

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 11th January 2010 commencing at 7pm.

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

Police Sergeant (PS) Plascott and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Jo Cole, from Hampshire Constabulary, attended for the item at paragraph 1701.

1696 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mr Hatley and Mr Butcher who were absent due to other commitments.

1697 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 30th November 2009, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

1698 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

1699 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1700 Public Participation

Five members of the Public from the Straight Mile were present. The Council adjourned at 7.05 pm and the Chairman invited them to speak. Mrs Clark and others expressed their deep concern about the work being carried out on the ponds and lakes at Two Lakes on the Straight Mile which was continuing without planning application or control. They expressed disappointment at what appeared to them to be a lack of will on the part of Test Valley Borough Council's (TVBC) Planning Department to pursue the matter despite the environmental considerations and the likely noise and nuisance impact on nearby residents. Mr Nanson updated everyone on the exchanges that had taken place between the Planning Committee and TVBC. Miss Rothwell agreed to write to Mr Tetshall, the Chief Executive of TVBC, reflecting the concerns of residents; she would ensure that Mr Hatley, Borough Councillor, was kept informed about the situation. Residents thanked the Council for their continued support.

The Meeting re-convened at 7.20pm.

1701 Police Service to Rural Villages

PS Plascott and PCSO Jo Cole were members of the Safer Neighbourhood Team for rural areas. PC Vernon Cook had recently joined the Team replacing PC Murray-Twain. PS Plascott had been

looking at ways of improving the service provided by the Mobile Police Office which visited Ampfield once a month and was situated at Morleys Lane. The Team was in the process of setting up local action panels within villages to identify and address local concerns. Council agreed that this was a good idea and would be happy for Ampfield to join with Braishfield and other nearby villages as part of an action panel.

Fortunately, the crime rate in the Parish was not high and concerns were concentrated around travellers, fly-tipping, drug usage at the Recreation Ground, speeding, school parking and thefts of oil from St Mark's Church. PCSO Cole would visit the School area and observe the parking issues. PS Plascott would be happy to attend the Parish Assembly and put an item in the Annual Newsletter to explain the action panels and encourage people to join.

1702 Ampfield Recreation Ground

1702.1 Strategy Review

A paper had been circulated outlining various considerations and proposals for the design, cost and specifications for a sports pavilion. Council confirmed its commitment to the provision of good recreational facilities and would continue to work towards the building of a suitable pavilion. It was recognised, however, that the building could not be funded out of the Precept and that external funding was essential. The commitment of the 2 sports clubs using the pitches to continue to support the Recreation Ground was also important.

1702.2 Drainage

Due to the heavy rains and snow the football pitch had become waterlogged. Ampfield Football Club had not been able to play any home matches since early November. Mr Clark, Mr Nanson and the Clerk had met with a representative of Kestrel Contractors Ltd to discuss the potential improvement of the drainage on the Recreation Ground. A ball-park figure of £25,000 had been estimated. Council agreed that the drainage problem should be addressed if possible but that this would have to be done through external funding arrangements.

1702.3 Utility provisions

It was agreed that Southern Water's estimate of £1371 to connect water from the mains to the Recreation Ground should be accepted. It was also agreed that a Water Industry Approved plumber should be engaged to make the water connections to a stand-pipe near the concrete base. This was likely to cost approx. £350*. Miss Rothwell and Mr Nanson would take this forward. The connection of electricity to the pavilion was likely to cost in the region of £2000; this would be paid for by Council if no external funding could be found. Sewage connections would be funded externally as part of the pavilion construction.

(*Afternote: this was later amended to £1543)

1702.4 Inspections

Council agreed the inspection rota for the playground and Chapel Wood for 2010. The Clerk would review the inspection findings for 2009 and report back to Council. Mr Clark would fix the loose posts, and put up the wire mesh along the swing barrier, which had been identified by Digley Associates during their annual inspection of the playground.

