



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE LIBRARY ROOM, THE BRIDEWELL, THE BURY, ODIHAM, RG29 1NB
ON 19th OCTOBER AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllrs McFarlane (Chair), C Brown, R Coleman,
W MacPhee (from 119/21), D Stewart and P Verdon.

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

Also present: Hants CC Cllr Glen and One member of the public.

111/21 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Fraser and Raw and Hart DC
Cllrs Crookes and Dorn.

112/21 Declarations of interests and requests for dispensation

None.

113/21 Approval of minutes

RESOLVED

- i) The minutes of the full Council meeting held on 21st September 2021 (84/21-111/21) were approved and signed by the Chair.
- ii) Amendments were approved to the minutes from the meeting held on 20th July, item 64/21i – the grant was awarded to The Old School, not Vine Church and item 64/21ii, the grant was awarded to the Basingstoke Canal Society not Authority.

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

114/21 Chair's Announcements

The Chair reported:

- i) The Autumn newsletter had been drafted and was at the printers.
- ii) Due a delay in the appointment of the Amenity Officer, Mary Harris was providing Locum support to the office.
- iii) Cllr McFarlane had started the process of developing a local response to Climate Change by co-ordinating a local group of volunteers to discuss a Biodiversity Policy. Further details would be referred back to a future meeting.

115/21 Public Session

None.

116/21 Previous Committee Minutes

The following minutes, previously circulated to Members, were received and noted:
- Planning & Development Committee held on 14th September.

117/21 To consider Matters Arising from the Minutes not elsewhere on the agenda

No matters were raised.



118/21 Staffing Committee

RESOLVED

Cllr Coleman was appointed as a member of the Staffing Committee but would stand down from the Traffic & Transport Committee.

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

119/21 Farnborough Aircraft Noise

Councillors considered correspondence received from a member of the public raising concerns of aircraft noise, with technical data, on routes around Farnborough airport. Further to discussion it was

RESOLVED

To respond showing support stating that, although OPC doesn't currently have a relevant policy, this would be taken into account for future environmental policies, currently in development.

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

120/21 Hedge Maintenance – Odiham Cemetery

As agreed at the previous meeting (Item 98/21vi and vii refers), alternative options were presented for consideration.

RESOLVED

- i) To award contract to Larkstel Ltd in the value of £4,000 to cut back the top and sides of the hedge running along the northern side of the entrance driveway.
- ii) To award contract to Larkstel Ltd totalling £5,950 to cut back to top and inside of the large hedge running between the main burial lawn.

Councillors acknowledged these unbudgeted, essential works would result in a budget overspend at year end, estimated at £2,500 (assuming additional forecast burial income of £5,000). The Clerk confirmed that hedge maintenance would be included in the new cemetery maintenance contract and the draft specification would be referred to the November Amenity Areas Committee.

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

121/21 Update on The Bridewell Freehold Transfer

The Clerk's progress report was reviewed and noted.

It was agreed that the Clerk should withhold part-payment of HCC's quarterly rental due to the boiler being out of action for several weeks and cost of purchasing portable radiators.

An outstanding action was noted, to follow up with HCC suggestions for controlling parking at the front of the building.



122/21 Policy Reviews

The following policies were reviewed and agreed:

- i) Financial Regulations, as presented with the agenda.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Coleman, all in favour).
- ii) Reserves Policy, as presented with the agenda.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Coleman, all in favour).
- iii) Statement of Internal Controls – this was a new policy presented to Councillors for the first time. It was agreed to re-word text relating to reclaiming of expenses then refer the Policy back to the following meeting.

123/21 Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

Following a meeting with the RAF and J Hale, former Chair and InOdiham representative, outline event plans were presented for discussion.

RESOLVED

To agree in principle to:

- i) Organise a Beacon Lighting event on Thursday 2nd June 2022 and
- ii) Organise a Street Party on Sunday 5th June 2022
- iii) Acknowledge OPC's commitments as set out in the Event Plans.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Stewart, all in favour).

