

Ampfield

PARISH COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER

March 2012 Issue 24



Ampfield Parish Assembly
Monday, 16th April 2012, 7.30pm
at Ampfield Village Hall
All parishioners are warmly invited to attend

TO ALL ELECTORS OF THE PARISH OF AMPFIELD

You are invited to take part in the

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

To be held at

**AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL ON
MONDAY, 16th APRIL 2012 AT 7.30PM**

The Agenda for this Annual Parish Assembly is:

Apologies for absence
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 9th May 2011
Matters Arising
Chairman's Review of the Year
The Queen's Diamond Jubilee
Community Policing
St Mark's Church & Fete
Ampfield School
County & Borough Councillors
Council Finances & Administration
Transport and Highways
Ampfield Recreation Ground
Friends of Chapel Wood
Planning
Other Reports for 2011/2012 – see *Parish Newsletter*
Any Other Competent Business & Open session

Light refreshments will be served at 9.30pm.

Doreen Matthews
Clerk to Ampfield Parish Council

AMPFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR

For your Parish Council the last year has been marked by a number of potentially controversial issues and the need to keep a very watchful eye on current and planned expenditure in a climate of general austerity and working to a precept for 2011/2 reduced by over 5%, with further stringency required.

Cutting one's coat to a shrinking amount of cloth is never an easy task, nor does it readily allow one to do all that might be desirable. Nonetheless, the past year has seen progress on a number of important fronts and with tight budgeting, we have succeeded in establishing a further 1.17% reduction in the precept for 2012/3. But finding any further savings in future years will be extremely difficult and may mean cutting back on some activities and services in the Parish. We can hope that, through diligent searches for grants and other sources of funding support and establishing realistic priorities, we might avoid that, but there are no guarantees.

We can, nonetheless, take pleasure in the not inconsiderable amount that has been accomplished in the last year. The various reports in this Newsletter provide details of what has been going on, but some highlights are worth noting.

The drainage on the Recreation Ground has proved successful though, sadly, the combination of low rainfall and an active - and, despite ferrets, hawks and other deterrents, seemingly indestructible rabbit population has thwarted attempts at reseeding the damaged playing surfaces. A solution to this has yet to be found, but other improvements have been made and the Ground is much more user and spectator friendly, while a new swing on the playground offers older children better facilities. We still hope to develop youth teams for cricket and, possibly, football, and a 5-year forward plan, which includes this, has been drawn up by the Ampfield Crusaders Cricket Club. Expressions of interest from parishioners will be very welcome.



As you will see from the cover of this newsletter, we have a new bus shelter on Baddesley Road to complement the other work that has been done to make the roads in that part of the Parish more user-friendly. Elsewhere, we are keeping a close eye on the traffic and speeding problems, though so far, the possible impact of the Abbotswood development is not really being felt.

Planning issues have been important this year, with several sensitive applications coming forward for consideration: these are outlined in the report from the Planning Committee. In the last Newsletter mention was made of the survey of housing needs in Ampfield. Since then there has been discussion of a possible plan for a small mixed housing development on land at Morley's Lane and several public exhibitions have been held to consult the Parish on their views on how this might possibly be taken forward. At the time of going to print, no formal planning application has been lodged and the Parish Council awaits further news. Were any application to be submitted in the future, we shall ensure that parishioners have a full chance to air their views, probably at a public meeting, before any comments are offered to TVBC on the application.

Looking ahead, this year brings us The Queen's Diamond Jubilee as well as the Olympics. Though no enthusiasm was expressed for a Parish-wide celebration of the Jubilee, as the date draws nearer, various groups, including the Village Market, are apparently developing local ideas and there will be an update on these at the Parish Assembly.

For the coming year, your Parish Council has had a few changes. David Gilks, who chaired the Finance Committee, and Graham Choules, have resigned and we are grateful to them for the help they gave us. Bryan Nanson has now taken over the Finance Portfolio along with that for the Recreation Ground and Peter Edwards has been co-opted to the

Council. Meanwhile, the Friends of Chapel Wood, with the help of generous parishioners are continuing with their work on the Burial Ground, which is looking increasingly attractive, and in Chapel Wood, where for the first time, the Church Fete will be held this year.

At the Assembly on 16 April, not only will the County, Borough and Parish Councillors be present, but we expect to welcome representatives of the School, Parochial Church Council, Police and the Cricket Club to update their reports in the Newsletter and answer any questions you may have on them. At the end of the meeting the Open Forum will give you all a chance to raise - briefly, please - any other points or matters of interest to you.

I look forward to seeing you all then.

Margaret Rothwell
Chairman

Caroline Nokes
Member of Parliament
'Drop in Surgery'

If you would like to see Caroline drop in for an informal consultation with her and our Borough Councillor on:
Saturday 28th July 2012
between 9.30 and 11.00am
at Ampfield Village Hall.

If you need any further information, or have any queries, please phone
01974 521155.

AMPFIELD RECREATION GROUND

Thanks to a grant from the Landfill Communities Fund, administered by Viridor Credits, improvements to drainage were carried out in March 2011 as soon as the ground was dry enough to allow the work to start. Unfortunately, it then didn't rain for several weeks and consequently the grass didn't grow in the drainage slits. The local rabbit population have taken a liking to digging in the soft soil presented by the slits and we have enjoyed an unending battle of filling and re-filling the rabbit holes with loam and seed.

Our cricketers were to be seen filling in rabbit holes throughout the summer in order to ensure that their matches could go ahead. Similarly, at the start of the 2011/12 season the footballers were required to repair rabbit holes before their matches, until they decided that it was too much for them and they made alternative playing arrangements.

Efforts continue to address the rabbit problem with the support of our neighbours. Hopefully, a spell of good grass growing weather will help to reduce the impact of our furry friends.

On the plus side- when we did have a spell of heavy rain in late 2011 it appeared that the drainage does work.



Thanks to grant funding the playground was extended by the addition of a rope swing in November 2011 which has provided a facility for slightly older children.

Improvements have recently been completed to the path area just inside the ground which provided improved access for spectators and users of the cricket pavilion.

We have enjoyed good service and advice from TVBC staff who mow the ground, flail the weeds and are a source of friendly advice.

The cricketers continue to patch and make the best of the existing inadequate and deteriorating pavilion, together with the portaKabins.

Bryan Nanson

BADDESLEY DIVISION COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

The national and local situation has been rather gloomy because of the financial position in trying to reduce the huge debts that the coalition government inherited. Nonetheless, nationally within 2012, we can all celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and then that will be followed by the Olympic Games. These events should give us all a great deal of pride & pleasure. I hope these events will also help business to thrive and provide additional employment for many of those who are presently without work.