1702.5 Cricket Club

Members of the Cricket Club had requested a meeting to discuss issues about the playing facilities at the Recreation Ground. Mr Nanson reminded Council that, when the 10-year lease was signed in 2003, there was an expectation that the sports pavilion would have been built soon after; in the meantime existing facilities had deteriorated. Council agreed that Mr Clark, Mr Nanson and the Clerk should meet with the Cricket Club and report back.

1702.6 Height barrier

Work to improve the security of the height barrier at the main entrance and at the gateway on the eastern side, was in hand. Mr Clark would liaise with the contractor.

1702.7 Design of sports pavilion

Mr Clark, Mr Nanson and the Clerk would meet shortly with a builder to discuss design options for the pavilion. It was intended that the options would be reviewed and costed to provide Council with a firm basis on which to make decisions. It was agreed that Mr Nanson would write to members of the Fund Raising Sub-Committee to bring them up to date with the situation. The possibility of renting shower and toilet portacabins would be considered after the meeting with the Cricket Club.

1703 Financial Matters

1703.1 Accounts for payment

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

<u>Cheques to be signed at the meeting:</u>	£ (inc VAT)
LexisNexis-book purchase	59.05
Cllr. Roads- plants for War Memorial*	25.93
Sharp Electronics (Uk) Ltd – photocopier hire	69.13
Sheenmicro Management- website maintenance	73.60
Digley Associates Ltd-annual playground inspection	40.25
TVBC – ground maintenance contract	1710.50
D Matthews- January salary + back pay	577.26
HM Revenue & Customs – January payments	219.98
D Matthews- February salary	523.06
HM Revenue & Customs – February payments	185.71
Office expenses-30 November 2009 to 11 January 2010	<u>51.73</u>
	<u>3536.20</u>
<u>Payments made between meetings</u>	
Archers Signs- “no dogs” & private property”	91.89
CBA Trees Ltd –assessment of storm damage	311.71
Cllr Roads – plants for War Memorial	23.99
Ampfield Parochial Church Council- messenger advert	<u>15.00</u>
	<u>442.59</u>

* cheque cancelled & another made out to Cllr. Butcher

1703.2 Income

Collard Heating & Plumbing had been signed up as a new sponsor of the website. No other income had been received in the period except for very small amounts of bank interest.

1703.3 Anticipated Expenditure

Details of anticipated expenditure to end March 2010 had been circulated previously; Council agreed the recommendations of the Finance Committee of a forecast figure of £51,109. It was noted that just over 50% of the budget had been spent by the end of November 2009.

1704 Budget and Precept 2010/2011

Council agreed a budget of £43,955 for the next financial year 2010-2011. Care had been taken to ensure no increase in the Precept; Council agreed a figure of £34,913 for 2010/2011 which was a decrease of 1.41% over the previous year.

1705 Correspondence and Communications

1705.1 Hampshire County Council

Inroads- Highways News, November 2009

1705.2 Test Valley Borough Council

Request for Council Tax Precept for 2010/2011

1705.3 Hampshire Association of Local Councils

Letter from the President and Chairman of NALC re Hampshire's threat to withdraw from the National Association

1705.4 Other Correspondence

Hampshire Rural Housing Newsletter Winter 2009
Audit Commission- appointment of new auditor.
Letter from PS Plascott about the Mobile Police Office
Letters from Lloyds confirming they have stopped 2 missing cheques
Letter to Cllr. Choules
Letter from Cricket Club Captain
Hampshire Now magazine – winter edition
Local Council Review magazine, winter edition.

1706 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

1706.1 Planning Committee

The following applications had been commented on after discussion on:

17 December 2009

09/02402/TPOS
09/02490/FULLS

Hazelwood, Hook Road
27 Beechwood Crescent

5 January 2010

09/02638/TPOS
09/02664/TPOS

Stornoway Park, Jermyns Lane
Beech Hollow, Baddesley Road

Concerns had been expressed by Parishioners about the modifications made to 181 Knapp Lane which involved the replacement of “Hursley windows”. The Planning Chair had written to TVBC who had advised that, although the property was in a conservation area, it was not a listed building and planning permission was not, therefore, required to replace windows.

Concerns had also been expressed about the works at Two Lakes, Straight Mile- see paragraph 1700.

