

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday, 10th March 2014 at 7pm

PRESENT: Miss M.I. Rothwell (Chairman) – Presiding
Mr A Clark, Mr P. Edwards, Mr J. A. Jones,
Mr B. W. Nanson, Mr G. C. A. Roads

2087 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mr E.H. Butcher, Mr M.D. Hatley and Mr D. Stevens who had other commitments.

2088 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 11th January 2014, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

2089 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

2090 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary, or code of conduct, interest.

2091 Ampfield Recreation Ground

2091.1 Maintenance

Mole activity had started up again in recent months and was being attended to by the contractor. Two horses tethered near the rear carpark of the White Horse had become agitated and galloped across the Recreation Ground. Due to the prolonged wet weather the ground was very soft and the hooves had caused deep ruts. It was hoped that the damage would repair itself. A burglary had taken place at the Golf Club and the thieves had made their get-away on a quad bike through the Recreation Ground. The damage made by them to the entrance gate had since been repaired. The ditch on the eastern boundary with the Golf Club had been filled in over time, making it easier for the thieves to drive over and escape via the

Recreation Ground. The Golf Club had since cleared out the ditch and would remove the resultant pile of soil and rubble.

2091.2 Storm damage to buildings and replacement portakabin

Mr Clark and Mr Nanson had repaired the damage to the roof of the scorer's hut as a result of the recent storms. The damage to one of the portakabins was such that it had been written off by the insurers. Mr Hatley was making arrangements to have it removed. It was agreed that the insurance money would be used to buy a second hand secure container which had been adapted to include kitchen equipment.

2091.3 Safety netting

Two tenders had been received to erect safety netting to protect users of the playground during cricket matches. The cricketers would be expected to erect and dismantle the nets. A decision had yet to be made about whether the posts holding the netting should be a permanent feature or not. Mr Clark and Mr Nanson would review all the options and report back to Council. It was noted that grant funding would be applied for if it was decided to proceed.

2091.4 Identity cards

Mr Nanson was arranging refresher training for those involved in health & safety inspections of the playground and Recreation Ground. It was agreed that ID cards for the inspectors would be helpful in dealing with the public. Mr Nanson would investigate the production of business and ID cards.

2092 Chapel Wood

2092.1 Friends of Chapel Wood (FOCW)

There had only been one planned working party and one adhoc session since the last meeting due to the poor weather.

2092.2 Work in the Woodland

The 4-yearly health & safety audit of the trees in Chapel Wood had been completed; action was in hand to treat any trees that needed attention. Tenders would go out shortly for a contract to deal with any tree work needed over the next 3 years. Many native bluebells had been planted; the majority had survived and should provide beautiful colour in the season. Some fences had been repaired and some paths had been edged with logs.

2092.3 Burial Ground

An estimate to dispose of the large piles of arisings from the removal of Rhododendron ponticum was being sought from TVBC. More work had been done on clearing out the stumps and unwanted shrubbery from the unconsecrated strip on the western edge of the Burial Ground.

2093 Financial Matters

2093.1 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)
St Mark's PCC-hall hire	14.00
Office Expenses-D Matthews 13/1/14 - 8/03/14	76.22
HALC training	132.00
Allbrook Pest Control – moles	225.00
Ampfield Electrical-portakabin	72.00
March salary-D Matthews	569.35
HMRC March payments	152.16
Messenger donation	60.00
Dial-a-ride donation	<u>200.00</u>
	1500.73
<u>Payments made between meetings</u>	£ (inc VAT)
The Conservation Volunteers- subscription	38.00
CBA Trees – Health & Safety Tree audit	2340.00
Konica Minolta-copier hire	128.88
Cllr Roads – equipment for Chapel Wood	54.68
Allotment Society - subscription	66.10
Cllr Clark- storm damage items	<u>48.92</u>
	2676.58

2093.2 Receipts and Anticipated Payments

Council confirmed the payments made between meetings. It was noted that payments included the fee for the 4-yearly health & safety inspection of trees in the woodland, and for membership of the Allotment Society in preparation for the advice and support needed when the Morley's development got under way. The actual expenditure figures to February 2014 were much in line with the forecast outturn which had been examined in depth and revised in January when the precept had been proposed. Southern Water had agreed to a revision of monies

owed to a credit of £27.51 following receipt of actual readings taken by Mr Clark. Council agreed to continue with the TVBC ground maintenance contract for another year; increase in prices had been negligible at 0.05%. Income for the period had been just over £630, the most significant items of which were rent from the Recreation Ground and burial fees. Council was pleased to note that the Potters Heron, Hursley EMC and Paul Collard Heating had renewed their web sponsorship for another year. Aviva had paid out £3059 in early March for the damaged portakabin. The bank accounts stood at £52,527 of which £31,950 was in named reserve funds.

2093.3 Donations and Reserves

Council agreed a donation of £200 to Test Valley Community Services in support of the Dial-a-Ride scheme and £60 to the Parochial Church Council in support of the production of the Messenger magazine. Both donations had been budgeted. Council also agreed to transfer £800 to reserves under the Recreation Ground Fund and £500 to reserves for Election costs.

