

HIGHCLERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at

Highclere Village Hall

Tuesday 10 March 2015 at 7.00pm

Members: Councillors Sally Izett (Chairman) P
John Stoker (Vice Chairman) P
Councillor Russ Castle, Councillor Will Flack, Councillor Horace Mitchell
*P - present

In attendance: Clerk to the Council, Sue Edwards, one member of the Public.

Apologies: Councillor Mike Jenkins (Professional Association Meeting), Councillor Don Langan (Holiday) (LGA 1972, Sch 12, para 40, Borough Councillor John Izett, Borough Councillor Graham Falconer, (Scrutiny Committee), Hampshire County Councillor Tom Thacker.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

99/14 – To approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 February 2015

The minutes had been circulated, were taken as read and were signed by the Chairman, Councillor S. Izett.

100/14 – Declarations of Interest – there were no declarations of Interest from the Councillors present.

101/14- To Progress resolutions from 10 February 2015 (*Matters arising from the Minutes*).

78/14 - Clearance of foliage around the Pedestrian Refuge at Penwood Crossroads has been completed.

92/14 - The Clerk sent a letter to residents, on 27 February 2015, whose gardens back onto Mount Road asking them to clear overgrowth encroaching on the carriageway. A resident replied to inform the council that the land belonged to Basingstoke & Deane and she has been sent a map showing the trees which mainly have Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on them. The Clerk has kept Mike Jenkins, HPC Tree Officer informed.

102/14 Public Participation (*limited to a maximum of 3 minutes per person*). One member of the Public was present.

103/14 Reports from Borough & County Councillors.

County Councillor's report to Highclere Parish Council March 10th, 2015. Tom Thacker, Hampshire County Councillor, Whitchurch and Clere Division.

Please accept my apologies, but I have a clash of engagements. Hampshire County Council voted, on 19th February to freeze its part of the Council Tax, which is the largest portion of the total council tax bill. I understand that Basingstoke and Deane has done the same, so most residents in the borough should see little change in their council tax bill.

For Hampshire Band D remains at £1,037.88 for the sixth year running, this despite having to accept 51% central government grant cut since, 2010/11, and total savings of £240 million since 2008.

A further £100 million of savings are expected to be required by 2017/18. In 2014/15 and 2015/16 we will have used £135 million reserves to fund our budget. These reserves have been used on one-off spending. Our expenditure in 2015/16 will be 1,900 million (1.9 billion)

BDBC Cllr Graham Falconer, report to Highclere Parish Council 10 March 2015.

Budgets

Full Council approved the budget on 26 Feb. This means that there has been no increase in council tax for 6 years. If there had been any increases then the BDBC would have been “fined” by the Government thus removing any financial benefit from the increase. It is expected that Council tax will increase next year.

Bus cuts

The cuts in bus services and the changes to route 7 seems to have gone OK. Ashmansworth is happy with the taxi share scheme and I have not had any protests about the new schedules.

The Economic Planning and Housing Committee

It has recommended to the Cabinet to increase the housing target from 748 dwellings pa to 850 pa for each of the next 15 years. The nearest target areas are Kingsclere, Overton and Whitchurch. There is a target of 900 windfall dwellings over the 15 years, 60 pa, of developments unforeseen in the rural areas. This figure will go into the Local Plan of BDBC and currently it is likely that after examination and review the next session with the Inspector will be in October.

Curridge car sales site

Cllr Izett is trying to set up a meeting between the owners of the site and planning in order to try to resolve the design issues as for the second time an application has been submitted which would be rejected and has not addressed the detail of the Inspectors report which upheld the first refusal.

“Purdah” for the elections starts on 30 March.

Cllr Mitchell commented that there will be an increase in the Police and Fire element of Council Tax.

104/14 Little Penwood update – following a query from a resident, sent to Cllr Falconer, the Clerk asked Frank Wright for a copy of the letter sent by BDBC to residents. This letter, sent to residents December 2015, has been posted on the HPC website and on the Parish noticeboards. Frank Wright has stated that he will inform the Council when the next site visit is to be held so that Parish Councillors may attend.

105/14 Heathlands and Woodlands Improvement Project update – Cllr Mitchell has been on holiday but has work planned.

