



CONFIRMED MINUTES of Meeting held on: Tuesday 9th February 2021 via Zoom

Councillors present: Cllrs Alison Melvin (interim chair), Geoff Woollen, Lizzie Kotze, Clerk Sue Hodder, Dep Clerk Karen Ray. **District Cllrs** David Ashcroft and Ken Carter.

Seventeen members of the public.

21/015	<p>Chair's address:</p> <p>Chair welcomed everyone and outlined the challenges currently facing the council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - after two resignations at Christmas, council is down to four active councillors, and is actively seeking to recruit new councillors; - we need to re-advertise the post for a clerk to take over when Sue Hodder retires, after the first recruitment attempt was unsuccessful; and - council team is working hard to catch up on outstanding matters, not being helped by Covid restrictions. <p>The Chair expressed appreciation for the support the council is receiving from a wide network of experts, volunteer groups, county and district councillors, etc. In the next two weeks, council hopes to have completed the Phase 1 build of its new website, and will look forward to hearing parishioners' feedback.</p> <p>The Chair noted that some people have expressed frustration at having to contact the Clerk for Zoom log-in details. Unfortunately the risks of "zoombombing" are real and this procedure will be continuing. Council has also reviewed other aspects of Zoom etiquette, e.g. whether members of the public should be required to confirm who they are before joining a council zooms.</p> <p>Chair is seeking to draw a line under behaviours experienced over recent weeks, and to restore a constructive atmosphere at council meetings. While it's inevitable that not everyone will have the same view about the topics we debate, the overall aim is to build an atmosphere of mutual respect.</p> <p>Chair asked everyone to remember that councillors are VOLUNTEERS, who give up their free time to try to make the parish better for the community.</p>
21/016	<p>Apologies for Absence: Cllrs John Retallack and Ryan France-Moore</p>
21/017	<p>Minutes of January 12th 2020 Meeting held via Zoom Agreed Prop: LK, Sec: GW All agreed Matters Arising- None</p>
21/018	<p>Declarations of Interests: Councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest. You must withdraw from the room or chamber when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.</p>
21/019	<p>Consideration of requests for Dispensations to allow Councillors with Pecuniary Interests to speak and vote...None</p>

21/020	<p>District Councillor reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Ashcroft confirmed EHDC is working remotely at present due to Covid. • Injunction served on development at bottom of Worldham Hill • District plan progressing slowly • A new panel, headed by District Cllr Julie Butler (Dep Leader), is focusing on 'Prompting Affordable Housing.' • Cllr Ken Carter spoke of the useful SDNP training session on the Local Plan.
21/021	<p>PLANNING:</p> <p>a. SDNP/20/05589/HOUS Location: Shumac, Back Lane BHO Farnham GU10 4LN Proposal: Extension to chalet bungalow to create ground floor annexe with additional accommodation in roof. Retrospective erection of 1.8m timber fence to front and side. NO OBJECTION</p> <p>b. SDNP/21/00176/HOUSE Location: Overbridge House Frith End GU35 0RA Proposal: First floor infill extension NO OBJECTION</p> <p>c. Veolia HCC 33619/007 (Neighbouring Parish Application) Location: Veolia Environmental Services, Alton GU34 4JD Proposal: New Energy Recovery Facility Mark Weldon of NO Wey Incinerator summarised the new information submitted by Veolia in response to the three Regulation 25 notices HCC issued late last year regarding the planning application. BPC discussed. Councillors were unanimous in objecting. GW will compile response. (see attached)</p> <p>Decisions</p> <p>a. SDNP/20/04675/HOUS Location: 1 Windmill Cottages, Wyck Lane, GU34 3AP Proposal; Stable Block APPROVED</p> <p>b. SDNP/20/05515/TCA Location: Wickham Institute, Church Street, GU34 4NX Proposal: Cypress-fell APPROVED</p> <p>c. SDNP/20/05006/HOUS Location: Church House, Church Street GU34 4NX Proposal: Two storey extension. Full width dormer to existing house. Part removal of existing pitched roof over single storey side rooms and reversion to a flat roof as original. New replacement windows. APPROVED</p>
21/022	<p>Questions from members of the public (including by post/e-mail.)</p> <p>Ian Salisbury asked what was happening regarding the Speed Camera; and will the data be published? AM confirmed that it is up and running after past issues now resolved. It has been on Binsted Road (to Jolly Farmer pub) and will next move to Blacknest Golf course. SH related problems which had caused the delays: relating to Covid restrictions, then data unit malfunction. The camera is now back from manufacturers but was out of action for over 6 weeks. Also two sockets along the Blacknest Road cannot be traced. This has been reported to Ian Janes HCC and he is looking into. Yes, the data will be published on the new website.</p>
21/023	<p>Finance and Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank reconciliation December 2020 P: LK S:GW • List of Payments January 2021 P: GW S: AM • Third quarter accounts P: AM S: LK • Financial Risk Assessment (amended due to Covid 19) P: AM S: LK • Website: As stated, Phase I revamp nearing completion. Phase II to follow.

