

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 15th June 2009 commencing at 7pm.

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

1630 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

1631 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 11th May 2009 had been circulated for review. It was agreed that the second sentence of paragraph 1627.2 - Work in the Woodland - would be changed from ..” Mr Roads had asked TVBC”...to “Mr Roads would ask TVBC”..... Having agreed the amendment, the Minutes were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

1632 Matters Arising from the Minutes

1632.1 Work in the Burial Ground and the Churchyard

Arrangements had been made to get an estimate from Test Valley Borough Council’s Ground Maintenance Team to reduce the hedges in front of the Church leading up from the fountain and to replace the topsoil and replant the hedges in the Burial Ground.

1632.2 Movement of Bus Shelter

Mr Hatley had met with representatives of Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council. The bus shelter on the Baddesley Road had been dismantled. There had been some slight damage to one leg. It was not thought particularly suitable for erection on Hursley Road. Mr Jones reported that some residents in the area had expressed concern about such a shelter attracting youths and thus causing a nuisance. Council agreed to gift the bus shelter to Eastleigh Borough Council. A more suitable, cantilever construction, which would not lend itself to youths congregating as much as the enclosed type, would be sought from Hampshire County Council in exchange. At the same meeting, Mr Hatley had pointed out the different gradients and the uneven road surface near the entrance to Wheelhouse Park and the need to rectify this as it had caused several accidents. Mr Hatley confirmed that the traffic island would remain as planned.

1633 Declarations of Interest

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

1634 Public Participation

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

1635 Ampfield Recreation Ground

1635.1 Golf practice

No formal proposals had yet been received from the Golf Professional at Ampfield Golf & Country Club. It was agreed that this matter would not be pursued.

1635.2 Provision of water on the Recreation Ground

Council accepted Southern Water's quote of £269.10, which was to be paid in advance, to provide an estimate for the connection of water to the Recreation Ground. Mr Hatley would discuss the project's eligibility for Section 106 monies with colleagues at Test Valley Borough Council.

1635.3 Clearance of Weeds

Weeds had sprouted on areas of the Recreation Ground made bare by the removal and redistribution of earth from behind the new pavilion base. Council agreed to the treatment of the areas by Test Valley Borough Council up to a cost of £60. The earth at the new bus stop just outside the Recreation Ground was also covered in weeds. Mr Hatley advised that Highways had recognised that the surface was inappropriate and would provide hard standing.

1636 Asset Maintenance Schedule

It was agreed that this item would be deferred until the Council's meeting in September 2009. It was noted that the hedge trimmer was in good working condition and would be retained for use in Chapel Wood. It was not known, however, whether the lawn mower required maintenance. Mr Roads would check to see if it was in working order. As it was no longer required, Council agreed it could be offered to Ampfield Cricket Club for use on the Recreation Ground.

1637 Financial Matters

1637.1 Accounts for 2008/2009

The Clerk (as RFO) reported that Paul Reynolds, the Internal Auditor, had completed his audit of the Council's 2008/2009 Accounts. There were no accounting matters that had to be brought to Council's attention but, Mr Reynold's advice, that the Fidelity Guarantee on the Insurance Schedule should be increased to £50,000, was accepted. The Clerk would ensure this was included in the insurance renewal figures.

The Clerk then presented and explained the 2008/2009 Accounts and the Audit Commission Annual Return. It was proposed and agreed that the accounts be signed by the Chairman and the RFO. Also, the Chairman and the RFO were authorised to sign Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Return, the Council having discussed and agreed all responses to the Annual Governance Statement in Section 2. It was also agreed that elements of the Annual Governance Statement would be regularly considered by the Finance Committee to help ensure internal controls continued to be sound.

Notice of the forthcoming External Audit would be posted on 22nd June 2009. This advised electors of their rights to examine the accounts and the process by which they could do so.

1637.2 Reserves

Council agreed to transfer £5,250 to the Recreation Ground Reserve Fund and to set aside £2,500 for Election Expenses rather than continue to budget for it on an annual basis. Council also agreed that separate bank accounts should be set up for both the reserves and any funds raised for the new pavilion.

1637.3 Insurance renewal

Council decided to accept the quote for insurance offered by Norwich Union. Cover and annual premium were better than those offered by Council's previous insurer. Council also agreed to accept a 3-year package which further reduced the annual premium. The possible need for further, more specific insurance was considered; the Clerk would seek advice and report back.

1638 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 13th July 2009 in the Village Hall, Ampfield commencing at 7.00pm.

1639 Closure

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....