

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday, 11th November 2013 at 7pm

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

2045 Apologies for Absence

All Members were present.

2046 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 16th September 2013, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

2047 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

2048 Declarations of Interest

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

2049 Public Participation

PCSO Jo Cole was present.

Miss Rothwell welcomed PCSO Cole to the meeting and invited her to speak.

PCSO Cole was pleased to advise that 2 people had been charged with the recent spate of burglaries in the Straight Mile; a man staying at the Potters Heron Hotel had been arrested for a drink driving offence having crashed into a nearby property and men from the Wellow area had been arrested for entering the yard at North Hill Cottage and attempting to steal scrap metal. As yet the hedgecutter stolen from the Parish Lengthsman, whilst working on the hedge at the Recreation Ground, had not been recovered. Events to “mark” equipment to help recovery in

cases of theft were being set up. The rural police team would visit people at their property, especially farmers, but anyone could register themselves on-line. The Chairman thanked PCSO Cole for the information and reconvened the meeting at 7.10pm

2050 Ampfield Recreation Ground

2050.1 Maintenance

A further examination of the rotting section of the door frame of the portakabin nearest the playground revealed that the damage was worse than expected. The threshold and the left hand side of the frame were also in poor condition as was the door itself. The whole frame would need to be replaced and perhaps also the door. It was agreed that Mr Clark would investigate how best to make the repairs and/or replace the door. There was no further news about the replacement showers needed in the pavilion as the Cricket Club was still obtaining estimates.

2050.2 Cricket risk assessment

Council agreed to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation that a likely risk of cricket balls landing in the playground should be addressed by the installation of temporary netting. Mr Nanson would investigate the nature and cost of such netting and discuss options with the Cricket Club.

2050.3 Inspection Training and advice

Mr Nanson had investigated the cost of refresher training in playground inspections. The cost of £200 for a group session when the inspector was in attendance during an actual inspection had seemed expensive. It was agreed that Mr Nanson, who had been formally trained in inspections, would run the session himself in the spring. The Clerk had queried the need for weekly playground inspections in the winter months with Came & Co., Council's insurance brokers. There had been a change in requirements on the renewal schedule by Aviva, Council's insurers. Council was pleased to note that Came & Co. had reached agreement with Aviva that fortnightly, rather than weekly, inspections would continue in the winter months. Their agreement had been based on the fact that the playground was still relatively new and was not subject to high usage in the winter months. Should any of these factors change Council would need to advise the insurance brokers.

2051 Chapel Wood

2051.1 Friends of Chapel Wood (FOCW)

The working parties had resumed in September following the summer recess; the November party had been postponed to the following week due to poor weather.

2051.2 Work in the Woodland

Work would continue in clearing the vegetation around the footpaths at the Chapel Hill entrance and the pond with a view to having the Lengthsman spray encroaching weeds in the spring. Work was also underway in clearing the pond itself of mud and weeds. The FOCW would continue to prune or remove *Rhododendron ponticum* in the Burial Ground area; Mr Roads would get an estimate from Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) to clear *Rhododendron ponticum* from the rest of the woodland. Council agreed that Mr Roads should get a quote from TVBC to remove the large piles of arisings created from earlier pruning of *Rhododendrons*. Work had been done in September to repair any damage to the perimeter fences; Mr Roads had asked the Forestry Commission to repair the fence that they had broken when vegetation was cleared by them earlier in the year.

Native bluebells had been bought and would be planted up in pots until conditions were more favourable for transplanting in the spring. It was agreed that the tree which had been uprooted in the St Jude storm, and was lying across other trees, should be felled. Mr Roads and Mr Clark would determine whether the tree could be removed using a digger or whether it would be necessary to call in the tree contractor. Responses to the invitation to tender for the 4-yearly health & safety inspection of the woodland trees had been analysed and reviewed and details issued to Council prior to the meeting. Being the only tender that fully complied with the specification, Council agreed that the contract should be awarded to CBA Trees. Mr Roads would, however, explore with them the cost of the mapping as this was a revision of existing data and not an original creation.

