

HIGHCLERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at

Highclere Village Hall

Tuesday 7 April 2015 at 7.00pm

Members:

John Stoker (Vice Chairman) P

Borough & Parish Councillor Graham Falconer, Councillor Will Flack,
Councillor Mike Jenkins, Councillor Don Langan, Councillor Horace Mitchell

*P - present

In attendance:

Clerk to the Council, Sue Edwards, three members of the Public, Jane
Meredith, Newbury Weekly News

Apologies:

Councillor Russ Castle, Councillor Sally Izett (Chairman) (Holiday) (*LGA
1972, Sch 12, para 40*), Borough Councillor John Izett

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

116/14 – To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 March 2015

The minutes had been circulated, were taken as read and were signed as an accurate record by the Vice Chairman, Councillor J. Stoker.

117/14 – Declarations of Interest – there were no Declarations of Interest from the Councillors present.

118/14- To Progress resolutions from 10 March 2015 (*Matters arising from the Minutes*) - it was agreed that matters arising would all be covered under the upcoming agenda items.

119/14 Public Participation (*limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per person*). Three members of the Public were present but they did not wish to speak.

120/14 Reports from Borough & County Councillors.

BDBC Cllr Graham Falconer reported that the Local Plan had been passed by BDBC on 26 March 2015. The vote was 26-26 and so it went through on the Mayor's casting vote.

121/14 Little Penwood update – Cllrs Castle, Jenkins and Stoker attended a site visit to the Little Penwood project with Frank Wright of BDBC. Undergrowth has been cut back, wood chippings have been put down and there is more cutting of trees due behind the houses. This has brought more light into the gardens of the local residents. Cllr Castle raised concerns about the A343 boundary and if there should be a fence. The Clerk to contact Paul Johnson. Frank Wright mentioned a rope walkway that they have in storage. The Clerk to contact Paul Johnson and enquire about the suitability of this for Little Penwood and whether it would require a soft landing area underneath. There were also fire extinguishers to be removed. The Clerk is also to ask Paul Johnson for an invoice for the Little Penwood project so that the S106 monies can be transferred to BDBC.

122/14 Heathlands and Woodlands Improvement Project update – Cllr Mitchell had nothing to report. The Council has received an email from Simon Bridgen at Sentinel asking about progress (17/3/2015).

123/14 Report on Environment

Litter Wardens - after 25 years of loyal service Colin Corral has decided to retire as Litter Warden. Vice Chairman Stoker asked that the thanks of the Council for his hard work could be expressed by way of a letter. The Clerk advised that S. Izett, Chairman of the Council has produced a draft letter which would be sent on her return from holiday.

The second Litter Warden has been approached with a view to taking over the extra hours. He has agreed in principle and a new contract is currently being produced. The Clerk has also asked Alan Tully at BDBC for a list of BDBC communal bins and collection times in Penwood and Highclere. A long litter picker, “Men at Work” sign, and protective gloves are to be purchased for the Litter Warden. Large items of rubbish are collected by BDBC and any resident can call <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk> and report Fly Tipping. In conjunction with BDBC the Clerk is re-confirming the litter collection routes.

Lengthsman – Cllr Jenkins reported that the full budget for the Lengthsman had been utilised. Cllr Stoker thanked Cllr Jenkins for coordinating the work and expressed the Council’s thanks for the time that he has spent on the project. Cllr Jenkins provided a summary the Lengthsman’s work on 5 days in the 2014-15 financial year:

- repaired stile to footpath on Mount Road
- cleared two sections of pavement on Foxs Lane and one at Penwood Crossroads
- cut back vegetation around the salt bins in the Parish
- cleaned road signs along the A343 and Foxs Lane
- cut back roadside vegetation along Mount Road
- cleared footpath from Tubbs Lane to Pantings Lane
- re-set to the vertical a number of road signs throughout the Parish

There are a number of tasks lined up for the next financial year.

Stiles - Cllr Stoker explained that he has made contact with the landowners regarding the footpath between Panting’s Lane and Hollington. There is a Small Grant Scheme for works of this kind however it may be more cost effective to go direct to a tradesman. Cllr Stoker will report back to Council at the May meeting.

124/14 Westridge Studio – Cllr Castle has contacted D.R.Gribble’s solicitor for an update and the solicitor is to write to the Clerk.

125/14 Report on Roads and Transport

Update: New Footway on Andover Road, Highclere – Jenny Moon, HCC has asked the Clerk to deliver letters to residents along the route of the footpath. The Clerk has posted the HCC poster requesting feedback, on the Parish noticeboards. The deadline for feedback is 6 May 2015. There is a link <http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/default.aspx> to the HCC webpage on the HPC website.