Financial Matters

124/21 Notice of Conclusion of Audit for the year ended 31 March 2021

RESOLVED

The External Auditors review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Odiham Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2021 and Conclusion of Audit notice was accepted and noted.

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

125/21 RAF Christmas Gifts

RESOLVED

To make a BACS transfer to Cllr Fraser as payment of £2,260 in order to purchase Amazon vouchers for RAF Odiham personnel deployed overseas at Christmas.

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

126/21 Budget Virements

Budget virements were considered, as suggested by a meeting with Committee Chairs 11.10.21 and it was

RESOLVED

- i) £15,000 from the Chapel Maintenance earmarked reserve to The Bridewell earmarked reserve with the justification that all recently identified work was complete.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, all in favour).



- ii) £4,000 from unspent events' budgets to a new Queen's Platinum Jubilee event budget to cover upfront costs and secure event bookings such as bands. Councillors noted the event aimed to break even through ticket sales. (Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Coleman, all in favour).

Councillor Reports

127/21 Meeting reports from Councillors

- i) Cllr Verdon reported from a meeting with Hart District Council and Hastoe, the housing developer for the Rural Exception Site on land adjacent to Roughs Cottage (Appendix 1).
- ii) Cllrs McFarlane and Verdon reported from the Hart District Association of Parish and Town Councils meeting held on 12th October. The meeting had included a presentation on Hart's heritage where Odiham was described as "the jewel in the crown". A book was due to be published and it was suggested OPC promote this locally because Odiham Cottage Hospital was due to benefit from sale proceeds.

128/21 Reports from other Councils

- i) Cllr Glen's "County Matters" report (Appendix 2).

Cllr Glen also reported on HCC's Pan-Hampshire Prospectus:

- Discussions were underway starting with a meeting on 12th October between the HCC Leader and all Hampshire's District/Borough Leaders.
 - The purpose of the project was about devolution of powers combining services.
 - Much more work was needed to add detail to the proposals.
 - There was initial cynicism including "regionalism through the back door" and whether this led the way for regional Mayors.
 - A priority action was for an open discussion on the governance. It was understood that the Prime Minister preferred one local contact.
 - A key question arising from the meeting on 12th October was whether devolved powers were granted with funding or whether funding bidding would be necessary.
 - No proposal would come forward until the following had been progressed:
 - A Government White Paper setting out clearer details of the proposal.
 - An agreed governance approach.
 - Consultation with stakeholders and the public.
- ii) Cllr Crooke's report, as supported by Cllr Dorn (Appendix 3).

129/21 Date of next meeting

16th November 2021.



Confidential Matters

129/21 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).

130/21 Review of OPC’s Property Portfolio

i) The Clerk’s agenda report was discussed including professional advice received since the last meeting. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

- a) Agreed in principle to the disposal of an OPC owned asset.
- b) To continue legal research.
- c) To refer professional advice received back to future meetings before reaching a final decision.

Councillors noted legal advice stating disposal of any Council owned land or property should be advertised on the open market and secure maximum return. The proceeds of any sale could only be used for capital expenditure.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, 4 in favour, 2 against).

ii) In response to correspondence from the Chapel Cottage tenants:

RESOLVED

- a) To offer Chapel Cottage tenants a 6 month Short Term Assured Tenancy on the same terms as the current tenancy.
- b) To consider a rolling contract at the end of the 6 month period with an annual rent review.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Brown, 4 in favour, 1 against).

131/21 Cemetery Fee

RESOLVED

To offer the residents’ interment fee to a cemetery enquiry who’s family member had moved away from the Parish.

The Clerk was asked to develop a clearer policy on this.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Stewart, 4 in favour, 1 against).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

RURAL EXCEPTION SITE MEETING

19TH OCTOBER 11.00 AM

Present:

Julian Peacock
Mags Wylie
Nichola Harpham
Gemma Watts
Ken Crookes
Pam Verdon

Next site meeting is 26th October 12.00 - Ken Crookes will attend. Julian will circulate dates of his monthly site meetings to all so that attendees can attend if wish by appointment.

