

**Minutes of the Meeting of Froxfield & Privett Parish Council
held at Froxfield Village Hall on
Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Teresa Brown, Cllr John Ellis, Cllr Chris Skinner, Cllr Norman Pitman, Cllr Peter Doyle and Cllr Phoebe Hiscock. **In attendance:** District Cllr Nick Drew, County Cllr Russell Oppenheimer, the Clerk and 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Rymer and Cllr Christie.
2. **Approval of the minutes** The Minutes of 4th January 2024, Thursday 2nd November 2023 and 21st September 2023 were agreed and signed.
3. **Matters Arising** There were no matters arising
4. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest** Cllr Skinner declared an interest in 12C and Cllr Ellis declared an interest in item 12b.
5. **Comments from the Public or Press** Mrs King reiterated the problems and state of Wheeler's Lane, previously emailed to the clerk. The lane is in a terrible state, mud has accumulated in the dip to the height of 8" which at times has frozen. The signs at both ends of the road are illegible (this complaint has been passed to Highways many times over a period of several years), cars are following inaccurate satnav directions and consequently getting stuck. Mr and Mrs King have had to rescue various drivers who have become stuck. The latest driver would have been stranded overnight in freezing conditions if not rescued. On this occasion it wasn't possible for the driver to get out of the driver's door as it was up against the bank. Following the receipt of the aforementioned email, Cllr Oppenheimer had contacted Highways and therefore Wheeler's Lane and Ridgetop Lane were closed for re-assessment after the car had been removed. Cllr Oppenheimer would chase Highways about the problem but warned that the lanes could be declassified. Cllr Drew commented that this wouldn't stop pedestrians who could be in danger. Cllr Oppenheimer would make that point to Highways. Mr King added that the real problem is lack of maintenance to clear the dirt and remove the bricks that prevents the water and sludge accessing the grip to the field. Cllr Oppenheimer will report back at the next parish council meeting. It was agreed to add the item to the March agenda to monitor progress.
6. **Road Signage: To discuss the presence of large advertising signs at the top of Stoner Hill and beside A32 at Privett** Cllr Brown had been in contact with the school who removed one sign and would contact the other owner at Froxfield to ask them to remove their signs. The owners of the one's at Privett had also agreed to remove them.
7. **SpeedWatch Camera Update** Cllr Pitman reported that a site had been agreed with Highways for a new pole on which to mount the speed camera. The cost of this would be £120.53 for the pole and a camera sign plus £176 for the S178 Agreement. This was agreed. Cllr Drew offered to support this with a grant of £300 to be applied for in the next financial year and he also recommended that the PC should apply to EHDC for a Flashing Speed Limit Reminder to be positioned on the same pole. The councillors approved this and the clerk will put in the application.
8. **Funding Request from the Renewable Energy Group presented by Michael Orchard.** Mr Orchard will be applying to Cllr Drew's community fund for this grant.
9. **County Councillor's Report** Cllr Oppenheimer reported on the following

- a) Highways have been doing well having carried out, before Christmas, pre-emptive work clearing gullies and storm drains. The weather had played a big part in the improvements with little freeze-thaw which causes problems.
- b) A new 20mph policy had been approved at HCC
- c) HCC have purchased disease resistant elm trees which are available to councils and to private individuals. Cllr Doyle asked if there was any move to replace the ash trees that have been removed. Cllr Oppenheimer responded that he was keen to plant trees for biodiversity.
- d) Regrettably, it has been necessary to close the Ashford Hangers' contour path (Middle Path) as it has become incredibly dangerous due to fallen trees and surface damage.
- e) He urged the PC and individuals to respond to the Future Services Consultation. Cllr Hiscock asked whether the tip in Petersfield would be closed. Cllr Oppenheimer re-iterated that a strong response to the consultation would help his fight for the retention of the tip.
- f) The Dark Sky Festival is getting underway during February. Links can be found on HCC website and the SDNPA website.

Cllr Doyle asked of the financial state of HCC. Cllr Oppenheimer said that a projected budget gap of £132m but HCC are in a position to bridge the gap through the use of reserves.

10. District Councillor's Report Cllr Drew reported

- a) Thanks to Russell for closing Ridgetop and Wheeler's Lane but the closure signs have been removed.
- b) Residents on C18 have reported speeding concerns on C18. A specific request will be made by the C18 group to the PC.
- c) He assured councillors that officers were continuing the process at Quin Hay Farm.
- d) EHDC is concerned about the potential closing of the tips as it is up to the District Council to clear up all the fly tipping.
- e) TAG Farnborough consultation had received a number of complaints on noise and air pollution as these will not be monitored.

11. To review quotes and select the replacement playground equipment. Cllr Skinner had not pursued this sue to him being unable to access his PC emails.

12. Planning Applications

- a) SDNP/24/00094/TCA East Broom, Hemplands Lane, Privett T1 (pussy willow) – Fell. It was resolved to approve this application
- b) SDNP/23/05297/FUL Pumping Station and Sewage Works, Dellfield
Replacement of existing sewage treatment plant with a new packaged sewage treatment plant in new location. An upgrade to the existing sewage pumping station. Both items to include all associated drainage and electrical connections. A new bore hole will be created alongside the two pre-existing to receive the discharged treated effluent. The new STP will be located in a car parking area (ownership of Abri Group Ltd), segregated by a newly constructed brick walled compound. Additional vehicular access will be created to the carpark, which includes alterations to car park boundary walls and the adjacent pavement, which includes the installation of drop kerbs and tactile slabs from pedestrian crossing purposes. A transport / parking survey has been undertaken and the relevant findings are attached alongside this application. All redundant apparatus will be environmentally cleaned, decommissioned, demolished and waste removed from

site to relevant legal disposal sites. Cllr Skinner was concerned about the reduction in parking spaces as at present there isn't enough spaces for all the cars owned by residents of the estate. At times it would be impossible for a fire engine to gain access. Further comments were made that there has been no consultation with residents, there is a lack of information, past and present, regarding the parking spaces. It was resolved to OBJECT due to lack of information.

- c) SDNP/24/00042/HOUS 2 Barnet Side Cottage, Petersfield Road, Froxfield. First-floor extensions on side elevations with interior alterations. The Councillors sympathise with the owners, but the application is at odds with SD31 as it exceeds the 30% rule. It was resolved to OBJECT to the application.

2. Finances

- a) **Approve the financial statement.** The financial Statement was approved including these payments

Clerk's Salary December 2023	737.00
Froxfield Christmas Tree	120.00

- b) **Approve the future Payments.** These future payments were approved

Clerk's Salary January 2024	737.00
HMRC paye	227.43

- c) **To Approve the Statement of Internal Control** The statement of internal control was approved

Signed Dated