1706.2 Finance Committee

The Finance Committee had met on Friday, 8th January 2010 and its recommendations on the Budget & Precept 2010 had been made to Council under paragraph 1704.

1706.3 Hampshire Association of Local Councils

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had responded to the Hampshire Association’s declared intention of balloting members about withdrawing from NALC. It was likely that meetings would be set up to allow member councils to hear both sides of the debate.

1706.4 Village Hall Liaison

The next meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee was due to be held on 18th February 2010.

1706.5 Website

The Potters Heron Hotel and Courier 2000 had not renewed their sponsorship of the website and their logo had been withdrawn from the Home Page.

1706.6 Footpath Warden

Test Valley Association of Parish Councils (TVAPC)
Public Transport & Highway Liaison (PT&HL)
Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area
Tree Wardens
School Governor

There was nothing new to report.

1707 Highway Matters

1707.1 Extension of speed limits

There had been no progress as the speed data requested from TVBC, from the exercises conducted on the A3090 at the Straight Mile and at Ratlack the previous year, had still not been received.

1707.2 Signage throughout the Parish

There was no update in Mr Hatley's absence but it was thought that the number of signs appearing in the Parish was on the increase.

1707.3 Parking along the A30390

Parking of vehicles on the verges and kerbsides on certain sections of the A3090 had caused concern. This was a very busy road and pedestrian walk-ways should not be obstructed. It was noted, however, that the instances had been seasonal; Council would continue to monitor the situation.

1707.4 Snow and Ice Conditions

There had been no gritting of B-roads and lanes during the spell of icy weather in the early part of the month. This had caused considerable problems for those living along the minor roads in the Parish. Mr Hatley was exploring the possibility of acquiring gritting bins with Highways in preparation for the next winter.

1707.5 Chapel Hill

It was noted that the incline and lack of width at the top of Chapel Hill could force vehicles onto the right hand lane when going towards the A3090 which could be dangerous. It was agreed that Council would look at the road lay-out once the ice and snow had melted.

1707.6 Bench at Green Pond Lane

One of the struts of the bench facing the A3090 at the end of Green Pond Lane was broken. Mr Clark would repair it when the weather improved.

1708 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Mr Hatley was not present at the meeting to give the Borough Councillor's report.

1709 Chapel Wood

1709.1 Friends of Chapel Wood

The Working Party had met on Saturday, 10th January and had cleared vegetation from the back of the fountain area. Future activities would continue to follow the management plan.

1709.2 Work in the Woodland

Part of the woodland around the fallen Oak tree remained cordoned off for health & safety reasons. Numerous contractors had been approached about the removal of the Oak but responses had been varied and inconsistent. Council agreed to the provisions of the tender invitation drawn up by Mr Roads which were designed to make safe the rootball of the Oak, and to clear the footpaths, boardwalks and the pond, so that the area could be re-opened to the public. It was also agreed that advice and practicable help with the tender process could be sought from CBA Trees. The Chairman and Mr Roads would take this forward.

1709.3 Burial Ground

It had been difficult to make any progress with the planting of the cruciform hedge because of the heavy rains and the snow and ice. Once the ground was in a suitable condition, the Friends of Chapel Wood would remove those yews that were worth saving and heel them in on the other side of the Burial Ground. TVBC would then be asked to dig the trenches and put in fresh soil in preparation for new plants.

1709.4 War Memorial

Investigations had started on who owned the land on which the War Memorial, seat and garden were placed. It was thought that the land had been allotted by a prominent local family in the early part of the 20th century. This would be pursued at a later date.

1710 Parish Assembly 2010

It was agreed that the preferred date of the Parish Assembly was Monday, 26th April 2010*. The Clerk would ask Mr Hatley to book the Village Hall. It was also agreed that Mr Nanson would approach the Watermark Printing Company about a 3-year contract to produce the Annual Newsletter. Watermark had produced the last 2 Newsletters which had been very well received across the Parish.

(*Afternote: this date was subsequently changed to 10th May 2010)

1711 Date of the Next Meeting

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

1712 Closure

The meeting closed at 21.00pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....