

## Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010 commencing at 7pm.

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

1679 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mr E.H. Butcher and Mr D.J.E.Gilks, who were absent for personal reasons, and from Mr G.J. Choules who had other commitments.

1680 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

1681 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

1682 Declarations of Interest

Mr Hatley declared an interest in the Village Hall as Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee. He also declared an interest in the request for a bus shelter opposite Wheelhouse Caravan Park (para. 1686) as the proposed site was adjacent to his premises.

1683 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

1684 Housing Needs Survey

The closing date for the questionnaire had been 6<sup>th</sup> August 2010; no information about the outcome of the survey had been received.

1685 Ampfield Recreation Ground

1685.1 Drainage

As previously agreed, in order to address the problems of poor drainage, which had made the football pitch unplayable for most of last season, invitations to tender to improve drainage had been issued to 4 suppliers; 2 had been returned, 1 was awaited and 1 had declined. Council agreed to make a grant application to Viridor. Mr Nanson and the Clerk would take it forward.

1685.2 Provision of electricity and water

Electricity had been supplied to the portakabins; this had not only improved safety but had also provided lighting to both buildings. The sports clubs had agreed to pay £200 towards the cost and £930 had been received from S106 developer funds, leaving a net cost to Council of £142. The leaking standpipe had now been fixed with a new tap having been fitted by EMCOR as a gesture of goodwill. Council thanked Mr Clark for his work in steering through both these tasks.

1685.3 Maintenance and moles

The grass had been cut in the playground and the weeds had been cut back between the playground and the hedge. The loose rails reported during a recent playground inspection had been fixed; it was agreed that further maintenance work should be done to help ensure all the rails were secure. It was also agreed that Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) ground maintenance staff should be asked to cut the hedge between the playground and the A3090. Although the weeds had been flailed around the perimeter earlier in the season, the Football Club continued to lose balls in the gullies which were full of nettles again. It was agreed that Mr Nanson would discuss this with TVBC to see what could be done to improve the situation.

Moles had returned to the Recreation Ground and molehills had appeared between the cricket square and the eastern boundary with the White Horse Pub. In order to protect the square, a molecatcher had been employed to deal with the problem.

1685.4 Ownership of buildings

Some doubt had been cast over the ownership of the changing rooms on the Recreation Ground. The Clerk had sought legal advice and had reviewed the documents relating to the purchase of the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that Miss Rothwell, Mr Nanson and the Clerk would take forward this issue and clarify the situation invoking professional legal advice if necessary.

1685.5 Agreements with the Football and Cricket Clubs

Council agreed the terms of the agreement with the Football Club for the 2010/2011 season. Mr Nanson would confirm that appropriate insurance had been taken out. The Clerk would arrange for the signing of the document by both parties. It was noted that the present lease with the Cricket Club would end this financial year and that a new agreement would have to be drafted. Mr Nanson would keep Council informed of progress.

1686 Bus shelter at Green Pond Lane

A quote had been received for the erection of a new bus shelter at the end of Green Pond Lane. It was agreed that the shelter, which would be in the same style and materials as others in the Village, required only one “window”, facing eastwards in the direction of the bus. To reduce maintenance, the “window” would be open having no glass or polycarbonate material. The bench, which was currently on the proposed site of the bus shelter, would be removed and repositioned, possibly on the Recreation Ground. Three invitations to tender had been issued for the demolition of the existing brick shelter; one had been returned, one had been declined and one was awaited. Funds from various sources would be sought for the whole project. Mr Hatley would seek agreement from TVBC that S106 developer funds would be available before any order was placed. It was agreed that Miss Rothwell, Mr Nanson and the Clerk would take forward the project.

A parishioner had requested of TVBC that a bus shelter be erected on Baddesley Road, opposite Wheelhouse Caravan Park. Council agreed, in principle, to the purchase of another bus shelter when funds were available. The style of shelter best suited to the location was likely to be a steel cantilever type. Mr Hatley would arrange for TVBC to examine the feasibility of placement at the site and to conduct a safety audit. The Clerk would write in response to the request.

1687 Financial Matters

1687.1 Accounts for payment

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

<u>Cheques to be signed at the meeting:</u>	£ (inc VAT)
Cllr Clark- items for Rec Grnd	144.13
Stadia Sports- replacement socket lids for goal	149.23
Office Expenses	15.87
D Matthews - September salary	523.06
HMRC- September payments	185.71
D Matthews - October salary	523.26
HMRC- October payments	<u>185.51</u>
	<u>1726.77</u>

Payments made between meetings

Cllr Roads- masks for woodland work	6.99
Ampfield Village Hall hire	126.00
C Hoare Tree Services -fallen Oak	1480.50
AJ Goss- trench for electrics on Rec Grnd	390.00
Ampfield Electrical- electrics on Rec Grnd	960.00
Audit Commission- external audit 2009/2010	<u>334.88</u>
	<u>3298.37</u>

1687.2 Income

Income for the period had been low at just under £300. Included in this was £100 from the Football Club as advance payment for training sessions. The second instalment of the Precept was due before the end of the month.

