

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 15th January 2018 commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Bryan Nanson (Chairman) - Presiding
Allan Clark, Pete Edwards, Julian Jones, Graham Roads,
Margaret Rothwell, David Stevens and Julie Trotter

2644 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Martin Hatley.

2645 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 13th November 2017, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

2646 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no Matters Arising which were not covered by items on the agenda.

2647 Declarations of Interest

Julie Trotter declared a personal interest in Morleys Green, and also in the Village Hall, as she was a Trustee and Member of the Committee.

2648 Public Participation

Ms A. James and Cllr Alan Dowden were in attendance.

2648.1 Churchyard

The Chairman suspended the meeting at 7.05pm and invited Ms James to speak. She expressed concern about the condition of some of the seats in the Churchyard and the Burial Ground. She had also noticed that soil waste from burial plots was being left near seats and other places causing an unsightly mess. She thought it might be better to put the unwanted soil on the Burial Ground side where it would be less noticeable. Graham Roads explained that Ampfield Parish Council did not have responsibility for the Churchyard, only the civic Burial Ground. An area to the north of the Burial Ground had been set aside for displaced soil which could be used for topping up when graves sunk or for mixing with shreddings and used as mulch. However, he agreed to talk to the Churchwarden to see how the situation could be improved. As far as the seats were concerned, Council had

taken the decision to let them weather naturally to a grey colour; the alternative would be to re-treat them every year. The same approach had been taken with the new, good quality seats on the Village Green. However, Graham Roads, through the Friends of Chapel Wood, would try to make sure that seats were not overtaken by vegetation.

2648.2 Bus Service – route 46

The Chairman invited Cllr Dowden to speak. He expressed great concern that bus subsidies for route 46 were to cease and that Stagecoach would no longer operate the service. The subsidy was in the region of £40,000. A lot of work and effort had gone into trying to keep that service available to local residents. Passenger numbers were not high but some of those who used it relied on it to get to work and to Winchester hospital. North Baddesley and Valley Park parish councils had pledged to contribute £3,000 each. It was noted that that sum was about 10% of Ampfield's precept. Cllr Dowden advised that the same level of support was not expected from Ampfield; a smaller figure of around £1,500 would be sufficient to show commitment. These would be annual charges. A decision from Chandlers Ford parish council was awaited.

It was thought that Passenger Transport at HCC would supply passenger numbers to help inform the process. It was thought highly likely that if the service ceased it would never be re-instated. If Chandlers Ford was not in favour of support, the route could be diverted to cover those areas that were. It was pointed out that as the service had been reduced to 3 a day it was not very useful or practical to the general public. The Chairman thanked Cllr Dowden for the information. A decision would not be made immediately but the subject would be on the agenda at Council's meeting on 12th February. The meeting was re-convened.

2649 Financial Matters

2649.1 Accounts for payment, receipts and anticipated expenditure

It was proposed by Julian Jones, and seconded by Graham Roads, that the following accounts be paid:

Cheques to be signed	£ inc VAT
Dek Graphics -autumn newsletter	210.00
January salary - D Matthews	581.68
HMRC January payments	165.00
TCV Community Network membership renewal	38.00
Office Expenses - November 2017 - January 2018 - D Matthews	49.95
Business Stream - water usage Rec Ground - 16 June-19 December 2017	<u>61.31</u>
	<u>1,105.94</u>

Payments made between meetings

J N Landscapes - Morleys maintenance & pavilion seeding	5,398.80
TVBC maintenance contract	2,432.51
Bigdug racking for pavilion - Cllr Clark	214.8
NEST pension - Council's payment for November D/D	22.96
Eon - electricity estimate 15 November - pavilion	20.10
Play Inspection company	78.00
Konica Minolta - printer/copier	128.88
VDS office expenses - Cllr Roads	87.78
November salary - D Matthews	581.68
November HMRC	165.00
Allen Build & Development - pavilion construction	9,004.98
County Locksmiths - pavilion	72.48
Ace Liftaway - allotments	84.00
December salary - D Matthews	581.88
HMRC December payments	164.80
Kenn Scaddon Associates VDS exhibition boards	300.00
NEST pension - Council's payment for December D/D	22.96
Eon - electricity estimate 17 December - pavilion	<u>22.69</u>
	<u>19,384.30</u>

Council noted and approved the cheques and payments made between meetings, the most significant of which were the TVBC ground maintenance contract, pavilion construction and maintenance at Morleys Green. Council confirmed the subscription renewal for TCV Community Network. The bank statement for December 2017 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Receipts for 1st November to 31st December were modest at £320 being made up mostly of burial ground fees and the Cricket Club licence. The bank accounts on 15th January 2018 stood at £122,121.19 of which £106,542.68 was intended for payment of ground maintenance of the open spaces at Morleys Green. Details of budget and actual expenditure to end December 2017 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were discussed in detail during the setting of the budget and precept (see para 2650).

2650 Budget & Precept 2018/19

Papers showing the outturn for the current financial year, the proposed budget for 2018/19 and the resulting precept for 2018/19 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Figures were reviewed in detail. Council noted the predicted outturn figure of £71,489 and the proposed budget figure of £81,464; these together with anticipated receipts produced a precept of £35,755. This was an increase of 3.88% over the previous year. It was noted that anticipated receipts included over £32,000 of reclaimed VAT mostly from the building of the pavilion. Subject to the outturn being in line with the amount predicted, Council agreed the transfer of £28,000 to reserves which had been reduced to zero following diversion to the

construction of the pavilion. The reserve monies would be in the named accounts of recreation ground, elections and general contingency. Council also agreed a similar transfer to reserves of £24,000 in the budget for 2018/19. Council then formally approved the budget and precept. The Clerk would advise TVBC.

