

## Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of the Parish of Ampfield held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Mr Bryan Nanson (Chairman of the Parish Council)–Presiding

Parish Councillors Mr Allan Clark  
Mr Pete Edwards  
Mr Martin. D. Hatley (Borough Councillor)  
Mr Julian A. Jones  
Mr Graham C. A. Roads  
Dr. Margaret Rothwell  
Mr David Stevens  
Mrs Julie Trotter

County Councillor Mr Alan G. Dowden (County Councillor)

Approx. 15 parishioners

Clerk to the Council Mrs Doreen Matthews

### 1/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr & Mrs Bailey, Mr Simon Harris of Gosport Farm, Storm Perrett, Police Community Support Officer and the Revd Ashdown of St Mark's ministry team.

### 2/17 Minutes

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Assembly held on 24th April, 2016 having been circulated, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

### 3/17 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising not covered by items on the agenda.

### 4/17 Chairman's Review of the Year

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He summarised what had been a very busy and challenging year. The construction of the pavilion was finally

underway and was due to be completed at the end of the summer. This had been the biggest project that Ampfield Parish Council (APC) had ever undertaken. The trial of dogs being allowed on the Recreation Ground would be reviewed at APC's July meeting. If anyone had any views about the trial, the Chairman would be pleased to hear them. 5 new bins for dog waste had been installed in suitable places around the Parish. He was aware that people were concerned about apparent flouting of planning conditions and permissions; enforcement was a lengthy process and it was not easy to get a successful outcome.

Council remained active on the highways front and continued to engage with TVBC Highways officers about traffic calming measures on the A3090. A new lease for the Village Hall had been agreed with the Hall committee. The review of the Village Design Statement was a very important task and required a lot of work and time. There was still a lot to learn about the running of allotments but the allotment holders continued to apply themselves and had produced some good crops. It was early days in the management of the green, public spaces at Morleys Green; parishioners were making good use of the Village Green. The Friends of Chapel Wood had continued to maintain the woodland and to clear encroaching shrubs and vegetation to reclaim old vistas. The criminal damage to the signs in the woodland had been distressing. The Chairman thanked Councillors and others in the community, for their support which had been much appreciated.

#### 5/17 Borough Councillor's Report

The Chairman introduced Martin Hatley and invited him to add to, or expand on, items in his report which had been included in the spring newsletter and circulated throughout the Parish. Martin Hatley emphasised the importance of neighbourhood planning and bringing up to date design statements and parish plans. A community planning toolkit had been produced which would benefit all parishes. The Borough Local Plan, which had been adopted the previous year, was now in place and was protecting the area from unwanted development. However things never stood still and government was working on a new housing white paper which would require reviews every 5 years. Also housing projections to 2036 were requested; it was not easy to predict requirements that far ahead.

#### 6/17 Council Finances & Administration

The Chairman presented the following to the Meeting:-

- (a) the Audited Accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 together with the schedules and assurances required by the External Auditors
- (b) expenditure details to March 2017 (provisional)
- (c) the budget and build-up of figures for the Parish Precept for 2017/2018

Details of the financial information presented were included in the packs made available at the meeting and on the parish website. Using slides, the Chairman showed the major variances between budget and actual costs. These included the pavilion, new benches for the Village Green and the new speed limit sign, all of which had been offset by grants. Maintenance of the Recreation and Burial Grounds had been less than budget.

The Precept for the new financial year had been set at £34,419 which, compared with the previous year, was an increase of £517 or 1.53%. However, taking account of the additional properties at Morleys Green and at Broadgate Farm, the overall impact was a decrease of 4.7% per household. By way of comparison the precept in 2008/2009 was £38,127.

At 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 working capital stood at £4,970, reserves at £18,418 and £1,225 allotment refundable deposits. Commuted funds of £106,569 had been allocated by the developer to pay for ground maintenance of the open spaces at Morleys Green for the next £20 years.

The meeting agreed to receive the finance report.

