

HECKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 15th October 2019, 7.30pm, Heckfield Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Parish Councillors – Paul Burton (Chairman), Brian Baker, Ian Bowman, Stephen Harnett, David Hunt. Clerk Susan Turner.

19.39 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Apologies Simon Richards, County Cllr David Simpson, Ward Cllr Anne Crampton.

19.40 PUBLIC SESSION

i FP 501 ref Cala Homes

The Chairman conveyed a resident's concern re FP 501 adjacent to the Parish boundary with Riseley and the construction entrance to the Cala Homes site.

'Cala homes have relocated the entrance to the devils highway on the Basingstoke road, Riseley. The entrance has been moved approx one metre to the left of the original entrance. This now means pedestrians have to duck under the wire cable supporting the electricity pole and manoeuvre past the tree that has had branches lopped to the left. This is a safety hazard for walkers. Also the path is now lower than the new road construction and will flood in rain.'

The Clerk note that this has been referred to Hart Planning Enforcement and HCC Countryside Services.

Response from Countryside Services...

'Thank you for your email alerting us to the location of the construction access and the impact on Heckfield Footpath 501. I have passed your report on to our Northern Countryside Access Team who will contact the contractor and undertake to inspect the path and remedy any health and safety issues as soon as they are practically able to do so.'

Further resident's report... *'Some work has been carried out to level the ground, much improved, however the path is still under the pylon cable to the left of the old entrance... a temporary fix for safety reasons has been made, however, it has not resolved the fact that Cala Homes have moved the entrance to the footpath without planning permission.'*

Response from Hart Planning Enforcement... *'Not Expedient to take enforcement action.'* See 19.46.i.

19.41 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** of 7th August 2019 agreed and signed.

19.42 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** in items on the Agenda – None

19.43 REVIEW OF COUNCILLOR 'LEAD ROLES'

Paul Burton – Chairman, Planning, Finance

Simon Richards – Deputy chairman, Rights of way; Local history;

Liaison for Whitewater Valley Preservation Society and Highfield Park

Stephen Harnett – Environment, Trees and Highways

Brian Baker – Liaison for Village Hall and Cottages

David Hunt – Road safety and Traffic speed reduction; Conservation

Ian Bowman – IT and Communication / Publicity.

19.44 VILLAGE HALL AND COTTAGES

i Ongoing renovation / maintenance

Brian Baker reported a good quality job done renovating doors and windows on both cottages. The existing have been taken out and rebuilt in line with planning requirements. Also made good for winter. However the cottages still without power and so without heating. The boiler works? But electricity not connected.

For signature

Brian noted that the District has a power to take over the Cottages if they remain empty for more than two years. The Chairman recognised the amount of work and responsibility Brian Baker had undertaken. The Parish Council is a Custodian Trustee and as such also has responsibility.

AGREED Responsibility for the Cottages should be taken by the Parish Council.

ii Planning and listed building consent

1. 'Hart' Listed buildings letter The letter – purportedly sent by Hart to owners of listed buildings – is not genuine according to notice posted on Hart website.

2. Letter to Hart CEOs (See **APPENDIX I**)

A letter has been emailed to both CEOs expressing the Parish Council's concern over negative reaction and lack of constructive support from Hart Planning / Conservation. Letter acknowledged by Daryl Phillips – he said 'I shall speak with the Planning team albeit that I do not think that the Council has the resources to have a significant input into addressing the future of the Cottages without you first procuring specialist advice to work with us.' Letter forwarded to Emma Whittaker, planning manager.

AGREED Councillors agreed unanimously on the importance of listed building being properly maintained and habitable - particularly taking into account Hart's Climate Change Emergency. The Parish Council should be proactive in supporting the Parish in achieving this.

Heckfield has a high proportion of listed buildings. The Parish Council considers that Conservation policy should be used to help owners do the right things in maintaining their properties, not prevent them doing everything.

iii Council tax

Letter to CEOs as above also sought to redress the Council Tax issue, requesting Hart... 'consider means to quash, reduce, or defer the Council Tax bill, at least until the Cottages can be renovated'.