Speedwatch – Cllr Flack reminded the Council that the following sites that have been suggested:

- A343 Close to Penwood crossroads, on verge close to where the wild flowers are planted
- Foxes Lane coming down the hill at Penwood just before the 40mph sign (cars should still be doing 30mph when they hit the 40mph sign)
- A343 Andover Road, southern end of the village, between Mount Rd Highclere Street

Some of the original volunteers have withdrawn due to the lack of progress and there could be a problem with the low number of volunteers. Communication with the Speedwatch organisation has been slower than expected. On Thursday 2 April 2015 there was a police speed check in Highclere.

Seven Stones Bridge – Cllr Castle has received an update from Scott Gregor, HCC, that the work repairing Seven Stones Bridge, following the road accident earlier in the year, should commence on 13 April 2015.

Pot Holes – any resident can report a pothole on the HCC website <http://roadenquiries.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems/highwaydefect/pothole.aspx>

126/14 Report on Planning

There were two planning applications this month.

(Planning Applications are posted on the Parish Council website <http://www.highclere-pc.org.uk/>)

HPC Mtg.	HPC No.	BDBC No.	Date sent by BDBC	Address
7 April	14/29	15/00583/FUL	11/3/15	Fridays, Andover Road
7 April	14/30	15/00515/FUL	16/3/15	St. Michael's House, Andover Road

15/00515/FUL St. Michael's House, Andover Road – no objection

15/00583/FUL Fridays, Andover Road – Objection.

Objection for the following reasons:

1. We object to the principle of new housing development at this location.
2. BDBC Policy D6, still in force, makes it clear that new development is not permitted in the countryside.
3. The site is in a small village outwith any settlement policy boundary, and therefore 'countryside' for the purposes of and within the meaning of D6.
4. Although the applicant is correct in that BDBC does not yet have a new adopted Local Plan, a draft LP has been approved by the Council and a timetable for examination has been agreed by the Inspectorate. The draft does not permit new development in the countryside at unsustainable locations and none of the Inspector's comments suggest that there is any prospect of a new policy that overcomes this.
5. The applicant correctly states that BDBC does not have a five year land supply; however the draft LP clearly sets out policies and actions to address this. Decisions on appeals suggest that while mid- to large-scale development is sometimes permitted where there is no five year supply and no up to date LP, this has not been

interpreted as allowing small, one or two dwelling speculative developments at unsustainable locations.

6. There have been no changes since the designation of Highclere as unsustainable that contribute in any way to causing the village to be regarded as a sustainable location. Indeed, the already sparse, infrequent bus services have been reduced. Car is the only practicable travel method for employment and almost all other purposes.

Site condition

It is suggested that a pile of building rubble in one corner of the site might be evidence of previous development. The rubble concerned appears to be spoil from earlier refurbishment of the existing dwelling on the site and long-standing local residents confirm that there has not been any dwelling other than the existing 'Friday's.

Housing need:

1. A major development in the nearby village of Woolton Hill was recently approved, adjacent to a settlement policy boundary, and will meet known local housing need. That parish council is engaged on a Neighbourhood Plan programme. Highclere Parish Council is actively pursuing a Community Right to build programme for another part of the Parish; this is expected to include limited new housing, to be justified through a referendum on the basis of specific environmental and community benefit.
2. As to wider housing need, the proposed site is some seven miles from the centre of Newbury, where the adopted local plan includes provision for 5000 new dwellings, some of which are already under construction.

Community engagement:

1. So far as we are aware there has been no community engagement.

Traffic considerations:

1. The site is directly opposite a popular and busy country pub/restaurant which has inadequate off-road parking relative to its level of business, such that cars are often parked on the roadside directly opposite the site, in addition to frequent vehicle movements in and out of the car park. Passing traffic's typical (85%) speed is 34-37 mph at this point and, with a proposed single access point for the two four-bed dwellings, special care will be needed in specifying and designing the access, particularly with a view to ensuring the clearest and longest possible visibility of approaching traffic in both directions. Exiting from the site in reverse gear (as many house owners do) would be particularly dangerous unless the splay is such that the reversing driver obtains a clear view of oncoming traffic before the rear of the vehicle intrudes significantly into the roadway. It should be noted that vehicles exiting the site will be coming uphill as they approach the road. This is not mentioned by the applicant's consultants and appears not to have been taken into account in recommending that the standard splay is appropriate to the particular site. In the event the LPA is minded to approve the application we ask that a condition be that the visibility requirements be revisited with these factors fully taken into account.