Hampshire County Council's revenue budget for providing all its services excluding schools is £663 million. Ongoing cuts in public spending led to Hampshire losing 14.3% of its Government grant last year and it will lose a further 10.4% during the next financial year 2012/13. The human cost of making savings of £100 million has been the loss of 1400 staff, including one in four managers, and a further 228 staff will be made redundant during this coming year.

The County Council have agreed to freeze Council Tax again this year in order to take advantage of the extra £13.2 million freeze grant awarded by the coalition Government to councils who do not increase the Council Tax. This action, that there should be no extra tax burden placed on the public, whilst everyone is feeling the effects of the financial downturn, was agreed by all the political parties. Therefore the Band (D) Council Tax will remain for the third year running at £1037. 88p.

The Conservative administration has always stated that its intention is to try to deliver four years' worth of savings in two years, in order to try to provide stability in service provision by reducing the time over which changes and restructures take place.

One of the consequences of achieving the goal of four years' cost reduction, if successful, would be the early capture of efficiencies which would be available for one-off investment purposes. There are though significant risks, which is why they have provided such high levels of contingencies.

As the opposition Adult Social Care Spokesperson I lobbied for an extra £1 million to address the unfairness which was revealed within the new home care charges. Those clients who have assets above the threshold amount of £23,500 and who cannot manage without the help of two carers have seen their weekly charges increased significantly. In some cases by double the

cost they were previously charged. The Leader Ken Thornber agreed to my request and was particularly moved by two individuals who gave very powerful presentations of their situations to the Full Council and argued that the extra charges imposed by the Council was a extra tax on disability.

The opposition Liberal Democrats argued in their budget amendment that £19 million of the £44 million of contingency funds should be utilised to reverse the cuts to Children's Centres, Youth Services, Libraries and Rural Bus

Services. The amendment included that an additional 10 million should be allocated to the Adult Social Care Services budget in order to manage the significant programme of change and deal with continuing pressure arising from the complexity and demography of changes.

Within the Capital Programme for 2012/13 the County Council will provide an extra £30 million for school places for children, £4 million to extend Broadband and £45 million to support Extra Care

We can all celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and then that will be followed by the Olympic Games

housing for elderly people. It is anticipated that these extra sums will also leverage in significant additional private sector investments. In total £600 million over 3 years in the very fabric of our great County.

Not only does such investment reduce our future costs, it makes investments that will make Hampshire fit for purpose in the future.

The money invested will assist small and medium sized businesses; it goes to maintenance and construction contractors, it goes to suppliers and to a number of national partners, all of whom help create jobs, wealth and opportunity in the County. The County Council have needed to spend £10 million on repairing Hampshire's highways through the Operation Resilience project.

The authority are introducing increased apprenticeships, initially 20 school or college leavers, and the Leader introduced an initiative to give jobs to Care Leavers who would otherwise not find employment and it has proved to be a great success. This will be followed by a scheme of employment for people with Learning Difficulties.

My County Councillors Community Grant allowance last year was allocated to various organisations: a few to mention are **Relate for Family and Young peoples' Counselling**, **Eastleigh & Romsey Mencap**, the **Knightwood Youth Club** and providing entertainment and Christmas lunch for the **North Baddesley Over 60's Club**.

HCC Cllr. Alan Dowden

**Ampfield Market
June 2nd
'Special Diamond
Jubilee Edition'
10.00am-12.00noon
Competition Time!**

The Ampfield Market on June 2nd coincides with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebratory weekend. To mark this special and historic occasion we would like everyone in the parish to come to the Market, meet up with friends and family and make it a really happy Ampfield get together. We invite the adults to design and wear a crown and we invite the children to dress up as princes or princesses for the morning. There will be prizes for the best crown, best prince and best princess.

Come along and join in the fun and make this a memorable event.

**For more information call: Julie Trotter
02380 254587**

**'The Queen's
Diamond Jubilee'**

If you are planning a street party or any other Jubilee event in the Parish let us know and we will put it on the website.

AMPFIELD & BRAISHFIELD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Cllr. Martin Hatley

Having just served 30 years as an Ampfield parish councillor and nearly 17 years as your Borough Councillor I think I can now safely say my apprenticeship has been completed. However the learning process is very much an ongoing one with major changes happening both nationally and locally eg the new Localism Bill and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).



Planning Matters and the Core Strategy

I remain Deputy Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation. In these roles, I have been very involved over the last year in the production and publishing, for public comment, the Draft Core Strategy for Test Valley. This draft Core Strategy (the new name for the Borough Local Plan) is the first stage on the road to setting out the housing and employment needs for Test Valley for the period 2006 to 2031. The previous draft was only to 2026. Last year I explained how I had been successful in getting the strategic housing requirement for Southern Test Valley reduced by 7%, to an interim figure of 180 houses per annum, due to studying the various pieces of work commissioned by PUSH (Partnership for Urban Southern Hampshire). 196 houses a year were originally imposed upon us by the previous Government. The new Localism Bill now allows us to set our own figure, but it must be evidenced based – zero is therefore not an option! The Borough commissioned its own consultants to examine the future housing requirements for the whole of Test Valley, split north and south. Various scenarios were highlighted and this enabled me to successfully recommend to the full Council a final 12% reduction in housing numbers for the south. This revised average of 172 p.a. is lower than that required in previous local plans dating back to 1996, however that still equates to a total requirement of 4,300 dwellings to be built in Southern Test Valley during the plan period.

Interestingly, all the evidence suggested an increase of over 9% was required in the north of the

borough. Their figure is nearly double that of the south at 330 houses p.a. and 8,250 for the plan period. The total for the Borough is 12,550 houses or 502 houses a year.

This total number of dwellings required within Test Valley up to 2031 has been agreed as being correct by both political groups on the Borough. However the final locations will still no doubt be subject to

much debate. It is worth remembering that Southern Test Valley, as far as the Core Strategy is concerned, is strictly defined as the 7 parishes of Ampfield, Chilworth, North Baddesley, Nursling and Rownhams, Valley Park, Romsey Town and Romsey Extra. None of the 4,300 houses can be allocated anywhere other than these parishes. Furthermore, due to space constraints, Romsey Town and Valley Park have virtually no scope to accommodate any more large scale development other than that already accounted for on the Old Brewery Site – a 'sobering' thought! The current Draft Core Strategy still does not contain any major housing for Ampfield and still includes the local gap separating Ampfield from Valley Park and Chandlers Ford.