The letter has been forwarded to Andrew Vallance, Hart's Section 151 Officer. Andrew has referred to Capita as 'no in house revenues and benefits resource at all, so need to refer to Capita for details of policies and legislation'.

19.45 HIGHWAYS

i Speed limit / traffic safety on B3349 through Heckfield

A letter has been emailed to Rob Humby, executive member for Transport etc (see **APPENDIX II**) copied to County Cllr David Simpson, Hants Constabulary Chief Constable, Hants Police & Crime Commission and the MP – accompanied by a letter from Mattingley Parish Council raising similar issues.

Acknowledgment received from Cllr Simpson, Cllr Humby, Ranil Jayawardena MP, and Chief Constable.

ii Traffic calming measures

Requests include:

1. A 40mph speed limit
2. Signage to state that the road is subject to mobile speed cameras
3. Investigation of the applicability of traffic calming measures such as a segregated cycle/pedestrian lane

Re 3 – To consider possible measures within scope of community-funded initiative (or alternative funding sources)

- Footway to school bus
- Signage warning of school bus and pedestrians crossing
- Pedestrian crossing sign for Public Right of Way
- Village gateways. (**APPENDIX III**)

ACTION To consider / investigate all possibilities. To follow up with HCC.

For signature

iii Causeway junction

Hampshire County Council has revoked the no-right turn trial at the Causeway junction. Decision of Full Council of 17th September, published in letter of 26th September. Order to revoke in force 27th September, to be implemented by 18th October. Councillors noted that already removed.

The decision notice also says that 'A review is also recommended into what other measures, if any, might be implemented to reduce casualties at this junction in order to address the original safety concerns that the Experimental Order was intended to address.' Councillors noted the safety problem at the junction has not been resolved.

ACTION To monitor and pursue further measures.

19.46 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

i FP 501 – Land at Odiham Road, Riseley – Cala Homes (see APPENDIX IV)

Re moving the FP 501 entrance on the Basingstoke road, Riseley (opposite tennis club), a metre towards the boundary ditch / hedge to accomodate construction entrance. Referred to Hart Planning Enforcement. See also Public Session 19.40.i. Enforcement Case no 19/00181/XPLAN3 – 03/09/2019 – Land At Odiham Road, Riseley. Alleged entrance not in accordance with approved plans. Decision – Not Expedient to take enforcement action.

FUTURE ACTION - To check the FP has been fully restored once construction completed.

ii Request for creation of new Right of Way (see APPENDIX V)

ACTION To confirm exact route wanted for path.

19.47 PLANNING

i Parish Planning applications

See APPENDIX VI for current applications relating to the Parish.

ii Hart Planning Peer review 'An independent, external review of the Development Management (DM) service at Hart DC (i.e the team that deals with planning applications).... We shall shortly be writing to ask a cross section of Parish and Town Councils to meet the review team late in the afternoon on 13 November. Request submitted for Heckfield to be part of the review team.

iii Hart Local Plan update Inspectors' full report expected end of November. For Hart's consideration and anticipated adoption in January.

19.48 FINANCE

i Payments for approval

286	Hart uncontested election costs	£56.53
287	Remembrance day wreath	£25.00
288	Clerk salary September & October 2019	£600.00
DD	ICO registration - annual direct debit	£35.00

ii Accounts to date APPENDIX VII

iii Precept Considering Precept request for 2020/21.

Heckfield's tax base will increase due to Cala homes development of up to 83 houses. So maintaining the Precept for next year would show a reduction per household. For consideration for January meeting ref support for Village Hall and Cottages.

iv Financial Regulations

AGREED To adopt Financial Regulations as circulated (based on NALC Model FR July 2019).

19.49 STANDING ORDERS

AGREED To adopt revised Standing Orders as circulated (based on NALC Model SO 2018).

