published list of 19 resurfacing projects which have been funded by Network North funding. This is basically funds released from the cancellation of HS2. The works will make the surface more resilient and improve drainage. The works will take place in the new financial year 2024/25 (i.e. before March 2025).

March was almost as rainy as February, which was the wettest February on record. In March it was very noticeable that the unusually high water table led to a lot of surface flooding every time it did rain. Inevitably, this has had a negative impact on highways surfaces with more defects appearing.

I acknowledge that it is very frustrating when this deterioration happens so quickly. Hampshire Highways will get on top of the issues over the coming month as we see drier weather. The £7.5m extra funding we have put in is making a difference. Please continue to report defects on the website. It does not hurt to report substantial defects more than once. I appreciate the patience of Councillors and residents. I am always happy to chase up problems if you wish to forward me the Issue Reference number.

2. Local Nature Recovery Strategy

I thought it would be helpful to update Councillors about the Local Nature Recovery Strategy process on which HCC is taking the lead. On 14 December 2023 we launched a public survey to find out what Hampshire's residents and workers felt about nature recovery - what was important to them and what they felt should form our strategy. We were overwhelmed with the response; over 1500 areas which would benefit from improvement for nature recovery were identified across Hampshire.

The survey results map can be found here: [Survey Results Map | Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Over a nine-week period starting at the beginning of January 2024 we held a series of 20 workshops - 10 community workshops which were hosted by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and 10 thematic workshops which were aimed at organisations and specialist groups. Over 450 attendees representing over 100 organisations attended the mix of online and in person sessions.

We now have a wealth of information which we will analyse to help shape the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire. The next milestone in our timeline will be to consult on the draft Strategy in the Summer. The exact timeline and more information on the project can be found here: [Timeline of actions | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

I would like to mention that Local Nature Partnerships (LNP) still exist in the UK and HCC continues to be a Board Member and active participant in Hampshire's LNP which is chaired by Alison Potts of Natural England.

3. Community Transport toolkit

I know that a couple of Parish Councils in Petersfield Hangers already organise community transport. For those that do not I would like to invite you to give it some consideration.

I can recommend the Community Transport webpages on the HCC website. At this link there is a very clear guide for Parish Councils in how to assess transport needs and set up a regular minibus or taxibus service.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportoperators/community-transport-kit>

Locally organised community transport has many advantages over public transport. There is a community cohesion element because people meet regularly with other villagers. The journeys can be timed to coincide with market days or cultural events. I also feel that there is a health and wellbeing benefit because it reduces isolation and encourages moderate exercise.

I am optimistic that HCC will be able to retain funding for Community Transport following the Future Services Consultation. At this time East Hampshire does not take full advantage of the opportunities. In many other parts of Hampshire there is much greater usage of weekly minibuses. It would be great to increase the number of villages operating a regular minibus scheme around here.

4. BOATs Update

HCC is continuing to develop a new Byways Operating Procedure (BOP) for BOATs. A second meeting with East Hampshire parishes will take place in the coming month or so. HCC is also submitting bids for CIL funding to SDNPA in order to continue the roll-out of more gates and noticeboards.

The deadline for the lifting of winter closures was originally set for 1 April 2024. Due to the wet weather, winter closures have been extended for a month. As a consequence of the extra monitoring requirements officers will not be ready to produce their BOP update report in time for my May Decision Day. This issue is still a high priority for me and I am pushing for the update report to be brought forward as soon as possible.

5. Election Purdah

There are district elections taking place in many parts of Hampshire this May, as well as two County Council by-elections (Meon Valley and Fareham Sarisbury) and the Police and Crime Commissioner Election. Consequently, HCC is currently in a pre-election purdah. This means that there will not be any press releases or policy announcements happening in April and so my next report after this one will be in June 2024.

I look forward to seeing many of you during April.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Appendix 4 : Payment Schedule

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Net Total	Vat	Total
09/04/2024	Sawscapes Play ltd	Balance against invoice Q003216 minus retention	£50,000.00	£10,000.00	£60,000.00
31/03/2024	Reg White	St John the Baptist maintenance	£168.00	£0.00	£168.00

10/10/2024	Petersfield TC	Grass cut	£112.00	£22.40	£134.40
17/03/2024	Microsoft	Apps licence	£8.60	£1.72	£10.32
05/03/24	Parish Online	Parish online – mapping software per year	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00
25/03/2024	Anstey & stone Ltd	Phase 2 restoration works Old Church	£924.00	£184.80	£1108.80
21/03/24	Giff Gaff	Sim monthly mobile	£5.00	£1.00	£6.00
18/04/24	Data Protection	ICO fee renewal	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00
08/04/2024	HALC	Affiliation fees and NALC levy	£368.00	£0.00	£368.00
06/04/24	Greatham Village Hall	Booking 13/03/24	£5.50	£0.00	£5.50
15/03/24	Petersfield TC	Correction to payment on Invoice under paid on bank payment	£3.00	£0.00	£3.00

Signed

Dated

Appendix 5 : Finance Report

The Financial records as at 31st March 2024 are as follows :

Receipts 1st March to 31st March 2024

Total Receipts **£12,219.37**

Balances as at 31st March 2024

Current Account £65,602.71

Deposit Account £31,115.56

Total at Bank **£96,718.27**

Earmarked Funds Held

Trees £ 0.00

Community Engagement £ 250.00

Elections £3405.00

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

Telephone Box £ 0.00

King's Coronation £ 0

Total Earmarked Funds **£5,375.00**

General Reserves Balance **£91,343.27 (Total at Bank less Earmarked funds)**

Appendix 6 : Clerks Report

- Ongoing playground meetings and project management
- Invitations to all involved to the official opening of the Playground (subsequently re-planned and re-issued)
- Attended the Iftar Dinner hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
- SLR camera location discussion.
- Financial Planning for Year End