

HIGHCLERE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Highclere Parish Council Meeting held at

Highclere Village Hall

Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 7.00pm

Members:

Sally Izett (Chairman), John Stoker (Vice Chairman)

Councillor (also Borough Councillor) Graham Falconer, Councillor Mike Jenkins, Councillor Don Langan, Councillor Horace Mitchell, Councillor Mike York.

In attendance:

Clerk to the Council Sue Edwards, Jane Meredith, Newbury Weekly News, and County Councillor Tom Thacker. Three members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that there were protocols for members of the public attending the Parish Council meeting.

80/15 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Will Flack (work commitments *LGA 1972, Sch. 12, para 40*), Borough Councillor John Izett.

81/15 Declarations of Interest. There was a Declaration of Interest from Cllr. J. Stoker who lives near the Yew Tree Inn.

82/15 To confirm accuracy and sign the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 September 2015. The Minutes were circulated and it was unanimously resolved that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. They were duly signed by the Chairman, Sally Izett.

83/15 To Progress Resolutions from 8 September 2015 (*Matters arising from the Minutes*).

69/15

Westridge Studio: The Clerk gained quotations from solicitors for legal advice. This matter is on the Agenda.

70/15

Heathlands & Woodlands Improvement Project: Cllr. Mitchell unable to arrange this meeting due to holidays.

72/15

Yew Tree/ Ashmansworth Junction: The Chairman contacted Hampshire County Council and received a reply from Andrew Kettlewell: *"I am afraid that I will not be able to attend any site visit. Due to staff shortages, only statutory and urgent issues are being dealt with at the current time. Extending the 40mph speed limit to cover the Yew Tree junction has been investigated fairly recently and the proposal does not comply with County Council policy and national guidance for setting local speed limits. With current and on-going reductions in local government funding, I can only advise you that it is very unlikely this will ever be investigated further"*.

Action – the Chairman to copy the email to Cllr. Thacker.

Speedwatch: Cllr. Flack was not present to give an update.

Satnav Sign Church Lane: Cllr. S. Izett has received a reply from Barry Ford and has been told that the matter is being investigated.

Road Signs: The Chairman wrote to Steve Goodall and received a reply that he is happy for the "Turn Left" sign on the A343, on the approach to the Yew Tree from the Andover direction, to be re-sited as it is not a terminal speed limit sign. However, approval would need to be gained to re-site the speed limit sign at the entrance to Highclere Street.

Action - Cllr. M. Jenkins to liaise with the Lengthsman

73/15 Planning - Letter of Complaint: The Clerk posted the letter and copies to Councillors G. Falconer, J. Izett, and C. Sanders. A letter of acknowledgement has been received.

74/15 Gifts and Grants Policy: the Clerk posted the policy onto the PC website.

76/15 HM the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations: The Chairman wrote to local groups – this will be covered by Agenda item 90/15.

84/15 Public Participation – three members of the public were present but did not want to speak at this point.

85/15 Helicopters landing at the Yew Tree.

Simon Davis, landlord of the Yew Tree was invited to speak. He said that he had taken advice from the Council and the Police and he has spoken to his immediate neighbours. He wants to avoid problems. They are allowed to have 28 days of landings in one year. There have been 9 landings this year. Mr Davis is aware that Cllr. Stoker is having work done on his roof and there will not be any landings during this work period. Cllr. S. Izett asked if the route could be altered. Mr Davis said that helicopters come in from the South to avoid roof tops and stables. Cllr. Stoker stated that the landing site is 25 metres from his house and 90 metres from the Yew Tree Inn. There were 3 landings in one week in June. Cllr. Stoker is concerned about horses and walkers in the lane and it would be difficult for the pilot to see them due to the high hedge. Mr Davis was asked if it was necessary to advertise the Yew Tree as a venue for helicopters. He said that there were a small number of flights but they were commercially rewarding. Cllr. S. Izett thanked Mr Davis for attending and all parties agreed to liaise and work together in the future.

86/15 Reports from Borough & County Councillors

Superfast Broadband. County Councillor Tom Thacker gave an update on Superfast Broadband. Cabinet 4 at the corner of Andover Road and Star Lane is now "live". Most of Highclere should be "live" by the end of the year. Cllr M. York asked what was the plan for houses directly connected to the Exchange.