19.50 NEXT MEETINGS tba

Meeting closed 9.30pm with thanks to all present

For signature Date

APPENDIX I – HECKFIELD COTTAGES LETTER TO HART

HECKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Daryl Phillips and Patricia Hughes
Joint Chief Executives, Hart District Council

25th September 2019

Dear Mr Phillips and Ms Hughes

Re 1. Renovating Heckfield 'Alms Cottages' 2. Council Tax Bill for the Cottages

I am writing on behalf of Heckfield Parish Council to seek your advice and support in resolving a situation as outlined below.

1. Heckfield Parish has two listed cottages attached to the Village Hall, previous 'almscottages' donated to the Parish and held in trust. Members of the Village Hall Committee are Trustees.

The established tenants of both cottages left some five years ago, and the Cottages required substantial renovation to bring them to modern habitable standards to re-let.

It was minuted at the Parish Council meeting on 7th August 2019 that:

- The Conservation Officer has constantly advised over the past three and a half years, that all proposals put forward by the Trustees to make the Cottages habitable would be considered unacceptable.
- In every instance, the Conservation Officer has advised Refusal would be recommended should the proposals be taken to application stage.
- Trustees have perceived the Officer's comments to be negative, never extending to proactive assistance in response to Trustee's questions of what can be done to take the project forward.
- As such, the process has repeatedly stalled, preventing Listed Building Consent applications and necessary works from progressing, hence the Cottages remain vacant.
- Trustees have considered the 'Property Guardians scheme' in an effort to have the Cottages occupied but were advised they are not sufficiently habitable.

The Trustees are seeking to fund-raise and find affordable means to get the work done, without tenant income and combating ongoing deterioration.

2. The Trustees are now faced with an additional problem, having recently received a large Council Tax bill for the period the Cottages have been without tenants, and further penalty charges for the Cottages standing empty.

They are left feeling aggrieved and disincentivised that their efforts to have the Cottages renovated in their view has been hampered by Hart, and they are now further disadvantaged by a bill and situation in their view largely of Hart's making.

Again minuted from the Parish Council meeting,

- The reason the Cottages have been standing empty for so long, has been difficulty of achieving any positive response from Hart Conservation.
- All Trustees are volunteers, the Cottages are non-profit making and renovation depends on grant funding. The bill and imposed fine will put further financial pressure on the Charitable Trust and further financial constraints on renovation.

I am therefore requesting on behalf of Heckfield Parish Council that you please consider means to quash, reduce, or defer the Council Tax bill, at least until the Cottages can be renovated and, particularly, if Hart Planning and Conservation could provide a package of guidance and assistance to Trustees to enable this to happen?

Yours sincerely
Susan Turner, Clerk to Heckfield Parish Council

APPENDIX II – TRAFFIC LETTER TO ROB HUMBY

HECKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Rob Humby

Deputy Leader of Hampshire County Council
and Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment

cc

Councillor David Simpson, Hampshire County Councillor for Heckfield, Mattingley etc

Olivia Pinkney, Chief Constable, Hampshire Constabulary

Michael Lane, Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Ranil Jayawardena, MP for North East Hampshire

encl: Information document prepared for Parishes / HCC 'Highways' meeting of 12th June 2019

25th September 2019

Dear Councillor Humby

Re B3349 Heckfield – request for Speed Limit Reduction

I am writing on behalf of Heckfield Parish Council, as agreed at the Parish Council meeting of 7th August 2019, to request consideration for a speed limit reduction on the B3349 through Heckfield – from the New Inn to the Heckfield Roundabout.

This three-quarters-of-a-mile section (of the then A32) was constructed in the early 70s to 'bypass' Heckfield, but it bisects the village, not avoids it. It is subject to the national speed limit, and so an anomaly along what is now the B3349 from Hook. The speed limit from Hook, through Rotherwick and Mattingley to Heckfield, is sometimes 50 but mostly 40mph.

Significant and ongoing growth in housing numbers – in Heckfield itself at the Risely development, but particularly large scale development in Hook and beyond – contribute to constantly increasing traffic along this major 'throughput' road to Reading and the M4.