2651 Ampfield Recreation Ground

2651.1 Maintenance matters

There were no maintenance matters to report.

2651.2 Storage for Cricket Club

There wasn't much storage area in the new pavilion for the Cricket Club's fridge and freezer. The Club did not favour the use of the container on the western edge of the recreation ground as they thought it too far away from the pavilion and there was no electricity. They had proposed that a wooden shed be constructed along the White Horse garage wall at a cost of about £700. After discussion Council was not in favour of the proposal due to the size and cost of the shed, and to the location which covered part of the intended space for the new playground. Council was reluctant to have a small wooden hut erected behind the pavilion next to the hedge. Council agreed to get an estimate for the laying on of electricity to the container; consumption costs would remain the responsibility of the Club. Any maintenance costs for an underground pipe would need to be identified.

2652 Pavilion Progress and related projects

2652.1 Asbestos

Council confirmed its earlier decision to have an asbestos survey carried out on the old changing rooms before they were demolished. Three companies had been approached to undertake the work. Council agreed that Maryhill Asbestos Testing & Consulting Ltd be hired.

2652.2 Disabled parking bay

The disabled parking bay in the White Horse carpark, intended for those using the pavilion, had not yet been marked out. Progress was awaited from Martin Hatley. The estimated cost was £265.

The outstanding crockery order was still in hand with the Village Hall Committee.

2653 Chapel Wood

2653.1 Friends of Chapel Wood & the Burial Ground

The January working party had repaired part of the fencing on the northern boundary and had continued the clearance of Rhododendron on the western side of St Marks. The view would be enhanced once the Holly was coppiced in that area. A bonfire would be lit during the February working party to deal with the piles of arisings created by the clearance of unwanted shrubs and vegetation. Confirmation of the species of newts in the pond could not be determined until the water level dropped. There were plans to dig out the roots of the Rhododendron from the northern section of the Burial Ground and see what the results were. Council noted the correspondence about the memorial to the American airmen.

2654 Highways – Knapp Lane

A parishioner had sought help about how best to deal with the issue of poor parking at Ampfield School, Knapp Lane. The Hampshire County Council (HCC) Travel Plan Group was looking at the situation. It was for them and the School to resolve but, in the meantime, Pete Edwards and Graham Roads had visited the area at drop-off and pick-up times and confirmed there were problems with how and where people parked, especially in the afternoons. They had spoken to parents, residents and Marcus Roe, Executive Headteacher. The School was now thriving with over 60 pupils but the increased numbers had brought congestion problems. There was no easy answer; zigzag lines had been proposed but this was likely to move the problem elsewhere in the area. Park and stride was an option but there were limited places near the Village Green; the Village Hall committee would be asked about availability. Council agreed to wait to see what the various experts proposed but there was no enthusiasm for zigzag lines.

2655 Allotments

David Stevens had met with allotment holders on 4th December 2017. Major concerns remained the poor condition of the soil and the unkempt nature of some of the plots. Photographs were shown of some of the well-tended plots and of those which needed a great deal of attention. A number of allotment holders had used raised beds to avoid the stoney ground. There had also been requests for a stand pipe at the far end of the allotments to help limit the numerous trips made to the water butt during the drier months. Fitting a water pipe might be expensive; David Stevens and Julian Jones would get estimates. Failing that, an industrial quality hose, run a few inches below the surface might do the job.

It was agreed that a digger and operator would be hired to deal with vacant plot 6 and any others that allotment holders requested. It was also agreed that the parish Lengthsman would be approached about dealing with the weeds that had now appeared along all the paths and edging. Pete Edwards would supply contact

details. It was noted that the surplus stones could be used to make paths within the plots. It was agreed that the condition of plots would be monitored, that the Clerk would write to all allotment holders about the need to keep plots in cultivation and that more formal letters would be written to those whose plots were left untended.

2656 Village Design Statement

The latest version of the revised Village Design Statement had been circulated prior to the meeting. Council endorsed the document which would now go before TVBC for adoption. A booklet would be produced of the final version. It was agreed that invitations to tender would be drawn up and issued to 3 companies for the design and print work. This would be done by Graham Roads for issue in February.

2657 Reports from Committees & Portfolio Holders

David Stevens reported that the van for use by the Village Wardens had been purchased and was being stored locally until funding issues had been resolved. Ampfield had agreed to a contribution of £80 towards the cost of the vehicle but had not yet committed any expenditure to the operation of the service. Pete Edwards had met with the senior TVBC Highways Engineer to explore traffic calming measures and modifications to the section of the A3090 through the village. Details of costed proposals were awaited. A meeting with Stagecoach would be held soon about the re-routing of the 66 bus service. The parish Lengthsman was next due on 24th January; priorities would be the re-instatement of the Hursley Road notice board and the clearing of the pavement from the end of Knapp Lane to Morleys.

2658 Correspondence & Communications

A list of items received on paper and electronically is at Annex A.

The Village Agents scheme had been publicised; there had been no response to date.

2659 Test Valley Borough Council

Councillor Hatley was not in attendance.

2660 Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 12th February 2018 starting at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Ampfield. Subject to availability of the Hall, the Parish Assembly would be held on Monday 30th April 2018.

2661 Closure

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....