Ceremony:

Topping out (roof completions) should happen fairly soon. Keep it local with photos, Ken, Angela present, not lots of people. Julian to advise of date after next site meeting.

Completion ceremony - 3 months after tenants move in. Big event possibly with MP, HDC dignitaries, OPC etc.

Handover of site could be 11 April (subject to delivery delays of materials) and tenants move in.

Bidding for residents will be approximately 2 months before this to allow for notice and planning the move.

21 applicants on list at present, more needed as some may not be suitable or may drop out before completion.

Rent levels:

Social rent is known, shared ownership will not be decided until nearer completion as Hastoe has to make sure the figure is value for money and market value.

Next steps:

Good progress, completion up to first floor level.

Problems on delivery of materials - brick and tiles especially. Planning permission needed for change of tile type - Ken and Nichola to assist with Hart planning.

Next meeting:

11 January 2022 11.00 am

Hampshire County Councillor report

October 2021

1. Household Waste Recycling Centres

Hampshire County Council is lifting the one visit per week limit for residents taking waste to one of the county's 24 household waste recycling centres (HWRCs), although the requirement to book visits online will remain in place for the time being.

Residents are however asked to make the most of each visit and separate out items for reuse and recycling to help reduce the amount of waste that has to be disposed of. Greater efficiency in recycling will ensure that the service is more cost effective.

The new arrangement will be effective from Monday 4 October. While there will be no limit on the number of bookings per week, the County Council requests any bookings made which later are not required, are cancelled so that they can be available to others.

Residents can visit the County Council's [waste and recycling webpages](#) for further information and to [book an appointment](#).

Separately, Hampshire County Council has agreed to commission Veolia UK to prepare and submit a planning application seeking permission to develop a new materials recovery facility in Eastleigh, at Chickenhall Lane. This will help enable the county's waste collection and disposal authorities to meet potential future legislative requirements and recycle materials that current facilities are unable to, including plastic pots, tubs and trays, glass and cartons.

2. Support for bus services

Hampshire County Council has committed to extend its additional, Covid related support for community transport services – committing to a further six months (1 October 2021 – 31 March 2022) while the country continues its economic recovery from the pandemic.

This means that the Authority will continue the policy of paying 100% contract and concessionary fares payments to Community Transport operators. The move will assist those operators in the recovery and operation of their services, covering them for any loss of service user income which they may continue to experience due to COVID-19 over the winter and into early spring.

3. HCC budget balancing proposals update

Hampshire County Council has begun important financial planning - with feedback from residents to be considered - on options to help the Authority address an anticipated two-year shortfall in its budget of at least £80 million by April 2023. This is necessary if the County Council is to deliver a balanced budget, which is required by law. Councils across England are facing similar budgetary pressures.

The proposals will include Children's Services which aim to achieve savings of £21.3 million over the next two financial years (2022/2023 and 2023/2024). Maintaining good quality education and ensuring safe and effective social care services that are targeted to vulnerable children, young people and their families, are the priorities underpinning these savings proposals.

The resulting proposals from all County Council departments be considered by the County Council's [Cabinet](#) and [full Council](#) at their respective meetings on 12 October and 4 November 2021.

4. Walktober

October is the International Walk to School month. As part of this, Hampshire County Council is encouraging parents to leave the car at home for all or part of the school run, and to walk the journey instead - to help build opportunities for exercise in their children's school day, and to improve air quality around schools. It is one of the County Council's all year round initiatives to promote active travel and good road safety awareness among all those who use the roads.

Another of these initiatives is the [Junior Road Safety Officer \(JRSO\) programme](#) which trains Year 5 and Year 6 children to be ambassadors for road safety at their schools. JRSOs lead by example and share their knowledge with their fellow pupils about the importance of safety when walking to and from school.

The number of children walking to school in Hampshire over the last 15 years has risen to over 50% of pupils.

Cllr Jonathan Glen

Hampshire County Councillor

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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 14th 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
Cllr Chris Dorn