



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE LIBRARY ROOM, THE BRIDEWELL, THE BURY, ODIHAM, RG29 1NB  
ON 21 SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllrs McFarlane (Chair), G Ball, K Ball, C Brown, A Fraser, J Raw, D Stewart and P Verdon.

In attendance: Andrea Mann (Parish Clerk) and Sara Jones (Deputy Clerk).

Also present: One member of the public.

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed new Councillors and introductions were given.

**84/21 To receive and accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Coleman, MacPhee, Glen, Crookes and Dorn.

**85/21 To receive declarations of interests and requests for dispensation relating to any item on the agenda**

Cllrs G and K Ball declared an interested in agenda item 110/21.

**86/21 Approval of minutes**

RESOLVED

The minutes of the extraordinary full Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, 3 in favour).

**87/21 Chair's Announcements**

The Chair reported:

- i) The 2021 Raft Race had been an extremely successful event and approximately £1,500 was raised. The Chair had presented prizes on behalf of OPC and thanks was given to Cllr Stewart as a lead organiser.
- ii) The North Warnborough Village Hall looked fantastic following refurbishment works which had utilised an OPC grant.
- iii) Thanks was given to Catherine Ryle, former Admin Officer, who had recently left OPC and relocated to Somerset.

**88/21 Public Session**

None.

**89/21 Previous Committee Minutes**

The following minutes, previously circulated to Members, were received and noted:

- Planning & Development Committees held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August.
- Finance Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> April.
- Staffing Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> April.
- Traffic & Transport Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.



**90/21 To consider Matters Arising from the Minutes not elsewhere on the agenda**  
No matters were raised.

**91/21 Funding from the Government's Covid Welcome Back Fund**  
The Chair reported that OPC had received two grant awards from the above fund which were used to fund the hire of picnic benches and the cost of updating the Visit Odiham leaflet.

The Chair further reported that the terms of the grant did not allow capital purchases so the benches were only hired until the end of October.

**92/21 Odiham Village Centre Area Action Plan**  
The Chair introduced the draft Action Plan, explaining that it had been produced through a series of workshops with community representatives. Members were invited to comment on the draft before considering whether it was fit for public consultation. Comments included:

- Councillors were pleased to see EVCP's included in the Plan.
- The consultation would need to consider timescales for project delivery to help manage residents' expectations.
- Public responses would help to determine the highest priorities.

**RESOLVED**

The draft Action Plan was approved and would be put to public consultation in October and included in OPC's Autumn newsletter.  
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Raw, all in favour).

**93/21 Odiham Book Exchange**  
The Chair provided a verbal progress report from the Chair on the establishment of the Book Exchange Community Interest Company.

The CIC members had held their first meeting to agree positions. The CIC application had been submitted to Companies House, several questions were raised but the Chair was confident CIC status could be achieved. Once the application was approved, the CIC would be able to open a bank account. The formation of the CIC was a key step in the handover process which would release time back to Deputy Clerk.

**94/21 The Bridewell Progress Report**  
The Clerk's progress report on The Bridewell freehold transfer, building repairs and future plans was received and noted. The Clerk added, the land search documents had just been received and were awaiting review by the Working Group.

Members discussed the front curtilage and instances of residents' parking around the access ramp/steps. EVCP's and bicycle racks were suggested but it was agreed to defer any decision until the meeting with the Hart DC Parking Manager had taken place on 24<sup>th</sup> September.



Concerns were raised about outstanding maintenance issues. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk confirmed that Hants CC was still responding to maintenance reports but the boiler had been out of action for some time. Councillors noted concerns over the grant payment where maintenance issues were already actioned.

#### **95/21 Climate Emergency**

The Clerk introduced the agenda report which asked Councillors to consider Climate Change and the Government's Climate Emergency pledge.

Councillors supported the principles of the report but questioned how OPC could make this declaration having recently objected to a solar farm planning application. Councillors also noted the Climate Emergency pledge had already been declared by central Government and there was no merit in OPC making its own declaration.

Further to debate, it was

#### **RESOLVED**

OPC acknowledges the Government's Climate Emergency pledge and will:

- i) Consider Climate Change in all decision making and delivery of services and activities.
- ii) Review all Council services and functions and draw up an Action Plan within 6 months setting out where carbon emissions can be reduced.
- iii) Following adoption and review of the Action Plan, OPC will consider whether to declare a "net zero carbon pledge."

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Raw, all in favour).

#### **96/21 Community Orchard, Odiham Cemetery Meadow**

The Clerk's report detailing a project proposal for a community orchard in Cemetery Meadow was considered and Councillors

#### **RESOLVED**

To approve the project proposal set out in the report and delegate authority to the Clerk to:

- i) Request funding from Hart District Council and, once full funding is secured
- ii) Make the necessary arrangements to deliver the project in Autumn 2021 as set out in the timeline.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Fraser, all in favour).

