

## Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of the Parish of Ampfield held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Miss M.I.Rothwell (Chairman of the Parish Council)–Presiding

Parish Councillors	Mr E.H. Butcher Mr A. Clark Mr P. Edwards Mr M. D. Hatley (Borough Councillor) Mr J. A. Jones Mr B. W. Nanson Mr G. C. A. Roads Mr D. Stevens
County Councillor	Mr A. G. Dowden

Approx. 20 parishioners

Clerk to the Council Mrs D. A. Matthews

### 1/14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Margaret Birtwistle of Green Lane, Kathleen Greenham of Flexford Close, Simon Harris of Gosport Farm, Jan Richards of the Straight Mile and Julie Trotter of Potters Heron Close.

### 2/14 Minutes

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Assembly held on 29th April, 2013 having been circulated, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

### 3/14 Matters arising from the Minutes

Mr Clark advised everyone that the “no left turn” at the Flexford Road and Pound Lane junction, which had been agreed with Highways and North Baddesley Parish, and which was due to be introduced on a 12month trial basis, had not been done. Ampfield Parish Council had not been consulted over that decision.

4/14 Chairman's Review of the Year

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. It had been a very busy year and she thanked Councillors, and others in the community, for their support which had been much appreciated. She also expressed regret at the death of Martin Trotter who had been a great help to the Parish over many years. There was much to be done in the coming years, and there were a number of community projects coming out of the Morleys development, which would need community input and involvement. There were some challenges ahead arising from the Revised Local Plan, the Romsey Neighbourhood Plan and other planning issues all of which could have a potential impact on Ampfield. Council would comment on the Parish's behalf on these matters but help and expertise from residents was needed to help make sure parishioners' needs were properly met.

5/14 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Dowden's report for the year had been published in the annual newsletter.

Cllr Dowden was pleased to report that following a recent meeting with Highways, together with Cllr Hatley, agreement had been reached to take forward a number of improvements to the road network in 2014/15. Parts of the A3090 at the Straight Mile would be improved with the use of a finer chip which would be quieter than existing materials. Pound Lane from the A3090 junction to the railway bridge would be re-surfaced and a large number of pot holes would be surface-dressed. Work on Jermyns Lane would be started the following year to improve drainage to help rectify flooding problems. The winter floods had caused much damage; Hampshire was bidding for approx. £69 million from Government to deal with the damage and to help prevent future problems.

Mr Birtwistle expressed concern that half the pot holes in Pound Lane had been left unattended; they would have to be fixed later which was a waste of money. Cllr Dowden advised that the system was to be changed allowing the contractor to deal with the pot holes that were there rather than just those that had been reported.

Cllr Dowden was very pleased to note that Ampfield Primary School had received a good Ofsted report.

6/14 Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr Hatley's report for the year had been published in the annual newsletter.

Cllr Hatley reported that more than 2000 comments had been received about the Revised Local Plan, some of which were in support of, and some against, the proposals. The majority of comments had been about the proposed 1300 houses to be built at Whitenap. Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) was promoting the

lowest number of new houses that it could justify to Government. He advised that the ROMSAVE group, who were in opposition to the development, agreed that the numbers were correct but did not agree with the chosen location. It was hoped that the Revised Plan would go to public enquiry in the autumn having first been examined by the inspector in July.

Following the winter floods various projects were underway to identify the lessons learnt from that period. The “cat flap” erected by the Army to deal with the flow of water would be removed in the next few weeks; a more permanent structure was needed. Something between £1/4 million and a £1/2 million pounds had been paid out in respect of flood issues; it was hoped that that money could be recovered.

Mr Lawes queried why local people’s knowledge of flood and drainage issues in the area was not used. He had attended an exhibition about the Abbotswood development which involved the building of 800 dwellings and numerous tarmac roads, and was advised that any surface water would be absorbed into the ground. He believed that the subsequent flooding at Cupernham was a result of Abbotswood; he wondered when the planners were going to acknowledge and deal with these issues. Cllr Hatley advised that the Abbotswood developers had made adequate drainage arrangements but that the rainfall during December 2013 to March 2014 had been over 200% more than average. TVBC relied for advice on the Environment Agency who was the expert in these matters. Mrs Ludwell expressed concern about the water that poured down from the Morleys field onto the A3090 and to Keats restaurant. Cllr Hatley advised that water from the new Morley’s development would be collected and channelled to Hillier for plant watering.

#### 7/14 Council Finances & Administration

Cllr Nanson, in his capacity as Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the following to the Meeting:-

- (a) the Audited Accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 together with the schedules and assurances required by the External Auditors
- (b) expenditure details to March 2014 (provisional)
- (c) the budget and build-up of figures for the Parish Precept for 2014/2015

Details of the financial information presented were included in the packs made available at the meeting. Cllr. Nanson advised that new external auditors had been appointed and had changed the way in which parish councils valued their assets. From now on assets would be listed at purchase price rather than at insurance value as had been the practice for many years. The auditors had observed that the value of outstanding loans shown in the accounts had been greater than that listed by the Public Works & Loan Board; this was because a year-end payment had not

been taken out of Council's bank account until the start of the next financial year thus causing a discrepancy.

