

HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held at Headley Village Hall
7.30pm on Monday 9th May 2022

PRESENT

Cllr David Preedy – Chairman
Cllrs Laverty, Pickard, Jarvis
County Councillor Hazel Watson
12 members of the public

1. **WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES** Cllrs Furr and Woolley, Tracy Hamer (Clerk)

2. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021**

The minutes were approved.

Proposed by Cllr Pickard and seconded by Mr. Peter Denyer.

3. **PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Firstly, may I say how pleased I am that we hold the Annual Meeting in person after two years of disruption due to Covid. I am aware that many residents are still understandably nervous given the level of Covid in the community so I would ask everybody to respect other people’s space and wear masks if possible. We are also trying to maximise the ventilation in the hall.

I will keep my remarks brief as we have a couple of other important items to cover and I’m sure we all wish to move on to the informal part of the evening.

Precept

Having kept the Parish Council’s precept unchanged at £13,500 for 7 years since 2015/16, the Parish Council has this year increased the precept by 5% to £14,175. Over this period UK inflation has been 19%. To some extent this reflected a deliberate policy to increase our reserves to manage the risk of a loss of Council tax base following the closure of Headley Court. That risk has passed and over the past couple of years we have reduced our level of reserves correspondingly.

Parish Council activities

Moreover, the Parish Council has recently invested in three important priorities:

We have undertaken a traffic survey at 10 points around the village to provide the evidence needed to support future measures to reduce speeds in the village and improve safety of all road users, but especially horse-riders and pedestrians. We have put aside a small reserve to start some of the high-priority actions, such as improved signage. We are discussing this with Surrey Highways, whose approval is needed and have liaised with the Headley Heath Horse-riders Association to understand their priorities.

We have also recently taken specialist advice in conjunction with the Planning Appeals relating to Headley Court. Whilst some local residents have invested significantly in expert advice on this, this is the first expenditure the Parish Council has made on this important issue.

We have also provided a financial safety net for the organisers of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations – the “Headley Hamper Hop” - to ensure that this goes ahead. We think it’s really important to bring the village together again in person after the Covid lockdowns – especially as we have so many new neighbours in Dale View. Please do support this event and buy tickets. The Parish Council has been actively supporting it

in other ways, such as providing use of our bank account. I would like to thank all the Organizing Committee and especially Councillor Furr for making this happen.

Alongside our regular activities of managing the playground and arranging the regular footpath cuts, we have had to spend time trying to minimise the length of road closures associated with the water-main replacement, the subsequent road re-surfacing work, and the Woodland Trust car park.

We have also put an immense amount of effort into the various planning applications – not only the Headley Court applications which we will cover later in the agenda but also the Church Lane Nursery application (currently under appeal).

There have also been several important consultations to which the Parish Council has responded:

We will talk later about the boundary review for Mole Valley District wards;

We have also provided evidence as to how various areas of Headley might meet the criteria for the new boundary of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; we previewed this with a useful session at last year's Annual Village Meeting but only a handful of residents attended over Zoom. From my perspective the most compelling case is for Oyster Hill which forms the skyline for much of London. At this time of year, it forms a spectacular bluebell wood which was a real godsend during the severest period of lockdown in 2020.

We have also submitted a number of suggestions for a list of non-designated Heritage Assets being prepared by Surrey County Council. As well as a few of the distinctive buildings in the village, we included the high red wall alongside Clay Lane (which is a distinctive landmark in the village) and the entire gardens at Headley Court.

Election next year

This is the last year of the current Parish Council's 4-year term, so we face a re-election next year. This year we have appointed two new Councillors by co-option – long-term resident, Nick Woolley, and a newcomer to the village, Ben Jarvis. We still have a vacancy on the Council. The Parish Council provides a valuable way for people to contribute to the community, so if you might be interested in joining us, please get in touch with myself or any of the other Councillors.

Finally, I would like to thank all my Councillor colleagues and our Clerk, Tracy Hamer, who unfortunately cannot be with us tonight, for their contributions to the village over the special circumstances of the past two years.

Questions from the public

Are there any reliable reports on traffic accidents?

CLLr Preedy replied that there is currently no credible data available, and information is largely by local communication.

Please explain cost of new laptop and associated software?

A new laptop was purchased as the previous laptop was over 5 years old and not running properly. A Parish Council accounting system (Rialtas Alpha) was purchased to assist with best practice financial recording.

What is Satswana?

This is the company used to provide support with GDPR best practice.

4. **HEADLEY COURT UPDATE** – The following was presented, to present a timeline of applications associated with Headley Court:

Western Element: Residential Development

MO/2020/0185 – Outline application for up to 70 houses (reduced from 100 houses); granted by MV development Management Committee (DMC) in July 2020

MO/2021/0871 – Reserved Matters application for 70 houses; deferred by DMC in November 2021; an appeal for non-determination has been lodged; deadline for submissions is tomorrow.

MO/2022/0692 - new application for 59 houses. Just submitted; statutory consultation lasts until 6th June.

Mansion House – retirement community

MO/2020/2263 – Outline application for residential community with 114 apartments, substantially amended twice. Refused by DMC in November 2021. Appeal has been lodged but formal consultation has not yet started.

Future Reserved Matters application - We understand that the applicants intend to submit a new detailed application for a similar scheme.

Dale View

MO/2020/1537 – 4 houses on site of garage block, withdrawn following objections.

MO/2021/0083 – 2 houses on site of garage block, refused by Officers in Jan 2022.

MO/2022/0774 – 2 houses on open space, just submitted; statutory consultation lasts until 13th June

Jubilee Complex (Seacole Centre)

MO/2021/1846,1847,1897, 2243 – Mental health facility, withdrawn Jan 2022 following strong representations to Surrey & Borders NHS Trust.

Body storage facility

MO/2021/1911,1912 - withdrawn in Jan & May 2022 following the removal of the facility at the start of May.

Questions from the public

Why has the Local Plan figure of 90 houses not been adhered to?

Cllr Preedy replied that following the Indigo letter, this was deemed unrealistic and was increased to 120 dwellings overall.

The revised layout appears congested, and the character of the housing is not sympathetic to the rural setting, has this been addressed?

Cllr Preedy replied that the Parish Council share concerns about the character of the residential development and this is one of the issues we have put forward as an objection to the application at appeal.

Are the heritage assets being maintained?

Cllr Preedy replied that the applications do make adequate provision for the heritage assets; however, it is clear that they are suffering from neglect while the planning process continues.

5. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

An update regarding the Nursery site was requested.

CLlr Preedy replied that the appeal is due to be heard later in the year.

Are all parties in the village working together regarding Headley Court?

CLlr Preedy replied that the relationship between all concerned parties has moved forward with more collaboration and sharing of resources.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm.