

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday, 13th January 2014 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Miss M.I. Rothwell (Chairman) – Presiding
Mr E.H. Butcher, Mr A Clark, Mr P. Edwards,
Mr J. A. Jones, Mr G. C. A. Roads, Mr D. Stevens

2060 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mr M.D. Hatley and Mr B. W. Nanson who had other commitments.

2061 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 11th November 2013, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

2062 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

2063 Declarations of Interest

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

2064 Public Participation

PCSO Jo Cole was present.

Miss Rothwell welcomed PCSO Cole, suspended the meeting and invited her to speak.

PCSO Cole was pleased to report that it had been relatively quiet over the festive period. There had been a theft and some property damage in Pound Lane and investigations were on-going; links had been made between the burglaries in the Straight Mile and in Chilworth and arrests were hoped for soon; there was still no news about the Lengthsman's stolen hedgecutter. Mr Clark would liaise with PCSO Cole about the supply of speed stickers for wheelie bins. There had been a

very good response to the ‘marking kit’ offer, especially from farmers, and work on this would continue. The Chairman thanked PCSO Cole for the information and reconvened the meeting at 7.36pm

2065 Ampfield Recreation Ground

2065.1 Maintenance

It had come to Council’s attention that storms over the Christmas and New Year period had damaged the roof of one of the portakabins, and to a lesser extent, the scorer’s hut. A temporary repair had been done but water was still getting in as the wet weather continued. Mr Hatley was arranging for estimates to be acquired. It was agreed that the Clerk would advise Council’s insurance broker about the damage; Mr Clark would take pictures. Mr Hatley had the repair to the doorframe of the second portakabin in hand.

2066 Chapel Wood

2066.1 Friends of Chapel Wood (FOCW)

There had been 3 working parties since the last meeting; much time had been spent clearing undergrowth from the pond area and removing vegetation around the Amelanchiers.

2066.2 Work in the Woodland

Mr Roads reported that the damage from the storms had been quite small. Some trees and branches had come down in the woodland but only one affected a footpath; Council’s tree contractor had responded quickly in dealing with the problem. An area had been cordoned off where a limb from a tree was hanging; Council would wait for the outcome of the tree survey being conducted by CBA Trees before taking any action.

About 120 pots had been planted up with bluebells with about 90 having germinated so far. It was noted that some secateurs, loppers and saw-blades had been bought at a cost of approx. £45.

2066.3 Burial Ground

Work continued on the removal of Rhododendron ponticum from the Burial Ground; views had now been created from the yew hedge to the northern boundary. The mounds of arisings continued to grow and arrangements would be made with Test valley Borough Council to dispose of them all at the same time. The survey of the Burial Ground had been completed; both paper and electronic maps would be supplied by the contractor. The paper version would henceforth be taken as the definite plan of the Burial Ground boundaries and the consecrated

areas. Painted wooden staves had been placed along the western boundary as markers. An updated plan of all burial plots would be supplied by the Revd. Gilks, later in the month. The poppy seeds, which had been ordered as part of the commemoration arrangements of the centenary of the outbreak of the WW1, had been received. These would be sown later in the spring.

2067 Financial Matters

2067.1 Accounts for payment

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

<u>Cheques to be signed at the meeting:</u>	£ (inc VAT)
St Mark's PCC- Messenger advert	15.00
Office Expenses-D Matthews 11/11/13 - 12/01/14	54.65
Digital Terrain Surveys LLP- burial ground	560.00
Christopher Hoare Tree Services- storm damage	270.00
January salary-D Matthews	569.55
HMRC January payments	151.96
February salary-D Matthews	569.55
HMRC February payments	151.96
Paul Reynolds- internal audit	<u>350.00</u>
	2692.67

<u>Payments made between meetings</u>	£ (inc VAT)
Poppy appeal	50.00
Cllr Nanson- set of Rec Ground keys	17.45
Signway Supplies- 2 road sign Remembrance Ceremony	346.72
Ampfield Village Hall hire-January-November 2013	474.00
Sheenmicro Management- website	64.00
TVBC playground grass cut	17.48
Cllr Butcher- plants for Memorial	68.63
Pictorial Meadows- poppy seeds	<u>8.33</u>
	1,046.61

2067.2 Receipts and Anticipated Expenditure

It was noted that payments included internal audit fees, tree works following the storms, the survey work in the Burial Ground and the road signs acquired for the Remembrance Day ceremony. The budget, actual and forecast outturn figures had been explored in depth at the Finance Committee meeting and were not considered further. Income for the period had been just under £2000, the most

significant items of which were VAT refunds, re-imbursement from Braishfield Parish for the speed sign and rent from the Recreation Ground. The bank accounts stood at £54,600 of which £31,950 was in named reserve funds.

2067.3 Internal Audit and Insurance

The Internal Auditor had completed his audit at the 9-month stage. No problems were reported. He advised that many Clerks had experienced difficulties over the External Auditors' insistence on listing assets at original price; a compromise had been reached where assets could be taken from current valuation with no further increase. The new road signs had been insured at no extra cost to the current year's premium.

2068 Budget and Precept 2014/2015

Council agreed the recommendation from the Finance Committee, which had met immediately prior to this meeting, to set a budget of £42,749 for the next financial year 2014/2015. As in previous years, care had been taken to ensure no increase in the Precept; Council agreed a figure of £32,472 for 2014/2015 which was a decrease of 0.20% over the previous year.

