

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 17th August 2009 commencing at 8pm.

PRESENT: Miss M. I. Rothwell (Chairman) – Presiding
Mr. E. H. Butcher, Mr A Clark, Mr. M.D. Hatley,
Mr B Nanson, Mr. G. C. A. Roads (to paragraph 1657),
Mr D. Stevens

1649 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mr. Jones, who was away, and from Mr Choules and Mr Gilks who were absent for personal reasons.

1650 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 13th July 2009, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

1651 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

1652 Declarations of Interest

Mr. Hatley declared an interest as Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee.

1653 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

1654 Ampfield Recreation Ground

1654.1 Letting agreement with Ampfield Sports Club

Mr Nanson summarised the contents of the letting agreement. It was noted that the football programme was not a heavy one and that the arrangements were for one season only. Payments for pitch usage would be required in advance. Ampfield Sports Club would arrange public liability insurance. Council agreed arrangements for the use of Ampfield Recreation Ground for football for 2009/2010, subject to minor amendments. It was also agreed that Miss Rothwell and Mr Nanson would take the matter forward and sign the agreement on behalf of Council.

1654.2 Spraying of weeds

Work had already begun on spraying weeds which had sprung up on the various patches of bare earth. Experience of playing 2 football matches had shown that the large amount of weeds growing around the western, southern and eastern boundaries was causing problems and would lead to lost balls. Special equipment would be needed to deal with the taller weeds; Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) had been approached about the

task. Council agreed to a further spend of up to £200 to complete spraying, clearing and seeding around the perimeters. It was also agreed that the hedge along the A3090 on the northern perimeter should be cut on both sides; TVBC would be asked to provide an estimate.

1654.3 Grass cutting during the football season

Council noted that TVBC had advised that the pitch should not need to be cut during the winter months but agreed to “one-off” cuts if necessary.

1654.4 Annual playground inspection

Council had previously agreed to the hiring of a known playground inspector to conduct the annual inspection. However, a much lower estimate for the work had been received from Digley Associates, who also specialised in this work. Council agreed to arrange for Digley Associates to carry out the work.

1654.5 Inspection regime for the Recreation Ground

Mr Nanson had prepared an inspection sheet for the wider Recreation Ground which would be carried out by most of the same inspectors who conducted the playground inspection, and at the same frequency. This was agreed subject to minor amendments. An inspection form for the football pitch and surrounding area, which would be carried out by members of Ampfield Sports Club before a match, was also agreed. Mr Clark and Mr Nanson would amend the guidelines accordingly.

1655 Chapel Wood Health & Safety Audit

Three invitations to tender for the Health & Safety Audit of Chapel Wood had been issued; two organisations had responded. Miss Rothwell, Mr Nanson and Mr Roads had met on 12 August to evaluate the tenders. A summary of findings had been circulated to Council and Mr Roads highlighted some of the key points. It was agreed that the contract should be awarded to CBA Trees. There were a couple of points which needed clarification and Mr Roads would take these up with CBA Trees. It was also agreed that the aspect of the tender to do with the review of Council’s existing Health & Safety audit processes would not be pursued. The Clerk would sign the contract on behalf of Council once Mr Roads had completed his discussions.

1656 Green Space Strategy

Projects which might generate contributions for open space from developer funds had been listed and circulated for comment. Mr Hatley would get estimates for cricket and football nets and equipment for youth development for inclusion in the template. It was agreed that bus shelters, a cycle way along the Baddesley Road and an extension to the Village Hall could also be included in the template. Miss Rothwell and Mr Nanson would take this forward and send to TVBC by the deadline of 31st August.

1657 Rural Settlements Boundary Review

TVBC had started to review the approach to defining rural settlement boundaries. Planning Officers had conducted a workshop with members of both Ampfield and Braishfield Parish Councils to explain the purpose of the review and how both Councils could contribute. Council agreed to have 3 teams covering different parts of Ampfield Parish. A common approach would then be worked out and views reported back to TVBC.

1658 Speed Reminder Sign

Several meetings and discussions had taken place with representatives of TVBC about the problems that had arisen in the operation of the speed sign. Mr Clark had circulated papers outlining the problems and the possible ways of overcoming them. Minor modifications to locations had been put forward. A net increase in project costs of £100, to improve street furniture and put a pole in the Straight Mile for speed monitoring purposes, had also been proposed. TVBC had found it difficult to maintain a weekly regime and a 2-weekly changeover pattern had now been recommended and set against a calendar. Council agreed to the revised movement schedule, modifications to street furniture and modest increase in costs. Council accepted the offer by TVBC to reduce the annual management fee from January to December 2009 from £720 to £500 in recognition of the problems experienced in the operation of the system.

1659 Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 14th September 2009 in the Village Hall, Ampfield commencing at 7.00pm.

1660 Closure

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....