



OAKLEY AND DEANE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT NEWFOUND PAVILION ON THURSDAY 13TH JULY 2023 7:30 PM

Councillors of Oakley and Deane Parish Council were summoned to attend the Ordinary Council Meeting at Newfound Pavilion on Thursday 13th July 2023. Members of the press and public were also invited to attend.

The public session commenced at 7:30 PM followed by the Council meeting at 7:40 PM. The business to be transacted at the meeting was set out in advance Friday 7th July 2023. Councillors and the public were requested to note that this meeting may be recorded by the Council and may also be subject to recording by members of the public.

Present: Cllr. Rowley (Chair), Cllr. Hayman (Vice Chair), Cllr. Condliffe, Cllr. Ellison, Cllr. Wain, Cllr. Archer, Cllr. Chisnall, Mrs. Moody (RFO), Mrs. Beere (Clerk) and Mrs. Meyer (Deputy Clerk)

Public Session

1 member of the public attended the meeting to observe only.

Council Meeting

50/23 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Bullions (ODPC), Cllr. Taylor (BDBC) and Cllr. Henderson (HCC).

51/23 Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the ordinary June '23 meeting along with minutes of the extraordinary June 21st Annual Governance and Accountability return meeting, as previously circulated were agreed to be accurate. Proposed by Cllr. Wain, seconded by Cllr. Chisnall and agreed by all members present Cllr. Rowley (Chair) signed and initialled the minutes.

52/23 Scheme of delegation to the Clerk, ref. S101

Review to extend end date, currently expiring 13th July '23. Proposal received to extend till September 30th '23. Proposed by Cllr. Hayman (Vice Chair), seconded by Cllr. Chisnall and agreed by all members present the Chair signed and updated the scheme of delegation to expire Saturday 30th September '23. Minute point noted 52/23.

53/23 New ODPC Councillor co-option

One member of the public had volunteered to be co-opted onto the Parish Council and had sent their personal statement to the Clerk, who had forwarded it to all members in advance. Proposed by Cllr. Wain, seconded by Cllr. Hayman (Vice Chair) it was agreed by all members present that Mr. Green be co-opted and will serve the East Oakley West Ward. Cllr. Green will be invited to attend all the project

groups meetings so that he can better understand where his interests and experience can most benefit the council, and where he will most enjoy working.

54/23 Declaration of interest

Arising from this agenda, Councillors were invited to declare any relevant interests. Notwithstanding this item, Councillors may subsequently declare an interest at any point during the meeting. None were raised at this point or during the meeting on this occasion.

55/23 Urgent matters

No decisions were to be taken on any items raised other than to delegate to Clerk to address or defer to next meeting; None were raised.

AGENDA POINTS 59/23 and 65/23 MOVED UP: *Due to Councillors needing to depart early the two main discussion points for the evening were brought forward in the agenda.*

59/23 Update from Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) including payments for approval:

A list of payments for June/July 2023 were circulated by the RFO to all members in advance. It was proposed by Cllr. Wain that the following payments be made, seconded by Cllr. Chisnall and approved by all members present.

