



Minutes

LINDFORD PARISH COUNCIL meeting held at Lindford Village Hall on Tuesday 4th June 2024 at 7pm.

Agenda dated 22/05/2024 (Rev.2) *Stephen Holden*

Attendees: Cllrs R Ruttle (Chair), T Hotston (Vice Chair), S Bennett, T Payne, E Keeling, L Shaw, H Dayman, S Viney.

Present: Cllrs A Tree, P Flux, T Hampshire (RFO), S Holden (Clerk), G Stafford

057/24 Apologies None received. Cllr G Watt not in attendance.

058/24 Declaration of interests None disclosed.

059/24 Planning

Re: Proposal: Raising of roof height to accommodate a first floor with two storey and single storey side and rear extensions. Two storey atrium extension to front. Installation of two rear dormers and two roof lights

Site Address: Stone Edge, Frensham Lane, Headley, Bordon, GU35 0QJ

Case No: 59511/001 **Land Parcel Reference No:** 47475 **CLOSED:** 03/06/2024

Concerns expressed about the structure being out of keeping (street scene), close proximity to neighbouring dwellings and increase in weight on existing structure. Issues to be raised on line at Planning where close date had been extended due to technical issues. **ACTION: Clerk**

060/24 Agree and sign minutes from meeting held 7th May 2024. Proposed by Cllr E Keeling and seconded by Cllr H Dayman. Show of hands. Unanimously approved. Signed and dated.

061/24 Public Discussions: No public in attendance. Clerk reported recent feedback from residents including overgrown hedge rows around The Triangle and Chase Road junction with Heather Drive. Ongoing reports of dog fouling on Liphook Road, Chapel Gardens and Chase Road. Issues with bottle bank overflowing and grass cutting problems. Concerns also have been raised over the recycling bins where households are being asked to be extra careful what they put in recycling as contamination is a big problem.

062/24 Updates from District & County Councillors: Cllr A Tree report previously circulated to councillors (see attached)

Cllr P Flux provided overview on new cycling scheme, introduction of Information Officers and that EHDC were challenging central Government on number of new houses being imposed on district.

Cllrs asked what the Information Officers duties and powers were. Cllr A Tree advised an pending press release on this matter.

Cllr T Hotston enquired about the costs involved with EHDC challenge to number of dwellings. Legal costs were not known.

063/24 To propose using funds to replace bus shelter: With CIL release pending and funding available councillors agreed unanimously to spending on a new wooden bus shelter on Liphook Road opposite the Royal Exchange. Cllr H Dayman had found contractor and details available. **ACTION: Cllr H Dayman**

064/24 Finance and Accounts: (RFO)

Finance and Accounts (RFO) (20 mins)

- The Detailed Receipts & Payments report for the year ended 31st March 2024 and corresponding Summary Receipts & Payments Report were received and noted.
- Earmarked Reserves movements for the year ending 31st March 2024 were received and approved.
- The internal audit report for year ending 31st March 2024 from Susan Cook of Auditing Solutions Ltd was received and discussed and the recommendations were noted and to be actioned. To include reviewing hall charges and loss of income insurance cover, our bank accounts and other accounts offering better interest rates.
- The effectiveness of the Council's internal controls were reviewed and the current processes of monthly reporting and internal audit were considered effective.

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- e) Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return which had been previously circulated was read out and agreed and signed.
- f) Section 2 - Accounting Statements of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-24 which had been previously circulated were considered and agreed and signed.
- g) It was noted that the dates for exercising Public Rights to view unaudited accounts would be between 10th June and 19th July 2024.
- h) It was confirmed that no member of the Council has a conflict of interests with BDO, our external auditor.
- i) The Opening Trial Balance for 2024-25 was received and noted.
- j) The Receipts & Payments report to the end of May 2024 was received and signed by the Chairman.
- k) The list of payments made during April and May 2024 were received and approved and signed by the Chairman.
- l) The bank reconciliations to 30th April 2024 were received and approved.
- m) It was noted that the CIL Neighbourhood portion pay out for April 2024 is £2,405.98 and it was agreed to apply for it. The above resolutions were proposed by Cllr T Hotston and seconded by Cllr H Dayman and agreed unanimously.

065/24 Parish Clerk Update: (5 mins)

- Request made to council for spending of approx. £300-00 on topsoil for bottom allotments prone to flooding to enable raised beds. Councillors agreed to expenditure. Cllr T Hotston questioned the income from the allotments and if it justified the spend. In addition, Cllr R Ruttle expressed concern that a number of plots were not being used. **Action: RFO**
- The PA Sound System requires replacement. Specialists providers very limited. Quote has been obtained for approx. £3k to replace. Cllr R Ruttle has broken down the quote and found figures to be realistic. Clerk to enquire about possible funding. **Action: Clerk**
- The proposed garden bench at the village hall will not progress due to issues at the Future Skills Centre. However there has been an update from the family that a memorial bench for the late Glen Dorans would be welcomed. As per previous discussions it was agreed to refurbish the bench on Pear Tree and add a memorial plaque **ACTION: Cllr R Ruttle +**
- As previously discussed there is a need for some shade at the village hall garden. Council agreed to use SSEN funding to provide a sturdy 'sail' and utilise the two gazebos being purchased for the fete. **ACTION: Fete WP**
- The children's swing seats on Pear Tree are in need of replacement. Council agreed to replace the seats and Cllr R Ruttle to look at replacements and a form of bird deterrent to stop birds resting above the swings. **ACTION: Cllr R Ruttle**
- With sadness the death of another goose was confirmed. It is believed only two now survive. With the geese being the focus of our Lindford branding members expressed a wish to involve with the owners of the Mill to identify the legal owners of the birds and see how help could be offered. Cllr R Ruttle to speak with the Mill owners and report back. **ACTION: Cllr R Ruttle**
- A 2024 Model Financial Regulations document has been released. This is with the RFO for populating and anticipated being issued in time for July meeting for council's review. **ACTION: RFO**
- Noted that SLCC have issued an updated Risk Assessment document. **ACTION: RFO/Clerk**

066/24 Events Update: Cllr T Hotston provided update on the Working Party. Next meeting to be held 7th June. Cllr A Tree kindly agreed to wear the Goose costume and hand out balloons.

067/24 To review sub-committee and working party requirements: Members discussed the setting up of Working Parties. These could include Allotments/Open Spaces/Events/Village Hall/Employment.

County Cllr report for your meeting of 4 June 2024:

HCC SAVINGS CONSULTATION, INCLUDING FUTURE OF BORDON HOUSEHOLD WASTE & RECYCLING CENTRE

As a result of the 'purdah' rules during a General Election period, the decision by Hampshire County Council (HCC) relating the closure of the Bordon Waste & Recycling Centre (tip) and other potential cuts is postponed until October 2024. This is because during an election period, they cannot make important policy decisions or promote any specific political party. HCC still says it needs to save £132million or could end up going 'bust.' It is very concerning, considering this council is responsible for vital services such as Children's Services and Adult Social Care.

Scrutiny committees will happen in Sep/Oct and I will continue to fight hard for Whitehill, Bordon and Lindford and stand up for us, as your local County Councillor!

I have put our case across as to why the Bordon tip should stay open in the letter I wrote to Leader of HCC on 18 Mar, which you can find here: <http://www.whitehillbordon.org.uk/Letter-HWRC.pdf> .

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On 23 May 2024, I attended Hampshire County Council's Annual General Meeting at 10am in Winchester, representing Whitehill, Bordon and Lindford as your County Councillor.

There is an agenda item where councillors can ask questions to the Leader and cabinet. A bit like Prime Minister's questions at a Hampshire level.

I asked a question regarding the petition against the Closure of Bordon Tip, which was started by my friend and fellow local resident Sandra Gray. My question read as follows:

"I refer to the potential decision to close the Bordon Household Waste Recycling Centre in my division, which I wrote to the Leader about on 18 March. I have presented Hampshire County Council with a petition signed by over 2500 Hampshire residents, with 1846 signatures from local addresses in Whitehill, Bordon, Lindford, Liphook, Liss, Greatham, Headley and Passfield. What can I say back to my fellow residents who feel so let down that Hampshire County Council would even consider closing this facility and how can you reassure residents of Hampshire County Council's intentions?"

