

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 11th March commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Miss M.I. Rothwell (Chairman) – Presiding
Mr A. Clark, Mr P Edwards, Mr M. D. Hatley (from para 1981),
Mr J.A. Jones, Mr B.W. Nanson, Mr G.C.A.Roads,
Mr D. Stevens

1973 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mr Butcher and Mr Hatley who had other commitments; Mr Hatley would attend later.

1974 Minutes

Mr Butcher had advised the Clerk that Mr De Silva was Head of Teaching and Learning at Ampfield CE Primary School and not at John Keble as recorded in paragraph 1969.3 of the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2013. It was agreed that an amendment should be recorded after which the minutes were confirmed.

1975 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

1976 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

1977 Public Participation

Mr Harrison, of Green Lane was present at the meeting and stayed until the end.

1978 Condition of Green Lane

Miss Rothwell explained to Mr Harrison how the meeting would be conducted. She adjourned the meeting at 7.02pm and invited him to speak. Mr Harrison had been a resident of Green Lane for many years and had watched the gradual deterioration of the lay-byes and the erosion of the verges in Green Lane, made much worse by the very wet winter. The Lane had not been designed to deal with the heavy vehicles going to and from the industrial estate, the marker posts had disappeared and the lay-byes were full of mud and had been eroded. Mr Clark

had visited the Lane and agreed that reparative work needed to be done. The damage was worse on the Romsey Extra side of the Lane. Hampshire Highways had carried out emergency repairs to fill holes under the bridge but a more comprehensive review of the overall condition of the Lane needed to be undertaken. Mr Clark was awaiting a response from Hampshire Highways to his request to walk the Lane with them and Mr Harrison to see what could be done. Council agreed that Mr Clark should raise the matter with County Councillor Alan Dowden. Miss Rothwell thanked Mr Harrison for advising Council of the situation and reconvened the meeting at 7.14pm.

1979 Ampfield Recreation Ground

Work during the autumn to contain the rabbit damage had been successful. A recent pitch inspection had shown some fresh holes but these would be dealt with and repair work would continue, as necessary, during the season. The bullocks, which had strayed onto the pitch on a few occasions from the lower field, had been moved to other pastures and the ground appeared to have recovered. Assurances had been received from the tenant farmer that the fence would be repaired before they returned later in the year; this would be monitored. Further proposals to improve the area east of the playground were in hand and an estimate was being sought for the use of a digger, up to a cost of £300.

1980 Chapel Wood

1980.1 Friends of Chapel Wood (FOCW)

The working parties organised for January and February had had to be abandoned because of the snowy weather. An extra session had been set up in late February to have a bonfire and get rid of a great deal of arisings and other vegetation.

1980.2 Work in the Woodland

Progress continued to be made in coppicing Holly, clearing Rhododendron and opening up new vistas. A small ceremony had been organized for the next working party on 13th April to plant the Jubilee Oak. Miss Rothwell had kindly agreed to plant the tree. The purchase of posts and deer fencing to protect the tree, up to a cost of £75, had been agreed. It was also agreed that 3 Amelanchier, at a cost of approx. £37 each, would be purchased. These were attractive, multi-branched trees which would be planted in April down near the pond. Council agreed to the request from the Parochial Church Council to hold an Easter egg hunt in the woodland subject to the conduct of a risk assessment. The Forestry Commission intended to cut down more Rhododendrons along their boundary with Chapel Wood, the Burial Ground and some residents' gardens in Knapp Lane; there had as yet been no correspondence with residents about the

work. Forestry Commission had indicated that they would consider planting a “country hedge” along the boundary instead, should Council wish it. It was agreed that Mr Roads would write formally to the land agent of the adjacent woodland to pursue the request to make the route through from the Burial Ground to the Potters Heron Hotel, a permissive footpath.