Payee	Charge to Budget	Total Cost	Service	Status
Scofell Landscapes	296.66	355.99	June Grounds Maintenance	Unpaid EFT
Larkstel Ltd	2,402.33	2,882.80	June Grounds Maintenance	Unpaid EFT
Archers Grounds Maintenance	159.32	159.32	June Beach Park Grounds Maintenance	Unpaid EFT
Nicola Beere expenses	30.39	30.39	Postage and office supplies (6.45) Lavender plants (23.94)	Unpaid EFT
Helen Meyer expenses	12.31	14.77	Replacement charger for deputy clerk laptop	Unpaid EFT
W G Shenton Plumbing & Heating	222.85	267.42	Work to shower at Newfound pavilion	Unpaid EFT
KLG Services Ltd	160.00	192.00	Jetting of drainage network at PH pavilion	Unpaid EFT
ETC Sports Surfaces Ltd	6,185.00	7,422.00	Maintenance work to surface of tennis courts	Unpaid EFT
Vita Play Ltd	1,500.00	1,800.00	Bark ground cover at play area at Beach Park	Unpaid EFT
Campbell & Co	350.00	350.00	Fee for the internal audit 2022-23	Unpaid EFT
St Leonard's Centre	108.00	108.00	Hire of office space in June	Unpaid EFT
Jan Harris-Piper (outgoing allotment holder)	100.00	100.00	Reimbursement of allotment deposit	Unpaid EFT
Kingfisher Direct Ltd t/a Bin Shop	1009.80	1211.76	Trojan litter bin 100litre capacity	Unpaid EFT
HALC	48.00	57.60	Chairing Skills course (A Rowley)	Unpaid EFT
Mark Godwin Handyman	160.00	160.00	Various handyman jobs completed at Avon Rd, Newfound & Kennet Way Park (labour only)	Unpaid EFT
Norman Goodyear	310.00	310.00	Filling pot holes at Newfound and Peter Houseman	Unpaid EFT
Harrison Arboriculture Ltd	1,031.50	1,237.80	Tree assessment & report (£900), digital base map for plotting trees (£131.50)	Unpaid EFT
Talk Design & Print	74.00	88.80	Stickers for school project	Unpaid EFT
King Ramps Ltd	1,350.00	1,620.00	Repair work at skate park	Unpaid EFT
BDBC	120.00	120.00	Provision of 10 wheelie bins for Jubilee weekend	Unpaid EFT
Oakley Village Hall	48.00	48.00	Hire of Andover Rd village hall for Green Day 17/6	Unpaid EFT

An Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) update was given by the RFO confirming all documents were completed during the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on June 21st '23. Refer to the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on Jun 21st '23 for further detail, signed 13th July '23. The ODPC '23 AGAR was submitted by the RFO to the external auditors for final review ahead of the submission deadline; No further action is required unless the Council is contacted by the external auditors.

Parish Council bank and CCLA investment signatories as agreed during the ODPC May '23 (AGM) Annual General Meeting (Ref: point 13/23) were reviewed for further approval, with a proposal from the RFO to add Cllr. Chisnall and finally remove Mr. Harding (previous Chair) and Mr. Startin (previous councillor and lead of the Finance Working Party) following the recent elections and their departures from the Council now that handovers are complete. Proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr. Condliffe the proposal was agreed by all members present.

MEETING PAUSED: *Cllr. Ellison arrived to join the meeting.*

65/23 Sustainability – 2023 event program proposal:

The following events were approved in principle during the June '23 meeting (Ref: point 43/23 b-d) and will be funded from the approved 2023 PC Sustainability budget. Approval requested to proceed with delegated authority to Clerk to organise, with assistance from Cllr. Wain and Cllr. Chisnall where necessary:

- a. **Debrief: 'Grow your Own' 17th June '23.** A family friendly event that took place to support of Green Week 2023. Submitted by Cllr. Wain to all members in advance, there were no comments or queries. Any additional feedback was requested from Cllr. Wain from Councillors that attended to help better shape the event in 2024.
- b. **Biodiversity village walk.** Proposed September '23 or Spring '24 to educate how the biodiversity around Oakley can reduced Climate Change. Its purpose is to highlight the importance of biodiversity in the village and identify a new permanent walk to be enjoyed by residents. Approval was requested to hire Mr. Craig Whitelock, Engagement Officer from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (H&IOWWT) at a cost of £100. Mr. Whitelock would support by organising the walk to identify/confirm the relevant biodiversity topics for the area and authenticate the project objectives. The content provided would be used to create the initial walk, hosted by members of the council, with walkers pausing at key points to understand the biodiversity of the area around them. The initial walk would end with refreshments provided by the council at a cost of £20.

Feedback would be collected during the initial walk, to improve the delivery and content of the biodiversity information provided. Ultimately in the future, information boards/markers could be placed along the route making it a self-guided activity. Estimated cost to create and deliver the initial walk is £120 based on the above proposal submitted by Cllr. Wain. Alternatively, Cllr. Wain highlighted the walk could be created inhouse by the Council with support from Barbara Robson who conducts local Wellbeing walks, but concerns were raised on obtaining the in-depth knowledge required and timeframes to produce the walk.

