

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 14th March 2011 commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Miss M.I. Rothwell (Chairman) – Presiding
Mr A Clark, Mr D.J.E.Gilks, Mr M.D. Hatley (from paragraph 1751.2), Mr J. A. Jones, Mr B. W. Nanson, Mr G. C. A. Roads, Mr D. Stevens

1739 Apologies for Absence

An apology had been received from Mr E.H. Butcher who had other commitments.

1740 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 10th January 2011, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Council noted that the minutes from the meeting held on Monday, 13th September 2010 were misleading in that the costs of dealing with 2 Beech trees in Chapel Wood were expected to be in the region of £200 per tree rather than £200 for the whole job as shown (Work in the Woodland paragraph 1692.2).

1741 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

1742 Declarations of Interest

It was noted that Mr Hatley had a continuing interest in the Village Hall as Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee.

1743 Public Participation

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

1744 Ampfield Recreation Ground

1744.1 Progress with the new lease

Council agreed to the terms of the new lease of the cricket pavilion and to the new licence to play cricket in the 2011/2012 season. Mr Clark, Mr

Nanson and the Clerk would meet with the Cricket Club later that week when it was hoped that the new terms would be agreed by them. It was agreed that Mr Nanson and the Clerk could agree minor modifications with the Cricket Club.

1744.2 Drainage

The drainage project had been going well and it was expected to be finished in the next week. Council was very pleased that Viridor Credits had awarded a grant towards the costs.

1744.3 Maintenance

The molecatcher had attended the Recreation Ground yet again as further molehills had arisen. Mr Nanson had met with the Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) maintenance team supervisor and discussed a programme of feeding and weeding, especially of the plantain that had appeared over much of the ground. Council agreed to renew the ground maintenance contract with TVBC for the coming year. The cutting of the hedge along the A3090 would be included in the new contract at a cost of £95. Digley Associates had reported no major issues arising from their most recent quarterly inspection of the playground.

1744.4 Football Team

Mr Clark, Mr Nanson and the Clerk had a very worthwhile meeting with Football Club. Due to the waterlogged pitch they had not played since November 2010 and had written off the remainder of the season. All financial debts had been paid; an article about the club would be prepared for the Parish Newsletter.

1744.5 Improvements to the pavilion base

Council agreed that Mr Clark should ask the drainage contractor, as a modification to the existing contract, to clear the surface of the area behind the pavilion base, put down some topsoil and seed it. Council authorised the Chairman and Mr Nanson to take forward that and other minor improvements to the area at a modest cost, supplemented by S106 money wherever possible.

1744.6 Cricket Club- Colts Team

The Cricket Club were keen to set up a Colts Team and include young people from Ampfield Primary School. Mr Butcher, Chair of Governors, had raised this with the new Head who would be keen to take it forward when he took up post later in the year.

1745 Assets including the bus shelters, notice boards and computer equipment

Council considered the invitation to tender, prepared by Mr Clark, to repair the ceiling in the bus shelter at Green Pond Lane. It was agreed that the tender should be issued; work was not expected to exceed £300. The cleaning of the roof and interior, and the clearing of surrounding vegetation, would be done by volunteers. It was not thought that the work would impinge on the highway. Council agreed that Mr Clark should take forward the project.

In Mr Hatley's absence there was no progress to report on the installation of a new bus shelter on Baddesley Road nor on the repair to the notice board at Flexford Close (but see paragraph 1754).

Computer equipment used by the Clerk had been replaced; the PC had been performing badly and the monitor had developed an intermittent fault. Council agreed that the items had no residual value and should be disposed of. Mr Jones would first destroy the hard drive.

1746 Financial Matters

1746.1 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)
TVBC Ground Maintenance Contract	1704.59
Office Expenses - January- March 2011	71.15
Ampfield Parochial Church Council- Messenger donation	60.00
Test Valley Community Services- Dial-a-ride donation	200.00
Ampfield Crusaders Cricket Club- IOG membership	<u>42.30</u>
	2078.04
 <u>Payments made between meetings</u>	
APCC- re-imburement of burial fees overpayment	36.00
P Reynolds- internal audit- April- Dec 2010	300.00
Viridor Waste Mgnt- 3rd Party payment	2348.70
BTCV-annual subscription	<u>35.00</u>
	2719.70

1746.2 Income

Annual web sponsorship had been due; Hursley EMC, Calculis and HugoFox.com had renewed. Responses were awaited from the remaining 3 sponsors. These payments, together with burial fees, rent from the Cricket Club and payment of fees from the Football Club had produced income of just over £1000 for the period.

1746.3 Anticipated Expenditure

Details of anticipated expenditure to the end of the financial year had been circulated. Following the decision to refurbish, rather than demolish, the brick shelter, Council agreed to a reduction in the forecast expenditure for shelters from £750 to £300. Council also agreed an increase in the forecast expenditure for computer upgrades from £250 to £590 to reflect the purchase of the new PC and kit. It was noted that the outcome of any public expenditure cuts would have to be taken into account next year in relation to the donation to Test Valley Community Services.

1746.4 Green Space Strategy

Council confirmed the revised version of Ampfield's Rural Green Space Strategy template which had been requested by TVBC. This document listed details of various projects proposed by Council for which funds were being sought. The template would be taken into account when S106 funds were requested. The latest revision included the improvements to the pavilion base and surrounding area. It was agreed that Mr Clark and Mr Nanson would attend a funding seminar organised by the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) in April.

1747 Elections- 5th May 2011

The Clerk had attended a session by the TVBC Electoral Services Team which explained changes to procedures for the forthcoming elections and how the referendum was to be organised and results counted. Packs of nomination and consent forms for parish council elections had been provided and had now been distributed to Members.

As part of a review of polling stations, the Electoral Services Officer had requested alternative venues to the Village Hall and to the portakabin off the Hursley Road. Ampfield School and St Mark's Room could provide suitable alternatives and a gazebo could be erected on the Recreation Ground. The portakabin could be moved to the lay-by at the Flexford Road cycle/footbridge or

to the grass verge on the Hook/Hursley Road junction. The Clerk would respond accordingly to TVBC.

1748 Correspondence and Communications

A list of items received on paper and electronically is at Annex A.

1747.1 Requests to publish information

Council had received a request from the Fire Service to encourage owners of thatched properties to request a home visit to improve safety. Hampshire County Council was offering a service to mature drivers to help improve their skills and retain their mobility. As these activities could be helpful to the community, Council agreed to place notices in the annual newsletter which would be distributed to all households in April.

It was noted that a Parishioner had requested planning minutes and related information. These had been supplied by the Clerk.

Other items discussed were included under relevant agenda headings.

1749 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

1749.1 Planning Committee

The following applications had been commented on after discussion on:

11 January 2011

10/02992/FULLS	Land adjacent to Ampfield Golf Club
10/03033/FULLS	28 Straight Mile
11/0021/TREES	The Cottage, Knapp lane
10/02994/FULLS }	Ballards Wood, Straight Mile
10/02996/FULLS }	

3 February 2011

11/00045/TPOS	Woodside, Hook Crescent
11/00117/FULLS	Amberwood, 28 Hook Water Road
11/00011/FULLS	11a Beechwood Crescent
11/00205/TPOS	4 Hook Water Close
11/00194/TPOS	2 Hook Water Road
11/00224/TPOS	38 Beechwood Crescent

22 February 2011

11/00011/FULLS	11a Beechwood Crescent
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Council noted the letter from the planning enforcement officer to the owners of Three Trees Caravan site.

1749.1 Footpath Warden

Mr Trotter, the Footpath Warden had received complaints about the muddy state of part of the path from Hook Road through to Beechwood Crescent; he would monitor the situation.

1749.2 Test Valley Association of Parish Councils (TVAPC)

Mr Nanson had attended a recent meeting where speakers had brought everyone up to date on changes to the Concessionary Fares Scheme, Police re-organisation, the review of Libraries and TVBC finances.

1749.3 Public Transport & Highway Liaison (PT&HL)

It was noted that since the publication of the leaflet on the Concessionary Fares Scheme the daily starting time had been changed from 9.30am to 9.00am

1749.4 Village Hall Liaison

It was agreed that Miss Rothwell should continue to be Council's representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.

1749.5 School Governor

It was noted that a new Headteacher had been appointed.

1749.6 Environment

Mr Roads would attend the Green Flag Demonstration Day in Romsey on 31st March 2011.

1749.7 Safer Neighbourhood – Local Action Group

Mr Stevens had attended a meeting of the Local Action Group at Lockerley as an observer. Representatives from Braishfield and Timsbury were yet to be identified. The Clerk would make contact with both Parishes.

1749.8 Finance Committee

Hampshire Association of Local Councils
Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area (but see para. 1754)

Tree Wardens

Website

There was nothing new to report.

1750 Highway Matters

1750.1 Re-filling of grit bins

The grit bins had been re-filled ready for the next bout of severe weather. However, the bin at Jermyns Lane/Straight Mile had still not been moved to a better location despite several requests. Mr Clark would continue to pursue this with Highways.