The Borough is mindful that the average age for a first time buyer is now 37 and that the Borough's housing waiting list for social housing is 3524 households with a local connection or living within Test Valley – many of these are young professional people who traditionally would have been home owners. Accordingly there is a requirement that 40% of the proposed developments must be affordable housing inc. social rented, shared equity or low cost local.

The Core Strategy recognizes and reflects the priorities recently identified by the Borough's residents and captured in our priorities for the Council – access to a decent home, a competitive economy supporting local jobs, preserving our environment and encouraging communities to reach their full potential.

After considering all the comments, a revised draft will be published for further public consultation in

June/July and a Public Examination into the amended Deposit Core Strategy Document by a government appointed inspector will occur in the Autumn 2012.

Baddesley Road Extended Cycleway and New Bus Shelter

I am pleased to report that after the resounding success of the first section of the Valley Park to Thornden School cycleway in Baddesley Rd., the next off road stage to North Millers Dale, which I have been campaigning for, has now been designed and agreed. Although this section is totally within Eastleigh, Test Valley BC have agreed in principle the release of developers' contributions it gained from local developments within Test Valley.

The much requested bus shelter between Flexford Close and the railway bridge has at last been recently installed. I managed to achieve this at no cost to the Parish Council by identifying some unused developers' contributions held by the Borough. It has already proved popular by both young students and some of our more senior residents. All we need now is for some of the recently removed bus routes to be reinstated or maybe the Velvet Bus that serves North Millers Dale to take a slight detour along Baddesley Rd., over the bridge, round the roundabout and back along Baddesley Rd.

Olympic Torch Relay comes to Test Valley

March saw the announcement of the Olympic Torch Relay Routes and runners. The route has been planned to travel an estimated 8000 miles around the United Kingdom giving thousands of people the opportunity to be involved in the Olympics.

In Test Valley the torch will be coming through Andover on 11 July. Local details are available on the website www.testvalley.gov.uk/london2012 or nationally on www.london2012.com

Free Insulate Hampshire Scheme Extended until 31st. December 2012

This scheme is detailed in the Spring Edition of the Test Valley News that accompanied your Council Tax Bill. The cut off date of 31 March has just been extended to 31 December 2012. Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council are working in partnership with Scottish Power to bring residents Insulate Hampshire.

Insulate Hampshire offers cavity wall insulation FREE OF CHARGE and loft insulation FREE OF CHARGE* subject to a free, no obligation technical survey provided by the scheme. The scheme is available to Hampshire homeowners and privately renting tenants (with landlords' permission). Insulate Hampshire can also offer rolls of insulation to top up your existing loft insulation for £49 for a maximum 100m².

Statistics from the Energy Saving Trust, based on an average 3 bedroom semi-detached property, suggest that installing home insulation can offer savings of over £300 a year!

The organisation can also help advise you on installing solar panels and refer you to other community services such as benefit entitlement checks and home safety visits. Residents can contact the Insulate Hampshire team by calling 0800 952 0037, emailing enquiries@insulatehampshire.co.uk or visiting www.insulatehampshire.co.uk to sign up. (*Where there is currently less than 60mm (2 1/2 inches) and is subject to extra metreage charges).

Government White Paper on the Natural Environment

The Ministerial Advisory Panel of 10 experts I was asked to join by DEFRA, and which reported directly to the Minister, has now finished its work with the production of the White Paper 'The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature'. I led a high ranking delegation visiting various parts of the country and as diverse as Manchester and rural Suffolk. I am very pleased that much of the intelligence gleaned and insights from those visits have made it into the White Paper in the form of commitments and texts. On a personal note I am particularly proud that many of my ideas have been included, the most important being the setting up of Local Nature Partnerships (LNP's) all over the country. A Hampshire-wide LNP bid to DEFRA, led by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Nature Trust, looks as if it has been successful.

Council Tax

While the Borough Council did indeed deliver another freeze of our council tax for the second year running, it is worth noting some other facts. The weekly cost of Test Valley services for a Band D council tax payer is £2.33, one of the lowest in

England. For this we provide services from waste collection to park maintenance, planning to environmental health and leisure facilities to funding affordable housing.

To achieve this freeze we had to find savings of nearly £1.4m and to achieve this again next year, another £1.2m of savings will have to be found. To support our local traders, car parking is still free in all our car parks in Romsey and Andover after 4pm.

The Diamond Jubilee

TVBC are encouraging communities to come together to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on 5th June by holding street parties and events. To help street party organisers TVBC have simplified the process to close quiet residential streets and at no charge, as well as making road closure signs available. And on the 3rd June the Borough Council will be hosting a fun packed JUBILEE JAMBOREE in Beech Hurst Park, Weyhill Rd., Andover on the lines of a traditional street party.

Celebrations are centred on the long weekend of the 2nd to 5th June. Any community group wishing to hold a party and close a road must apply to the Borough Council before Friday 20th April. There is no charge and application forms are available from engineering@testvalley.gov.uk or telephone **01264 368723**.

The Council can even offer advice on organising an event and on how to secure funding. If you need any help please contact Marianne Piggion on 01264 368623. Also contact her if you wish details on arranging to take part in THE BIG LUNCH on Sunday 3rd June.

As always, I remain readily contactable by phone or email. Tel. **07970 501050** or e mail cllrhmatley@testvalley.gov.uk

ClIr. Martin Hatley

AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL

2011 was another busy and rewarding year for the Village Hall and the committee who successfully maintain and improve the standard of the Hall for all of our users.

The Hall continues to be as popular as ever and is in use almost every day of the week. Our regular bookings continue and these are the mainstay of the Hall but the occasional bookings such as children's birthday parties, Christening parties and other events are vital to the Hall's annual income. The committee have organised a number of special events including The Opera Dudes and Oh La La which were both well supported and enjoyed.

The very successful Village Market (which is held on the 1st Saturday of the month) serves a double purpose. Not only does it contribute massively to the income of the Hall but it also provides a valuable meeting place for parishioners to catch up with one another over a cup of coffee and a delicious homemade cake.

Improvements to the fabric of the hall this year have included a baby changing station in the toilets, new mats in the entrance hall and the doors have been painted. Much has been done externally including repairs to the porch, roof and the guttering.

The success of the Village Hall however depends on the support of the local community and not least on the commitment and hard work of a small but dedicated team of volunteers who form the committee. For the Hall to continue to thrive this hard work will need to continue over the coming year. My grateful thanks to you all.