Proposed by Cllr. Condliffe and seconded by Cllr. Green, four members of the council voted to approve the biodiversity walk utilising Mr. Whitelock, to take place in the Spring of 2024. Three members of the Council abstained.

MEETING PAUSED: *Cllr. Archer departed the meeting early due to other commitments.
The Council remain quorate at six members present, meeting continued.*

- c. **Saving Energy and Calculating your own Carbon Footprint – Guest speaker event.** Proposed October '23. Its purpose is to provide information to residents concerning how to monitor and improve their carbon footprint and save energy. Hosted at the COE Oakley Junior school, the estimated cost of delivery is £160 based (includes hall hire and refreshments) on the following speaker proposal:
- i. Guest speaker, Mr. Martin Heath: What to do to Save Energy.
 - ii. Guest speaker, Mr. Adrian Frost: Calculating your own home carbon footprint.
 - iii. Guest speaker via Zoom, University of the Third Age (U3A) member: Offering a homeowner's experience of the installation of Solar Panels and analysis of results.

Proposed by Cllr. Wain and seconded by Cllr. Chisnell, five members of the Council voted to approve the event. One member of the Council abstained.

- d. **Thermal camera residential visits:** Proposed to run from November to February '23 supporting residents with identifying areas of heat loss in their homes, to save energy. Councillors and local volunteers from our community will be enlisted to conduct the visits. Cllr. Wain confirmed to date the Council have 18 bookings pending from last winter, with more households expected to sign up during the OCA Village Show (August 5th '23) via the ODPC stall. Proposed by Cllr. Condliffe, seconded by Cllr. Ellison and approved by all members.

BDBC will supply a thermal camera on loan for free est. 2 weeks at a time. Due to the response on this project from members of the public (based on last winter 2022/23 and the current forecast for 2023/24 bookings), Cllr. Wain proposed the Council explore Grants to fund the purchase of a Thermal camera to support booking demands and eliminate the 2 week at a time booking restriction;

- Option 1: FLIR E8xt IR Camera w/MSX Non-WiFi 320x240 Resolution (9Hz) Thermal camera at £1806.95 +vat
- Option 2: Flir C5 Compact Thermal Imaging Camera with WIFI (9Hz) at £668.82 +vat.

Proposed by Cllr. Hayman (Vice Chair) and seconded by Cllr. Ellison, five members of the Council voted to approve the purchase of a Thermal Camera, subject to Grant funding being established and approved. One member of the Council abstained.

56/23 Clerk/Deputy Clerk report & correspondence received

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk had issued their report in advance and there were no questions. All Council members are reminded to submit a short Bio for the Parish Council website to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk before the end of the month. Remaining profile headshots will be taken at the start of the September 14th meeting between 7.00pm and 7:25pm.

Cllr. Rowley (Chair) requested that the following correspondence be highlighted in the July '23 minutes. A copy of each is attached below referencing point 56/23:

- i. 'Hampshire County Council Budget Consultation' section of the HCC July '23 report by HCC Cllr. Henderson. Cllr. Rowley (Chair) asked for this to be circulated to members of the public via the Council social media Facebook account to encourage them to respond as individuals.
- ii. 'Council calls for end of planning straitjacket on new housing figure' Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council email received by the Council Tuesday 4th July '23.
- iii. 'Scheme to support the cost-of-living re-opens' Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council email received by the Council Wednesday 5th July '23.