The Precept had been reasonably stable over recent years with only modest increases in expenditure. Parish council accounts were relatively simple with no accruals or depreciation of assets. Reserves, which took a long time to build up, currently stood at £33,250 consisting of £9000 for contingencies, £3,000 for election expenses and £21,250 for Recreation Ground reserves. The majority of income was derived from the Precept; other income would depend on the ability to gain grants and, to a lesser extent, on rents and burial fees.

Mr Robinson asked about S106 monies from developer funds. Cllr Nanson explained that, generally, S106 monies were used to fund specific items or projects, such as playground equipment. All such monies came with conditions. Amounts were based on calculations derived from the nature of the development and its effect on infrastructure. Cllr Hatley explained that S106 monies go initially to TVBC and to Hampshire County Council (HCC); the monies will be held there until Ampfield Parish Council identifies a qualifying project after which it will be released. The monies will be returned to the developer if not used within a certain period. Parish Councils are encouraged to maintain a standing list of such projects. Sometimes, e.g. with the Yellow Dot Nursery planning application, the S106 monies went to Highways for changes to the road and verges.

The meeting agreed to receive the finance report.

#### 8/14 Transport and Road Safety

Referring to a map of the Parish, Cllr Edwards brought everyone up to date with the existing bus services. However, these were likely to change as HCC was conducting a major review of subsidised services as it faced budget reductions in 2015/16 of up to £1.5 million. Councillors had attended meetings with HCC and liaised with neighbouring parishes about the situation. Individuals could join in the consultation process, via an on-line questionnaire, up until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014. A 40mph speed limit had been introduced in Pound Lane following a review the previous summer. Deer signs had been erected on the A3090 and Pound Lane.

It had been a difficult winter and there were pot holes everywhere. Cllr Edwards encouraged everyone to report them to Highways via the website. Developments like Abbotswood and Morleys drive changes to the road network. The A3090/Jermyns Lane junction would be changed to deal better with the increased volume of traffic and the speed limit on the Straight Mile would be reviewed. S106 developer monies were expected to be used to fund changes to the lay-out of the A3090 near Morleys to increase traffic calming measures, extend the cycle way and link up more easily key parts of the Village such as the Recreation Ground, Ampfield School, the Village Hall and

St Mark's. Highways would undertake a study and open it up to public consultation. Cllr Edwards brought everyone up to date with the Lengthsman scheme and the tasks being undertaken.

Starting in May, Test Valley Community Services were linking together some routes to provide a more integrated service. There were more older persons in the community these days who needed such transport. It was confirmed that the community bus service was supported by grants from TVBC and from HCC. Cllrs Edwards and Clark would talk to Mr Birtwistle after the meeting about his queries on the need to make any speed changes on the A3090. Mr Robinson was pleased to see the deer signs on the A3090. However, he remained concerned about the constant speeding of vehicles in the Ratlake area and the high number of animal deaths. He asked whether these statistics could be included in the data available when speed limits were considered. There was discussion about the use of speed monitoring, the need to advise the police if a deer is injured and the new roundabout on the Braishfield Road whose design was not liked. It was confirmed that plans to change the A3090/Jermyns Lane junction were not yet finalised but one of its main features would be an improved lay-out for both those going straight on and those turning right.

PCSO Cole advised that she would arrange for the Police to take down the flood warning signs which had remained in place long after the floods had disappeared.

#### 9/14 Ampfield Recreation Ground

Cllr Nanson outlined the key factors in the maintenance and development of the Recreation Ground. Wildlife continued to provide challenges in keeping the ground safe and playable. Winter storms had caused major damage to one of the portakabins and Council's insurer had written it off. A customised container with kitchen was being organised as a replacement. The playground had provided amusement for children for the last 6 years but its location provided limited scope for further development. Also getting children across the A3090 to the Recreation Ground was not always easy for the Pre-school and the Primary School staff. Concern had been expressed about cricket balls being hit occasionally into the playground. Various remedies had been explored, including the use of mobile nets as a screen, but none had proved practicable. Relocation of the playground – perhaps to the Morleys site- was an option in the next few years. Ampfield Football Club had not returned to the ground. Archery and hang-gliding clubs had approached Council with a view to using the ground but none could be accommodated until a sports pavilion had been built. Residents were encouraged to come forward with ideas for wider use of the Ground.

#### 10/14 Friends of Chapel Wood

Cllr Roads thanked the Friends of Chapel Wood very much for the time and effort they spent on maintaining and improving the community Woodland and the

Burial Ground. He expressed deep regret at the loss of Martin Trotter who had been a founder member of the Friends and a staunch supporter of the Woodland. The 4-yearly health and safety inspection of the trees had been completed. Council would now appoint a tree contractor to deal with any remedial work required. The weeds which encroached on the boardwalks and pathways in the pond area would need to be sprayed. Many bulbs had been planted including daffodils, cyclamen and bluebells which hopefully would multiply over the years. The programme of work for the coming year would include re-installation of the dipping platform, reduction and clearance of *Rhododendron ponticum*, especially from the Burial Ground, and keeping paths clear.