2093.4 Council tax increase

Council noted with regret that, despite presenting a precept of £32,472 for 2014/15 which was a decrease of 0.20% over the previous year, this would show as a minor increase in Test Valley Borough Council's tax list due to the method of calculation which was based on the number of Band D properties

2094 Public Participation

PCSO Jo Cole was present.

Miss Rothwell welcomed PCSO Cole, suspended the meeting at 7.25pm and invited her to speak.

PCSO Cole reported that there had been a number of burglaries in Chilworth the previous week, and one in Knapp Lane earlier that day. Apart from those instances, things were fairly quiet although much resource was being taken up dealing with fallen trees and road blockages due to the poor weather. The Chairman thanked PCSO Cole for the information and reconvened the meeting at 7.30pm.

2095 Planning

Comments on the Revised Local Plan had been submitted to TVBC. Mr Clark thanked everyone who had input to the process. Thanks were also made to Mr Roads who had undertaken the research and done much of the drafting on the Green Infrastructure Strategy paper. Mr Clark continued to discuss the bringing of mains gas to parts of the village with Southern Gas Network (SGN). He remained

optimistic about the project and hoped to be able to tell parishioners something positive about it at the Parish Assembly. He had also been in discussions with SGN about possible sources of subsidy. Mr Nanson thanked Mr Clark for the time and effort he had put into the project which was very worthwhile and for helping Ampfield Parish Council be the link between all interested parties and SGN. It was noted that a timetable of events about progress with the Morley's Lane development had been received from the Perbury Group. A letter had been written to TVBC confirming agreement to the various areas of responsibility attributed to Ampfield Parish Council in the S106 agreement for Morley's.

(All applications considered by Ampfield Planning Committee, and decisions relating to them, are published in planning committee minutes which can be found on the website at: www.ampfield.co.uk).

2096 Parish Assembly 2014

Miss Rothwell thanked everyone for their contributions to the newsletter; she would now write the Chairman's review of the year. It was noted that Mrs Butcher had kindly agreed to do the refreshments after the Assembly. It was agreed that an item could be put in the newsletter to publicise the appeal for funds to repair the bells at St Mark's.

2097 Emergency Planning

During the recent period of flooding across Test Valley, Council had been contacted by TVBC and by the Fire Service about emergency planning and about how Ampfield was coping with the situation. Fortunately, Ampfield had not been significantly affected by flooding and had not needed any emergency planning provisions. However, it was agreed that the subject should be put on the next agenda and the existing plan be reviewed. Mr Roads would consider the merit of a visit to TVBC and of asking an officer to attend Council to discuss emergency plans.

2098 Correspondence and Communications

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

Council had been extremely sad at the death of Martin Trotter who had done so much work for the community over the years and would be greatly missed. It was agreed that Miss Rothwell would write to Mrs Trotter, on behalf of Council, to express condolences. Miss Rothwell would also write to the family of Dame Kellet-Bowman, a prominent member of the parish, who had also died recently. Council considered various requests for funds and to publicise activities and organisations. It agreed that information about the Divorce Recovery Workshop and the Shaw Trust Garden Support Service could be displayed on notice boards.

2099 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

2099.1 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

A talk on butterflies in Hampshire and Chapel Wood had taken place on 3rd March 2014 in the Village Hall. It had been an encouraging start to the season with 29 people in attendance. Another talk on “wildlife in churchyards” was planned for later in the year along with a summer walk. A review of the walks included in the Keble Way had started and the first updates would be put on the website.

2099.2 Ampfield Village Hall

A special meeting of Council had been held on 27th February 2014 to consider the future of Ampfield Village Hall. It had been agreed at the meeting that Ampfield Parish Council would pursue the purchase of the freehold of the Hall from the Women’s Institute (W.I.) who were the current owners. As agreed Miss Rothwell had written to the W.I. confirming Council’s interest and giving an indicate offer price. The next meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee had been fixed for 7th April 2014 (now postponed until June). The next Village Market would take place on 5th April. It was thought that Ampfield had been one of 4 villages in Test Valley selected to be part of a study about rural services; those carrying out the study were expected to be present at the Market. Furniture and play equipment belonging to the Pre-school had been left out in the Hall that evening making it difficult to accommodate any members of the public at Council’s meeting. It was agreed that Miss Rothwell would write to the Pre-school about the situation (in the event this proved to be unnecessary).

2099.3 Transport & Highways

Mr Edwards had attended a Passenger Transport event at which Hampshire County Council (HCC) had outlined the reductions they had to make to their budget and hence their services. The 2 areas which were under review were the timeframe in which bus passes could be used and subsidised bus routes. A second event with a wider agenda would be attended shortly by Mr Edwards and Mr Clark after which Mr Edwards, as part of a consultation exercise, would complete a survey on behalf of Council. There were a lot of pot holes and other road damage in the Parish following the very wet weather and storms. It was agreed that Mr Edwards would compile a list of the damaged areas and send it to HCC.

2100 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Councillor Hatley was not in attendance.

2101 Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 12th May 2014 in the Village Hall, Ampfield commencing at 7.00pm. The 2014 Parish Assembly would be held on Monday, 28th April.

2102 Closure

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....