57/23 Reports received from committee and current project groups;

- i. **Staffing committee and burial committee -**

It was noted that the staffing committee and burial committee has not met over the past month due to ill health and holiday. A request from the Clerk was received for volunteers to

tidy by hand the burial ground and accept the 2023 fees for the burial ground as they currently stand with no increase. Proposed by Cllr. Chisnall, seconded by Cllr. Hayman (Vice Chair) it was agreed by all members present that the fees be updated as they currently stand, valid for the year 1st April '23 to 31st March '24. Cllr. Rowley (Chair) requested the Council 'Big Help Out' volunteer contact list be used to support with tidying the burial ground once a date is confirmed by the Clerk.

ii. Allotment advisory committee -

It was noted that the allotment advisory committee has not met over the past month due to ill health and holiday. A request from the Clerk was received to discuss and agree the Oakley allotment 2023/24 plot rental fees for both sites. The past year has seen general expenses for the now two sites increase, which include a rise of £165 pa on the Andover Road allotment site Malshanger ground rent and a Canterbury Garden estate access charge of £200 pa for the newly opened Canterbury Garden allotment site. Total on going costs are £2,175 pa which creates a +20.9% increase on rental fees.

Fees will be reevaluated in early 2024. Proposed by Cllr. Condliffe, seconded by Cllr. Chisnall the 2023-24 Oakley allotment fees were agreed by all members present as follows: Total income £2,180 based on all plots being rented;

- Full size plots £40.50 pa (increased from £33.50 pa) = income £1,701 (+£7.00 =+20.9%)
- Half size plots £26.60 pa (increased from £22.00 pa) = income £479 (+£4.60 = +20.9%)

iii. Project group reviewing the HCC 20mph campaign and pothole repairs -

It was noted that the project group has not met over the past month due to ill health and holiday; No report given.

iv. Project group reviewing standing orders, financial regulations and completing the annual policy review -

It was noted that the project group has not met over the past month due to ill health and holiday; Verbal update given by Cllr. Rowley (Chair) concerning the NALC Local Council Award Scheme (www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/local-council-award-scheme), confirming that we will not be in a position to enter this autumn but will strive to do so next year 2024.

v. Project group reviewing finance software options, with proposal for approval -

With a growing Parish a robust accounting system is needed to ensure the Council continues to provide professional accounting and follow financial regulations. Cllr. Rowley (Chair), the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and RFO have over the past month reviewed three suitable finance software options to upgrade our current processes. A proposal was made to adopt Scribe Accounts (www.scribeaccounts.com) based on its functionality, onboarding process at £479, cost effectiveness at £55 per month and adaptable future proofing modules; Total first year £1139 +vat. Proposed by Cllr. Hayman (Vice Chair), seconded by Cllr. Condliffe the proposal was agreed by all members present. The budget will be sourced from PC contingency funds.

58/23 Reports received from other groups and external organisations:

- **BDAPTC - Basingstoke and Deane Association of Parish and Town Councils**
Cllr. Rowley, Clerk and Deputy Clerk; Nothing to report.
- **OCA - Oakley Community Association**

Clerk; The Village Show takes place 5th August '23 on the Oakley COE Junior School playing fields. The Council will be submitting a hamper for the raffle. A full afternoon of entertainment, finishing with the popular tug o'war is expected. The OCA will then be considering any changes to the Oakley and Deane annual Firework display which takes place in Newfound 5th November '23.

- **East Oakley Village Hall**
Nothing to report. Cllr. Hayman will support Cllr. Bullions to obtain reports.
- **Andover Road Village Hall**
Nothing to report. Cllr. Hayman will support Cllr. Bullions to obtain reports.
- **Jubiloaks**
Cllr. Wain; Jubiloaks volunteers have been busy clearing around the new hedges planted at Beach Park and Upper Farm. As part of the Rangers 'Love Parks' week in August '23, Jubiloaks members will lead a guided walk along the Multiuser path to Battledown, answering questions about their work over the past 12 years. This will be advertised in August '23 issue of the Link magazine.
- **Oakley Woodlands Group**
Cllr. Wain; Nothing to report.
- **Oakley Support Network**
Clerk; Nothing to report.
- **Hampshire Police**
Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Cllr. Condliffe; Nothing to report. PC Jones who was unable to attend the meeting, sent his regards and will aim to join in the future to give his report in person and answer any questions raised by members of the public and Council.
- **OAKS - Oakley Allotment Keepers Society**
Clerk; Nothing to report. OAKS are in the process of organising a members meeting, a date has yet to be confirmed. The Clerk will attend the meeting.