21/024

Blacknest Fields Working Group

- AM (WG Chair) recapped that the BNF Working Group’s remit is to recommend how the 8 acres of land at Blacknest Fields can be used to generate best value for the parish community, for decision by Parish Council. AM stepped up as BNF WG Chair following the resignation of John Coney and a WG meeting was held on 26 Jan. The WG is still at the stage of collating ideas from its members and from other interested parties with ideas about this asset. No WG conclusions / BPC decision have yet been taken on the use of the site.

Moving forward, the Working Group is focusing on two main activities:

- First, to produce a dossier with the full facts and options for the site, after gathering all necessary information. It was agreed the Parish Council will contact Forestry England to ‘cool down’ the forest lease idea for now.
- Secondly as a priority, to address the bridleway and field drainage, ensure any urgent tree safety work is complete and to investigate flooding issues.

Footpath 62 Diversion

- AM led on this item. In brief: Regular walkers know that this whole network of paths gets very wet, muddy and often flooded in winter. 62/3 and 62/4 are the worst section and have been at the top of the list of concerns of the Rights of Way team for many years. Permission was obtained over 12 years ago to use adjoining farmland as an alternative route, which everyone calls the “Permissive Paths”. These paths are, by their nature, temporary. Permission for public use here lapsed in 2018. AM thanked the landowner, Igor Tolstoy, who was present, for continuing to allow use.
- Moving forward there are two main options.
 1. A path diversion order application, costing £7,800, which if successful would permanently re-route the path along the route of the Permissive Path allowing the bridleway rights governing parts of 62/3 and 62/4 to become “extinguished”.
 2. Remediate 62/3 and 62/4 and bring back to good condition, at a higher cost.
- The Parish Council had already given approval for this Path Diversion application in September 2020, but there are three reasons for asking the council to re-affirm or reconsider this decision.
 - a. Detailed analysis was absent from previous debate
 - b. The matter is complicated, because these paths criss-cross the boundary between SDSNP and EHDC; and there are other issues, notably drainage.
 - c. BPC must clearly understand the cost of applying for a Footpath Diversion and what funds then remain in both EHDC and SDNP CIL monies.
- AM has produced two documents, a “Photo Essay” detailing the current condition of the whole of Bridleway 62; and a Word document that summarises all scenarios for action and associated costs.
- Option 1 would require £7,800 from SDNP/EHDC CIL/S106 funds. Option 2 would require a minimum of £12,150 of CIL/S106 funding.
- Ian Salisbury suggested that if a single person objected this could involve the council in a lengthy/costly legal process. Ian Fleming responded that he felt it inconceivable that anyone would object.
- The need for gates is an issue for Path Diversion requests. Igor Tolstoy commented that a gate is required, due to moving livestock, but he would be happy to leave it open and only close when moving livestock.
- After discussion, councillors voted to proceed with option 1. Prop: GW, Sec: LK.

	<p>Bridleway 504</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GW led on this item, which concerns a British Horse Society-led project to resurface Bridleway 504. Her full report is attached. • Gill Plumbley from the BHS has led this initiative. After obtaining various grants the BHS is £17k short and Gill has requested BPC co-funding. • GW explained his concern, that it is difficult to improve the surface of bridleways on clay. Examples of local clay were shown, in solid, semi liquid and liquid form. GW asked that the drainage to be dealt with first. This project will be technically challenging. It was made clear that any council funding is contingent on ensuring clear project management and scrutiny of the technical approach. • After discussion the BPC agreed to offer the BHS £10k from the SDNP S106 funds. Prop: AM Sec: LK. Gill Plumbley expressed her thanks. <p>Footpath Officers report for December 2020 (copy attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk introduced Ian Fleming to the meeting, Ian highlighted that HCC has asked the group to undertake a bridge survey covering all the bridges on the Binsted RoW network. There are 71 bridges, mostly small plank bridges. <p>Tree Warden report for December 2020 (copy attached)</p> <p>The Clerk highlighted some of Ben Hamblin’s “Plans for February” and welcomed all his efforts with the schools. BPC is looking forward to Ben’s design of two ‘tree walks’, which will be ready for spring.</p> <p>Transport Committee: Greener Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been activity on the Greener Transport initiative, focused mainly around the “safer Cycling” survey launched on Jan 19th. The aim is for this survey to build an evidence base that the PC (and other partners, like FE) can use to make the case for safety improvements to the local cycling network. There’s particular focus on two spots: crossing point of Shipwrights Way at BHO and access roads to Bentley Station. The Survey is online at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SaferCyclingBinsted. To date, 125 responses. Next step is a Feb 18th Zoom briefing meeting where progress to date on these matters will be discussed, and further discussion held on ways to improve safety.
21/025	<p>Climate Change: All recent climate action has been focused on above Greener Transport activities.</p>
21/026	<p>Clerk’s Notices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council Vacancies: Response has been promising with three enquiries. Two from Rowledge and one from Binsted • Clerk recruitment: AM explained that two candidates were interviewed on 28 January. Unfortunately, the right candidate wasn’t found during the process, so the post will now be re-advertised. • Parish Lengthsman 2021/22: BPC belongs to a cluster of 18 local parishes, co-ordinated by Grayshott PC . We are granted £1k per Parish each financial year to employ a company to do jobs around the Parish eg: cleaning bus shelters, road signs, grass verges. HCC have agreed to continue this scheme.
21/028	<p>Chair’s Closing remarks: The Chair thanked all for attending.</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 21:00hrs</p>

Chair:

Date:

Tree Warden Report January 2021

1 Championing local trees

First priority-know my parish.

- The articles in the Benefice magazine seem to be a success and I have already submitted an article for March.

2 Trees – their value to the community

St James' Church in Rowledge-churchyard a model

- No further progress this month. The vicar is difficult to tie down for reasons it is not difficult to imagine.

3 How to grow your own trees

Hornbeam, Indian bean, hazel, yew and ginkgo from my own garden

A parish tree nursery

- No further progress this month

4 Tree planting – planning and practice

Funding and sponsorship

- The disease resistant elm for Rowledge school arrived damaged from the Tree Council. Had it been a regular commercial transaction I would have sent it back, but under all the circumstances I decided to prune it and pass it to the school with my apologies. They have responded positively and have planted it. I am promised plaque and photo-opportunity to follow.

5 Managing and caring for trees

Make friends with owners of important trees

- No action this month

6 Trees – threats and challenges

Walk the parish

- Still a significant oversight is the area around Buck's Horn Oak which I hope to correct in February

7 The law and its impact on trees

TPO's, TP areas and Conservation Areas

- I am still waiting to hear what the EHDC position will be on the Holt Pound oaks. They said they would reconsider when I brought to their attention the interest being shown in developing the land, but nothing since then. I believe it is risky to wait until a final planning application is submitted to act to protect such a fine collection of oaks.

8 Organising tree events and projects

Contact local schools with a view to events from 12/2020

- Pushed back to beyond lockdown(s)

Community project in Binsted

- The proposal to construct a fruiting hedge on the west side of Binsted Rec is still being debated by the Parish Council.

Tree walks

- The first write-up has been drafted; a walk round Rowledge, Glenberrie Inclosure and Holt Pound. Under the present, and near-future, circumstances I would be looking to post the details online and leave it to people to find their own way round.
- I intend to develop at least 3 other routes for Binsted, Bentley and Wyck respectively.

9 Ancient trees – hunting and championing

Ancient tree inventory

- I have two trees I want to register – a 5.5m ash in Binsted and a 4m oak in Holt Pound - but the website has been down since mid December.

10 Taking action for hedge trees

Linking with the farming community

- A future project. I will need more credibility to approach them productively.

Potentially a focus for this agricultural parish

- I am clear that the care of hedgerows in the parish leaves much to be desired. We wait to see whether the latest news on changes to farming subsidies materialises as support for a programme of improvement.

11 What's wrong with my tree?

Learn the fundamentals of disease/damage diagnosis

- All home learning at present
- ### Citizen science project – Ivy, good or bad?
- The project is now up and running.

12 Creating fruitful hedges

Daily Mail hedge kits for schools

- I will take a new look at this in the spring

Plans for February

- Support the set-up of the Parish website by contributing articles on trees
- Follow up on the planting of the disease resistant elm for Rowledge school and support production of plaque and photographs.
- Keep an eye on the Binsted tree nursery and plant out any contributed seedlings.
- Finalise design of at least two 'tree walks' ready for spring.
- Inspect the area around Bucks Horn Oak
- Monitor the situations with registering monument trees for TPO's and ancient tree inventory.
- Contact Birdworld with a view to participating in their education day programme.

Monthly Rights of Way report to Binsted Parish Council

Date of submission: Jan 31st 2021

Issues with Rights of Way and actions taken

During the past month, members of the Group have undertaken inspections on the following Rights of Way: 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10a, 10b, 16a, 16b, 18, 19, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30a, 30b, 32, 35, 44, 45, 50, 51, 58, 60, 62, 70, 71, 72, 73, 501, 504.

Meetings of Rights of Way Group

Our last (Zoom) Group meeting was held on January 20th 2021

Matters of interest

The Group`s working party day scheduled for February 3rd will not, of course, now take place and scheduled HCC brushcutter training and First Aid training sessions have also been postponed

Members of the Group continue to inspect their allocated rights of way.

On most of the network there are currently few problems (a fallen fingerpost on 7, outstanding work to improve steps on 7, 9 and 58; a fallen tree on 16a and branches across 2 and 30b). However, the ongoing saga of bridleways 62 and 504 continues and the current flooded state of 62/1 and 62/2 will deter all but very determined users.

One of our members, Claire Wood, put together an electronic survey for *Walk Alton* and she will administer this during the latter part of February

Just before submitting this report, HCC asked the Group to undertake a bridge survey, covering all the bridges on the Binsted RoW network; there is a total of 71 bridges, mostly very small plank bridges.