1750.2 Ditches in Pound Lane

Mr Harris at Gosport Farm had requested that work be put in hand to stop the overflow of water and mud onto the stretch of Pound Lane near his property as it was a hazard to motorists in bad weather; he had had to help several drivers over the winter who had skidded. Mr Clark had requested that Highways attend to the problem; there had been no progress to date and he would continue to pursue the request.

1750.3 Concessionary Fares Scheme

The Scheme would be run by Hampshire County Council from April 2011. Details of changes had been published. Council noted the retention of the facility to use the scheme from 9.00am rather than 9.30 am which was a condition of the national scheme.

1751 Chapel Wood

1751.1 Friends of Chapel Wood

Two working parties had been held with a high attendance level. Activities had concentrated on clearing the area to the west and behind the glade to the rear of St Mark's room. The next activities would include the making of rustic seats with timber from the fallen Oak, clearing of bracken and ground preparation for the planting of the box hedge in the Burial Ground.

1751.2 Work in the Woodland

Some very positive feedback had been received from Parishioners now that the Rhododendron had been cleared away opening up the glade area and liberating some specimen trees. A bonfire had been lit at the March working party to deal with the huge pile of arisings left after the clearance and pruning work. All safety precautions had been taken and the fire was

put out before departure. Mr Roads reported that the signs pointing the way along the footpaths needed to be improved or replaced. Council agreed that quotes should be sought and applications made for any suitable grants.

A number of issues had been raised following the February monthly health and safety inspection. Council noted that the Silver Birch, which had been leaning on adjacent trees, had been felled on 10th March. It was agreed that the Beech, which was leaning at a steep angle and was being supported by 2 other trees, should be removed. As there was not thought to be any immediate danger from the tree, the tree contractor would be asked to fell it when next on site.

(**Afternote:** on further inspection it was decided to remove the Beech as soon as practicable.)

The branch of an Oak, which was on the boundary of the Woodland, had split and could fall on a section of the footpath; this could cause a hazard. It was agreed that Mr Roads would ask the Forestry Commission to remove the branch. It was noted that there was some old tree roots lying around the Woodland floor. It was usual to find old stumps in natural woodland but Mr Roads and Mr Clark would review the situation and identify if any action was needed. No stumps were lying on the footpaths.

1751.3 Burial Ground

The protective wire frame for the yew hedge was now in place. The frame helped to delineate that part of the Burial Ground and a number of positive comments had been received. The next stage would be the preparation of the ground for the planting of the box hedge later in the year which would include digging trenches and refilling with compost. It was agreed that up to £250 could be spent on soil improver and other related items.

Mr Roads and the Clerk had reviewed the Burial Ground Management Agreement and the Code of Practice with the Revd. Gilks. The agreements had been working well and there were few proposed changes. The Clerk was reviewing some aspects of eligibility for burial but, in the meantime, Council agreed to the minor changes proposed.

1752 Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Chairman had spoken to the Parochial Church Council but they had not yet considered plans for the Diamond Jubilee. It was not certain where the Church Fete might be held in 2012 but it was thought that it would be difficult to follow it with a street party. Ampfield Cricket Club would be willing to consider holding a cricket match and a hog roast on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that the

Chairman would include reference to the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, and seek ideas and volunteers, in the annual newsletter.

1753 Parish Assembly 2011

The Parish Assembly was to be held on Monday, 9th May 2011. The deadline for the annual newsletter was approaching and everyone was encouraged to complete their articles as soon as possible.

1754 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Mr Hatley advised that a new section of plastic for the door of the notice board at Flexford Close had been ordered. He would collect the item and there would be no charge to the Parish. Members of TVBC Planning Enforcement Team were being active in the developments at Three Trees Caravan site at the bottom of Ampfield Hill (see also para. 1749.1). The situation would continue to be closely monitored. Everyone was encouraged to report any suspect activity. The community tip at Bunny Lane would close shortly for 8 weeks; it had failed a health & safety check. The nearest local tips were at Winchester and Eastleigh.

Mr Hatley confirmed that S106 developer funds could be re-allocated to a different category/project if there was a need and if they had the co-operation of the developer concerned. It was noted that the new shelter to be positioned on Baddesley Road would be funded by developer contributions from the Brendencare Nursing Home. It had been intended that the footpath outside the Yellow Dot Nursery would be laid with tarmac but, after local objections that this was too urban a material, the path would now be gravel. It was noted that there would be no charge made on requests for road closures for street parties to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

As part of the Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area programme a talk on ponds was being arranged for the spring.

1755 Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council, which would be the Annual Meeting, would be held at 7.00pm on Monday, 16th May 2011. The Parish Assembly would be held at 7.30pm on Monday, 9th May 2011. Both meetings would be in the Village Hall, Ampfield.

1756 Closure

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....