60/23 Receive planning committee minutes – 15th June and 6th July '23

Circulated by the Deputy Clerk to all members in advance, there were no comments or queries. The report will be signed at the next planning meeting 20th July '23.

61/23 Receive planning application summary

Circulated by the Deputy Clerk to all members in advance, there were no comments or queries.

62/23 Highways – Matters for review and request for app purchase:

- a. **Following recent incidents;** Following the second unfortunate fatality this year, the St. Johns/Multiuser path railway line public right of way crossing points may need to be reviewed in the future as a matter of health and safety. Councillors to note the Manydown development is expected to bring more foot traffic to the area.

Oakley Lane bridge suffered its second collision this year. Oakley Lane 'low bridge' signage upon inspection by the Deputy Clerk, was discovered to not be visible due to overgrown hedges. Signage is under review, but residents and/or BDBC will be asked to cut back the necessary hedges. A proposal by Cllr. Bullions was circulated to members of the council in advance to also write to all local skip companies about their route through Oakley. Proposed by Cllr. Rowley (Chair), seconded by Cllr. Chisnall the proposal was agreed by all members present.

- b. **In preparation for winter;** Road markings and flood prone areas will be under review, and requests to HCC for support will be raised.
- c. **New speed indication device (SID);** A progress update was given by Cllr. Rowley (Chair and the Clerk, with a request to purchase additional data capture app at £150 to enhance our

reporting abilities. Members of the Council discussed the different reporting formats, and their uses to monitor traffic and report speeding incidences to the Police. Options: 'Basic' reporting no additional cost, 'Extended' report £90, 'Police style' report £250. Proposed by Cllr. Hayman (Vice Chair), seconded by Cllr. Rowley (Chair) it was agreed by all members present that the proposal be deferred till the September 14th meeting for further review. Budget to purchase the app would need to be identified, and the preference is to have the new accounting software (Scribe, as approved point 57/23 v.) in place to do this.

The new SID will remain on the B3400 for an additional week, and then relocated in the village and Deane. Options will be explored to purchase additional SIDs for the village as it is proving to be effective at slowing traffic on the B3400 according to recent data reports.

63/23 Environment - Oakley parish tree survey update and replacement Battledown bench confirmed:

- a. **An Oakley parish tree survey** has been conducted by Harrison Arboriculture Ltd; The report has identified four trees (x1 Peter Houseman, x1 Newfound, x2 Beach Park) of concern which our preferred Tree Surgeon Simon Warner is attending to as a priority over the next month. The tree on Peter Houseman Horse Chestnut) has already been made safe. The Clerk will review the report, and a plan of action will be set out/budgeted for in stages to attend to all trees where needed. Cllr. Ellison highlighted that Mr. Harrison has yet to review the trees outside OneStop and bordering the green space in Kings Orchard; Clerk to follow up.
- b. **For information only;** The vandalised seat on the multiuser path near the Battledown flyover bridge will be replaced by Men's Shed, using a recently donated carved tree trunk.

MEETING PAUSED: *RFO departed the meeting early.*

64/23 Sports Grounds and Play Areas – General update and request for wall bumpers:

Reports submitted by Cllr. Ellison relate to the sports grounds and pavilions in Newfound (NF) and Peter Houseman (PH), facilities at Beach Park (BP) and the play areas on Avon Road (ARPA) and Upper Farm Road (UFRPA). The following requests (points 64/23 a-d) were proposed by Cllr. Wain, seconded by Cllr. Hayman (Vice Chair) and approved by all members present;