1980.3 Burial Ground

The yews were in good health and the box plants had survived the winter better than expected; a foliar feed would be applied to give them a boost. About 20 plants, which had been held in reserve, were available in case of losses. A large number of Rhododendrons had been cleared from the western section of the Burial Ground leaving a huge pile of arisings and numerous stumps. It was agreed that Council should accept TVBC’s estimate of £285 for 2 days work to shred and remove the material. Once that was cleared away, consideration would be given to how best to extract and remove the stumps. Mr Roads would get quotes for the use of a digger. Once all that was completed a survey of the area could be undertaken and the graves spaces properly marked out.

1980.4 War Memorial

Mr Roads would seek an up-to-date evaluation of the American Airmen War Memorial for insurance purposes.

1981 Financial Matters

1981.1 Accounts for payment

It was proposed by Mr Nanson, and seconded by Mr Jones, that the following accounts be paid:

<u>Cheques to be signed at the meeting:</u>	£ (inc VAT)
Ampfield Parochial Church Council-Messenger donation	60.00
TV Community Services-dial-a ride donation	200.00
Office Expenses-D. Matthews	119.30
March salary- D.Matthews	654.25
HMRC –March payments	227.41
TCV Community Network membership	<u>38.00</u>
	<u>1298.96</u>

Payments made between meetings

IOT/Sharp-copier hire	34.60
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Allbrook Pest Control-moles	80.00
Printing cost bus survey-Cllr Edwards	56.00
Ampfield Village Hall-correction to cheque 1569	<u>0.27</u>
	<u>170.87</u>

1981.2 Income and anticipated expenditure

Council agreed the annual donations in support of the Messenger magazine and for the dial-a ride facility. Council reviewed actual expenditure to end of February and the predicted out-turn to the year-end. It was agreed that £100 out-turn on speed sign maintenance should be deleted as should the £75 against fixed assets. It was also agreed that £1700 should be transferred to the Recreation Ground reserve fund. Mr Nanson would pursue the acquisition of the minor pieces of technical equipment needed to improve the laptop usage and the back-up devices. Mr Nanson explained that more information about the changes to the Council Tax Base and its effect on band D properties and, hence, the precept, were awaited from TVBC.

1981.3 Assets including replacement printer

Mr Nanson had put out an invitation to tender to 3 firms for a replacement office printer/copier. Only 2 firms had replied and so a further one had been approached and details were awaited. It was agreed that a 4-year deal was preferred. When the final quote was received Mr Nanson would summarise the bids and make a recommendation for selection to Council.

1981.4 Maintenance contract

Council agreed to the renewal of the ground maintenance contract with TVBC.

1982 Parish Assembly 2013

The contract to produce the newsletter had been let and articles were being completed. The Clerk would issue another update to contributors advising of the firm deadlines for submission. Miss Rothwell advised that she would write the Village Hall article. Mr Hatley confirmed the supply of refreshments; Mrs Butcher and Mrs Roads had kindly agreed to help serve them.

1983 Health & Safety Policy

It was agreed that Council would adopt the Health & Safety policy template from Hampshire Association of Local Councils. Mr Roads, in liaison with Mr Nanson & the Clerk, would make any necessary amendments and bring it before Council for consideration.

1984 Communication Policy

Mr Edwards continued to discuss communication issues and ideas with Members as part of the review process. He and Mr Jones were working on the creation of an e-mail address registration, via the website, for those who were interested in receiving news and updates. The registration, updated website and twitter feed were highlighted in the annual newsletter and would be explored further with parishioners at the Parish Assembly in April.

1985 Correspondence and Communications

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

It was agreed that an advert for a charity run organised by Bradbeers could be placed on notice boards. It was noted that details had been sent to Council about a cleaning service for war memorials. The war memorials at the end of Knapp Lane had been “power washed” a couple of years before and were not thought to need further work. However, the situation might be reviewed when more information was received about any special events linked to the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War next year.