Denis Payne
Chairman Ampfield Village Hall

Looking back to this time last year we had a wide range of woodland projects in the pipeline. Some we had started and some were

FRIENDS OF CHAPEL WOOD

still aspirational. It is pleasing to report that over the past twelve months considerable progress has been made across a broad range of these.

A good place to start might be the burial ground. The new border hedge of yew trees appear to have bedded in well and are showing signs that, snug behind their protective wire framework and fortified by the occasional glass of seaweed juice, they may put on further good growth this coming summer. The separation of the burial plot from the footpath seems to have worked well and we look forward to being able to trim the yews to their defined shape in years to come.

We have also planted the promised cruciform in the centre of the plot. This turned out to be quite a major undertaking. We first had to prepare the ground; removing the existing turf and digging in a lot of composted soil improver. It was very interesting when we went to collect this as we had the chance to see large scale composting in action.



Because we wanted a tough, low evergreen hedge, we chose Buxus sempervirens for the planting material.



However, to make the exercise cost effective, we used bare rooted specimens, which meant they all had to be planted in one session. In total, we needed 275 plants. Once that was done, a second wire protective framework was put in place.

The other major task we have undertaken this year has been starting to clear the very heavily overgrown rhododendron bushes behind St. Mark's church.

Although, historically, they have acted as a useful screen between the church and the woodland, many have now grown to the size

of small trees. Not only are they encroaching on the open spaces but they are also making the area very dark. There are some wonderful specimens of oak and beech growing in the lower wood, so by reducing significantly the size of the rhodos behind the church, these can be included in the vista from the rear of the church and the glades. As with many things in the wood, it is a long term project – cutting back one month and a bonfire disposing of the arisings the next.

We will be returning to this job next winter, mainly because we prefer to have bonfires only in the winter. In the meantime, we are busy making and installing new signposts to help guide visitors to the wood around the system of woodland footpaths.

We are also in the throes of setting up the wood and, particularly, the glade area, to host the church fête in the summer. This will be the first time the wood has been used for this purpose and everyone is excited that it goes well.



Chapel Wood is a great asset to our community and we welcome and encourage visitors throughout the year. It should not be forgotten, however, that keeping the wood open, ecologically sustainable and user friendly is a direct result of the efforts of a relatively small band of volunteers, the Friends of Chapel Wood. We meet in the church car park at 0945 am on the second Saturday of each month, July and August excepted. With the emphasis being very much on friendly and relaxed enjoyment, new members are always very much welcomed and no prior knowledge is necessary.

Very many thanks to all those Friends, friends of Friends and to our suppliers all of whom have helped with this important work over the past year.

Graham Roads
Friends of Chapel Wood

PLANNING

Since last April the Committee has met 14 times and submitted responses to TVBC Planning Department on 61 planning applications. As the Parish Council we are invited by the Planning Authority (TVBC), to make comments about all planning applications in the Parish. We are asked to respond under the general headings of Support, No Objection, No Comment or Objection. The figures for the 14 meetings referred to above were, 2, 38, 14 and 7 respectively. Many of the “no objection or no comment” responses were for tree applications where the TVBC arboriculturist officer assigned to handle the case is the person best qualified to make recommendations to the Planning Authority. We are only obliged to make additional comments/observations in those cases where we are objecting to an application. In general, applications are viewed against the following criteria:

- **Will the plot of land take the proposed development?**
- **Is the proposed development likely to adversely affect neighbours’ enjoyment of the amenity of their property?**
- **Are the proposals in keeping with the area?**

We do not attempt to second guess the professional experts employed in TVBC Planning Department by going into technical details. Occasionally, especially with larger proposals, permitted development boundaries and need/demand for such development may be considered, but these additional criteria more often will not be a consideration at Parish Council Planning Meetings. Again many of these technical matters are outside the competency of Parish Councillors and are therefore best left to specialists employed by the Planning Authority who will advise accordingly.

It is worth noting that our submissions to the Planning Authority are not given any formal weighting, but we understand all Parish Council responses are carefully considered both by the Full Time Officers and the Elected Representatives. That having been said, the Parish Council on one recent occasion felt it important to present in person to the Southern Area Planning Committee their support for a planning application. After a three minute presentation (no more ... they

time you!) and a series of detailed questions, it was refused 12 votes to 6!

This was despite all the residents adjacent to the proposal being in favour of development. Thus as can be seen it is TVBC Southern Area Planning Committee who make the decisions and not the Parish Council.

In February we commented on the TVBC Core Strategy and Development Consultation documents. These proposals, which have been widely reported in the local press, propose significant developments at Whitenap and Hoe Lane, North Baddesley. We felt it important we should comment and our response was as follows:

Policy COM1:

Settlement Hierarchy: we fully support the settlement boundary proposals shown by the boundary line proposed.

Policy E3:

Local Gap: the Council supports in general the provision of local gaps and in particular notes and fully supports the retention/provision of a Local Gap between Ampfield and Chandlers Ford/Valley Park.

However, we were concerned about the area between the Ampfield – Chandlers Ford/Valley Park Local Gap and the North Baddesley – Romsey Local Gap, which appears not to be covered. We asked if this area from Green Lane in an easterly direction and Pound Lane to the south is protected from development by another Countryside Policy?

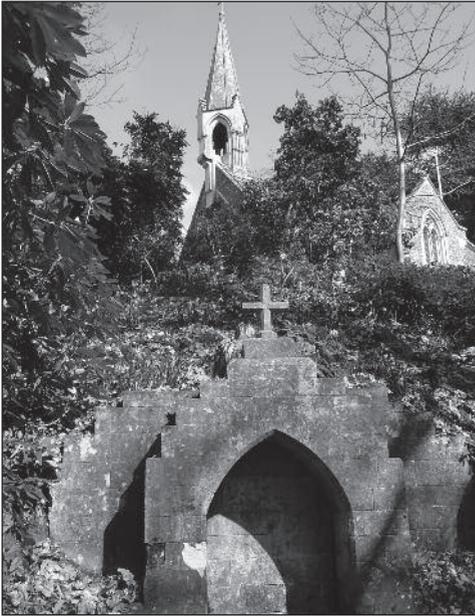
We currently are awaiting a response to our enquiry.

We are mindful, at the time of writing, that a potential planning application for the development of approximately 39 dwellings in Morley’s Lane opposite the Village Hall is likely to be submitted soon. If and when such a planning application is received, the Parish Council will arrange a special meeting of the Planning Committee at which residents’ views and representations may be heard. Only after this meeting will the Parish Council decide what if any comment they wish to make about the application to the Planning Authority.