#### 11/14 Planning

The Chairman thanked Cllr Clark for the many hours he had put into planning activities that year. Cllr Clark informed everyone that the Planning Committee had met 18 times that year and considered 61 applications, 3 of which – the Morleys development and the 2 applications for gypsy sites - had taken large amounts of effort and time. Approx. 110 members of the public had attended a meeting in September 2013 to discuss the application for 6 gypsy pitches on land to the east of South Holmes Copse. Ampfield Parish Council had commissioned an ecology report and a traffic survey which, together with the views gathered from residents, helped inform the 6-page objection sent to TVBC. Later that year TVBC had declared the application “invalid”; an opportunity for the applicant to appeal that decision existed until mid-May 2014. A second public meeting had been held on 7 April 2014 at which 130 people attended to consider another application for a gypsy pitch, this time on the paddock opposite the Potters Heron Hotel. Ecologists had again been engaged and an objection to the application had been lodged with TVBC. The outcome was awaited.

The Morleys development had been given outline planning approval. Work was expected to start in July and finish in the autumn of 2015. Ampfield Parish Council had given formal responses to consultations by TVBC on the Revised Plan and the Green Infrastructure Strategy, and had met informally with Romsey Town Council and Romsey Extra about their Neighbourhood Plan proposals. Discussions had taken place with Southern Gas Networks (SGN) to look at the feasibility of bringing gas to approx. 60 properties from Hook Road to Ampfield Hill. The SGN infrastructure would require updating. At this stage it looked like it would cost in the region of £16,200 per household with a minimum take up of 40 houses. Anyone who wanted to express an interest was asked to do so at [gas@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:gas@ampfield.org.uk). There were various handouts about litter and fly tipping, and kits to be used for litter picking, at the back of the hall for public use.

#### 12/14 Communications and website

The Chairman emphasised the importance of good communication channels with residents especially as the Morleys development got underway. Council was keen

to know what people were interested in hearing about and how they wanted to receive information. Cllr Edwards ran through the various methods of communication currently used by Council and hi-lighted the need to increase the use of web based methods. Cllr Jones explained that Ampfield's website was being updated and re-styled to make it more attractive to use and easier to find information. The calendar feature would be enhanced. Currently 6 local businesses sponsored the website making it cost-neutral. Typically, usage stats showed that 90% of hits were about the planning section. Unfortunately attendance at a recent meeting about the BT Broadband programme for Hampshire showed that Ampfield was at the bottom of the list and would be unlikely to get any attention before 2017.

#### 13/14 Other Reports

Routes along the Keble Way were being walked and the booklet was being updated accordingly. Revisions would be put on the website as they were completed. Volunteers were needed to help with this programme and anyone interested was encouraged to leave their contact details and Cllr Roads would get in touch with them. PCSO Cole encouraged residents to sign up for the weekly crime updates and use the 101 number to report anything suspicious. Sergeant Dave Hazlett who was a new member of the Romsey Rural Team, introduced himself and talked about burglaries and the need to ensure windows and doors, especially UPVC ones, were properly locked.

It was noted that both the Pre-School and Ampfield Primary School were under new management. Ampfield Primary School had become federated with John Keble School at Hursley. The Church fete would be held on 14<sup>th</sup> June and in the glade once again. Council appreciated the close working relationship they had with the Revd. Gilks. The Village Hall was a valuable community asset which had experienced management difficulties in recent years. Ampfield Parish Council, which had no executive role in its management, had had discussions with the Women's Institute, which owned the Hall, about the purchase of the freehold. Should the purchase go ahead this would help retain the Hall for community use.

#### 14/14 Open Forum

Concern was expressed about the speed and volume of traffic in Knapp Lane especially at peak times when the children were picked up or dropped off at the School. Also the Lane was used by horse riders which could present different problems. It was understood that a one-way system was supposed to operate at peak times. PCSO Cole would speak again to the School about it. In response to a query about possible under-use of the Recreation Ground due to parking problems, Cllr Nanson said further parking would have to be provided once the sports pavilion had been built. This would also be taken into account when proposals to move the playground were considered. Cllr Clark explained the provisions of the original planning permission for the Recreation Ground. Council

was thanked for its work on the gypsy site planning applications but it was thought that the application for the paddocks opposite the Potters Heron would get permission as Winchester City Council had refused to accept anything similar in its area. Cllr Hatley advised that the application would go to the Southern Area Planning Committee for a decision which would not be influenced in any way by Winchester. There was strong support for retention of the local gaps between Ampfield and North Baddesley, Romsey & Valley Park. It was not thought likely that any new ones would be accepted and so the relevant elements of the Village Design Statement remained very important.

15/14 Closure

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.00pm and invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

Chairman.....

Date.....