

Minutes of the Meeting of Froxfield & Privett Parish Council
held at Froxfield Village Hall on
Thursday 9th June 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr David Rymer, Cllr John Ellis, Cllr Chris Skinner, Cllr Peter Doyle, Cllr Teresa Brown and Cllr Phoebe Hiscock. In attendance; Cllr Russell Oppenheimer, Cllr Nick Drew and the Clerk

22.3.1 Apologies for absence No apologies were received from members not in attendance.

22.3.2 The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 12th May 2022 were approved and signed

22.3.3 Matters Arising No matters arising

22.3.4 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests None Declared

22.3.5 Comments from the Public or Press None present

22.3.6 Update on Verge Cutting Contract Cllr Brown reported that the cultivation licence had been amended in line with the parish council's requests. An updated agreement had just been received. HCC have confirmed that they would not be undertaking the 1m swathe of the verges this year.

22.3.7 Cllr Brown has received a quote of £2011.05 from a suitable contractor, Richard Hoare.

A county or NP botanist will visit the parish to assess which plants are in the RVEIs. Cllr Brown will write a report for the parish magazine to call upon people to report any overgrown visibility swathes at junctions. She recommended that the Parish Council should have someone they could call on to cut the visibility swathes if they become dangerously overgrown.

The Chairman agreed that it would be good to have someone on hand. He also asked about planting. Cllr Brown expects that in time and with advice this would be put into practice.

Cllr Oppenheimer thanked Cllr Brown saying that he was aware that there was a lot of paperwork to go through. He was conscious that it might take 3 years for the biodiversity to take effect and wildflower seed were available

22.3.8 County Councillor's Report Cllr Oppenheimer reported that Cllr Humby had taken over as the new leader of HCC during a time when the finances are difficult. In the reshuffle Cllr Oppenheimer has been moved to a new role as Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage and Rural Affairs. He is very pleased to be the Cabinet lead for Parish and Town Council relations. He is also responsible for the Services for Countryside, Country Parks, Registration, Science and the Library.

£300,000 was being made available to help with the cost of living through the connect4communities website for families and individuals facing food poverty particularly in rural areas.

Free bus passes for Ukrainian Refugees. A sum of £5k will be available. Hampshire's Record Office in Winchester is one of six landmark sites across the UK that have been awarded listed status by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of Historic England to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's 70-year reign. The award-winning building, designed by the County Council, was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1993.

A new free business initiative from the SDNPA, Our South Downs, has been created to provide an innovative network where businesses and organisations can connect with each other, share services and products and work together towards sustainability.

In response to some questions from the Chairman:

The role of Parish and Town Council Relations involves business with HALC and matters of policy.

Cllr Oppenheimer stood down from the SDNPA not because of the new role but he had finished a 5 year stint with the NP and he will still be in communication with the NP in his Countryside Role

Providing an update on BOATs Cllr Oppenheimer said that the big debate had been moved to October. He is championing for the SDNPA to take ownership of the situation and show leadership.

In response to a question posed by Cllr Doyle. As Cllr Oppenheimer is no longer involved with Highways, Nick Adams-King will be responsible for verge management.

22.3.9 District Councillor's Report Councillor Drew apologised for his later arrival due to Sheet Parish Council's meeting on the same evening.

- a) Cllr Drew congratulated Cllr Brown on the early work done by Privett villagers in achieving a whole village involvement with the Jubilee Celebrations.
- b) The idea of a planning meeting with officers was to highlight problems of things not being done. Requests for policy changes should be taken to the SDNPA.
- c) Grant money is still available. The Chairman said that it had been agreed to set up a meeting between the Village Hall committee, the school, the cricket club and the Parish Council. Cllr Drew said he would make a grant available. He thought an informal public meeting would be a good idea. All groups would be invited, an invitation sent out for a meeting to be held during the last 2 weeks in September. Refreshments will be provided. The Chairman explained that the Village Hall committee were looking carefully at their financial position. Again, Cllr Drew offered financial support in the form of a Community Grant and he would help with the application.
- d) Cllr Drew added a suggestion that the Parish Council send out a formal questionnaire asking in what matters parishioners would want the Parish Council engaged.

22.3.10 Finances

- a) **To approve future payments** the payments specified in the financial summary were approved

- 22.3.10 Update on cutting of the recreation ground** Cllr Ellis said that the Recreation Ground was looking good with the grass growing well with the new grass growing especially well. Cllr Rymer will write to the cricket club committee saying the parish council were confident that the grass is being cut to the right length and that it is satisfied with the condition of the recreation ground.
- 22.3.11 Update on the Planning Committee** Cllr Rymer reported that the planning committee was progressing but 3 members of the parish council were required to hold a vote on applications. Committee members had received information on relating decisions to policy.
- 22.3.12 Allocation of Areas of Responsibilities** the Chairman had created a list of areas of responsibilities for Councillors to consider and volunteer for roles at the next meeting.