It will be an interesting year!

Allan Clark
Chairman Planning Committee

ST MARK'S CHURCH AMPFIELD



churchyard and this year for cutting back the encroaching shrubbery at the west end of the church and making improvements to the access to the Glade from the churchyard.

It was especially good this year to work together with so many from the parish in the most successful Flower Festival. It was a tribute to everyone's hard work and commitment that the events went off so well and were such enjoyable occasions. It was also extremely profitable for St Mark's funds!

For some years we have been fortunate to be able to have our Fete in the grounds of Birch House.

This year the fete will be on Saturday 16th June. However, it will need to take place in St Mark's grounds, and in the Glade. We trust that this will not inconvenience our neighbours too greatly as we have nowhere on site that we can use for parking apart from our very small parking area.

Although none of the Ministry team live in Ampfield, we are all committed to serving the pastoral care and worshipping life of this parish and appreciate very much being part of this friendly community.

Peter Gilks
Priest-in-charge

Contact details for St Marks

Peter Gilks	T: 02380 740515
Parish Office (Mon, Wed, Fri: 9-12)	02380 737617
Claire Maxim (for baptism enquiries)	02380 739145
Churchwardens	
Derek Allen	02380 276350
Jean Smith	01794 519685

February 2012

The Ministry Team for Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley consists of Revd Peter Gilks (Vicar), Revds. Claire Maxim, Clifford Stride and Vanessa Lawrence, and Mrs Sally Kerson who is a Reader and also is the parish administrator, working from the Parish Office in North Baddesley. In October Mr Jonathan de Vile will be also be licensed as a Reader in these parishes.

This year, under the guidance of the new Headteacher, the link with the Ampfield School has been strengthened, and the clergy regularly lead Collective Worship and assist in resourcing the Religious Education. The Parochial Church Council elect two foundation governors to the school and currently these are Miss Doreen Walker and myself.

The church continues to work closely with the Parish Council over the day to day running of the Chapel Wood Burial Ground. Once again we are greatly indebted to the Parish Council and to the Friends of Chapel Wood for all their care of the

AMPFIELD CRUSADERS CRICKET CLUB 2012



With the Cricket season growing ever closer, Ampfield Crusaders Cricket Club would like to bring you up to date with its winter developments. Firstly we are proud to announce that the club has a new club President in Alan Wilson. Alan is a well respected resident of Ampfield and was voted into the role last October. Before retiring he was Managing Director of Skandia in Southampton and various other locations round the world. By background he was a Solicitor. He has thrown himself into the position already giving us the benefit of his business brain. The first thing he picked up was the lack of a forward plan setting in place targets for the next five years.

Our Chairman, John Sorrell, has therefore drafted a Development Plan that will we hope receive the support of the Parish Council once adopted by the club itself. Copies of the Development Plan can be obtained from the Club at the end of March.

Recently our new President accompanied the Chairman and Vice Chairman on a trip to the Oval to the 'Cricket Resources Show', where he purchased the club a boundary rope and storage winder. Thanks Alan! If anyone wants to pop up at say 8pm on a Saturday during the summer we will let you wind in the boundary rope!

A year ago we started talking to the Parish Council about improving the area around the club buildings. The vision that we had is now a reality with TAB Landscapes completing the work on time and to a high standard. To make it look more like a cricket club and more pleasant for watching cricket a rope and post fence has been installed together with some formal paths (photo below). A new storage shed that will double as a scorers' hut has also been provided as part of the project. The improvements have been funded by money from local development that the Parish Council kindly donated as part of their ongoing support of the cricket club.



With the new season just a couple of months away there is plenty still to be doing to prepare for the first games. The 2012 season begins with a home fixture on the 5th May and sees the first XI going up against Dinton CC. Please pop along and support your local cricket club and see what you've been missing! Games start at 14:00 and usually finish around 7pm. Entry is free to all residents, and non-residents too!!

To prepare for the new season the club holds Net sessions on Monday evenings at Stroud School, Romsey. They take place every Monday from 7pm to 8pm until April when friendly games start. If you wonder if your skills from school are still there come along as we are always looking for new players; just turn up and you will be made very welcome.

With our new facilities taking shape we need to add extra tables and chairs so that players and their families don't have to sit on the ground during the tea interval. So if you are thinking of getting rid of any patio furniture we would like to find it a home at the cricket club. Please let our Chairman (John Sorrell) know on 07795498961 if you wish to donate anything like chairs, tables or even stools, oh and money, that always helps!

On the playing side it was a great season last year with our 2nd team gaining a well-deserved promotion. They are now only one league below the first team, which enables the club to promote players performing well as the jump isn't insurmountable! This year the focus is on the first team getting promoted and for the seconds to consolidate in their new division.

Next year is our 125-year anniversary so we will be looking to celebrate that in a big way. If you have any ideas how we could make it a special year please get in touch.

Finally we have a new sponsor in HugoFox.com, who are a local listings company. Please check out their website for cars, jobs and other items for sale. Sponsors are always needed to help keep the club going. If you wish to discuss opportunities to sponsor the teams please get in touch.

Here's to a warm, dry and successful summer...

John Sorrell
Chairman

Mob: 07795498961 Home: 023 8025 5681
E-mail J382sorrell@btinternet.com

FOOTPATHS

The footpaths team (Carolyn Robinson, Paul and Barbara Jerrome and myself) have been walking the footpaths during the year and trying to correct any problems that they have found. There have been some fallen trees and other minor problems to sort out. There have been no problems reported by members of the public during the year which hopefully means that the footpaths are usable!

There is a particularly muddy section of footpath at the end of Wingham Lane which has been a problem for many years. The intention is to have a serious go at trying to improve the situation during this coming year and make it more usable in wet weather.

As you may have read in the Ampfield Messenger we are hoping to make a couple of small additions to the existing footpaths. Firstly the path from the Potters Heron to the Church currently runs along the A3090 and would be a much more pleasant experience if it ran within the woodland to the North of the A3090. Secondly the main gravel track (FP504) which runs East to West through Ampfield Wood is blocked when it reaches Outwood Lodge and thus there is no convenient route onto Jermyns Lane in order to complete a circuit of the Village on the South of the A3090. It is hoped to rectify these two problems by negotiating permissive paths through land managed by the Forestry Commission. The feedback that I have had so far to the Messenger article has all been positive and so it is hoped that we can make progress on those extensions during the coming year.