1986 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

1986.1 Planning Committee

The following applications had been commented on after discussion on:

28th January 2013

13/0007/TPOS	Amberwood, Jermyns Lane
12/02791/FULLS	21 Hocombe Wood Road
12/02796/TPOS	The Trees, 22 Beechwood Crescent

14th February 2013

12/02086/FULLS	The Vicarage, Knapp Lane
13/00169/TPOS	Half Acre House, Hook Close
13/00168/TPOS	20 Baddesley Road
12/02762/FULLS	7 Green Pond Lane

5th March 2013

13/00299/TPOS	Clearwell, Hook Crescent
12/02762/FULLS	7 Green Pond Lane
13/00300/TREES	Forty Winks, 169 Knapp Lane

Mr Clark reminded everyone that comments on the revised draft Local Plan had to be made by 26th April 2013. It was agreed that Council would, as before, support the proposed settlement boundaries and the local gaps of Chandlers Ford/Ampfield and North Baddesley/Romsey. Mr Clark and Miss Rothwell would prepare a draft response for circulation to members before dispatch. Mr Hatley advised that a consultation on the revised Local Plan was due to take place on 13 March at North Baddesley; Mr Clark would attend if practicable.

1986.2 Public Transport & Highway Liaison

Mr Edwards had arranged for the printing and distribution of leaflets to residents living in the Baddesley Road area and nearby streets encouraging them to take part in a bus survey being run by Hampshire County Council (HCC). No formal results from the consultation were available yet but there was some optimism that the C3/C4 bus route would be resumed. Feedback on the data collected was expected and could be very useful in considering future transport issues.

Mr Clark was pleased to report that HCC had agreed to fund Ampfield's entry into the Lengthsman scheme provided a suitable group could be found. Discussions had already taken place with Otterbourne, who led a group of 10 parishes in their area, and it was agreed that Mr Clark would take this forward.

1986.3 Ampfield School Liaison

The number of pupils continued to increase and stood at 35 which was a significant increase from the September 2012 figure of 24. The School library had been substantially expanded and was opened on 7th March by John Chapman who writes and illustrates books for younger children. The School featured on the front page of the Romsey Advertiser on 8th March for their project on the ancient Egyptians.

1986.4 Safer Neighbourhood-Local Action Group

The Group would next meet at Romsey Police station. Mr Edwards and Mr Stevens had attended a Community Speedwatch meeting at West Wellow on 5th March 2013. The meeting was well attended and provided useful insights into the advantages and disadvantages of such a scheme. Mr Edwards had issued a short report to Council. It was agreed that Council would monitor how the scheme worked in other parishes before making any firm decisions. Mr Stevens had included the scheme in his article for the annual newsletter and had encouraged anyone interested in speed issues to make contact.

It was reported that individuals had now been charged with disorderly conduct following the incident of men in a van harassing people on horseback in Knapp Lane. PCSO Jo Cole had been invited to attend the refreshment session at the Parish Assembly to meet people.

1986.5 Website

Mr Jones advised that the new website was live and looked a lot better and clearer than the previous one. It would continue to be developed over the coming months.

1986.6 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

Mr Roads would organise a meeting to discuss the future activities of ACHA. It was hoped to review the Keble Way route and maps, bring everything up to date and raise its profile.

1986.7 Finance Committee

Footpath Warden

Hampshire Association of Local Councils

Test Valley Association of Parish Councils (TVAPC)

Tree Wardens/Environment

Village Hall Liaison

There was nothing new to report.

1987 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Mr Hatley reminded everyone again that the closing date for comments on the revised Local Plan was 4.30pm on 26th April 2013. The Local Plan, which now covered an 18-year rather than 20-year period, would be operational until 2029. A grant of £60,000 from Government to help freeze council tax this year would have meant greater difficulty in dealing with increases in subsequent years. The modest increase in Council tax being applied this year would mean about 10 pence per week for a band D property. Test Valley remained one of the 17 lowest council tax charges in the country.

Mr Hatley advised everyone that the move of certain services and offices to Andover from Duttons Road, Romsey had gone well. Setting aside travelling time, staff were generally pleased with their new accommodation. The second section of the cycle way from the bridge to the entrance of North Millars Dale was now under construction. It was not yet known what would happen next in extending the cycle way.

1988 Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council, which would be the Annual Meeting, would be held on Monday, 13th May 2013 in the Village Hall, Ampfield starting at 7.00pm. The Parish Assembly would be held on Monday, 29th April 2013 at 7.30pm.

1989 Closure

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....