Cllr Stewart offered assistance in clearing the site prior to tree planting.

#### **97/21 Odiham and North Warnborough Conservation Area Appraisal**

Cllr Verdon introduced the draft Conservation Area Appraisals which had been produced by Alan Baxter Ltd in partnership with Hart DC, Cllr Verdon and Helen Fleming. Councillors were asked to comment on the draft and asked to agree the draft ready for public consultation. Cllr Verdon explained that guidance on the appropriate form of consultation had been requested from Hart DC and it was



hoped a link in the newsletter to the website would be sufficient. The large size of the document will make distribution electronically a challenge.

#### RESOLVED

The draft Conservation Area Appraisal was approved for public consultation. The Appraisal would be added to the website and a link published in OPC's Autumn newsletter.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Fraser, all in favour).

**98/21**

#### **Financial expenditure on OPC's Amenity Areas**

Members considered the Clerk's report, as presented with the agenda which included recommendation to action a number of outstanding maintenance issues. Cllr Raw, as Chair of the Amenities Areas Committee, explained that quotations have been sought following informal discussion with Amenities Areas Committee members.

Further to debate, it was

RESOLVED, to place orders as follow:

- i) Two replacement aluminium noticeboards on High Street including removing existing boards, preparing backboard, installation of new boards and updated Parish Map. Total cost £1,691.33 funded for the Supporting the High Street budget.
- ii) One replacement aluminium noticeboard in North Warnborough including removing existing board and installation of new. Total cost £1,209.54 funded from the Benches and Noticeboards budget.
- iii) Repairs to three benches; next to war memorial, Chamberlain Gardens and to the rear of the quarry. Total cost £715 funded from the Benches and Noticeboards budget.
- iv) Removing dead cherry tree in cemetery and replanting new Rowan tree. Total cost £880 funded from the Tree Works budget.
- v) Hedge maintenance - Recreation Ground running parallel with Recreation Road. Total cost £1,430 funded from the Tree Works budget.
- vi) Hedge maintenance – hard cut back of hedge running along northern boundary of the cemetery driveway. It was agreed to authorise up to £4,000, noting:
  - i. This expenditure would incur expenditure from general reserves.
  - ii. Burial fees income was already over budget and estimated to cover the deficit in the Cemetery maintenance budget.
  - iii. The Clerk would research other, more cost-effective options before placing the contract.
- vii) Hedge maintenance – hard cut back top and sides of the hedge within the main Cemetery between the main burial lawn running and Mildmay Court. It was agreed to research alternative options before authorising expenditure to ensure best value for money.
- viii) 4 replacement timber swing legs in the Chamberlain Gardens play area for equipment listed as “end of life” in the recent play inspection report. Total cost £2,059.46 from the Playground budget.



- ix) Removing existing broken play equipment (Trailblazer) from the Chapel Pond Play area and replacing with new, including repairs to safety surface. Total cost £865 from the Playgrounds budget.
  - x) Repairs to and replacement sections of guttering, King St toilets. Total cost £195 funded from the toilet maintenance budget.
  - xi) Various repairs to play areas as identified in the 2021 inspection reports and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Total cost £1,755 from the Playground budget. Councillors noted further, lower priority recommendations in the quote which would be reviewed at a later date.
- (Proposed by Cllr Raw, seconded by Cllr Verdon, all in favour).

**99/21 North Hampshire Downs Designation (AONB)**

Cllr Verdon introduced the Deputy Clerk's report from the meeting held with CPRE and StAND where Councillors heard early proposals for a North Hampshire Downs Designation. It was agreed to keep a watching brief on this work.

**100/21 Councillor appointments to committees**

RESOLVED

- i) Cllr G Ball was appointed to the Amenity Areas Committee and Community Committee.
- ii) Cllr Brown was appointment to the Amenity Areas Committee, Community Committee and Traffic & Transport Committee.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Stewart, all in favour).

**101/21 Introduction from Donna Jones, Police & Crime Commissioner for Hampshire & Isle of Wight.**

Councillors noted the introductory letter from Donna Jones and the [survey](#) asking for comments on the policing priority plans. The Chair reported she had also circulated a newsletter to Councillors.

**102/21 Planning & Development Committee Decisions**

RESOLVED

The decisions made by the Planning & Development Committee meeting held by Zoom on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were ratified.

(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Raw, all in favour).

**103/21 Composting in Odiham and North Warnborough**

Following discussion in July (Item 62/21 refers), Councillors reviewed the responses to their questions raised, as included with the agenda.