If you notice a problem with a footpath that you think needs correcting please report it. The website has individual links for reporting problems on specific paths but if you are not sure of the path number then please either email a description to footpaths@ampfield.org.uk or phone me and I will try and get the problem resolved.

Martin Trotter 02380 254587

Ampfield Community Pre-school

Ampfield Pre-school had very low numbers up until January 2012 now this has started to improve and the pre-school has closed its waiting lists for children starting until September 2012.

Finances have been a problem with low numbers but we have been lucky to receive grants from Romsey Roundtable for puppets to assist children with language and communication. Also with constructive efforts on fundraising we have been able to raise enough money for Walkodiles to assist with our outdoor learning. Walkodiles are like plastic crocodiles that the children strap into and can ensure that the children follow in a line of 6 with an adult safely along the road to reach a destination. This enables us to take the children to the woods and to the play park and not have to worry about high ratios of adults to achieve this. The children enjoy being outside and being in the woods gives them the opportunity to explore and increase their physical development along with understanding of the natural world.

So with the nicer weather on its way, our little trains of children will be easily spotted.

We are holding more fundraising events this year to purchase more equipment for the children. So we are always grateful to the local community for all their support.

For more information regarding the pre-school please contact **Sandy Oliver** on **0771 2566879** or visit our website on www.ampfieldpreschool.org.uk

Local Action Group (LAG) – rural policing

The Local Action Group (LAG) is a rural policing objective to liaise with groups such as Farmwatch, <http://www.farmwatchltd.co.uk/>, Country Watch <http://www.countrywatch.com/> and Neighbourhood Watch <http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net/>, with the aim of combating rural crime. Most of the communication between these groups is carried out by phone and email.

Unfortunately crime in rural areas is on the increase due to theft of agricultural equipment and diesel, theft of metal items which can be sold as scrap and poaching. However, due to the co-ordinated effort of the groups mentioned above the Police have been able target criminals more effectively and therefore bring them to justice. You can also help make Ampfield a crime free area by observing the following.

- Make sure your house and outbuildings are locked and secure, even when you are at home.
- Make sure any portable equipment such as chainsaws are locked away safely and securely.
- Make sure anyone entering your premises has valid identification.
- Report any suspicious behaviour by telephone **+44 (0) 845 045 45 45** or email to postmaster@hampshire.pnn.police.uk immediately.

If you would like further information please contact me, **David Stevens 02380255275** or email me on adavidjstevens@gmail.com

A Few Words From Our New Councillor – Peter Edwards

When I retired a few years ago, I was interested in using part of my newly found free time to contribute something to the parish. A year or so after retiring I became editor of the Ampfield Messenger and my involvement with the parish magazine has helped to bring me into closer contact with the Ampfield community. It has also brought me a greater understanding of the workings of the Parish Council. Consequently, I was delighted when, in February of this year, the opportunity arose to join the Parish Council, as a co-opted member of the team.



I plan to spend the first months familiarising myself with the councillor role and where I can best make a contribution to the work of the Parish Council. Apart from the usual council business, one of the areas I would like to get involved in is how we can better communicate to parishioners about what's going on in the parish.

My wife Sue and I have been residents of Ampfield for just over twenty years. Nowadays looking after our three grandchildren takes up some of our time and our other main leisure interest is touring in our caravan.

I am looking forward to working as a councillor and, as such, having the opportunity to contribute to the community on behalf of all parishioners.

Pete Edwards

THE AMPFIELD MARKET



The Ampfield Market is now in its twelfth year. It takes place on the first Saturday of the month in Ampfield Village Hall between 10am and 12 noon, excluding January, February, July and August, which are holiday months.

The Market has gained a great reputation and every effort is made to ensure that the sales tables are varied and display top quality, good value items including Fairtrade and fresh foods, cakes, bread, preserves, plants, books and a wide range of crafts. To date we have raised £13,000 and all proceeds go to Village Hall funds which help to provide a great local venue for all our community activities.

We have worked very hard to create a welcoming, happy and relaxed atmosphere in our Market. The refreshments are freshly produced, generously donated and served between 10 and 12 by a wonderful team of volunteers without whose help the Market would cease to function. Why don't you make a date to meet friends and sample our hospitality for yourselves.

The dates for 2012 are: March 3rd, April 7th, May 5th, June 2nd, September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd and December 1st.

If you are interested in renting a table or for more information contact:

Julie Trotter on 02380 254587

TRANSPORT LIAISON & ROAD SAFETY

Concessionary Travel:

The feedback from the transferring of responsibility for administering the Concessionary Bus Pass Scheme from TVBC to HCC appears to be positive. Passes are now valid for five years from the date of issue but where the option to receive vouchers has been exercised these are still issued annually.

Bus Services:

The X66 (commercial) service continues diminishing with the last service leaving Winchester just after 7.00pm. This unfortunate state of affairs seems likely to continue with services becoming more and more inconvenient, thus falling passenger numbers and therefore further withdrawal of buses. At some point this question will need to be addressed by County Transport Planners.

Route 46 (subsidised) service, has been re-routed so that it no longer uses Hook Road to the Potters Heron before turning along the A3090 to Hursley and Winchester. It now travels from Hiltisbury directly joining the A3090 at the Hursley Road junction. Thus bus travel to Hook Road now includes a substantial walk. Another loss to the Parish! I only discovered Route 35 service recently which is perhaps not surprising considering it only runs from Ampfield School to Romsey Bus Station via Romsey School and Fishlake Meadows once a day in each direction. It raises the question whether it is not time for a complete review of bus services to be undertaken especially with the development of the additional 800 houses at Abbots Wood. Tinkering with routes established 50 years ago rather than examining current/potential demand risks using what little transport funds which are available inefficiently.

For more remote locations, in September last year, HCC produced a Transport Self Help Kit which is aimed at helping Parish and Town Councils in establishing transport needs in their areas, identifying the right solution and advice on how to run such schemes. More details can be obtained from Hantsweb by using the following link:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/passengertransport/transport-self-help-kit.htm> The kit will enable Parishes/Town Councils with a more easily defined population focus than ours, to identify and construct solutions including self-managed schemes. They are to be congratulated on this initiative.

Bus Shelters:

An Ampfield Parish Newsletter without reference to a bus shelter would I am sure be a disappointment to many! Our Borough Councillor, Martin Hatley was instrumental in securing TVBC funds for the new bus shelter in Baddesley Road. The shelter is of a new design for our Parish and looks extremely attractive in gloss black. This facility will be particularly useful for many as it incorporates seating which will be a bonus if there is a long wait for the next bus!