1687.3 Anticipated Expenditure

Council reviewed expenditure against budget for the period ending August 2010. Approximately 30% of budget had been spent. Expenditure would increase when the loan payments for Chapel Wood and for the Recreation Ground were paid in September.

1687.4 Annual Return

The Annual Return for 2009/2010 had been returned by the Audit Commission without comment. Notices would be placed on boards advising the electorate of their right to inspect and/or copy the Annual Return.

1688 Correspondence and Communications

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

1688.1 Test Valley Borough Council

Independent Remuneration Panel

TVBC had announced its intention to review Borough Council Members' allowances in early October. Council noted the offer to include Parish Council Members in that review but the general view was that there was no need to create a new allowance scheme at this time. Council could always join a future review should it be necessary.

Improvement in broadband coverage

Council was pleased to note that TVBC was seeking the views of broadband users across Test Valley to measure the level of demand for a better service. Broadband coverage across the Parish was variable and some areas had poor or intermittent coverage. It was agreed that the survey and internet link to it should be placed on the website homepage.

1688.2 Other communications

Queen Elizabeth 11 Field Challenge

Council had received details of the QEII Fields Challenge which aimed to safeguard hundreds of playing fields in perpetuity for future generations in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee and as a permanent tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. Council appreciated the work being done by Fields in Trust but the only playing field in Ampfield was the Recreation Ground and it did not believe it would be in the best interests of the Parish to have this placed in trust.

Councillors were asked to consider options and ideas for the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Citizens Advice Bureau

The Chairman was unable to accept the invitation to attend the AGM of the Romsey and District Citizens Advice Bureau. The Clerk would send apologies..

1689 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

1689.1 Planning Committee

The following applications had been commented on after discussion on:

25 June 2010

10/01325/TPOS	Green Haze 25 Straight Mile
10/01304/TPOS	Badgers Wood, Hook Crescent
10/01212/EXTS	Broadgate Farm, Hook Road
10/01268/FULLS	Lynton House Outbuilding, Winchester Rd
10/01386/FULLS	Ballards Wood, Straight Mile

19 July 2010

10/01415/FULLS	Yellow Dot Nursery
10/01471/TPOS	28 Beechwood Crescent
10/01434/FULLS	Windy Willows, Potters Heron Close
10/01488/TPOS	Land adjacent to Green Acres, Hook Road
10/01530/TPOS	Squirrels Leap 18 Straight Mile

16 August 2010

10/01767/TPOS36	Hocombe Wood Road
10/01805/TREES	Field Adjacent to Ampfield Primary School
10/01806/TPOS	Field Adjacent to Ampfield Primary School

10/01807/CLES  
10/01817/FULLS  
10/01678/FULLS

The Holding, Hookwood Lane  
The White House, Hook Road  
1 Lake Court, Winchester Road

6 September 2010

10/01818/EXTS  
10/01816/FULLS  
10/01859/FULLS

Broadgate Farm, Hook Road  
28 Straight Mile  
44 Beechwood Crescent .

1689.2 Footpath Warden

The Chairman had written to thank Mrs Birtwistle, the former Footpath Warden, for her hard work in maintaining the paths. Council noted the positive report from Mr Trotter, the new Footpath Warden and that the footpath information was being updated on the website. It was agreed that it was no longer necessary for the Chairman to write to the Forestry Commission about local issues.

1689.3 Test Valley Association of Parish Councils (TVAPC)

Mr Nanson and the Clerk had attended the AGM held in early September; the meeting was poorly attended and a review of the meeting timetable was to be undertaken. An interesting talk had been given by Graham Smith, TVBC Planning on the changes being made by the new Government. It was noted that Steven Lugg, CEO of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils, had advised that they would not now be withdrawing from the National Association.

1689.4 Public Transport & Highway Liaison (PT&HL)

Mr Clark had attended a seminar on the Concessionary Fares Scheme, the responsibility for which was due to transfer to HCC from TVBC in April 2011. Consultations were underway and a draft report was due in the Autumn. It was expected that the basic scheme would continue but that some of the extras, for example, being able to travel at any time of the day, which TVBC had introduced, would be in doubt.

1689.5 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

Arrangements were being made for a talk to be given by the Sustainability Officer for PUSH; this would cover green issues including ponds. Mr Hatley confirmed that the Boxing Day walk would go ahead this year.

1689.6 Village Hall Liaison

The next meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee was to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> September. Council noted the review of polling districts and polling places being undertaken by TVBC. It was agreed that the 2 polling places in Ampfield worked well and there were no comments to be made. It was also agreed that a notice should be placed on the website about the ability to register to vote on-line and thus save resources.