Councillors expressed differing views and made a number of supporting and opposing comments, including:

- Concerns were raised that food waste could attract rats.
- The size and number of bins.
- Who would monitor the bins?
- Down Farm (or similar) was suggested as an alternative site.



Further to debate it was

**RESOLVED**

To inspect Cemetery Meadow to identify a suitable trial location of 3 bins, away from properties.

That Cllr Stewart would monitor the project on behalf of OPC and report back on progress and any problems which arise.

(Proposed by Cllr Stewart, seconded by Cllr Verdon, seven in favour, one abstention).

***Financial Matters***

**104/21 September 2021 Payments**

**RESOLVED**

The payments listing circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting was approved, with the addition of a payment to PKF of £720 for external audit fees.

Cllrs Raw and Verdon were appointed to complete the payments process.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Raw, all in favour).

***Councillor Reports***

**105/21 Meeting reports from Councillors**

Cllr Verdon reported she had followed up enquiries with Hastoe regarding the Rural Exception site, in preparation for the next meeting early October.

**106/21 Reports from other Councils**

- i) Cllr Glen's "County Matters" report (Appendix 1).
- ii) Cllr Crooke's report (Appendix 2).
- iii) Cllr Dorn's report (Appendix 3).

**107/21 Date of next meeting**

19<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

***Confidential Matters***

**108/21 To pass a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press to consider confidential contractual and staffing matters which meet the criteria of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Part 1.**

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, all in favour),



**109/21 Draft Bridewell**

Local architect Leo Cornall was invited to present his plans to the Council. Following presentation and questions, he left the meeting.

Councillors considered the draft plans and whether to accept them in principle to give OPC a working draft in order to progress research and consultation.

**RESOLVED**

- i) The draft plans were agreed in principle and would be used for further research by the Working Group and tested through a Feasibility Study.
- ii) The Working Group would draft a Vision Statement alongside the draft plans.
- iii) The relevant committee chairs would review Council budgets as part of the half year review and consider whether any virement of funds should be made towards the project. This would be referred back to full Council for decision.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, all in favour).

**110/21 Review of OPC's Property Portfolio**

Cllrs G and K Ball declared an interest and did not take part in any discussion or vote.

The Chair introduced the Clerk's report summarising the research carried out since the July meeting. The Chair explained the background behind the work and the current position. Councillors considered their next steps and resolved a list of actions required to complete research before any decision made. Refer to exempt file note.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.23pm.

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....

# **COUNTY MATTERS – HOOK FOCUS**

## **SEPTEMBER 2021 ISSUE**

**Councillor Jonathan Glen**  
**Member for Hook, Odiham &**  
**the Western Parishes**  
**[jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk)**

I hope everyone had some sort of summer break, and enjoyed watching the fantastic performances of our athletes at the Tokyo Olympics as much as I did. Now it's September we're all back to school and work.

The elephant in the room this month, of course, is the debate about Shapley Heath New Town. I have had many phone calls and emails regarding the proposed development on our doorstep but I need more!

Hart District Council (HDC) has now launched a communities survey on its plans to build up to 10,000 new houses at Shapley Heath, which is now the name for the woodland and fields separating Hook, Hartley Wintney, Winchfield and Fleet-- pretty much all our neighbouring villages.

The survey as it stands fails to ask any questions for or against this development of our rural setting, basically presenting the proposal as a fait-accompli.

I believe we have a right to express our opinion about this.

The survey locates the development at Shapley Heath, but explores NO alternatives for meeting future housing demand, and asks NO questions about whether residents want Shapley Heath to go ahead. No use asking us how many parking spaces we would like if we don't want the houses at all!

Just think...10,000 houses will produce a minimum of 20,000 transport movements in the morning rush hour, and a further 20,000 vehicles trying to get home at 5pm. Ever queued to get on the M3 through

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Hook? We will all have to add an extra hour to our commuting times. Not to mention the added pressure on our local services, shops, and medical practices.

This super-sized urban extension will merge Fleet with Hartley Wintney, Winchfield and Hook. It will have a devastating impact on our local infrastructure and will deprive surrounding towns and villages of much-needed investment.

This year, HDC plans to spend a further £279,000 of OUR money on this unpopular development. There is insufficient government funding to support this project, in addition to the District Council already having a budgeted deficit of £381,000.

If you are as concerned as I am, please share your thoughts with me by emailing me on [jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk) and giving me permission to send on your responses directly.