Cllr Mitchell proposed the objection Cllrs Jenkins and Stoker seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

14/03685/FUL Hadley, Star Lane. BDBC has informed the Council that this application was Objected to by Officers and it is to go before the Planning Committee on 22 April 2015. The Chairman S. Izett is to attend.

Cllr Mitchell informed the Council that St Mary Bourne Parish Council has approved the draft Neighbourhood Plan developed by a local team. The draft will go to BDBC for review. The next steps would be review by an independent inspector followed by (if the plan is found to be 'sound') a yes/no referendum of local people.

127/14 Correspondence received.

BDBC Code of Conduct Training for Parishes (via email) – no Councillors to attend.

Safer North Hampshire Newsletter – Community Safety News.

Community Transport Hampshire - From 1 April 2015, older person's bus passes (blue stripe) issued by Hampshire County Council can be used from 9.30am until 11pm on Monday to Friday and at any time on weekends and Bank Holidays. Details at hants.gov.uk/concessionary-travel.

Hampshire older person's pass valid from 0900 on the following journeys as at 1 April 2015. Subject to change.

Operator	Area	Service no.	Allowed journey / comments
Stagecoach	Andover	7A	0900 Burghclere to Newbury, 0900 Burghclere to Wash Water
Taxishare 113		113	0925 East End Post Office

Basingstoke Voluntary Action Newsletter - 6 core areas of support: Governance & Leadership, Finance & Funding, Policies & Procedures, Admin & Management, Staff & Volunteers, and Activities & Services.

Consultation of smoking near children's play areas – BDBC

Examination of the Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan – letter from Katharine Makant.

Critical Treatment Hospital update via email to Cllr Mitchell.

128/14 Financial Matters

The Internal Auditor for 2015 was confirmed by the full Council as John Murray. Records need to be made available from 26 May to 22 June 2015. The notice needs to be displayed from 11 May to 24 May 2015. The annual return and supporting documentation must be returned to BDO by 23 June 2015.

Highclere Church has requested a contribution towards work in the Churchyard. To be discussed at May meeting.

Cllr Stoker suggested issuing Purchase Orders to Highclere Church to allow for staged payments for the grass cutting.

Accounts for payment 7 April 2015. Signed by Cllrs Stoker and Jenkins.

Date of Cheque/Online payment	Expenditure	Description	Cheque Number	Total £
01/04/15	Parish council.net website	Annual hosting & support fee	Online payment	100.00
07/04/15	Highclere church	Cemetery work	101993	900.00
07/04/15	HALC/NALC	Annual affiliation	101994	390.00
07/04/15	S. E. Edwards	Clerk's Expense	101995	45.06
07/04/15	HALC HR service	Subscription	101996	120.00
07/04/15	Local Finance for Clerks	Training	101997	78.00
07/04/15	C. Corral	Litter warden salary	101998	129.00
07/04/15	D. McClelland	Litter warden salary	101999	267.00
07/04/15	S. E. Edwards	Clerk's salary	102000	621.10
07/04/15	HMRC	Tax & N.I.	102001	69.40
31/03/15	BT closure of M. Harwood a/c	Credit note		54.79

129/14 Clerk's Address

Cllr Jenkins explained that the official address of The Clerk is to be Highclere Village Hall. The Village Hall Committee has approved the proposal and a suitable post box is being sought.

130/14 Nominations

Sally Izett has agreed to be nominated for Chairman; John Stoker agreed to be nominated for Vice Chairman.

131/14 Annual Assembly - 12 May 2015

Room hire – the Dunlop room at Highclere Church has been booked. The Assembly starts at 7.30pm. Highclere Village hall was not available.

Speakers: confirmed speakers Mary Edwards Chief Executive & Project Director for the new Critical Treatment Hospital, Basingstoke and Arnie Lustman, Programme Director - Clinical Re provision. They will give a PowerPoint presentation from 7.30pm.

A/V equipment has been booked with Kingsbridge Audio Visual.

Invitations have been issued to the Reverend C. Dale, Borough & County Councillors, Newbury Weekly News, local Police.

Publicity – The meeting is posted on the HPC website. Highclere Society and the Highclere Church Magazine have been notified in March 2015. Posters will be posted in all of the noticeboards in April/May.

132/14 Councillors' matters to be included in the Agenda for the next Council Meeting.
Discussion of a change of minutes format to include an action column.
Community Asset register (the Red House, Westridge Studio) – production of a register and Councillor nominated to produce the register.
Highclere Church request for contribution towards Churchyard works.

133/14 Date of the next Council Meeting – The next meeting of the Council is the AGM to be held at 6pm at Highclere Church on 12 May 2015.

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.58pm.

Signed _____ Position _____ Date _____