1689.7 Website

Updates had been made to the Village Market and to the Footpath pages. Mr & Mrs Trotter had direct access to the site for this purpose.

1689.8 Safer Neighbourhood- Local Action Group

Mr Stevens reported that the Group which would include Ampfield was still being formed and, in the meantime, everyone was being updated by newsletter. The Chairman advised that an act of vandalism had taken place at the top of Knapp Lane where some garden ornaments had been removed or pushed over.

1689.9 Tree Wardens/Environment  
Hampshire Association of Local Councils  
Finance Committee  
School Governor  
There was nothing new to report.

1690 Highway Matters

1690.1 Extension of speed limits

Mr Clark would continue to pursue this and report any progress at the next meeting.

1690.2 Speed Limit Sign

The speed limit reminder sign had been repaired at no cost to Ampfield Parish. A revised schedule had been put together and seemed to be working well. Mr Clark, Mr Nanson and the Clerk were to attend a meeting with TVBC about the operation of the sign on 28 September.

1690.3 Signage throughout the Parish

Mr Hatley advised that four speed camera and “30 mph” signs had been requested for Baddesley Road.

1690.4 Hedges along Knapp Lane

Some of the hedges along the narrowest parts of Knapp Lane were very overgrown and had become a safety hazard. Mr Hatley would ask Jonathan Bambridge, Hampshire Highways to contact the Chairman for more details.

1691 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Mr Hatley reported that the area boundaries for Highways were changing with Romsey Extra, Ampfield and Braishfield all now coming under Jonathan Bambridge. Following cancellation of the South East Regional Plan, housing numbers expected to be built in Southern Test Valley had been reduced by 7.5% from 3920 to 3620. There was no apparent shortage of potential sites for development over the next 5 years. The revised Core Strategy was being delayed for 6 months until the changes being introduced by the new Government were fully known. Mr Hatley was pleased to be a member of a 10-person Ministerial Advisory Panel on the natural environment.

An optical illusion had occurred on Baddesley Road near the new footbridge area whereby cars were heading towards the grass verge by mistake. Mr Hatley had asked TVBC to paint some white lines to help motorists see the edges of the road.

Concern continued to be expressed about the occupation of the field near South Holmes at the bottom of Ampfield Hill. Local residents had been asked to keep logs of the caravan traffic. Mr Hatley would advise Council of the current situation after discussion with the Planning Enforcement Officer.

## 1692 Chapel Wood

### 1692.1 Friends of Chapel Wood

Information had been received from Council's insurers about the use of chainsaws by volunteers in the woodland. Requirements to be met included the need for certified training. Mr Roads had identified suitable courses, the most appropriate of which was £600 per person for a week's course run for 4 people. Although chainsaws speeded up the removal of rhododendron and the coppicing of holly it was not enough to justify the cost of training; tree contractors would continue to be used for major tree work. Council had no objection, however, to private training taking place in Chapel Wood.

### 1692.2 Work in the Woodland

Council's tree contractor would be asked to examine the fallen Silver Birch to see what action was needed. He would be asked to quote for that tree and the 2 Beeches, one of which needed to be felled and the other to have deadwood removed. Costs were expected to be in the region of £200. Mr Roads and the Clerk would complete the forms necessary to register the woodland with the Forestry Commission. It was agreed that the reduction of the outer hedges of the Churchyard would go ahead; the expenditure had been budgeted. Mr Roads would contact TVBC and arrange for the work to be done. An invitation to tender to make and install a protective wire framework around the hedges in the Burial Ground had been drawn up. The Clerk would issue the tender to 3 firms. The closing date would be the end of October. Planting was not expected to be done before November.

The water level in the pond now seemed to have settled, suggesting that the damage was above the current level. It was agreed that everything should be left over the winter to see if the pond refilled naturally. Mr Roads and Mr Trotter were to meet with a conservationist to determine the various options and would report back to Council on findings and costs. Mr Roads continued to take advice on the condition of the timber from the fallen Oak and how best to make use of it. Various options had presented themselves but the situation was not straightforward.

Council noted the revised requirements from its insurer for the management of bonfires in the woodland. The procedures would be adopted immediately.

### 1692.3 Burial Ground

It was noted that Council had approved the placement of the ashes of a former Parishioner in the Burial Ground.

### 1692.4 War Memorial

The War Memorial and garden continued to be well maintained by Parishioners and would be in good condition for Remembrance Day in November. Some additional flowers would be planted. It was agreed that Mr Hatley would order the poppy wreath and make the usual donation to the British Legion.

## 1693 Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in the Village Hall, Ampfield commencing at 7.00pm.

1694 Closure

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

**Chairman**.....

**Date**.....