2051.3 Burial Ground

A digger had been used to clear out the roots of vegetation cut down on the western edge of the Burial Ground near the footpath, and to level the ground. Grass seed would be considered for sowing next spring to keep the weeds down. Complaints had been received the previous winter about the muddy condition of the footpath leading from the car park and along the south side of the Burial Ground. It was agreed that if a digger became available it could be used to scrape off the mud ready for the placement of new hardcore.

One response to the invitation to tender to survey the Burial Ground had been received. Mr Roads would seek to clarify some elements of the bid before making any recommendation to Council. It was noted that Council had agreed to a former parishioner being laid to rest in the Burial Ground. Council thanked Mr Hatley for his help and advice in the disposal of rubbish which had been “fly-tipped” in the Church car park.

2051.4 War Memorial

Council expressed its thanks to Mrs Butcher for her work in the Memorial garden which looked lovely on Remembrance Sunday.

2052 Financial Matters

2052.1 Accounts for payment

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

Cheques to be signed at the meeting: £ (inc VAT)

Konica Minolta-copies made	2.04
Cllr Rothwell-bulbs for woodland	20.00
G Phelps-work on Rec Ground -July-October	429.00
Parish Online renewal	24.00
Office Expenses-D Matthews 16 /9/ to 10/11/13	54.30
November salary-D Matthews	608.91
HMRC November payments	169.00
December salary-D Matthews	569.55
HMRC December payments	<u>151.96</u>
	2028.76

Payments made between meetings £ (inc VAT)

Ace Liftaway-soil	42.00
Cllr Nanson- grass seed for Rec Ground	44.99
Cllr Clark-wood preservative for bus shelters-Lengthsman	94.06
Broker Network Ltd-insurance renewal	1092.40
BDO LLP - external audit	240.00
Information Commissioner-DP renewal	35.00
Konica Minolta-copier/printer hire	128.88
Play Inspection Company- playground	71.94
Cllr Clark- preservative for Lengthsman duties & timber	29.82
DEK Graphics & Print Ltd-newsletter re public meeting	<u>130.00</u>
	1,909.09

2052.2 Receipts and Anticipated Expenditure

Income had been significant at just over £16,400 for the period; this was due primarily to receipt of the 2nd instalment of the Precept and to new memorials in the Burial Ground. The Clerk would get the newly acquired road signs included on the insurance policy; as the value was not significant it was not expected that

the premium would be increased as a result this year. Mr Nanson reported that the issues around the S106 monies due from the land adjacent to the Golf Club development would soon be resolved and funds made available to Council. It was recognised that a significant proportion of all S106 monies was allocated to Highways and that Parish Councils did not have much say in how it would be spent. Cllr Hatley advised that TVBC was very generous in its dealings with local Councils over S106 monies.

2052.3 Annual Return and External Audit

Notices had been placed on boards advising parishioners that the Annual Return had been completed and was available for inspection by arrangement. Council had been made aware by the RFO that the External Auditors had commented on the valuation of assets and had disputed the amount of outstanding loans. After discussion the External Auditors, who had criticised the long-standing method of valuing assets at current, insurance values, agreed that asset values could remain at the latest insurance value but could not be increased further. In the future all new assets would be shown, and would remain, at purchase price. The RFO had disputed the amounts outstanding against the Chapel Wood loan at the year end. Due to the PWLB's system of not taking monies until after weekends and bank holidays, the 2nd loan instalment had not been taken out of Council's bank account until April and was hence in the following financial year. Council accepted there was no real resolution to the difference of opinion with the Auditors; similar problems when the month end fell on a weekend would not occur again for several years.

2052.4 Finance Regulations

The Finance Regulations had been reviewed and updated. Council adopted the revised regulations as recommended by the Finance Committee.

2052.5 St Jude storm reports

Mr Roads and Mr Nanson had inspected the Woodland and the Recreation Ground respectively following the St Jude storm. Apart from the uprooted tree (see para 2051.2) there had been no damage.

2053 Planning

As yet there had been no decision on application 13/00952/FULLS for 6 gypsy pitches on Ampfield Hill. Mr Clark had spoken to members of the planning team at TVBC and it was thought likely that the Officer's report would be published before Christmas. Mr Clark brought Council up to date with events at the planning inspector's public hearing about the application for one gypsy pitch in Timsbury. There had been some very robust dealings with local objectors by the defence barrister. The outcome was awaited with interest.