106/14 Home-Start request for financial support – this request was discussed at length. The Council felt that this could set a precedent. Chairman Izett to write to Homestart explaining that a donation was not possible. Councillors did express an interest in

considering requests from within the Parish. This is an issue that requires further discussion. The Clerk is to contact EWPC Clerk and enquire about their policy. To be discussed at the June meeting.

107/14 Report on Environment

Lengthsman – Cllr Jenkins sent the following report on the work of the Lengthsman:

Over the past 3 weeks we have had 2 visits during which he has cleared the pavement around the Bus Stop at Penwood Crossroads, cleared/strimmed vegetation along Mount Road, secured 2 sign posts and cleared pavement along Foxs Lane. He was aware of the money remaining in the budget so as a result of the work done on Foxs Lane and possibly on the A343 near Flexford House we should have used all of the £1000 allocated. He has identified two posts which could not be 'righted' where they are and need re-siting, these to be inspected by Steve Goodall, and has provided a quote for remedial work on a footpath. Therefore we have work for the 2015-16 year should the budget continue.

Cllr Stoker gave more detail on the costs for the remedial work on the footpath - to repair both stiles and to add a second step on both, materials £110, labour £150. Total £260.00. To repair one stile and to add a gate, Materials £165.00, Labour £150. Total £315.00. The Council agreed that Cllr Stoker should approach the landowner and highlight that the work may be supported under the HCC Small Works Scheme. The Council does want to be proactive in resolving this situation for residents.

108/14 Westridge – Cllr Castle is to contact D.R.Gribble's solicitor for an update.

109/14 Report on Roads and Transport

Update: New Footway on Andover Road, Highclere – Jenny Moon, HCC has sent an update on this project via email.

I am writing to you to inform that the feasibility study for the above scheme is complete and I would like to update you with the outcome and recommended next steps. I've discussed with this proposal with Councillor Tom Thacker and he fully supports the scheme as detailed below. As previously mentioned, we have looked at this as two separate sections. The whole section of new footway is feasible. Due to drainage works required to pipe the ditch and associated embankment works, Section 2 is more expensive to deliver than Section 1.1. Section 1 (southern section) : Between the Village Hall and Star lane (estimated cost: £23,500)

2. Section 2 (northern section) : Between the Village Hall and Mount Road (estimated cost: £59,500) I can confirm that I have managed to secure funding for the full £85,000 required from the 'Barred Routes' violations linked to the Andover Airfield site, to deliver this scheme. If you have any comments on this proposal please let me know by the 13th March 2015. If I don't hear from you by then I will assume the Parish Council still support this scheme and we will progress to consultation and delivery.

The Public Consultation for this proposal will now take place and involve seeking the views of the local residents. Please let me know if the Parish Council would like to be involved with this in terms of informing the residents that the consultation is taking place and how they can comment? We are looking to set up an online consultation page on our website where residents can leave their comments. If you can assist with the publicity of this it would be much appreciated. We plan on writing to relevant residents with a copy of the plan. We are planning on writing to the resident directly affected by the proposal. We may also look to put up information on street furniture too. If you wish to discuss this with me please get in touch.

The project was discussed at length. It was originally requested under the “Access for All” scheme. Cllr Flack stated that it would be safer for children, those with push chairs and disabled residents to access the hall. The councillors unanimously supported the scheme.

The Clerk to communicate with Jenny Moon, HCC with regards to publicising the scheme and the Consultation.

Speedwatch – Cllr Flack offered to act as the Parish Council's Speedwatch co-ordinator to move this project forward. The Clerk is to provide a complete list of those residents who have expressed an interest in the project. The 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

Flooding on A343

Calderdale, Andover Road, near Seven Stones Bridge – Cllr Castle has been in contact with Southern Water regarding flooding across the carriageway. Southern Water wrote to the Clerk on 25/2/15 *“our leakage contractors attended to investigate. They did a chlorine test to verify whether the water is ground water or fresh water. The chlorine test came back negative which indicates that this is ground water.”* Cllr Castle is to contact S. Goodall and A. Kettlewell HCC with this information.

110/14 Report on Planning

There were three planning applications this month and there were no objections from the Council.