You can watch me read the question and the answer given by the Leader of Hampshire County Council by fast forwarding to 1:31:54 on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/iyXOYMc-2tU?feature=shared>

In October 2024, the HCC Conservative cabinet (Conservatives control HCC with a big majority) will make decisions on cuts. Curiously, this this will only be seven months before the HCC elections in May 2025 and so wonder if they really will make unacceptable decisions this close to an election? We shall see...!

FUTURE SKILLS CENTRE

Since Basingstoke College of Technology (BCOT) announced they would be pulling out the Bordon Future Skills centre, work has been going on behind the scenes. I personally met with the Principal of BCOT and have been receiving briefings from Hampshire County Council officers. Bottom line is that BCOT have not changed direction and still intend to terminate the lease.

On 23/05/2024, I asked the following question to the Leader of Hampshire County Council at its AGM:

"Opened in September 2017, the Bordon Future Skills Centre is a £3.8million Hampshire County Council facility that offered a wide range of specialist construction courses. Following the shock announcement from operator Basingstoke College of Technology that it will close, what commitments can the Executive Member make to ensure this remains as an educational facility to support the young people in our growing town?"

The question asked and full answer given can be watched if you fast forward to 1:42:30 using this link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/iyXOYMc-2tU?feature=shared>

In summary, HCC Leader says they are still looking at options to retain it as an educational facility. I will continue to lobby hard for this and help in any way I can.

NEW LEADER

At the AGM on 23/05/2024, a new Leader of the Council was elected, Cllr Nick Adams-King. This followed his internal party election as a ruling Conservative Group Leader the week before, following Cllr Rub Humby stepping down from the role. I will seek constructive and friendly relations with Nick (also being my duty to hold him to account) and wish Rob all the best. Being Leader of HCC at this time is not an easy job at all!!! Link to official HCC news story on this: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/23052024NewHCCChairmanandLeader>

NEW GROUP MEMBER

As a recap, I lead the Independent Group of 3 members. Last month, the first ever Green Party cllr was elected to HCC in a by-election. He would have sat alone and not had access to sit on a Select Committee, as one person.

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Therefore, we invited him to join or group to make it 4, so he could then sit on the Select Committee that deals with Climate Change matters. Cllr Wallace accepted. I feel this is very much in the spirit of the pledge I have always made to work with councillors of all parties (especially when I work with the Conservatives in the administration at EHDC, in my role there.)

NHS DENTISTRY UPDATE

On 21/05/2024, I attended the Hampshire Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee in Winchester.

On 1 July 2022, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (IOW) Integrated Care Board (ICB) took on delegated responsibility for NHS dentistry and we received an update presentation and report on their work at the meeting, which can be viewed using this link:

<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s119994/06c%20Dentistry%20paper%20HASC%20May%202024%20HioW.pdf>

We were advised that 36% of Hampshire & IOW residents had seen a NHS dentist in the past two years as of Feb 2022 and that this has now increased to 42% in Feb 2024. It seems to be slowly moving in right direction.... However, I have personally been on a waiting list in Bordon for about THREE YEARS, having to travel out of town to see a dentist.

I think it is a worrying statistic that almost 60% of residents are not attending and I asked the NHS representatives the following questions:

(1) Do you do any work to find out reasons why the almost 60% of residents are not seeing an NHS dentist e.g. do you know how many are seeing a private dentist which would mean less than 60% are not seeing a dentist at all, which not be so alarming?

(2) How many of those are choosing not to see a dentist because maybe they feel their teeth are fine? (I.e. should be encouraged to do so.)

(3) How many residents are desperate to see a NHS dentist but cannot, because they are unable to travel outside of their area or cannot afford a private dentist etc. There could be vulnerable people in this group and so answer to this question is crucial.

Sadly, they could not answer those questions as do not have the information. If you read the report, you will see the ridiculous constraints and issues that national policies going back many years have caused and I am not convinced that the local NHS can resolve this issue without further and ingoing government intervention.

I call on all our declared prospective MP candidates for the next General Election (Conservative, Labour, Lib Dem, Green, Reform UK) to outline the plans of their party for NHS dentistry and how this will benefit Whitehill, Bordon and Lindford area. Health Provision is a number 1 priority for our local community!

In the meantime, I hope the NHS ICB will make positive progress!

Please do contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance?

Kind regards,

Cllr Andy Tree

County Councillor for Whitehill, Bordon and Lindford

Leader of the Independent Group

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