Speed Limits:

The Hampshire Police have been particularly active monitoring speeds along the major routes in the Parish with Baddesley Road and the A3090 receiving the majority of the attention.

Residents in Knapp Lane have raised concerns about the danger of vehicles travelling at inappropriate speeds towards the top end of the Lane. A meeting has been held with TVBC Highways Engineer and following this the Parish Council will seek the views of residents about what steps to take next, particularly in terms of signage etc., warning drivers of the dangers to both pedestrians and horse riders from vehicles.



War Memorial:

The current barrier to the war memorial area has been damaged, probably by delivery vehicles turning left from Knapp Lane onto the A3090. Arrangements are being made for this to be repaired or replaced later this year.

Winter Arrangements:

In 2010/11 HCC were able to put in place a number of grit bins for local residents to use which were a great success. The good news was that last autumn the Parish Council was able to increase the number of grit bins by two, one in Green Lane the other in Pound Lane. The bad news, (good news really) was because of the mild winter they weren't needed.

Allan Clark

Transport Liaison and Road Safety Representative

Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area (ACHA) 'Making the most of your countryside'

Encompassing most of Ampfield and spreading into the parishes of Hursley, Otterbourne, North Baddesley and Romsey Extra, the ACHA was designated by HCC in 1991. The ACHA Group was formed with the aim of encouraging greater understanding of the landscape in which we live and enjoy and, at the same time, promote schemes that enhance the local ecology and landscape. The most efficient and effective way is to educate and encourage landowners to look after their own environment and/or coordinate local volunteers.



On Boxing Day, about 18 walkers turned up at the Village Hall Car Park to take part in the Annual Boxing Day Heritage Walk. I looked at the thermometer in my car and it informed me that it was a very mild +12 degrees centigrade. The previous year it was minus 12 degrees – the coldest ACHA walk ever. Global warming? Who knows?

And so as we started out in these relatively tropical conditions, it was soon quite noticeable that the pace was much more leisurely and there was a great deal more chatting going on than the previous year when it was some 24 degrees colder. The local natural and built environment was appreciated by all and I am sure that the burning off of a few Christmas calories did both the human and canine walkers a lot of good. However, the calorie replacement programme in The White Horse afterwards was also very enjoyable!

We are determined that this year we will remain resilient to any weather, so **please make a note in your diary** to lose a few Christmas calories by taking part in:

The Free Boxing Day Guided Heritage Walk on Wednesday 26 December 2012. The circular walk will last about 1 hr. 45mins. and will start from the Village Hall Car Park at 10.30am.

Details of the summer walk will be posted on the parish notice boards, the Ampfield Website and in the Ampfield Messenger.

The regular series of free Heritage Talks will continue with a return by local ecology and biodiversity expert, Phil Lomax. This Spring Heritage Talk will be in the Ampfield Village Hall. The title will be 'God's Acre' – an illustrated talk about the wildlife found in churchyards. It is a most fascinating talk. All are welcome. The date is to be finalised. Further details will be posted on the parish notice boards, parish website etc.

As reported last year, all 3,000 copies of 'The Keble Way' have now been sold and the feasibility of either an updated reprint and/or an internet web based version is still being investigated. It is hoped that a local keen writer of walks will agree to assist in walking all the Keble Way and update the information and instructions. Any offers to assist him will be gratefully received! Please ring Martin on **023 8025 4040** or **07970 501050 (mobile)** or email cllrhmhatley@testvalley.gov.uk

Martin Hatley
Chairman

AMPFIELD C. E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

As many of you know, the school has gone through several years of decline in the number of pupils, and a degree of instability due to staff changes and pupil mobility. What you may not know is that great efforts are being made by the teaching staff and the Governors to put these difficulties behind us.

We feel that the school is now starting to move forward again: all the teaching staff have now been in post for a year or more, and there is once again a nearly full complement of Governors. The Governors have produced a very professional new school prospectus, to showcase the Ampfield ethos to prospective parents. This forms part of a comprehensive re-marketing programme, led by the Governors, aimed at building up the number of pupils to their former levels.

Despite the problems of the past, the Local Authority remains very supportive of the school, and is working closely with us, but we are not complacent. We know that our future success will only come about as a result of our own efforts.

What are we doing?

A revised teaching curriculum and a more robust assessment system are in place. We are able to provide a more personalised curriculum for each child, and they receive good teaching with rich learning experiences, such as Pirate and Victorian days. Children from Ampfield won the inter-schools maths competition, and a Christmas card competition run by the Solent Education Business Partnership. Our learning displays tell the story of the children's daily learning, and the recently held book week stoked the fires of imagination and reading enthusiasm across the school, fantastically well-organised by Mrs Griffiths, our English subject leader. Last term, the whole school excelled in two brilliant performances of the Nativity Play in the

village hall. They also participated in a wide variety of inter-school and enrichment activities, from trampolining to street dance.

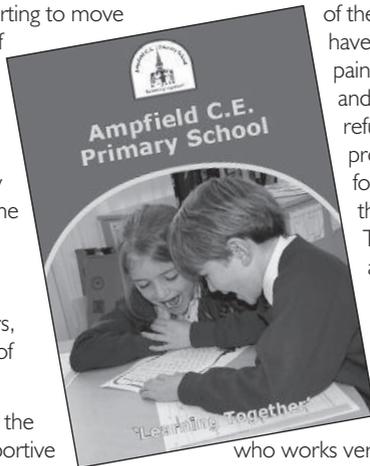
Our faithful caretaker, Dave Keating, has started a comprehensive programme of re-decoration and refurbishment to smarten the external appearance of the school, and the Local Authority have promised to begin extensive painting work to the wooden windows and eaves later this year. Internally, a refurbishment programme will soon provide an additional working room for teachers and an office space for the Head Teacher for the first time. This will create a more ergonomic and attractive working environment for all the staff.

We have reorganised our learning spaces, and created a new one for our fabulous Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Mrs McLean, who works very closely with Mrs Frost and Mrs Bain, our KS1 / Early Years teachers, to ensure that all the children have seamless learning journeys throughout the day. When we have installed a fourth interactive whiteboard later this term, we will have four modern, fully-functioning learning bases.

The school also has a dedicated and hardworking "Friends of Ampfield School" group, who raise funds for the school, and help us in many other ways.