(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
10-Mar	14/26	15/00201/HSE	30/1/15	Strathcona, Andover Road
	14/27	15/00264/HSE	3/2/15	Hillside, Andover Road
	14/28	15/00308/HSE	11/2/15	Kinnersley House, Westridge

Cllr. Mitchell suggested that a watching brief should be kept on the BDBC proposed building sites and the Settlement Boundary Policy.

It may be necessary to fund HPC work on the Local Plan. To be discussed at the June meeting.

111/14 Correspondence received.

From HCC, Shaping the Economy, Transport and Environment Services 26 March 2015.

The Major's Black Tie Charity Dinner Friday 17 April 2015.

Food & Friendship Newsletter – Age Concern/HCC (this is circulated by the Village Agent)

The Police Service – Residents survey: Helping to set Community Policing Policy

www.surveymonkey.com/r/BasingstokePolicingPrioritiesHaveYourSay

112/14 Financial Matters

The Internal Auditor for 2015 is John Murray. Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Register, and Supporting Documents were all approved and adopted unanimously by the Council. They were signed by and Chairman S. Izett.

A Proposal was made to add the Parish Clerk to the Bank mandate to facilitate Internet Banking. Councillor Flack proposed and Councillor Stoker seconded the proposal and it was agreed unanimously by the Council. The procedure for checking of payments is fully documented in the Financial Regulations and Financial Risk Assessment.

Accounts for payment 10 March 2015. Signed by Cllrs Stoker and Castle.

Date	Expenditure	Cheque No.	£
10/03/15	BT Payment Services	101982	54.79
10/03/15	East Woodhay Parish Council	101983	461.66
10/03/15	HALC Minute taking/Clerks update course	101984	84.00
10/03/15	Premier Grounds & Garden Maintenance	101985	18.00
10/03/15	Highclere Village Hall Mgmt C'ttee	101986	22.50
10/03/15	Viking Stationery	101987	152.62
10/03/15	C. Corral (Litter Warden)	101988	131.80
10/03/15	D. McClelland (Litter Warden)	101989	267.00
10/03/15	S. Edwards (Clerk's Salary)	101990	534.92
10/03/15	HMRC Tax & NI	101991	153.68
10/03/15	ICO Direct debit (approved 10/3/15)		35.00
10/03/15	BT Payment Services	101992	24.49

Credit - Closure of M. Harwood telephone line £36.09

113/14 Documents Archived

The Clerk organised archiving of key documents. These are held at HCC Archive, Winchester.

Reference	Highclere Parish Council	Minutes (100A02/A)
100A02/A9	Signed minutes	2003-4
100A02/A10	Signed minutes	2005-6
100A02/A11	Signed minutes	2007-8
100A02/A12	Signed minutes	2009-10
100A02/A13	Signed minutes	2011-13
Reference	Highclere Parish Council	Accounts (100A02/B)
100A02/B4	End of year accounts	1998-2002
100A02/B5	End of year accounts	2003-2005
100A02/B6	End of year accounts	2006-2013
Reference	Property Records (100A02/D)	
100A02/D1	Deeds and related documents concerning Highclere Village	1909-1959

	Hall, formerly known as 'The Armoury' Highclere Street, East Woodhay	
Tenancy for 'The Armoury'	Between Mrs. Marion Whiston of East Woodhay, widow and the Territorial Army	6 Dec 1909 (item 1)
Requisition of Title	By Mrs Whiston to Miss Marion Arkwright of Highclere	1914 (item 2)
Conveyance of the same	By Mrs Whiston to Miss Marion Arkwright of Highclere (with block plan)	24 July 1914 (item 3)
Deed of gift of the same	By Godfrey Arkwright of Highclere to Highclere Parish Council	24 June 1942 (item 4)
Deed of confirmation	By Harold Hingston to Highclere Parish Council	14 Oct 1957 (item 5)
Trust deed	Relating to Highclere Village Hall	8 Jul 1859 (item 6)

114/14 Councillors' matters to be included in the Agenda for the next Council Meeting.
Appointment of Internal Auditor; North Hampshire Hospital new hospital project.
Annual Parish Assembly ideas – Police, school, Highclere Society, Church, Forestry Commission.

115/14 Date of the next Council Meeting – 7 April 2015

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed _____ Position _____ Date _____