2069 Parish Assembly 2014

The Parish Assembly would be held on 28th April; Mr Nanson would be asked to prepared a production schedule for the annual newsletter and liaise with the printer. It was agreed that the Police would be invited to attend and to write an article for the newsletter. It was agreed that allotments, the future of the Village Hall, potential changes to the A3090, new street lighting, progress with the Morleys development and certain planning issues would be subjects which were likely to be of interest to Parishioners. The Clerk would contact the various contributors to the newsletter and track progress. Mr Edwards and Mr Clark would review the distribution list for the newsletter. Provision of refreshments was yet to be arranged.

2070 Planning

There had been no further news about the application for 6 gypsy pitches on Ampfield Hill which had been declared invalid by TVBC. Mr Clark had previously advised Council about the quote to conduct a further ecological survey in land adjacent to the field east of South Holmes. It was noted that this had been accepted. A total of 4 surveys had been suggested by the contractor with the first one likely to be undertaken in March. Initial findings would determine whether all 4 surveys needed to be conducted. Mr Clark would enquire of the Perbury Group when the detailed planning application for Morleys would be submitted to TVBC. There had been no further contact with the developers of Broadgate Farm since

their attendance at the Planning Committee meeting on 25th November. Council had received a rather disappointing response from TVBC about their request to have certain areas in Ampfield considered as Local Green Space in the revised Local Plan. It was agreed that the Chairman would write again about the issue; Mr Clark would clarify the importance of policy E2 referred to in the response from TVBC.

(All applications considered by Ampfield Planning Committee, and decisions relating to them, are published in planning committee minutes which can be found on the website at: www.ampfield.co.uk)

2071 Correspondence and Communications

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

The list of surgery appointments to be held by Caroline Nokes, MP in 2014 had been published. Ampfield's surgery would be held in the White Horse on 12th April. It was agreed that the list would be placed on the parish website. On this occasion Council was unable to support the request for funds from Mountbatten School for musical instruments. A summary of the outcomes of the Romsey Future event had been received. It was agreed that Mr Nanson would be asked to review the outcomes and advise on whether or not it would be useful for Council to comment.

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) had advised local councils of an EU review of VAT charges in relation to parish councils and to village halls. It was agreed that Miss Rothwell and the Clerk would comment on the proposals. The Local Council Advisory Service had brought to everyone's attention changes to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) had come into effect on 1st October 2013; Mr Edwards would consider if this had any impact on Council's responsibilities for health & safety in relation to the Parish Lengthsman.

2072 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

2072.1 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

A talk on butterflies in Hampshire and Chapel Wood had been organised for 3rd March 2014 in the Village Hall. The Boxing Day walk had been well attended; another walk, possibly in summer, was being considered. A review of the walks included in the Keble Way was underway.

2072.2 Ampfield School

A replacement had been appointed for Mrs Carrington, Executive Headteacher for Ampfield and John Keble Schools. The new Executive Head Teacher would be

based in Ampfield School. It was noted that pupil numbers remained unchanged at 43.

2072.3 Ampfield Village Hall

The AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee had been held in December. Miss Rothwell had agreed to be Treasurer for the time being until a more permanent appointment could be made. The Business Meeting had been scheduled for 27th January. It would be helpful to have some fresh input to the Committee and Council agreed to help publicise the meeting by placing the agenda on the parish website.

2073 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Councillor Hatley was not in attendance.

2074 Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 10th March 2014 in the Village Hall, Ampfield commencing at 7.00pm. The 2014 Parish Assembly would be held on Monday, 28th April.

2075 Closure

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Annex A

COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS –11th November 2013 to 13th January 2014

Circulated by E-mail

Various updates from Rural Police team
Various updates from Rural Services
A34 Road Closure, Highways-12 November
Groundwater Management Plan, HCC-13 November
Letter to Digital Terrain Surveys re tender
Field in Trust November update-15 November
Letter from Steven Lugg, HALC re contact points-15 November
A34 Road Closure, Highways-18 November
Works to Pound Lane, Highways-18 November
Council Tax Support benefit Grant, NALC- 21 November
National Research Project on Recruitment, HALC- 21 November
Council Tax Support Benefit Grant, TVBC-22 November
Southern Water, winter update-29 November
Chanel 4 documentary request-3 December
Romsey Archers Request- 6 December
Fields in Trust December update-6 December
CIL consultation- 8 December
CPRE-bag charge campaign-8 December
Letter to PM from Adderbury Parish Council- 10 December
Letter to G Smith, TVBC re Local Green Space-17 December
HCC news update-20 December
Winter update Came & Co- 27 December
Letter from DCLG about finances via HALC- 27 December
Briefing note from ACRE re VAT & Village Halls-6 January
Romsey Future Report-7 January
LCAS bulletin 31- 12 January
Hampshire Minerals & Waste update- 12 January

Not distributed widely

Planning Control Committee Agendas-Planning Chair only
Southern Area Planning Committee Agenda & minutes–Planning Chair only
TVBC list of monthly meetings-Planning Chair only
PSMA Newsletters & updates - Vice – Chair only
Community Transport Bulletin, December issue-Cllr Edwards- 27 December

Precept Request form, TVBC-Clerk only
Caroline Nokes, MP drop in surgery dates-Clerk & Chair only
Mountbatten School, request for funding for Music Project- Clerk & Chair only
Age Concern newsletter re food & friendship Service- Clerk & Chair only
CAB Annual Review- Clerk & Chair only
Various Water updates- Clerk only