So high traffic volume at the national speed limit makes a road with no pavements too hazardous for pedestrians to walk along to reach the school bus, the village pub (the New Inn), too hazardous to cross at the public footpath crossing point, or indeed to cross safely at any point from one side of the road to the other, including to reach Heckfield village hall and church. The road is equally unsuitable for horse riders and for cyclists.

It is not apparent to drivers that they are cutting directly through Heckfield village. The higher speed limit and the straight, open stretch of 'bypass' encourages drivers (including motorcycles) to accelerate, then be forced to brake for the roundabout – or at the corner past the New Inn – increasing emissions without meaningful improvements in journey time.

The Parish Council notes that speed limits on urban bypasses are being reduced to improve air quality. While recognising air quality should not, comparatively, be an issue in Heckfield, given the volumes of traffic along this route, and given the Climate Change emergency declared by Hampshire County Council on 7th June, it would seem a good time to request that all reasonable opportunities to reduced emissions be acted upon.

Given the restrictions at either end of this section of road, a reduction in speed limit here should not have a detrimental impact on the wider road network?

The Parish Council requests – for the B3349 through Heckfield

- Speed limit reduction to 40mph
- to be on the mobile speed camera route with associated signage
- investigation for appropriate traffic calming / safety measures such as a segregated cycle and pedestrian paths.

