

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in St Mark's Room, St Mark's Church, Ampfield on Monday, 13th July 2015 commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Bryan Nanson (Chairman)
Allan Clark, Martin Hatley (from para 2276), Julian Jones,
Graham Roads (from para 2273), and Margaret Rothwell

2264 Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Pete Edwards and David Stevens.

2265 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 8th June 2015, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

2266 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

2267 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary, or code of conduct, interests.

2268 Co-option to Council

Members discussed the application made by Mrs Julie Trotter, 2 Broadgate Cottages, to become a councillor. A vote was taken and Mrs Trotter was co-opted onto Ampfield Parish Council. The Clerk would arrange for all the necessary paperwork to be completed. It was agreed that the recruitment exercise, which had been running for 2 months, would now be closed.

2269 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

2270 Code of Conduct

Council confirmed adoption of the revised Code of Conduct for councillors, issued by Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) earlier in April 2015. The Clerk would make minor adjustments to reflect parish, rather than borough, council terminology and then would issue it to members.

2271 Ampfield Recreation Ground

The arras rails on the playground fence continued to need attention or replacement. There were 6 new rails in stock. A plumber had been called in to fix the leak on the stand-pipe. The second section of the newly erected sign, publicising Ampfield and North Baddesley Cricket Club, had been given planning permission and would be erected shortly. The Club had been asked to consider if the colour scheme was the best for the site. TVBC had been asked to cut the hedge along the A3090 (it was difficult to see the sign through the vegetation) and to treat the weeds around the Recreation Ground

2272 Financial Matters

2272.1 Accounts for payment

Council agreed the advance payment to TVBC for management of the Speed Limit Reminder sign for the next 12 months. It was then proposed by Mr Jones, and seconded by Miss Rothwell, that the following accounts be paid:

Cheques to be signed at meeting	£ inc VAT
Hire of St Mark's room for 13th July meeting	20.00
TVBC fee for uncontested Parish Election on May 2015	24.10
Office Expenses 12 May - 12 July 2015 - D Matthews	53.89
Crawley Parish Council - waste disposal Lengthsman April 2015	24.00
G Phelps - work at playground - posts, fixings and labour	153.80
Play Inspection Company - annual inspection in June	71.94
TVBC management of SLR sign from July 2015 - June 2016	835.00
Southern Water - usage from 10 Dec 2014-10 June 2015	16.59
Ashley Barnard – website work - April15-March16	99.00
D Matthews- July Salary	581.73
HM Revenue & Customs- July payments	152.68
D Matthews- August Salary	581.93
HM Revenue & Customs- August payments	152.48
Coach screws for playground – Cllr Clark	<u>6.27</u>
	<u>2773.41</u>

Payments made between meetings

None

2272.2 Receipts and anticipated payments

Receipts for June had been £545.86, the majority of which was from the Burial Ground. The bank accounts stood at £50,741.13 of which £33,250 was in named reserves. Budget & actual expenditure figures had been issued prior to the meeting. Expenditure for the year to end June remained modest at under 14% of budget but this would increase significantly in September when the bi-annual loan instalments were due for the Burial Ground and for the Recreation Ground. The 2 largest items of expenditure shown were the 2 defibrillators, much of the cost of which had been met by donation and by the Borough Councillor's fund received in the previous financial year.

2272.3 External Audit

Notice of the external audit had been posted on notice boards on 8th June 2015. This advised electors of their rights to question the auditor, and to examine the accounts which were available to them from 22 June to 17 July 2015. The Annual Return was with the external auditors for review from 20th July 2015.

2272.4 Village Hall Update

Council had received a letter from the solicitors acting for the Women's Institute (W.I.) in the sale of Ampfield Village Hall. It was agreed that Ampfield Parish Council would follow this up through their own solicitor.

The meeting went in to closed session at 7.20pm.

2272.5 This paragraph is commercial in confidence

The meeting returned to an open session at 7.28pm.

2272.6 To celebrate the re-opening of the Village Hall following completion of the building and renovation works carried out over the summer, the Market would return on Saturday 5th September between 10.00am and midday and with an exhibition of works from the Ampfield Art Group. There would be an opening ceremony in the evening between 6pm and 8pm; all residents would be invited to both sessions.

2273 Chapel Wood

2273.1 Burial Ground

Due to a misunderstanding between the applicant and the stone mason, a memorial stone had been erected in the Burial Ground without Council's knowledge or agreement, and without payment of the fee. Had the application come before Council at the correct time it is not certain whether the proposed design would have been accepted without amendment. However, Council had no wish to distress the family and so would seek a retrospective application to be made and would require the family to let the design fade with weather over the years.

2273.2 Friends of Chapel Wood and Work in the Woodland

Members of a recent working party had concentrated on the pond and had removed lots of sediment; some rain was needed now to top up the level of the pond. Some bracken had been cut back to improve lines of sight and gaps in the box hedge needed to be filled. The tree tie on the young Oak still fitted well. There had been a couple of meetings on the design and nature of the replacement dipping platform which would be erected in memory of Martin Trotter. Nothing had been decided yet but a visit had been paid to a similar project to see how others tackled it and this had been very helpful. A couple of sparrow hawks had been found dead with no obvious cause of death. Mr Roads had reported the incident to several wild life authorities. Trees which had been growing in or near cables had been cut back recently by Scottish & Southern Energy. If volunteers were available, it was intended to run a working party in August; the annual management meeting was also due to be held in August.

2274 Correspondence and Communications

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

Council noted that an Electoral Review of Hampshire was underway which was expected to draw new county division boundaries across Hampshire. However, councillor numbers were to remain at 78 elected members. The closing date for consultation was 3rd August 2015. Council decided on this occasion not to make comment.

2275 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

The Potters Heron and Keats Restaurant had not renewed their sponsorship of the parish website but Council was pleased to note that Hyde Housing and the Perbury Group had become new sponsors for the year. Progress with the village hall calendar on the website had been slow. Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area was planning a talk in November but the subject had not yet been finalised. An organised walk was being considered for September, perhaps from the Village to Braishfield and back. A trip round Fishlake Meadows was also planned.

2276 Planning

Council considered the paper about Neighbourhood Plans and the Village Design Statement which had been prepared by the Chairman and circulated prior to the meeting. In recognising that Neighbourhood Plans were primarily intended to foster development, and could not be used to prevent new development, Council concluded that they were not the best planning tool for the parish at this time. However, Ampfield's Village Design Statement (VDS) remained a supplementary planning document to be taken account of by Test Valley Borough Council. Although much of the VDS was still valid the document might benefit from an update to better reflect the community's view of the look and feel of the parish. It was agreed that the feasibility and cost of a review of the VDS would be undertaken. Allan Clark would lead the review supported by Margaret Rothwell and other councillors as appropriate. Martin Hatley advised that he held documents relating to the first VDS which could be made available if needed. The event on 8th July 2015, organised by the Hyde Housing Group and TVBC about affordable housing at Morleys, had not been well-attended. If required, it would be repeated.

2277 Test Valley Borough Council

Martin Hatley advised that TVBC was still awaiting the Inspector's report on the Borough Local Plan. The Inspector was still asking questions but it was expected that he would report in September. It was noted that the 5-year land supply requirements would not be affected by the new Local Plan. It was recognised that, currently, building in the countryside was difficult to control.

2278 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Ampfield Parish Council would be held on Monday, 14th September 2015 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Ampfield.

2279 Closure

The meeting closed at 8.16pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....