

Minutes

Ampfield Annual Parish Assembly: Monday 23 May 2022

Held in Ampfield Village Hall, 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Present

Members of Ampfield Parish Council:

Chairman Bryan Nanson – Chairing the Meeting
Cllr Martin Hatley
Cllr Julian Jones
Cllr Chris Ling
Cllr Kate McCallum
Cllr Mujeeb Rahman
Cllr Julie Trotter

Others:

PSCO Marie Stubbington
Electors of the parish - 6
Clerk to the Parish Council, Kate Orange

Chairman's Introduction

- 1 (22) Chairman of Ampfield Parish Council, Cllr Bryan Nanson, opened the Meeting and welcomed the electors and other attendees.

Apologies

- 2 (22) Apologies were received from Cllr Graham Roads, Hampshire County Councillor Alan Dowden, and Cllr David Stevens.

Previous Minutes

- 3 (22) The Meeting agreed the Minutes of 17 May 2021, and a copy was signed by the Chairman.

Hampshire Constabulary

- 4 (22) PCSO Marie Stubbington reported on behalf of Hampshire Constabulary.
- a. She had recently transferred to Hampshire from Avon & Somerset. She had established beat-surgeries, and a newsletter was published monthly. She would be available for residents to speak to at the Ampfield Market on 4 June.
 - b. A summary of statistics for the area showed that crime levels are low, particularly given the size of the population.
 - c. Recently there had been a theft from a vehicle. This took place at the Hillier Gardens carpark. Other crimes had been of an opportunistic nature. General advice to avoid being the victim of theft from your vehicle is to reverse up to a wall or obstacle. More advice was available on the website of Hampshire Constabulary. Residents could sign up to Hampshire Alert, which provided current reports and information to protect against crime.
 - d. PCSO Stubbington would attend community events if invited.
 - e. The police were actively investigating an instance of graffiti on local bus shelters and the recreation ground storage containers.
 - f. In response to a comment about the noise through Ampfield from passing vehicles, PCSO Stubbington noted that the police did deploy speed cameras because someone had recently been caught speeding in the parish.

- g. Non-urgent crime reports can be made online or via the non-urgent telephone number 101. Urgent matters should be reported on telephone number 999.

5 (22) PCSO Marie Stubbington responded to questions from electors:

- a. An elector asked whether “noise cameras” were available to catch noisy vehicles in Hampshire. This equipment was not available through Hampshire Constabulary. PCSO noted that the police were unable to take action on vehicle speeds if they are unaware of a problem in the area: she recommended that people take down the numberplate of offenders, and report to the police together with details of time and place.
- b. There was discussion of Speedwatch. A minimum of three volunteers were needed. Volunteers would be trained by the police, and use equipment to take down details of speeding vehicles. The police would then contact the offenders. The scheme is for public education and as a visible deterrent: it would not lead to any prosecutions. One resident expressed interest in volunteering.
- c. A resident noted their concern about large vehicles travelling fast along Hook Road from the A3090 towards the Broadgate Farm junction. Here, the national speed limit applied: the vehicles are within the speed limit but this was too fast to be safe. Another member of public noted that the footway was narrow along this stretch of road, due to encroachment of vegetation.
- d. Cllr Ling informed the Meeting that Ampfield Parish Council’s website had a page called “Report It”, with links to the various authorities that are responsible for matters such as road problems, public rights of way etc. Most problems could be reported using a simple web-form, and would be tracked by the relevant authority.
- e. PCSO Stubbington emphasised that all traffic offenses and accidents should be reported. This included collisions with deer.

Report from Hampshire County Councillor Alan Dowden (Mayor of Test Valley)

6 (22) The report from Hampshire County (HCC) Councillor Alan Dowden (Mayor of Test Valley) is attached to these Minutes.