With kind regards

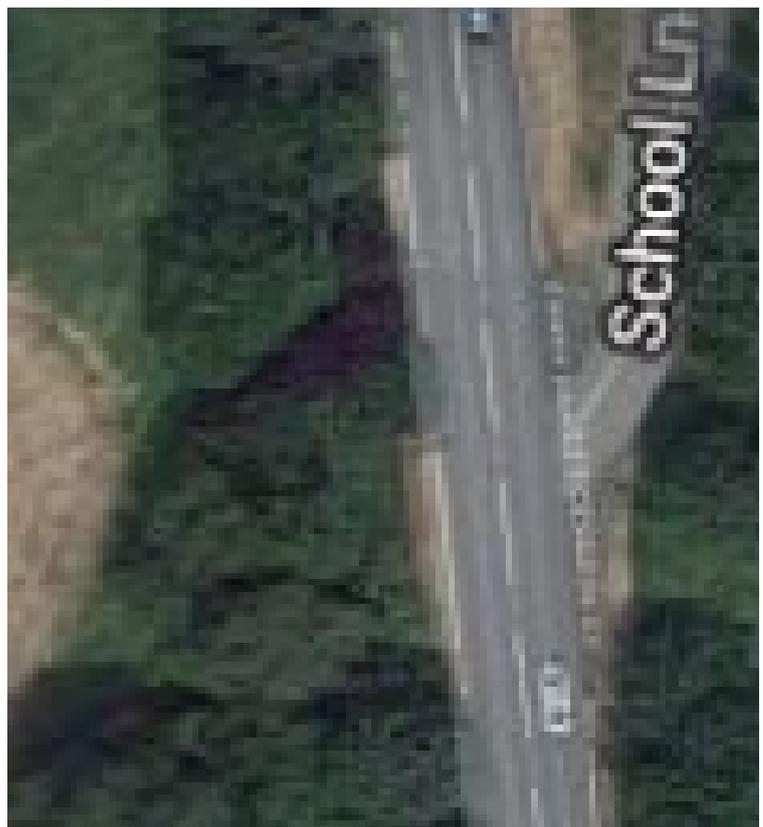
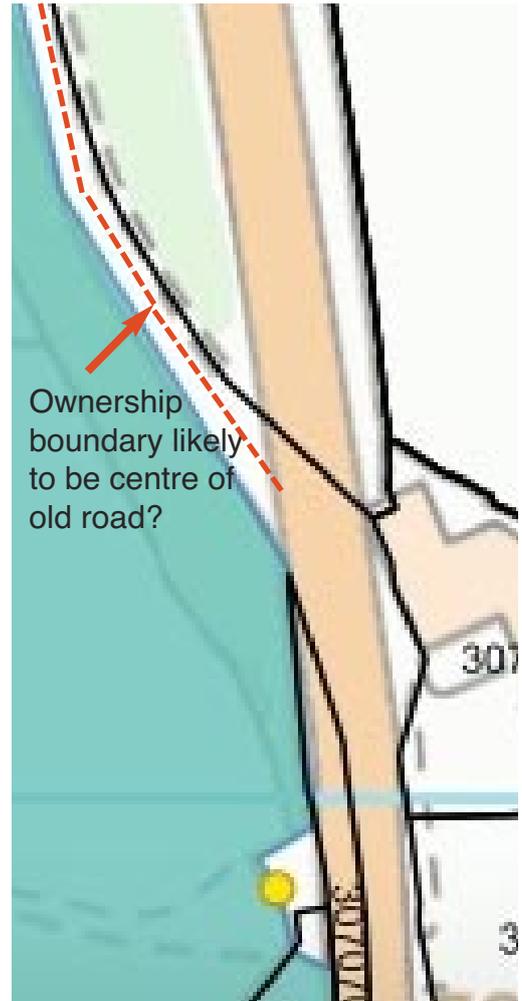
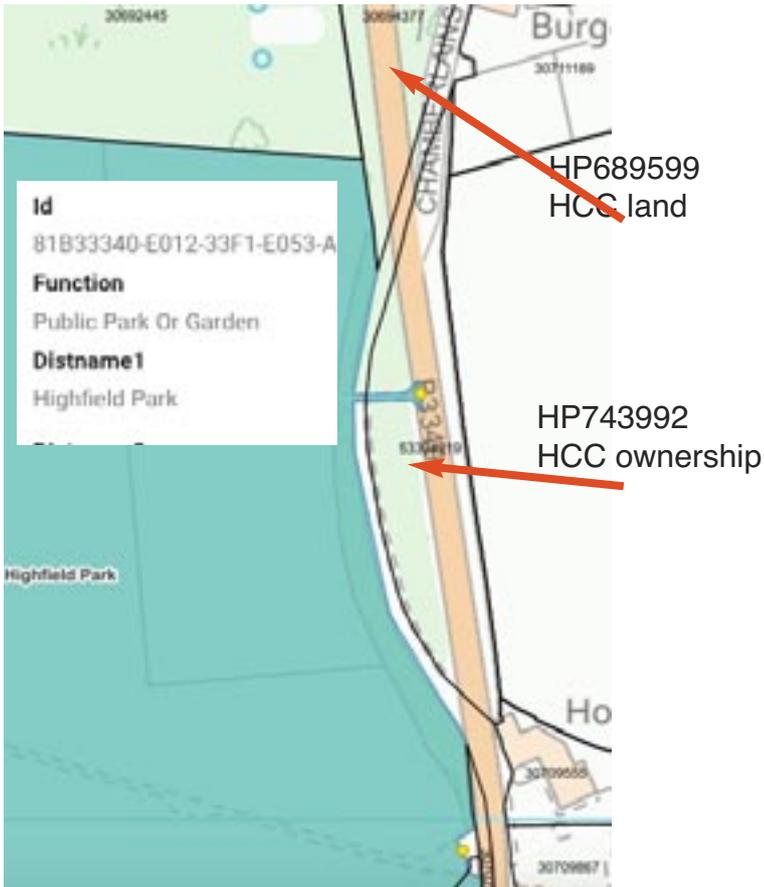
Susan Turner,

Clerk to Heckfield Parish Council

Clerk: Susan Turner

2, Ash Cottages, Newnham Road, Newnham, Hook, Hants RG27 9AF
Tel 07515 777060 email clerk.heckfield@gmail.com

APPENDIX V – NEW INN FOOTPATH LINK



APPENDIX VI PLANNING UPDATE

19/00670/CON (Validated 23 Sep 2019) - **Removal of conditions application only** - Park Farm, Bramshill Road, Heckfield. Approval of condition 2- landscaping (including external lighting) - pursuant to 19/00670/FUL - Erection of composting bays, creation of gravel parking areas, erection of tool stores, erection of training and preparation block and erection of a welfare/administration block, with associated landscaping works (Part Retrospective).

19/01986/HOU and 19/01987/LBC (Validated 09 Sep 2019) Cold Piece Farm. Hound Green. Replacement windows.

19/01885/LBC (Validated 04 Sep 2019) - **listed building consent only** - Ragmoor Farm House, Basingstoke Road, Heckfield. New front and back doors. Retrospective: Addition of hood tops to chimneys, installation of French drain and soakaways, installation of replacement metal window. Installation of air vents to blocked off chimneys, repairs to front porch, installation of a partition to form a bathroom at ground floor level. Take down (demolish) rear chimney stack and rebuild.

Applications decided since last meeting

Enforcement Case no 19/00181/XPLAN3 – **Decision** – *Not Expedient to take enforcement action*. Date Closed 03/09/2019 – Land At Odiham Road, Riseley. Alleged entrance not in accordance with approved plans

19/01679/LBC (**Granted 7th Oct** Validated 07 Aug) Heckfield Place [Stables], Bramshill Road, Heckfield RG27 0LD. Remove and replace the fireplace, install a baking oven, reconfigure the internal cupboards and shelving surrounding the new fireplace and replace the flue.

18/00002/CON - (**Granted 26th Sept** - **Removal of conditions application only** - (Validated: Fri 02 Aug) **Park Corner Farm [Wellington Farm Shop]**, Welsh Lane, Heckfield. Approval of conditions 3- large scale plans- 4- details of materials- 5- construction method statement- 6- travel plan- 7- ecological enhancement plan - 8 - written scheme of investigation - and 9- lighting - pursuant to Demolition of existing building and extension to the existing farm shop and cafe and car park.

19/01594/HOU (**Granted 30th August**, Validated: Mon 22 Jul 2019) **Danmoor House**, Reading Road, Heckfield. Erection of a single storey extension to the existing annexe following part demolition of the existing annexe. Converting existing kitchen to bedroom, additional bedroom and en-suite, relocation kitchen and dining and adding windows to north east elevation.

19/01566/LDC (**Granted 5th Sept**, Validated 11 July 2019) **Whitewater Stables**, Bramshill Road, Heckfield. Use of a building as a dwelling house.

19/01559/HOU and 19/01560/LBC (**Granted 4th Sept**, Validated: Tue 09 Jul 2019) **27 Church Lane**, Heckfield. Insertion of metal flue to roof slope.

19/01150/HOU (**Granted 14th August**, Validated 24 June 2019) **Hamilton House**, Reading Road, Heckfield. Convert existing garage to habitable annex.

19/01081/HOU (**Granted 10th Sept**, Validated 13 June 2019) **Beeches**, Bramshill Road, Heckfield . Demolition of existing detached single storey annex and erection of a detached one and a half storey annex.

APPENDIX VII.II – ACCOUNTS TO DATE

Heckfield Parish Council – To date & budget					19/20 budget rev June 2019	
<u>Item</u>	<u>16/17</u>	17/18 Year End	18/19 Year End		19/20 to date	
RECEIPTS						
Precept		£8,000.00	£8,000.00		£9,600.00	£9,600.00
Interest		£2.49	£13.70		£18.25	£10.00
VAT		£2,058.60	£0.00			£2,030.00
Total Income		£10,061.09	£8,013.70		£9,618.25	£11,640.00
EXPENDITURE						
Expenses		£80.00	£0.00		£100.00	£400.00
Salary		£550.00	£550.00		£2,100.00	£3,600.00
Finance / Admin		£689.96	£570.96		£516.90	£470.00
Media - publishing					£45.00	£200.00
Community (S137)					£125.00	£200.00
Village Hall		£9,850.00	£0.00			£10,000.00
VAT		£2,023.00	£30.00		£11.39	£2,000.00
Total Expenditure		£13,192.96	£1,150.96		£2,898.29	£16,870.00
SURPLUS/DEFECIT		£3,131.87	£6,862.74		£6,719.96	£5,230.00
Balance to take over	£7,380.99	£4,249.12	£11,111.86		£17,831.82	£5,881.86