- a. **The new ODPC cricket roller** has been delivered. Wall guards were requested to avoid damage to the new roller at a total cost of £84.94 per bar, one bar needed. Cost will be covered by the approved SG&PAWP budget.
- b. **Request to approve essential repairs to play equipment** will be carried out by Vita Play Ltd; Total cost of £660 +vat, quote ref: 005097-IG. Cost will be covered by the approved SG&PAWP budget:
 - i. ARPA two damaged swing seats also referred to in the independent inspection report 11/11/22. Cost from SG & PAWP maintenance budget £400 (quote £390).
 - ii. BP broken Kompan twin spring rider needs urgent repairs prior to school summer holidays. SG& PAWP repairs/replacement budget £350 (quote £270).
 - iii. BP finger trap concern on climbing wall multi-activity unit (issue raised by independent inspector), will be filled free of charge.
- c. **Request to approve the annual upgrade (fifth year) by Larkstel of the Newfound cricket square to further improve wicket quality.** This work is additional to the basic repair work required by contract. SG& PAWP budget £675 is allocated for the work and materials required. This work is usually undertaken early September '23.
- d. **The UFRPA hedges (West side) need to be cut and play equipment rubber mulch areas treated with a moss kill treatment.** Budget to be sourced from the handyperson allocation. Request delegation to the Clerk and SG&PAWP to source a suitable quote for the work and ensure it takes place before the school holidays.

- e. **For information only;** King Ramps have replaced the 2 panels on the BP skate park half pipe, ETC Sports Surfaces Ltd. have renovated the BP tennis courts, Vita Play Ltd. have woodchipped the BP play area and Men's Shed have recently painted two BP benches, plus repairs to the concrete uprights in ARPA to the right side bench.
- f. **For information only;** NF will be deep cleaned by Gleaming Cleaning in two phases. Phase one within the summer months, phase two late September as changing rooms 3 and 4 are currently being used for storage until the start of football season on September 9th '23.
- g. **For information only;** The 2023/24 football season will commence 9th September '23. Posts will be installed on PH and NF (West pitch only) the first weekend of September, with pitches prepared and marked over the course of the following week. The Clerk was asked by Cllr. Ellison to relay that the Cricket teams will have access to play one final game of the year during that first week of September.

All items above were noted by members of the Council.

66/23 Community Engagement update report:

- i. **Parish Council Coffee and Chat office hours, progress report and proposal to continue till September 14th '23.**

Agreed during the May '23 meeting (Ref: point 26/23) the Parish Council Coffee & Chat was to continue until 31st July '23 with a budget of £15 a week. The Deputy Clerk was to investigate suitable Grant funding to support this moving forward, and a Grant proposal was submitted to Local Adult Solutions as recommended by Hampshire County Council; Pending update. Circulated by the Deputy Clerk to all members in advance, there were no comments or queries with a proposal to continue the Coffee & Chat until the 14th September '23 using the £150 budget previously approved. Due to kind donations the approved budget of £150 to 31st July has not been spent and could be extended until the 14th September '23. There is also food & milk 'in stock'.

- ii. **Oakley Schools Engagement 2023 project, report.**

A verbal report was given by Cllr. Rowley (Chair). The Council would like to thank the children and staff at Oakley Infant and Oakley COE Junior Schools for their amazing response to the 'Biodiversity & Hedgehogs' project set by the Council earlier in the year. Cllr. Rowley (Chair) and the Clerk visited the schools to view the individual class projects and judge the Oakley COE Junior School winning class for the ODPC award.

The Oakley COE Junior School focused on Hedgehogs. This year's winner was class 5L who created a brilliant giant hedgehog and lots of risk assessments to understand how a hedgehog thinks and how we can improve our environment in Oakley to keep them safe. 3SR came second with a very creative and beautiful design incorporating writing, artwork and music. 6S did a brilliant piece of work with a great use of multimedia, animation and QR codes to gain third place.

The Oakley Infant School focused on Biodiversity. Cllr. Rowley (Chair) and the Clerk were given a grand tour of the newly renovated Oakley Infant School wildlife pond, that had been updated with bug hotels and beautiful hand painted bird houses. The grounds of the school were decorated with handmade bird feeders using pinecones and recycled loo roll holders covered in lard and bird seed, that were very popular with the local wildlife. The school vegetable and wildflower gardens had also been decorated with clay models of all the insects you would expect to see.