At last, we are beginning to see some green shoots, evidence that our efforts are paying off. Here are some examples:

- **Intake in the Reception class for 2012 shows a big increase in "first preference" applications, and applications could increase further before the start of the new school year**
- **Test results for Maths in Y2 and Y6 are above the national average**
- **Plans are in place to raise the attainment levels in reading and writing similarly**



So what are our goals for the future?

They are to achieve educational excellence over the next few years, as this is the surest way of ensuring our long-term success. Our last OFSTED report, in 2010, graded the school as “satisfactory”, a creditable achievement, given all the difficulties of the previous years. The OFSTED criteria have recently changed, making it more difficult to attain the grades achieved in prior years. The next inspection will be something of an unknown quantity, but, inevitably, challenging. Nevertheless, the Governors intend that the school will attain a “good” grade within two years, and will build and improve on this thereafter.

How you can help

The school will need the active support and participation of the local community to help it through the next few years. There are many ways in which you can help, and here a few examples:

- **Assistance in the classroom on a regular basis, leading lessons in subjects such as art, music, drama, and dance. It can be immensely rewarding to see “your” children gaining in confidence and ability, and enjoying themselves.**
- **Subject to sufficient interest from parents, we would like to set up a before-school and after-school club, which enables working parents, existing or prospective ones, to leave their children at school for a longer period of time while they are at work. This will need outside helpers to set up and supervise.**
- **Running a “lunchtime club”, in which the children enjoy a range of activities, such as chess, origami, art - or any other new ideas that you may wish to contribute.**
- **Presentations and demonstrations on interesting topics, such as baking demonstrations.**
- **Joining the “Friends” to help with their activities: as the number of pupils has dwindled, so have the number of Friends, but nevertheless our remaining stalwarts continue to strive to provide the same level of support that they always have.**
- **Promoting the school to your neighbours and friends.**



This last point is key: enclosed with this newsletter you will find an information sheet about the school. If you know a family that is looking for a school in the area, please show it to them and ask them to call the school. If you are able to contribute your time with any of the above activities, please call our excellent Administration Officer, Tracey Dobson, at the school on 01794 368219 to discuss how you could help.

There has been a school in Ampfield since 1851, and the present school building opened its doors in 1896. It has enriched our community ever since, and will continue to do so provided we sustain it.

It's your school too. Please help us make it a success.

Kindest regards

Mark McCadden
Head Teacher

Bryan Vint
Chairman of Governors

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee met on 9th January 2012 to review the current year's expenditure and outstanding projects, and to consider budget requirements for the financial year 2012/2013. Recommendations about the Precept for 2012/2013 were also made at that meeting. All recommendations were presented to Council and approved at its meeting on 9th January.

Previous Financial Year 2010/2011

Accounts for 2010/2011 show an income of £43,544; £34,913 of that was Precept with much of the remainder being made up of grants and income from the Recreation Ground. Income from the Burial Ground of £426 was 60% up on the previous year whereas bank interest continued to be negligible. Contributions of £200 from the sports clubs, towards improvements to the electrics in the pavilion & portakabins, were much appreciated. At £42,176 total expenditure was about £6,600 more than in 2009/2010 due to increased tree works in Chapel Wood and improvements to the height barriers and to the electrics at the Recreation Ground. The year-end balance was £37,700. This included reserves of £15,250 in the Recreation Ground Fund, £9000 in General Reserves and £2500 set aside for Election Expenses.

Current Financial Year 2011/2012

At the time of writing, income and expenditure for the current financial year 2011/2012 is not yet complete; the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Bryan Nanson will give an update at the Annual Parish Assembly on 16th April. Income was just over £65,000 to end February 2012; this is about £22,000 up on last year due mainly to the generous grant from Viridor towards the drainage project. The remaining income is made up largely of the Precept at £33,000 plus rents from the Recreation Ground of £800, a TVBC grant of over £2,200 for new playground equipment, and £700 from the Burial Ground and from website sponsorship.

Expenditure to end February 2012 is just over

£65,000 which is about £32,600 more than at the same time last year. The increase is due primarily to the drainage project which cost over £25,000, the completion of the cruciform hedge in the Burial Ground and the refurbishment of the bus shelter at Green Pond Lane.

Precept and Budget for 2012/2013

Regular reviews of expenditure were carried out throughout 2011/2012 to monitor costs and to help ensure that projects were on track. Tight controls were again set on the budget for 2012/2013 which produced a Precept of £32,615. This is a 1.17% reduction over the previous year and is the fourth year in succession that the Precept has been reduced. Whilst recognising the need for prudence in the current difficult financial situation, the Parish Council continues to protect and improve the significant community assets of Chapel Wood, the Burial Ground and the Recreation Ground. Chapel Wood and the Recreation Ground are expected to be used more by local groups in the coming year and require significant resources in money and volunteer time to maintain and improve their amenity value. Council agreed to set aside £3,000 for the Recreation Ground Reserve Fund and intends to continue to seek external funding for projects.

Assets

A new bus shelter near Wheelhouse Park on the Baddesley Road was erected in March. The black, modern, 3-bay cantilever shelter has been paid for by external funding. A new scorers' hut has been positioned on the concrete base on the Recreation Ground in time for the new cricket season.

Details of the audited accounts for 2010/2011, a statement of the Council's current financial position and a copy of the budget for 2012/2013 will be available at the Annual Parish Assembly.

Doreen Matthews
Responsible Finance Officer

Your Parish Council

Chairman: Miss M.I. Rothwell C.M.G.

Vice-Chairman: Mr B.W. Nanson

Mr. E.H. Butcher, Mr. A. Clark, Mr. P. Edwards, Mr. M.D. Hatley
Mr. J.A. Jones, Mr. G.C.A. Roads, Mr. D. Stevens.

Clerk to the Council: Mrs D.A. Matthews

Blue Haze, Ampfield Hill, Ampfield, Romsey SO51 9BD

Tel: 01794 368437 • Email: clerk@ampfield.org.uk

Parish Website: www.ampfield.org.uk

The Parish has a number of committees and sub-committees including:
Finance, Planning and Woodland.

Date and time of all Council and Committee meetings are advertised on Parish notice boards and on the website and they can be attended by the general public.

The Parish Council has links to:

The Hampshire Association of Local Councils

The Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils

Test Valley Community Services

The Ampfield Village Hall Committee

The Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area Group

Ampfield Primary School Board of Governors

The Test Valley Passenger and Transport Liaison Forum

Councillors also attend a variety of statutory and ad hoc committees and consultations of interest to the Parish.

Your Parish Councillors are the first tier of local government and are unpaid.