#### 7/17 Planning

Planning applications for the previous 12 months had been fairly steady with the Planning Committee meeting 14 times. The developments at Morleys Green and Broadgate Farm were beginning to mature and it was easier to see now how they might look in the future. Allan Clark had advised that some applications, which were on the borders of the parish but not actually in Ampfield, had not initially been referred to the APC for comment. This was of particular concern with the application for 365 dwellings at Flexford. Residents were encouraged to let Council know about any planning proposal on adjacent boundaries. In response to a query about whether TVBC had a statutory duty to advise neighbours about planning proposals on the borders of their land, Martin Hatley advised that TVBC would normally advise neighbours in such circumstances. However, this related to where the proposal was next to a dwelling not, for example, to farmland. Lists of planning applications and decisions for the Borough were sent to parish councils each week. Allan Clark confirmed that he did now review those lists.

Allan Clark explained the process whereby parish councils could address the Southern Area Planning Committee and the Planning Control Committee about contentious applications. It was thought important that Ampfield Planning Committee should make such representations whenever proposals gave cause for concern. From time to time over the year residents had complained about the development opposite the Potters Heron. TVBC was well aware of the issues and was following procedures. Planning enforcement was a detailed and slow process.

8/17 Village Design Statement

Graham Roads updated everyone about progress with the review of the Village Design Statement (VDS). 214 questionnaires had been completed and returned; this represented just under a third of the households in Ampfield. TVBC regarded that as an acceptable number. The analysis of the questionnaire responses had now been done. There had been quite a lot of change in the landscape since the original VDS 15 years ago. The first written draft of the revised VDS would be available in late summer. A six week period of consultation would be set up with exhibitions. Everyone was encouraged to attend and comment on proposals. Graham Roads thanked the review team for their hard work and enthusiasm. He confirmed that the VDS would re-inforce the planning guidelines in the Local Plan. It was noted that development couldn't be prevented but that the VDS would give the parish a formal voice in the process.

9/17 The New Pavilion

The Chairman reminded everyone that the pavilion had been given planning permission in 2005. It had taken a long time to identify and organise the finances. The building work was going well and it was hoped to be completed by the end of June 2017. Unexpected changes in the building regulations, which no longer allowed electric heating in a location such as the Recreation Ground, had been a set-back and had added £12,000 to the project costs. The Cricket Club had been the only users for some time as other potential customers had been deterred by the poor facilities. There was no intention in the new pavilion's first year of use to actively pursue other customers. An invitation to meet with those who ran Compton Tennis Club and pavilion was gratefully accepted. The next step was to install a car park, and to re-locate the playground to the north east sector of the Recreation Ground. It was noted that a more adventurous playground would be welcomed.

10/17 Transport and Road Safety

Pete Edwards brought everyone up to date with the 36 bus route. An additional bus shelter at the junction of Hook Road and the A3090 was planned; this would be financed from S106 funds from the Morleys Green development. The disruption caused by the changes to the Jermyns Lane junction with the A3090 had been considerable but the work had been done for safety reasons to reduce the number of accidents, and to help deal with the increased traffic from the Abbotswood development. A preliminary meeting had been held with TVBC Highways to look at traffic calming measures and to explore ways of changing the nature of the A3090, though the village. This would not be an easy or quick project but would be beneficial for that part of the Parish. A new Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) sign had been purchased following the breakdown of the existing machine. The new SLR could measure volume of traffic and the speeds of drivers. The

information would be put on the parish website as soon as the data became available. Council had developed a speed limit policy for areas of the A3090. These included a 30 mph extension of a section beyond St Mark's Church to the Forestry Commissions entrance and to introduce 40 mph limits at either end of the de-restricted sections before they reduced to 30mph.

It was thought that the speed with which people drove along Hook Crescent had increased significantly over the years. Beechwood Crescent had speed bumps but that might not be appropriate for Hook Crescent. Alan Dowden advised that approval for this had been sought before but that the Police would not support it; nor had a speed limit of 40mph around St Mark's been accepted. Traffic calming would not generally be considered unless it was needed to reduce instances of injury or death. Martin Hatley had been involved in the Beechwood Crescent issues. APC had had to pay 50% of the costs of the introduction of the speed bumps. Now they were not so popular as residents complained of noise. The Lengthsman service continued to be funded by HCC for 8 days a year. This was often about doing small jobs around the parish which were usually overlooked but which had the effect of making the parish look much neater and tidier.