All the children at both school deserved to be winners and were awarded with OPDC School Project 2023 stickers, supplied by Talk Design & Print.

iii. Debrief: OCA Garden Stalls 24th June '23 village event, PC report.

A verbal report was given by Cllr. Rowley (Chair). The event was deemed a success for Council, supported by the position of the stall in the Barley Mow car park allowing residents to locate us easily. Several good conversations took place, particularly with our newer residents, and £15 was raised by sales of ODPC merchandise.

iv. To receive the ODPC stall and hamper proposal for the 2023 OCA Village Show

A verbal report was given by Cllr. Rowley (Chair). The ODPC stall will highlight the work of the Parish Council. Bookings for Thermal Camera residential visits will also be available, along with ODPC merchandise for sale. The Clerk will be organizing a hamper on behalf of the Council to be included in this years OCA show raffle.

v. ODPC merchandise, stock update and review.

Deferred to the September 14th '23 meeting.

67/23 Request approval for HALC New Councillor Training. Cost of £800 +vat to budget

Recommended for all Councillors every four years. Proposed by Cllr. Rowley (Chair), seconded by Cllr. Chisnall and approved by all members present the mandatory councillor training will take place in October '23 with a date to be confirmed. The Clerk will confirm the booking and agree a suitable date with members of the Council

68/23 Request approval for HALC Clerks and Officers Update Training. Cost £10 +vat to budget.

Proposed by Cllr. Hayman (Vice Chair), seconded by Cllr. Chisnall and approved by all members present the Deputy Clerk will confirm her position on the course.

MEETING PAUSED: *To allow for the member of the public to depart the meeting due to confidential matters next to be discussed. The Council thanked them for joining us.*

To pass a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press to consider confidential contractual and staffing matters which meet the criteria of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Part 1. (Ref: points 69/23 and 70/23)

69/23 Confidential – Newfound

70/23 Confidential – Handyperson

Next meeting scheduled for 14th September 2023 to be held at Newfound Pavilion

NOTE:

There will be no meeting of the Council during the August holiday period.

Parish Council public office hours during August will be adjusted as follows:

- **Wednesday 9:00-12:00 hosted at the St. Leonards Centre, first floor.**
- **Thursday 10:30-13:30 hosted in the Newfound Sports Pavilion.**

Please contact the Clerk for all questions. Thank you.

Supporting documents x3 below Re: Point 56/23

**July 2023 Hampshire County Councillor Update
By Cllr. Juliet Henderson, Candovers Oakley and Overton Division**

Hampshire County Council Budget Consultation

Balancing the books is vital for any business or organization. That's no different for Hampshire County Council and it is a challenge that all local councils face.

Hampshire is not 'facing bankruptcy' as the press and others have recently suggested. It is important though for the Council to manage its resources appropriately. We must ensure that we both continue to meet our statutory duties to the County's residents, not least those who are most vulnerable, while also ensuring we do so within our budget.

Managing that balance is ever more challenging and, without substantial help from Central Government, it could become impossible to achieve in three years' time.

It is therefore important that we continue to look at the services the County Council provides and consider what savings could be made by doing things differently.

Therefore, HCC has launched a consultation looking at all of our services. This considers those that we must provide by law, and more importantly those that we provide for which there is no statutory requirement.

It is NOT the case that all these proposals will be implemented. It is vital though that we understand better what is important to you, our residents and how the huge changes we have seen over the last few years, not least as a result of the pandemic, might impact your view of the services the County Council provides.

This consultation will enable us to produce our vision for how the County Council can operate best to help you over the next few years, while also living within our means. Please let us know what you think. You have until July 23rd to have your say.

