

HECKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
held at Heckfield Memorial Hall
on Thursday 10th January 2019 at 7:30pm

Present :	D A Bell B R Baker P J Burton S C Harnett Mrs S Naish S A Richards
In attendance :	S M Alexander (Clerk) David Simpson (Hampshire CC) Su Turner to Minute 19/11 Two members of the public

Apologies for absence

Dr Anne Crampton (Hart DC), Andrew Renshaw (Hart DC), Tim Southern (Hart DC)

Declarations of Interests

None.

19/03 Minutes of previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th October, 2018 were approved for signature by the Chairman.

19/04 Matters arising

None.

19/05 Review of planning applications

The Chairman said that the retrospective application for 27 Church Lane needed further investigation before approval was given. An application from Harefield Stud had only been received today but did not seem controversial.

19/06 Receipts and Payments Account

The Clerk reported that there had been no further transactions in the three months and

the forecast for the full year to 1st March, 2019 now stood at £9,736 after taking in to account an estimate of £1,000 for the new Clerk's salary for the last three months of the year. A general provision of £500 was included.

The Meeting discussed the level of precept that was required to meet the increase in the expected expenditure to account for the employment of a Parish Clerk and the ongoing contributions required to maintain the works on the Memorial Hall cottages. It was finally agreed that the precept should be increased by 20%, or £1,600 to £9,600 pa and an explanation for the increase be published on the parish website.

19/07 Highways

The Chairman referred to the introduction of a No Right Turn at the end of the Causeway on to the A33. Mr Harnett reported that the traffic volumes along Malthouse Lane had now subsided to normal levels since the change. The Meeting was reminded that the new arrangement was temporary and was subject to review at the end of June 2020, following a monitoring exercise.

Widening work to the B3011 outside Hill Cottage had been delayed due to the suspension of activity at Bramshill House. It was also reported that the owner of said Hill Cottage had undertaken employment abroad.

19/08 Footpaths

Mr Richards reported that he had organised the cutting list for five local footpaths with Hampshire County Council .

19/09 Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman said that the preparation of a plan for Heckfield was dependant on the local Hart plan being approved and the grants that would follow. Any further work on the local plan would be delayed for at least twelve months.

19/10 Memorial Hall cottages

Mr Baker, Chairman of the Memorial Hall Management Committee, reported that there continued to be problems with the renovation of the windows as there were with complying with conservation rules administered by Hart DC.

There had been an initial budget of £80,000 which had ballooned to £200,000 which was almost beyond the means of the Committee and the situation was becoming increasingly difficult.

Mr Burton wished that it be noted that Mr Baker had done a magnificent job in steering the Committee through a minefield of regulations in a very testing environment.

19/11 Payments

No payments have been made this quarter.

Su Turner then left the Meeting

19/12 Chairman's Matters

The Chairman said that there were two major changes to be made to the structure of the Parish Council. First, the Clerk had said that he would like to be replaced and, second, he himself had decided to relinquish his position as the Chairman, both with immediate effect, although Mr Bell would remain as a parish councillor until the next elections to be held in May, 2019.

First, the position of Parish Clerk; Ms Su Turner had indicated her interest in assuming the role as Clerk. She was already Clerk to Mattingley, Newnham and Mapledurwell Parish Councils. Mr Burton said that this experience was a major factor in convincing him that she was eminently suitable to fill the vacancy, which would bypass the onerous task of seeking applicants from the general public. The Chairman tabled an estimate of the costs of employing a new Parish Clerk which estimated the hours involved at variable rates of hourly pay. The most likely annual cost would appear to be £4094.

The Meeting unanimously agreed that the above terms were acceptable, subject to the final approval between the two parties.

It was agreed to offer the position to Ms Turner on terms to be settled between the parties, employment to be effective from 1st February, 2019.

Second, the succession of the Chairman. Mr Bell said that, due to personal circumstances, he had decided to stand down as Chairman of the Council having held office since April, 1910. He had asked Mr Paul Burton to take over the role who had expressed his concern as to how much quality time he could give to the Chairmanship, given that he was in full-time employment. Mr Burton said that he would review his position before the elections in May.

Therefore, proposed by Mr Richards and seconded by Mr Harnett, Mr Burton was duly elected Chairman of the Parish Council.

On assuming the Chair, Mr Burton wanted to place on record his thanks to the retiring Chairman and the Clerk for their past contribution to the affairs of the Parish.

In addition, proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr Baker, Mr Richards was given the task of identifying prospective new Councillors, eligible for selection at the forthcoming elections in May, 2109.

19/13 Dates of next Meetings

Thursday 9th May, 2019 (Including the Annual Assembly)

Thursday 11th July, 2019

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed at 9.20pm.

Chairman

Date