Action – Cllr. H. Mitchell to investigate plans for houses directly connected to the Exchange.

Roads policy – there are cutbacks in budgets and manpower in the Transport department. Simon Found has left. Cllr. Thacker is planning to speak to his successor. There is no minor works budget in the future.

Borough Councillor Graham Falconer reported that the devolution plans were work-in-progress. The Local Plan is also work-in-progress, in the second week of examination. The proposal for the new Critical Hospital received planning permission last week but the funding has not been approved. The BDBC audit and accounts were accepted and approved. Cllr. Falconer announced that he was now a Community Governor of the Clere School.

Action – The Chairman to write a letter to Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust supporting the proposed Critical Treatment Hospital and Cancer Treatment Centre.

87/15 Westridge Studio Proposal

Briefing Papers were circulated to Councillors before the meeting. Highclere Parish Council discussed the Proposals at length. Cllr. York said that a lot of work was going on in the background regarding the constitution and ensuring that the Studio will be sustainable. He has been liaising with Cllr. M. Jenkins, Chairman of Highclere Village Hall, to ensure the community venues will be mutually supportive.

The Clerk obtained three quotations for the legal work (two quoted up £5000, Wellers quoted £600) and the Council decided to engage Roger Taylor of Wellers Law Group who specialise in Parish Council matters and have worked closely with the Hampshire Association of Local

Councils (HALC) . Roger Taylor recently ran a training session for the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) concerning Village Halls which Cllr. York attended. A simple trust will involve the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee with a management committee. The Council voted on the following resolutions:

- A Resolution to amend the Highclere Village Hall Trust Deed dated 1959 on the basis that it is out of date i.e. it refers to redundant organisations and the Minister of Education.

Proposed by Cllr. H. Mitchell, seconded by Cllr. J. Stoker approved unanimously by the full Council

- A Resolution to pay a solicitor to amend the Deed.

Proposed by Cllr. M York, seconded by Cllr. J. Stoker approved unanimously by the full Council

- A Resolution to gain legal advice on how best to form a constitution and management committee for Westridge Studio.

Proposed by Cllr. S. Izett, seconded by Cllr. H. Mitchell approved unanimously by the full Council.

The Council agreed that work needs to be undertaken to ensure that Westridge Studio is perceived as a high quality venue which will be attractive to renters who will be vital to the ongoing success of the Studio.

Action: The Clerk to contact Roger Taylor and Kurt Lee, the solicitor for D.R. Gribble's estate.

The attending Parishioner gave her views on how the Studio could attract Arts and Crafts groups.

88/15 Report on Planning

BDBC No.	Date sent by BDBC	Address
15/03225/TENO	11/9/15	Telecoms Station Penwood Heights
15/03099/HSE	17/9/15	Tewdric House, Westridge
15/03119/FUL	28/9/15	Crowshott Park Farm, Hollington Lane
15/03487/HSE	8/10/15	Horris Hill, Ancillary building
15/03390/FUL	6/10/15	Gate House, Horris Hill
15/03334/FUL	6/10/15	Glebe, Deadmoor Lane

15/03225/TENO – there was no comment. The Parish Council cannot affect telecommunications decisions.

15/03099/HSE – no comment

15/03119/FUL – no comment

15/03390/FUL – no comment

15/03334/FUL – no comment

Land at Andover Road, Highclere - Appeal: APP/H1705/W/15/3133111 the Council agreed that Cllr. H. Mitchell should draft a response for the Clerk to send: that the Parish Council did not support this application.

89/15 Heathlands & Woodlands Improvement Project Update

Action: Cllr. Mitchell to arrange a meeting of the working party.

90/15 HM the Queen 90th Birthday.

The Chairman has received a response to her letter from the Highclere Society. There was significant concern raised over the clash of dates and the very real danger of "event fatigue" next June, with the Fete on the 11th, the 90th on the 12th and the Society BBQ, which is on 26th. The 90th event must be as close to 11th or 12th June as possible to maximise the extra local support derived from being part of the overall national celebration. The Society suggested a joint fete and celebration with the Castle. Cllr. M. Jenkins said that this view was echoed by members of the Highclere Village Hall Committee.

Action – Cllr. Mitchell to speak to Highclere Church Parochial Council.