The information pack explaining the consultation in detail is here:

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/.../2023-Hampshire-Budget>

You can submit your response here:

<https://hampshirecc.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/budget23>

END OF MESSAGE

Council calls for end of planning straitjacket' on new housing figure

From: Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Sent: Tue, 4 Jul, 2023 at 17:50
Subject: Council calls for end of 'planning straitjacket' on new housing figure
To: oakleydeanepc@gmail.com

For Immediate Release 04 July 2023

Council calls for end of 'planning straitjacket' on new housing figure

The new Cabinet at the borough council has called for the government to end the uncertainty about how many new homes will be built in Basingstoke and Deane in the years to come.

One of the first things the new leadership did was to write to The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, appealing for urgent clarity about how the area's housing figure will be set in future and asking for a meeting.

In the letter, the council's Leader Cllr Paul Harvey and Co-Leader Cllr Gavin James criticised the "flawed and simplistic" rigid formula for calculating housing targets still being in place. This is despite the Secretary of State announcing in December last year that there would be flexibility to reflect local circumstances in reforms to the national planning system.

Work on updating Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, the blueprint that will guide development and planning decisions in the borough to at least 2029, was paused to fully consider a suitable housing number for the borough that meets needs but that also takes account of the characteristics of the area.

The Cabinet is now keen to move forward with consulting residents on a draft Local Plan to give more clarity about where new homes will go in the future. Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Cllr Andy Konieczko said: "As a new administration, we recognise how important the Local Plan is in giving our residents certainty about future development in their areas.

"People who have grown up here need the opportunity to set up their own home and get a good job in the borough, as well as enjoying a good quality of life with access to jobs, facilities and services.

"But we are all agreed that the number of homes being built in Basingstoke and Deane needs to slow down so that infrastructure, facilities and services that current and new residents need can catch up.

"We need to be released from the government planning straitjacket where the housing figure for our borough is set using national formula that doesn't consider local circumstances.

"We want to listen to the view of local residents about getting the balance of house-building right. And perhaps the government should adopt the same approach.

"Despite the lack of certainty from Whitehall, we recognise that residents want us to restart the process of updating the Local Plan as soon as possible. That's what we're doing - we're reviewing the policies to make them stronger and exploring options for how best to make the housing number work for our borough.

"We'll bring a report with more details to the Economic, Planning and Housing Committee shortly and then aim to start meeting with local communities in the autumn."

END OF MESSAGE

Scheme to support the cost of living re-opens

From: "Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council"
Sent: Wednesday, 5 July, 2023 17:19
To: oakleydeanepc@gmail.com
Subject: Scheme to support the cost of living re-opens

For Immediate Release 05 July 2023

Scheme to support the cost of living re-opens

A scheme to support residents facing financial difficulties due to the cost of living re-opened today (Monday 3 July) for applications.

During 2022 to 2023, the council awarded £1 million in grants through the Cost of Living Assistance Fund to support residents with food and energy bills.

Now another £1 million is available for 2023 to 2024 to help households in the borough struggling with bills, with grants available to help pay for food and energy costs.

Under the new scheme, one-off grants will be available:

- Up to £1,000 for households with two or more adults with a joint income of up to £35,000
- Up to £500 for single households with a household income of up to £25,000

Residents must either be liable for council tax for their home in the borough or have utility bills in their name and have less than £20,000 in savings. Joint tenants in a property who do not combine income can apply as single households.

Income does not include certain benefits, including disability benefits on behalf of a child, disability living allowance, personal independence payments, carer's allowance, child benefit or child maintenance.

Payments will be made through a Post Office payout code which allows cash to be withdrawn at a Post Office branch. In some cases, residents may be provided with a supermarket voucher.

Cabinet member for Communities, Partnerships and Inclusion Cllr John McKay said: "We are committed to continuing to help the households in our borough that are hardest hit by the escalating national cost of living.

"These grants are targeted at those on the lowest household incomes in the borough and will give real help to pay food and energy bills. We hope this will offer some support and respite for those struggling to make ends meet and take away some of the worry of paying bills."

Grants will be awarded on a first come first served basis so the scheme may close earlier if the funding has been fully allocated.

Residents living in the borough can apply at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/COLAF or those without access to the internet can call 01256 844844 and speak to the benefits team to arrange a telephone or in-person appointment.

END OF MESSAGE