

Minutes

Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council: Monday 13 November 2023

Held at Ampfield Village Hall, 7:00pm to 8:40pm

Present

Members of Ampfield Parish Council:

Chairman Bryan Nanson
Vice Chairman Chris Ling
Cllr Patricia Carter
Cllr Martin Hatley
Cllr Julian Jones
Cllr Jason Reeves
Cllr Graham Roads
Cllr Julie Trotter

Others

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)'s Councillor Sally Yalden
Kate Orange, Clerk/RFO

Apologies

4182. Apologies were received from Cllr Kate McCallum.

Previous Meeting

4183. The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 09 October 2023 were agreed, and a copy was signed by the Chairman.

Declarations of Interest in Business on the Agenda for the Meeting

4184. No Councillor had any interest to declare in any of the business on the agenda for the Meeting.

Borough Councillor's report

4185. Borough Councillor Sally Yalden reported:

- Attended the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with a presentation by the Chief Inspector Hayley O'Grady;
- attended the meeting about rural crime in Braishfield, where questions were put to the Deputy Police Crime Commissioner;
- noted the importance of reporting Rural and Wildlife crimes/crimes in action using 101 or 999 as appropriate;
- Braishfield's social contact group received a Community Small Grant for their Christmas lunch;
- dog fouling was improved in Braishfield after TVBC's dog warden contacted residents in Braishfield, and school children designed a poster;
- Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils meeting was coming up shortly;
- electors can apply online from 31 October for postal, proxy and absent vote options (there were changes to the process);
- the parliamentary boundaries had been revised;
- the nature reserve at Abbotswood now had formal status;
- Braishfield Parish Council had applied for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area for the parish.
- leaf clearance was now underway, and leaf accumulations could be reported to TVBC.

Financial Matters

4186. *The Council received the bank reconciliation to the end of October 2023.*

RESOLVED

4187. *The Council received the calculation of working capital to the end of October 2023.*

RESOLVED

4188. *It was agreed that the following payments should be made (see also Minute 4199):*

	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount, £</u>
	<i>Refund to Cllr Roads: maintenance equipment for Chapel Wood</i>	154.74
	<i>VAS maintenance</i>	293.58
	<i>Clerk, refund of expenses</i>	29.60
	<i>Staff costs</i>	891.20
	Total (including VAT)	£1,369.12

RESOLVED

4189. *It was noted that the following payments had been made between Meetings:*

	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount, £</u>
	<i>Direct debits and direct transfers to 30 Sept</i>	
	<i>Electricity</i>	320.49
	<i>Calor service charge</i>	17.99
	<i>RBL wreath</i>	23.98
	<i>Website</i>	11.99
	<i>Staff costs</i>	63.49
	<i>TVBC grounds maintenance</i>	344.66
	<i>Bank fee</i>	7.50
	Total	£ 790.10

RESOLVED

4190. *It was noted that the Council had received the following income:*

	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount, £</u>
	<i>Interest</i>	64.21
	<i>Allotment rent to 30 Sept 2024</i>	120.00
	<i>SSEN refund, disconnection of telephone kiosk</i>	328.12
	<i>HCC s106 for Speedwatch</i>	5995.00
	Total (including VAT)	£6,507.33

RESOLVED

4191. *The Council received the report of expenditure against budget to the end of October 2023.*

RESOLVED

4192. The draft budget for the year ending 31 March 2025 would be prepared at an informal meeting on 11 December 2023, and subsequently presented to the full Council for approval at the Meeting on 8 January 2024.

4193. *It was noted that the Local Government Services pay scale had been revised, with effect from 1 April 2023. This would be implemented by the Council for the December 2023 salary payment with back pay to 1 April 2023.*

RESOLVED

Community Resilience

4194. Chairman Bryan Nanson reported on the Community Resilience Plan.

- TVBC had hosted a workshop on 28 October 2023, reminding parish councils that plans are needed so that help can be distributed to residents in the event of emergency.
- The principal risk that had been identified for Ampfield was loss of electricity.
- There were several venues within the parish that could be used by the public in the event of an emergency: the Village Hall, car-park and Village Green; the Pavilion, Recreation Ground and car-park; St Mark's Room.
- Ampfield Parish Council had been working towards its plan for a few years and could now consider adopting the draft. More detail could be added later, and councillors would send ideas to Cllr Nanson.
- The draft plan contained the contact details for Cllrs Nanson, Ling and Hatley; and listed the community venues.

4195. *It was proposed to adopt the Community Plan and forward it to Test Valley Borough Council.*

RESOLVED

Recreation Ground

4196. Chairman Bryan Nanson reported that, concerning the release of s106 money for the recreation ground, arising from the construction of Broadgate Farm, we had paid the fee required by TVBC so that they could process the application.

4197. Vice Chairman Chris Ling reported that the pavilion lights had been moved to alternate RCD in order that a fault with the car park lights does not cause the RCD supplying the Cricket Club freezers to trip. One light fitting needed to be replaced.