91/15 Report on Environment

Lengthsman – Cllr. Jenkins stated that, at two months into the Lengthsman's year, £780 remained in the budget although this figure did not include work on the stile and the gate. He has work scheduled for October including planting the bulbs around the Highclere and Penwood gateway signs, straightening the posts by the Yew Tree and clearing vegetation around the salt bins. Cllr Mitchell asked that clearing vegetation at the Penwood refuge could be added to the list. The Chairman thanked Cllrs Jenkins and Stoker for all of their work in this area.

Action: Cllr. Jenkins to oversee the Lengthsman's tasks. Cllr. Stoker to contact the Lengthsman to ask for his materials invoice for the gate and stile.

92/15 Report on Roads & Transport

Cllr. Flack was not present to give an update.

93/15 Financial Matters.

Budget Update. The Clerk, in her position as Responsible Financial Officer, advised that there were still reserves which could be used to fund the solicitor costs, for legal work on the Highclere Village Hall and Westridge Studio Deeds.

94/15 Accounts for payment

October payments were approved by Councillors Jenkins and Mitchell

Date incurred	Expenditure	Purpose	VAT	Total
12/10/15	Highclere Church Parochial Council	Cemetery grass cutting. Cheque No. 102010	0	200.00
30/09/15	Litter Warden	September Fuel Allowance	0	£13.95
31/10/15	Clerk's Salary	October Salary	0	£863.15
31/10/15	Litter Warden Salary	October Salary	0	£415.40
23/09/15	SLCC	Training CPD Mike York Charitable Trust	19.00	£114.00
08/10/15	Councillor's travel expense	Travel to SLCC training course		£26.55
10/09/15	Penwood Nurseries	Bulb planting in the Parish	4.43	£26.60
				<u>£1,659.65</u>

02/10/15	BT Parish phone	Direct debit	3.89	23.34
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95/15 Correspondence received

Email from resident informing the Council that Hampshire County Council have agreed to put additional drainage from Dove Cottage to link up with existing drainage. The Parish Council has also pursued this matter and received a letter from Southern Water (25/2/15) clarifying that this was ground water and therefore a matter for the County Council.

Email received from resident asking if any progress had been made towards having the speed limit reduced from 40mph to 30mph between Mount Road and Seven Stones Bridge. In order to bring this stretch into the "Village 30 Scheme".

Action: the Clerk for write an article for the Highclere magazine to explain the current status of the roads policy.

Email from Hampshire Association of Local Councils announcing that Enham Almain was crowned joint winner of the Village of the Year along with Bembridge on the Isle of Wight.

Email correspondence regarding the Planned Critical Treatment Hospital and Cancer Treatment Centre.

Letter from resident asking for support for planning application.

Letter from Agent asking if they should attend the HPC meeting.

Email - Safer North Hampshire Newsletter,

Letter from Hampshire County Council publicising Admissions to School September 2016.

Parents can apply between 1 November 2015 and 15 January 2016.

96/15 Councillors' matters to be included in the next meeting

Councillors to email the Clerk.

97/15 Date of the next Council Meeting – 10 November 2015

Adjournment: there being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Summary of Actions:**72/15**

Yew Tree/ Ashmansworth Junction: the Chairman to copy the email to Cllr. Thacker.

Cllr. M. Jenkins to liaise with the Lengthsman regarding leaning road signs

86/15

Superfast Broadband: Cllr. H. Mitchell to investigate possibilities for Superfast broadband for house directly connected to the Telephone Exchange.

Critical Treatment Hospital: The Chairman to write a letter to Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust supporting the proposed Critical Treatment Hospital and Cancer Treatment Centre.

87/15

Westridge Studio: The Clerk to contact Roger Taylor and Kurt Lee the solicitor for D.R. Gribble's estate.

89/15

Heathlands & Woodlands Improvement Project Update: Cllr. Mitchell to arrange a meeting of the working party.

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HM the Queen 90th Birthday: Cllr. Mitchell to speak to Highclere Church Parochial Council.

91/15

Lengthsman: Cllr. Jenkins to oversee the Lengthsman's tasks. Cllr. Stoker to contact the Lengthsman to ask for his materials, for the gate and stile, invoice.

95/15

Roads policy and Highclere Parish Council: the Clerk for write an article for the Highclere magazine to explain the current status of the roads policy.

Signed _____ Position _____ Date _____