

Appendix to Minutes 20 February 2017

Questions from Steve Forster

Question 1

'The chair has publicly stated that regarding potholes and road adoptions 'the matter is being dealt with by the Parish Council'. Residents have said that the parish has been dealing with this, without any successful outcome, for many years: To help inform residents, could the chair confirm what actions are currently underway to progress it, with which county officers, and what has been confirmed by HCC to be preventing adoption. How does the parish intend to address these issues. Can you also please provide an anticipated timeline on the stages that will lead to adoption?'

Response:

The paper from the last meeting of which you now have a copy gives an account of progress on road adoptions. With regards to the potholes, the developer's agent was informed in January and came to inspect the site on 3rd February. He admitted the potholes require attention but was unsure what Persimmon would be prepared to do in light of the obvious reluctance of HCC to progress the adoption. In the last 6 years the county council has not carried out any repairs to the unadopted roads on EH – it has always been the developer who has been alerted by the parish council.

The parish council's involvement in the adoption process has been as follows:

In Sept 2012, EHPC succeeded in getting Persimmon & HCC to a meeting despite fact they had not been talking for several years. Since then meetings have been held annually (approx.) – there have been 7 to date. The county councillor has been invited to each but has only attended 3 and the last quarter of one other.

From these meetings, it has become clear that in 2001 HCC issued Persimmon with a certificate putting EH Way 'on maintenance' – ie, the road is deemed as public highway, maintainable at the developer's expense. All the street lighting and illuminated signage has been accrued by HCC who are responsible for its maintenance and electricity costs. This was an error by HCC as they had not completed the AIP (Approval in Principle) for the culverts. Despite this mistake being wholly down to the county council, they are now demanding that Persimmon rectify this error by proving the soundness of the culverts. As agreed in the meeting involving EHPC in October 2014 – Persimmon carried out core sampling of one culvert and visual inspections of the other 3 to satisfy HCC structures. This work was completed late summer 2015. If all was deemed ok, the final remedial work and resurfacing could then follow. A change in staff at HCC structures meant that the work Persimmon had carried out was then deemed insufficient for HCC. An agreement was reached at the January 2016 meeting that HCC structures would carry out the final work required. Despite quotations being agreed, this work has still not been carried out as HCC have added another hurdle.

The parish council can give no indication of timelines as every time a target date is set, HCC move the goal posts.

It should also be noted that the parish has more communication with the developers as we pass maintenance issues on to them on a regular basis. We contact the county officers rarely, only occasionally to ask for an update on progress or to organise meetings.

Question 2

'In the councils standing orders, it clearly states "Unless the council determines otherwise, a copy of each letter sent to the District and County Council shall be sent to the ward councillor(s) representing the area of the council. " This is intended so that district and county councillors are informed and can assist in progressing issues where appropriate. The parish appears to be ignoring its own standing orders on this and on multiple occasions has contacted officers without providing copies to the relevant district or county officer. On the issue of roads adoption, the county councillor raised this at a recent parish meeting and was assured that she would be kept informed. Can the parish clerk confirm that the standing orders are being followed and councillors copied, or explain reasons if this isn't the case?'

Response:

When the council sends letters to the County or District, it copies the councillors as stated in the standing orders. This order does not include email or telephone correspondence. If emails are sent to council officers where it is considered useful to copy the relevant councillors, this will be done.

Question 3

'The parish council previously rejected a request to start work on a neighbourhood plan when I previously raised it, citing incorrectly that there was no land to be developed and no reason to do it. Can the chair please confirm, in light of the recent excellent Stop Elvetham Chase campaign, that the parish will now look to develop one, to potentially gain protection and control over not just that site, but from any future large or small developments, including the park and ride site at the Elvetham Heath main entrance, and to potentially (if they can be included) manage better any other development in the parish'

Response:

See last meeting where it was agreed to put this item on the next agenda and therefore see item 164/16.