7 (22) Electors had the following comments and questions on the report from Cllr Alan Dowden:

- a. A member of public asked what was to be the change to the waste strategy. Cllr Martin Hatley said that recycling was to be expanded to include more types of waste including food waste, glass bottles and yoghurt pots. HCC would not be using the outlet in Asia which was known to use child labour. Details and public information would be available later.

Report from Test Valley Borough Councillor Martin Hatley

8 (22) Test Valley Borough Councillor Martin Hatley reported:

- a. Cllr Hatley was now the 3rd longest serving member on the Council, having been elected 27 years ago; the second longest serving Councillor being Cllr Dowden, at 31 years; and the longest serving was Cllr Mark Cooper who was first elected 31 years ago. All three of these had also served as Mayor of Test Valley, with Cllr Dowden being the current Mayor. While Cllr Dowden was recovering from an injury, Cllr Hatley would be the escort for the Lady Mayoress when she attended engagements.
- b. Cllr Hatley still served on the Planning Committee, and planning matters took up the majority of his time. Comments from Ampfield Parish Council were well received by Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) as they were well thought out.
- c. Cllr Hatley had been pleased to contribute a grant towards CCTV for the carpark of St Mark’s, Ampfield, as it is used by walkers, visitors to the burial ground and the church. There had been reports of lone men lurking in the carpark.
- d. The shortfall of the Borough in 2020-21 of £2.5 million had been reduced to £1 million by grants from central government. Since the early stages of the pandemic, revenue had mostly recovered, but not from carparking (due to the increase in home-working).

- e. The Council Tax for a Band-D property in the borough had risen by £5 per year, but the Borough Council's share of this remained £40 lower than the national average. It had introduced its own relief scheme to protect the lowest income households, giving a rebate of £150 per property for those in Band-D or lower. Two-thirds of properties would benefit from this. Discretionary relief could also be granted on application: an example could be for a single older person of low income who remained in a large family home because of their local connections with the community.
- f. The Local Plan to 2029 was under review to cover up to 2040. The Stage 1 consultation was complete. For Southern Test Valley there were just a further 948 homes to plan, which equated to around 50 per year: most of these would be "windfall sites" (e.g. a new house built in the grounds of a larger property).
- g. TVBC was working with Unity who were helping refugees from Ukraine, in inspecting the places that residents offered.
- h. Cllr Hatley noted that the staff at TVBC had coped extremely well during the COVID outbreak, and the new telephone system had allowed them to divert their calls to their home offices.

Parish Council Finances and Administration

9 (22) Cllr Nanson reported on finances and administration for Ampfield Parish Council:

- a. The parish council precept for 2022/23 had been set at £41,062, which was an increase from the previous year of 3.93% (2.7% per Band-D equivalent property).
- b. Assets acquired in 2021/22 were:
 - i. Defibrillator at Ampfield Recreation Ground
 - ii. Dipping Platform at Chapel Wood
- c. The Audit of 2020/21 was complete. No matters of concern had been identified in the Audit.

Ampfield Parish Council Planning Committee

10 (22) Cllr Nanson reported on the Planning Committee of Ampfield Parish Council:

- a. The Committee continued to meet and decide comments on planning applications for the parish council.
- b. The largest application, probably of all time, in the parish was the retirement village at Ampfield Meadows. The application was ongoing in various phases.

11 (22) A member of public enquired whether application reference 22/00115/FULLS had been determined. Cllr Hatley noted that TVBC had yet to make the decision, but that the comment from the parish council had been an example of the parish providing information which TVBC had not been aware of: this is one of the reasons for consulting with parish councils on planning applications.

12 (22) Cllr Chris Ling informed the Meeting that the website of Ampfield Parish Council had a tool which, on subscribing, would notify of planning applications.

Ampfield Recreation Ground

13 (22) Cllr Nanson reported on Ampfield Recreation Ground:

- a. The Ampfield and North Baddesley Cricket Club's All Stars and Colts (youth and junior) teams were thriving.
- b. There had been an incident of graffiti damage to the storage containers (as well as bus shelters) which was being actively investigated. The parish council had details of when it was done and that it was done by a single individual. The police were investigating. It was hoped that this would lead to identification of the culprit and that they would be discouraged from doing further damage.