On a more global note, I'd like to update you on what Hampshire County Council (HCC) is doing to address the climate change challenge. HCC has recognized the severity of climate change and the urgent need for action at home. We have declared a climate emergency and set two targets. The first, is to be Carbon Neutral by 2050; the second is to be resilient to the impacts of a two-degree temperature rise. The Hampshire Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan includes key programmes on transport, energy, residential emissions, and the green economy.

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More information on what we are doing and how to calculate your own carbon footprint can be found at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/climatechange>.

In addition, HCC also now has a **Pollinator Strategy** and is working closely with Parish Councils on the Pollinator Pledge Project. Did you know there are around 1500 species of insect pollinators in the UK? They are vital to growing much of our crops and for plants to flourish in our fields and gardens. Unfortunately, they are facing a number of threats meaning populations are in decline.

We're looking for local communities to pledge to help enhance their local environment for pollinators and raise awareness of how important they are. Simple actions such as not cutting your grass verges could make a big difference to the pollinators in your area.

Further details are available on

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/parish-pages/parish-pollinator>.

We are also keen to help residents who elect to drive Electric Vehicles (EVs) as an alternative to traditional petrol and diesel cars. Trials are already underway of publicly available EV charge points for on-street locations to improve the EV network across Hampshire.

We'd like to hear your views, so please take a few minutes to complete our survey on

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx>.

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More information about our work on electric vehicles as part of our strategy to tackle climate change can also be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/electric-vehicles>.

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*Councillor Jonathan Glen*

*Member for Hook, Odiham & the Western Parishes*

*jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk*

District Councillors report from Councillor Ken Crookes

1. The Council adopted an updated a “refreshed” Commercialisation Strategy at the meeting of Cabinet at its July meeting. The Council will continue to invest in commercial properties which give an acceptable financial return from rentals.
2. The Council announced that an office in Basingstoke was purchased which gives immediate rental income. This is the third acquisition which the Council has made.
3. At its September meeting, Cabinet considered the Medium Term Financial strategy. The Council need to make savings in the annual revenue budget and it was agreed that business cases will be developed to investigate a number of saving opportunities.
4. One of the decisions made at the meeting was :
  - a. **An additional Level Two business case should be prepared to explore a review of the Local Plan, and that pending consideration of this business case, all work on the Shapley Heath Garden Community should in the interim be paused.**

**I welcome this change of direction which will require that all options for future development will need to be considered as part of the Local Plan review.**

**From:** Chris Dorn <Chris.Dorn@hart.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 21 September 2021 10:56

**Subject:** RE: Full Council meeting tonight, 7.30pm

A few points that I would have raised:-

- There is growing concern about the performance of the Development Control function within Hart and serious questions were raised at Overview & Scrutiny last month. The service is struggling with staff retention and some sickness. Many of the recommendations from the peer review of the planning process (~2 years ago) have not yet been properly implemented or even started. If residents are experiencing extended response times, I would encourage them to chase Hart, but please do copy me into such messages, so that we can monitor the situation and make appropriate requests.
- Hart has announced an “early” review of the Local Plan (covering the whole of Hart). This was always due for revision before 2025, as they need to be updated every 5 years. After much pressure and considerable lobbying from many concerned residents and the Conservative group, Hart has also announced a “pause” in their dogged pursuit of Shapley Heath Garden Village. While this is good news, it doesn’t excuse the huge amounts of money that have been wasted the project. The Local Plan review will need to look at all options for future housing, so we can expect to see developers pushing their favoured sites. Once there is a clearer strategy, I will share it.
- Several of Hart’s refuse collection staff have been “pinged” causing disruption to the service. Green bin collection has been suspended several times, it should re-start on 14<sup>th</sup> Sept, best to leave green bins out as round times may differ. They will provide extensions to the subscription, but this will be next year – so please keep a close eye on bills. Pleased to see a householder was fined by Hart for fly tipping.
- Questions remain about the state of Hart’s finances and how costs are being allocated at the end of the year. Some of this relates directly to Shapley Heath and the allocation of costs around that project.
  - The Shapley Heath project has been “paused” to save a little cash, but we await the publication of the Hart survey on the garden village concept, rumour is that responses were strongly negative and hence they don’t want to publish it.
- Sadly Hart’s Climate Change WG has not made much progress since the Climate Emergency was declared. There has been no progress on the Civic Quarter WG, a point I raised at O&S last month.
- Bowling Alley (east) will be closed until Sept 2022 as part of the A287/Redfields Lane roundabout work. Temporary 30mph zone along A287 in the roadworks.
- You may have seen that a Fleet resident has been ordered to pay more than £2,000 after pleading guilty to cutting down protected trees in a Conservation Area. Permission to work on such trees can be obtained from Hart Planning at nil cost.

I hope you have a good meeting.

Best Regards

Chris