Chapel Wood

4198. Cllr Graham Roads reported on matters at Chapel Wood.

- The Friends of Chapel Wood held a work party on the previous Saturday.
- New tools had been purchased, so that more people could work; one further set of loppers was needed.
- The footpath had been laid. This would be opened formally by Test Valley Borough Council.
- The Friends had now surveyed the path area to enable the planting to be planned (with a grant received from Waitrose).
- A change would be made to the new path, to reduce the steepness of the final step. A handrail may also be needed.

4199. *It was proposed, subject to completion of the identified minor issues (delegated to the Chairman, Clerk and Cllr Roads to manage), to pay £6,250.00 plus VAT to Stickley Landscapes for the construction of the path.*

RESOLVED

4200. Cllr Roads reported that tenders had been returned for tree work in accordance with the schedule arising from the safety survey.

4201. *It was proposed to accept the quotation from Paul Freeman Tree Services of £1,500 excluding VAT (subject to being able to arrange a separate specialist survey for decay on tree 1160).*
RESOLVED

4202. *Cllr Roads would identify a company capable of providing the recommended specialist survey of tree 1160, to ascertain the amount of decay. CBA Trees would be the preferred choice, as they had undertaken the main survey.*
RESOLVED

Footpaths

4203. Cllr Graham Roads would update the Council at a subsequent meeting on possible improvements to the network of public footpaths. He needed to speak with Jo Clark, agent for Forestry England.

Burial Ground

4204. Cllr Graham Roads had met with J N Landscapes. They have said that their original quotation would stand but were to confirm this in writing.

4205. *It was proposed to delegate responsibility for appointing the contractor for clearance work at the Burial Ground to the Chair and Clerk.*
RESOLVED

Morleys Green

4206. Chairman Bryan Nanson noted that ground rent for Morleys Green, September 2023, was due.

4207. Parking at Morleys Green was discussed. The parish council had received a complaint from an anonymous resident, about parking enforcement. Morleys Green Management Limited (MGM) would shortly have their AGM, where they would consider how to handle unauthorised parking on their land. The main issues with parking at Morleys Green were that the keeping of commercial vehicles was not permitted on the areas controlled by MGM, as per the rules set up when the site was built; and all houses had two parking spaces each, but increasingly, there are more than two vehicles per property. Both issues lead to unauthorised use of the spaces designated for Village Hall and Village Green users; and also in the visitors' spaces (one of which was the parish council's). This sometimes caused a shortage of parking for the Village Hall, notably at the Saturday Markets. Measures available to the parish council for the control unauthorised parking at Morleys Green allotments, Village Hall and Village Green spaces were:

- Having a local bylaw, which would be enforced through the Magistrates' Court; or,
- continue to issue parking notices.

4208. *It was proposed that, for the time being, the parish council would continue to monitor parking infringements at Morleys Green (allotments, Village Hall and Village Green spaces) and issue notices.*
RESOLVED

4209. Vice Chairman Chris Ling reported that he had cleared the surface water drain in the Village Hall car park.

4210. Cllr Graham Roads reported that we had been notified of the presence of Oak Processionary Moth in some of the trees at Morleys Green.

4211. *It was proposed to organise the removal of nests of OAK Processionary Moth in trees at Morleys Green, as proscribed. J N Landscapes, as our grounds maintenance contractor, would be approached in the first instance.*

RESOLVED

Former Telephone Kiosk

- 4212. Cllr Julie Trotter reported on progress with the relocation of the former telephone kiosk. The door was now in the Village Hall, ready to be repaired. We were waiting for Romsey Men’s Shed to confirm whether they would proceed with the repair project; we could then purchase materials as previously resolved. Highbridge Engineering were preparing for the relocation and had pruned overhanging trees. Borough Councillor Sally Yalden was looking into providing a grant to help with the refurbishment and fitting out.

Highways

- 4213. Vice Chairman Chris Ling reported on Highways matters. Road traffic accident data for 2022 was published on 11 October and showed two collisions within the parish which had resulted in injuries – other accidents were excluded from the data. It was noted that the parish council’s policy since 2016 was to call for the speed limit to be reduced to 40mph within the parish. The police mobile camera data, which already (partway through the year) showed an increase in the number of collisions and casualties compared to previous years.

Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

- 4214. Vice Chairman Chris Ling reported on crime statistics, available from September 2023. It was noted that the recent spate of thefts from outbuildings in Braishfield may not be recorded in the crime statistics as ‘burglary’ as this was defined as theft from houses or vehicles.

Correspondence and Communications

- 4215. It was proposed to submit the following comment for Test Valley Borough Council’ Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023: that in future years there may be a space available in the Ampfield Meadows retirement village (currently under construction) for use as a polling station.

Date of Next Meeting

- 4216. The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held in Ampfield Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 08 January 2024.

Chairman

Date