Transport and Road Safety

14 (22) Cllr Chris Ling reported on transport and road safety on behalf of Ampfield Parish Council:

- a. New bus shelters had been installed at the stop on the south side of the A390 near to Potters Heron, and on the north side of A3090 near to Café Bingham's. They were paid for with developer's contributions arising from the development at Morleys Green.
- b. The request for traffic-calming measures in the village of Ampfield was on hold because the parish council requested a second pedestrian island, whereas HCC planned to spend the funds on painted traffic-calming instructions.
- c. The parish council's Speed Indication Device (SID) (which also recorded traffic volumes and speeds) had been stolen, and had now been replaced with a new one, paid for through insurance. The council is licensed by HCC to put it at approved locations. The ongoing costs covered the qualified person to maintain the battery, collect data and move the sign. The data, which does not include number plates, could be viewed on the parish council's website.

15 (22) Electors raised some points related to traffic and road safety:

- a. It was noted that most accidents occurred at road junctions.
- b. A difficult junction was the crossroads of Hursley Road with Hook Road and Hocombe Road. This junction was at the boundary of three boroughs (Eastleigh, Test Valley and Winchester City), which complicated any plan for improvement, but it had been reviewed. Most accidents had occurred at night, with cars going straight across the primary road: a painted roundabout would not have reduced the number of accidents, so signage had been improved and had been successful.
- c. On the cross road at Jermyns Lane with Braishfield Road, the manoeuvre which was most risky had been vehicles turning right into Braishfield, particularly when following a second one. The accident rate had reduced following the installation of a roundabout.
- d. There were some unhealthy ash trees on public land outside a resident's house. Cllr Ling suggested that they could report this to HCC using the "Report it" page on Ampfield Parish Council's website. Potholes and other defects could also be reported in the same way.

Friends of Chapel Wood

16 (22) Cllr Nanson reported on the work of Friends of Chapel Wood in the absence of Cllr Graham Roads.

- a. Friends of Chapel Wood maintain the woodland on behalf of Ampfield Parish Council.
- b. The parish council commissioned inspections of the trees by a qualified person, but nonetheless trees would fall which had not been identified as dangerous: this was accepted. The frequency of inspections was dictated by the proximity of the trees to public spaces, e.g. trees adjacent to a highway would be inspected more often than those situated deep within a woodland away from footpaths.

Greening Campaign

17 (22) Cllr Bryan Nanson introduced the Greening Campaign, a community-centred scheme endorsed by HCC for the reduction of carbon emissions and improvement of biodiversity. Volunteers to help could contact Ampfield Parish Council.

Any Other Competent Business and Open Session

18 (22) Members of Ampfield Parish Council had received a letter from two residents of Broadgate Farm, concerning the speed limit of 60mph on Hook Road from A3090 to beyond the junction with Broadgate Far. They felt that the speed limit was too high. At the other end of Hook Road the limit was 30mph, and it was 40mph in between. Vehicles seemed to accelerate to nearly 60mph for the short section of the road, which was equally narrow and as twisting as the remainder of Hook Road. Although they did not accelerate up to the full 60mph, lorries were also a problem. They felt that the limit for the whole of Hook Road should be uniformly 30mph. The local nursery school agreed with them on this. They estimated that around 150 people who lived off the road there were affected by this; as well as users of the stables. Similar areas were Crampmoor and Sandy Lane, where the speed limit was 30mph. There was general discussion about how the speed limit in the village of Ampfield had been 60mph in the past, then it was reduced to 40mph, and work of the parish council had contributed to the reduction to the current 30mph. The parish council had a written policy on road

speeds in the parish, which stated that the A3090 should have a speed limit of 40mph where it is now 60mph; and the information discussed at the Meeting suggested that the northern end of Hook Road should also be restricted to 40mph. The 30mph through the village of Ampfield was introduced as an exception to normal HCC policy, through the Village 30 campaign.

