

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 13th July 2009 commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Miss M. I. Rothwell (Chairman) – Presiding
Mr. E. H. Butcher (from para 1642.1), Mr. D.J.E.Gilks, Mr. M.D. Hatley,
Mr J.A. Jones, Mr. G. C. A. Roads, Mr D. Stevens

1633 Apologies for Absence

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

1634 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 15th June 2009, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

1635 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

1636 Declarations of Interest

Mr. Hatley declared an interest as Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee. It was agreed that such interests would be declared annually and recorded for the minutes at each meeting, unless there was a change.

1637 Public Participation

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

1638 Ampfield Recreation Ground

1638.1 Fund raising for the pavilion

The Fund-raising Sub Committee had met on 10th June 2009. Work continued on seeking sources of funding. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to all households in the Parish to raise awareness about the building of the new sports pavilion and to seek support. Letters would also be sent to particular businesses in the community which might be interested in the project.

1638.2 Provision of water on the Recreation Ground

Some technical data was needed before Southern Water could provide an estimate of the costs of supplying water to the Recreation Ground. Council agreed to engage a plumber to provide the information required.

1638.3 Accumulation of Litter

There had been problems at the Recreation Ground with litter including bags of rubbish left by the new entrance, overflowing bins and piles of cigarette ends left on the grass. These issues had been raised with the sports clubs who had agreed to remove their rubbish from the Recreation Ground. A response was awaited from Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) about the infrequent emptying of bins and about how best to deal with the quantity of rubbish being accumulated. Mr Hatley had discussed the problem with the Head of Commercial Services who had arranged for an on-site visit to view the problem at first hand and to suggest solutions.

Mr Clark had reported evidence of drug usage, found near the new entrance, to the Police. The sports clubs had also been advised. Council was conscious of the need to protect users of the playground from harm and would continue to look for and remove such items during the regular playground inspections.

1638.4 Spraying of Weeds

The spraying of weeds on the area behind the portacabins, at the new entrance and along the eastern boundary, had been carried out in mid-June by TVBC. It had not been successful and had had to be repeated in early July. Weeds had also grown along the western boundary where the trench had been dug to lay down the electricity cables. Stones had come up to the surface of the newly dug earth making grass cutting very difficult. Council agreed to have the weeds on the western perimeter sprayed and to seed all areas of bare earth; estimated cost for this work was approx. £400. Volunteers from the sports clubs would be asked to help clear the stones. The Chairman and Vice-chairman would take this forward.

1638.5 Extension of Health & Safety Inspection

In line with recommended practice, Council agreed to widen the health & safety inspection beyond the playground to include all parts of the Recreation Ground. Mr Nanson would seek advice on what should be included in such an inspection and report back to Council. A roster, separate from that of the playground, would be drawn up.

1638.6 Marking out the Football Pitch

It was agreed that TVBC should be asked to mark out the football pitch in time for the start of the new season. The cost was expected to be approx. £75.

1639 Financial Matters

1639.1 Accounts for payment

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

<u>Cheques to be signed at the meeting:</u>	£ (inc VAT)
Sharp electronics-photocopier hire	75.89
Office expenses- 11th May- 11th July 2009	62.10
D Matthews - July salary	517.11
D Matthews - August Salary	517.11
HM Revenue & Customs - July payments	181.84
HM Revenue & Customs - August payments	<u>181.84</u>
	<u>1535.89</u>

<u>Payments made between meetings:</u>	£ (inc. VAT)
Zurich Mgmt Services LCAS membership	109.25
Hampshire Playing Fields Association	20.00
Ampfield Village Hall Hire 24 Nov 08- 12 March 09	124.00
Ampfield Village Hall Hire 7 April- 18 May 09	114.00
North Hill Services -fuel for digger	15.18
Broker Networks Ltd (Norwich Union) new insurance	1104.39
Southern Water Services- estimate for connection on AR	<u>269.10</u>
	<u>1755.92</u>

1639.2 Anticipated Expenditure

Council reviewed expenditure against budget for the first quarter. Expenditure had been modest and was expected to rise as various projects got underway in the coming months.

1639.3 Income

Income for the period was just over £4,300. The majority of this was due to receipt of the VAT refund due for the latter part of the previous financial year. It was noted that bank interest was negligible. A copy of the invoice from Scottish & Southern Energy for the re-laying of the electricity cables had been sent to the Community Support Officer at TVBC. A cheque for £3026, 50% of the costs of the work, was awaited.

1639.4 Year end accounts

The Annual Return for 2008/2009 had been sent to the Audit Commission. Notices had been posted announcing that the accounts could be viewed by local electors and interested parties between 6th and 31st July 2009.

1639.5 Insurance renewal

Confirmation had been received from Aviva (Norwich Union) that the new cover had been provided with effect from 16th June 2009. Policy documents and Employers' Liability certificate were awaited.

1640 Travellers at Morleys Lane

Travellers had moved onto the field opposite the Village Hall at Morleys Lane and had stayed for 2 weeks. Fortunately, the event had passed without serious incident and the landowner had now created a ditch and bund around the field to help stop any future encampments. A secure crossing area would be created on the field perimeter so that the parking of cars for events at the Village Hall could continue as before. The guidelines issued by TVBC on dealing with Travellers had been noted. However, it was agreed that it would be helpful to add some local actions in the light of experience. The Chairman would draft an action plan for review by Council. It was agreed that the limitations of the height barrier, at the new entrance to the Recreation Ground, would be discussed at Council's next meeting in September.

1641 Composition of Council

The Chairman had written to Mr Choules about his absence and had offered a number of ways forward. Mr Choules had requested an approved leave of absence on personal grounds. Council

agreed that the Chairman would write approving absence of up to 6 months after which time Mr Choules would be expected to attend the Council meeting on 11th January 2010.

1642 Correspondence and Communications

1642.1 Hampshire County Council (HCC) Circulars

Invitation to the HCC Civic Service on 13th July 2009
Impact of recession on rural housing – Rural Services Network

1642.2 Test Valley Borough Council

Rural Settlements Boundary Review – Villages
Green Space Strategy – Rural focus

1642.3 Hampshire Association of Local Councils

Big Lottery Funds and Jeremy Vine show

1642.4 Other Correspondence

Letter from Zurich Insurance re insurance renewal
Letter from Came & Co re insurance renewal
Letter from Mrs Birtwistle about signage along the highway
Request for donations from Victim Support

It was agreed that the request from Victim Support would be considered by the Finance Committee, along with other such requests, at budget time.

1643 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

1643.1 Planning Committee

The following applications had been commented on after discussion on:

18 May 2009

09/00598/FULLS	Land adjoining Internos, Knapp Lane
09/00874/TPOS	1 Flexford Close
09/00858/FULLS	New Barn, Winchester Road

2 July 2009

09/00989/FULLS	Bishop Cottage, Wingham Lane
09/01006/FULLS	27 Beechwood Crescent
09/01178/FULLS	344 Hursley Road

The Planning Committee had considered the Green Space Strategy- Rural Focus on 3rd July 2009 and had completed a first draft of the template outlining plans to improve leisure facilities in the Parish. Most of the items were to do with the Recreation Ground and it was thought that new hedging in the Burial Ground, and clearance of sections of the Woodland to increase space for enjoyment by families, could be added. Councillors were asked to put suggestions for inclusion to the Clerk before the Planning Committee met on 23rd July. The Vice-chairman and the Clerk would add costings and other details.

Council agreed to the suggestion by the Planning Committee to invite members of TVBC Planning Team to a Planning meeting to discuss the issues surrounding the review of Rural Settlements Boundaries.

1643.2 Finance Committee

There was nothing new to report.

1643.3 Footpath Warden

Council was pleased to note that Mr & Mrs Birtwistle had cleared the fingerpost sign from Green Lane to Lower Farm Lane and the steps from Smith's meadow to the A3090. Having received a report that the footpath down from Broadmead Trees (FP11) was full of deep ruts following work by the Forestry Commission, Mrs Birtwistle checked out the area. The pathway was not in good condition but had been left in no worse state than usual after such work. Council was content for Mrs Birtwistle to use her discretion in deciding which issues should be pursued with the Forestry Commission.

1643.4 Test Valley Association of Parish Councils (TVAPC)

Mr Butcher and Mr Stevens had attended the TVAPC meeting on 28th May 2009. Items discussed had included the Green Space Strategy, Rural Settlements Boundaries, pre-application advice for planning items and the proposal for a Town Council for Andover.

1643.5 Hampshire Association of Local Councils

There was nothing new to report

1643.6 Public Transport & Highway Liaison (PT&HL)

There was nothing new to report.

1643.7 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

There was nothing new to report.

1643.8 Village Hall Liaison

Mr Hatley confirmed that a single bottle bank of mixed glass would soon be placed outside the Village Hall.

1643.9 School Governor

Mr Butcher reported that the number of pupils on the register still gave cause for concern as it continued to be below the mid-50s. However, the full complement of staff was now in place and the quality and dedication of the teachers were high; this would have a positive impact on the school and enable the curriculum to be taught more effectively. Also the SATS results had been better than in previous years.

The notice board outside the school was in need of attention; Mr Hatley would arrange for it to be spruced up at no cost. The school staff were free to use the notice board for school business and should have had their own key. Council noted that a re-design of the entrance to the school was under consideration.

1643.10 Tree Wardens

There was nothing new to report.

1644 Highway Matters

1644.1 Speed Limit Sign

Difficulties had been experienced by TVBC in moving the speed limit sign around the 2 Parishes in accordance with the agreed schedule. Mr Clark, Mr Hatley and the Clerk would meet with the Highways Engineer on 17th July 2009 to try to identify and resolve the difficulties.

1644.2 Movement of the bus shelter

Mr Hatley reported that Eastleigh Borough Council had not wanted the bus shelter that had been removed from near the Baddesley Road bridge. Hampshire County Council (HCC) would dispose of it at no cost to Ampfield Parish. Mr Hatley would continue to discuss ways of getting a shelter for Hursley Road with HCC. Mr Hatley had continued to press for the need to sort out the different gradients and uneven surfaces, which were a trip hazard, on the north side of Baddesley Rd, near the entrance to Wheelhouse Park.

1644.3 Signage throughout the Parish

Concern had been expressed by a Parishioner about the number of signs placed on private houses, outside business premises and on the verges along the highway. Although Ampfield did not have a fixed speed camera it was acknowledged that the speed camera signs were there to warn motorists that speed detection and monitoring devices would be in operation from time to time. Some redundant 40mph signs would be removed unless their poles were to be used to hold the speed limit sign. Mr Hatley would discuss the proliferation of other signs with Hampshire Highways. The Clerk would write to the Parishioner to let them know what was happening.

1645 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Mr Hatley updated Council on the situation with TVBC's Core Strategy Draft Development Plan. Following the inspector's comments about the Plan, a recommendation had been made to seek the Secretary of State's permission to withdraw it. Fresh consultations would then take place. There had been agreement to change some of the short & long term parking spaces in Romsey, over the next 12 months, to encourage more useable parking spaces near the shops.

1646 Chapel Wood

1646.1 Friends of Chapel Wood

The Friends of Chapel Wood had held their annual business meeting on 6th July 2009, the minutes of which had been circulated to Council. A schedule of work for the rest of the year had been agreed. It had also been agreed that bracken in the Burial Ground would be cleared during a special working party during the summer to avoid the need to clear old bracken in October. The fountain project would continue with the clearance of unwanted vegetation to open up vistas to the western end of St Mark's Church. The area would be further improved by cutting back the hedges leading from the fountain up to the Churchyard. This proposal would be considered by Ampfield Parochial Church Council. Mr Roads had sought an estimate from TVBC to cut back the hedges.

1646.2 Work in the Woodland

Invitations to tender for the health & safety audit for Chapel Wood had been sent to 3 arboriculturalists with a closing date of 20th July 2009. So far 2 of the 3 organisations had confirmed that they would be submitting a tender. A large number of yellow flag irises, which had been donated by Mr & Mrs Clark, had been planted along the small stream leading to the pond.

1646.3 Burial Ground

A quote from TVBC had been sought to plant box as part of the cruciform hedge in the Burial Ground. It was agreed that tests to help ensure memorial stones were soundly based would be included in the risk assessment regime for Chapel Wood.

1647 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.

1648 Closure

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....