#### 11/17 Allotments

Using slides, Julian Jones showed the bare allotment site as it was at the start of the first season and then the healthy crops produced at the height of the summer. The site was well appointed with kitchen, toilet, electricity, water and adjacent parking. The condition of the soil was poor with barely a worm to be seen. It needed a lot of digging and feeding to make it workable and allotmenters had worked hard in trying to make it fertile. Regular meetings were held with allotment holders and a good community spirit had developed. Council would continue to work with them to improve the site. There were 7 people on the waiting list for plots; anyone interested should contact the Clerk.

#### 12/17 Friends of Chapel Wood

The clearance of Rhododendron ponticum continued; this was to help open up the view between the pond and St Mark's. If not kept in check the Rhododendron would swamp all other plants and vegetation. It was also important to keep the stream that feeds the pond flowing and healthy. Reported sightings of amphibians in the pond had meant that, until the species was identified, no work could be done to re-instate the dipping platform. Work continued to support the cruciform hedge in the Burial Ground. Due to poor soil and drainage, plants had been lost and replaced over successive winters but the box and yew plants had now grown sufficiently to be trimmed and cut to shape. The clearance of Rhododendron from the north side of the area had opened it up and allowed borrowed views into Forestry Commission woodland. The increasingly large piles of arisings were dealt with by shredding and by bonfires. Graham Roads thanked the Friends of

Chapel Wood for the time and effort they spent on maintaining and improving the community Woodland and the Burial Ground. Everyone was encouraged to come along and enjoy the amenity and to join the working group.

#### 13/17 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

The ACHA continued to organise events which would help everyone be more aware of nature and of the precious countryside in which they lived. It was a privilege to learn from experts and the guided tour by Wolfgang Bopp, of part of the Sir Harold Hillier gardens, had been a joy. A talk about Ampfield's history by a local historian was being organised for November. Work continued to bring the Keble Way booklet up to date.

#### 14/17 Other Reports - Local Police Report

David Stevens presented the report on crime in the previous 12 months, prepared by PCSO Storm Perrott. There had been few serious incidents. Ampfield remained a relatively safe place to live. However, it was important to remain vigilant and report any suspicious incidents; two dwelling burglaries were prevented due to such reports. Leaflets about rogue traders were available in the hall; PCSO Perrott would make house visits to advise people about how to protect themselves. Some concern was expressed about the slow response and Police attitude to 101 calls. David Stevens would feedback those observations to PCSO Perrott. It was noted that she attended Council meetings from time to time and parishioners were welcome to raise issues with her.

There were no comments on other reports.

#### 15/17 Open Forum

A query was raised about the prospect of having a children's playground on Morleys Green as it wasn't easy for children to cross the busy road to get to the Recreation Ground. The Chairman explained that, unlike the Recreation Ground which was owned by the Parish, the open spaces at Morleys Green were leased to the Parish Council. The landowner's agreement would be needed before any such changes were introduced. However, once the playground had been relocated on the Recreation Ground, thought would be given to establishing some play equipment on Morleys Green.

Heavy duty vehicles were being directed up Knapp Lane by their satnav systems but the lane was not suitable for such heavy loads and too narrow for them to turn easily. Pete Edwards would discuss with HCC traffic management about suitable signage. Concern was expressed about the water table and the pressure on water supplies created by increasing housing development in the area. Martin Hatley advised that the water authorities were automatically contacted about water supplies when any development was being proposed. It was not so much the

supply that was the problem but the quality. Alan Dowden pointed out that Southern Water had a duty to connect up developments to water supplies; they rarely objected to any such proposals. The pressure to build more houses continued.

There were no further questions or comments. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm and invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

Chairman.....

Date.....