- 19 (22) Speed limits were discussed in general terms. Cllr Ling noted that HCC have a policy on speed limits, upon which Government policy also had a bearing, which they had implemented. They would not change limits purely in response to complaints or public opinion: they would respond only on the basis of police data on accidents, or a change in national policy. This was one reason why it was important to report accidents or traffic incidents to the police. Perhaps residents could contact Hampshire County Councillor Alan Dowden for support.
- 20 (22) Another resident noted that the footway along Hook Road was too narrow as vegetation had impinged; and they would no longer walk along it. Cllr Ling reminded the Meeting that HCC had responsibility for ensuring that footpaths were maintained, and that reports could be made via the website of Ampfield Parish Council.
- 21 (22) Residents complained of littering along Hook Road. They noted that under a TVBC scheme, if volunteers collected litter and left it out for collection in black bags, it would be collected. Four bags had recently been collected in this way along Hook Road.
- 22 (22) There was a query about alleged unauthorised industrial activity along A3090 and whether TVBC were taking enforcement action. The parish council were aware that a report had been made to TVBC but had no role in planning enforcement. The Meeting felt that perhaps the Environment Agency would be able to take action.

Close of Meeting

- 23 (22) Business was concluded and the Meeting was closed at 9:30pm.

Chairman

Date

Appendix

Baddesley Division County Councillor's annual report 2022/23

This is my 31st year as your County Councillor. I serve on the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee, and I am a member of the Hampshire Pension Fund Committee and Board

Waste and recycling are going to change. The New Government Environment Bill sets out changes for waste management. In October 2021, a **Joint Municipal Waste Strategy** was agreed by **Project Integra**, The County Council lead this with 14 local Borough, District & Unitary Councils. They agreed

1. An entire system, approach
 - Commit to a Twin-Stream for dry recyclables
 - Reduce contamination across all waste streams
 - Increase reuse of bulky waste
 - Improve service performance and delivery
 - Improve communications

The Borough Councils are responsible for the collection of waste, and the County are responsible for the disposal of waste. They are required to put in place a way to dispose of weekly collected Food waste. Until this is completed there is slow progress towards the above. I will update residents as it occurs.

My Parish Council have applied for a trial of a **"20 mph is Plenty Zone"** on a road through our Parish, which passes two primary schools and a leisure centre. Any Parish can get involved in this campaign information is on the web. Other Counties have already introduced 20mph Zones.

The Highway Lighting Scheme for the remainder of the Baddesley Road in Ampfield has been delayed, by an SSE objection to the County Scheme at the last minute. The County Council's lighting team now must produce an alternative design. I have requested that this is carried ASAP, to have this road fully lit by next autumn. The finance has already been allocated to HCC by the applicants as one of the many conditions for approving the Care Complex development .

In July 2021 the Prime Minister announced that he wished to reorganise Local Authorities. **The County Council attempted to set out a new plan of different responsibilities for each tier of local government, with themselves gaining more control. The Districts, Boroughs and Unitary authorities were not prepared to accept the New Deal as it was first proposed, and they are in negotiations with the County Council.**

The Hampshire County Council tax will increase by 2.99% resulting in the precept rising to £1390.86p for a Band "D" property. | Local Authorities expected to be fully recompensed for all their Covid Expenditure. This however did not materialise. Most authorities were only funded for about 60% of their overall costs. £61.7million will need to be drawn from Council County reserve funds to balance this year's budget. The Leader himself Cllr Mans who is stepping down in May admitted without more government funding the long-term viability of this council is at risk.

The Governments Levelling Up White Paper aimed at tackling regional inequality, has been published promising improvements in education, broadband, transport and more. However, it is difficult how any of this will be achieved without any extra funding.

During the last twelve months I have allocated all my community funding allocation to various group organisations, including parish councils, within my division.

HCC Cllr Alan Dowden