(**Afternote:** TVBC Planning Department had subsequently declared application 13/00952/FULLS invalid due to irregularities with the certificate of ownership.)

An approach had been made from the developer and agent of the Broadgate Farm project to speak to Council about proposals to amend the published plans for the site. Permission had already been given some time ago for the building of industrial units and for 2 dwellings. It was agreed that they would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Planning Committee which was due to take place on 25th November 2013.

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

2054 Correspondence and Communications

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

It was noted that the Dogs Trust was offering a free microchipping service for dog owners prior to a change in the law in 2016 which would require all dogs to be chipped. Mr Edwards would consider its suitability for insertion into the Messenger magazine. A Chilbolton Residents group had written to a number of local parishes about the implementation of a 20mph speed limit in villages. They had started a campaign following the simplification of guidance from the Department of Transport about implementing local limits. They were looking to work with other parishes that had similar interests. Mr Edwards had considered the proposal in relation to roads in the parish and had concluded that there was no obvious need. It was agreed that the invitation would not be pursued further.

As part of the commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War, TVBC was planning to sow flower seed mixes, including poppies and later flowering annuals, on key verges in Andover and the Memorial Park in Romsey. Various seed mixes were being offered to Parish Councils. Council agreed to buy a small poppy seed mixture for planting around the War Memorial, or any other suitable places, in 2014.

2055 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

2055.1 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

It was agreed that it would be helpful to let people know about the ACHA and any activities; Mr Roads would write a short article for the Messenger magazine. Mr Hatley and Mr Roads would set a date for the Spring Heritage Talk. The Boxing Day Walk was expected to go ahead as planned.

2055.2 Public Transport, Highway Liaison & Lengthsman

Council had been very concerned to hear about the theft of a new hedge cutter belonging to the Lengthsman when he was working on the hedge at the Recreation Ground. The Police were investigating the theft. During his working days in the parish he had cleaned road signs, tidied up round the bus shelters and cleaned and added preservative to most of the notice boards.

The windows in the shelters at Morleys Lane and at Pound Lane, which were made of a polycarbonate material, had markedly deteriorated. Mr Edwards would get estimates so that Council could consider options for replacement. The lettering on the notice board at the School was now peeling off and looked unsightly. It was thought that the most effective and economic solution would be to have new lettering routed out of the timber along the top of the board ; Mr Edwards would determine how best to take that forward.

Council agreed that there was no need to speak to anyone from the Hampshire County Council (HCC) team about the replacement lighting due to be installed next spring in the Baddesley/Flexford Road areas. It was noted that the car park at Winchester Rail station was being rebuilt and would be closed for some time causing significant problems for those trying to park near the station. Mr Edwards would try to establish what was happening and if any special arrangements were being made to help passengers.

2055.3 Website

Council was pleased to note that the Potters Heron Hotel had resumed their sponsorship of the website for the coming year

2056 Remembrance Sunday-traffic calming

Attempts by Council to have the road closed to eliminate traffic noise during the ceremony had not been successful: Ampfield had no viable diversion route to allow temporary closure of the A3090. However, road signs asking motorists to slow down had met with some success. The “Police Slow” signs would be also be used the following year.

2057 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Councillor Hatley advised that the Romsey Future Event, held on 2nd November, had been well attended and had been very successful. Council was pleased to hear that Cllr Dowden was now sufficiently recovered from illness to drive again. Some minor changes had been put forward by residents to the Settlement Boundaries plans; the Morleys Green development would be added. Unforeseen problems continued to arise from the way Housing Land Supply figures were calculated. Developments with permission to build were not included in projected figures if

building had not yet begun. The discrepancy in numbers could be significant and resolving the problem was not straightforward. It was noted that the seminar on the Community Infrastructure Levy, at which some Councillors would be present, would include permitted development rights and other related matters.

2058 Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 13th January 2014 in the Village Hall, Ampfield commencing at 7.00pm. The 2014 Parish Assembly would be held on Monday, 28th April.

2059 Closure

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Chairman.....
Date.....