

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 12th January 2015 commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Miss M.I.Rothwell (Chairman) – Presiding
Mr E. Butcher, Mr A.Clark, Mr P. Edwards,
Mr. M.D. Hatley (from para 2190) Mr J. Jones,
Mr B.W. Nanson and Mr D. Stevens

2180 Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mr G.C.A. Roads.

2181 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 10th November 2014 having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

2182 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no Matters Arising.

2183 Declarations of Interest

Mr Edwards declared an interest in the budget figure for 2015/2016 for a £15 advert in the Messenger as he was the editor of the magazine. He stayed in the room and took part in the budget discussion. There were no other declarations of pecuniary, or code of conduct, interest.

2184 Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

2185 Ampfield Recreation Ground

2185.1 Maintenance and inspections

Council noted the inspection rota and revised form for the playground and the Recreation Ground for 2015. Mr Nanson reported that the inspection regime had worked well throughout 2014; rabbit and mole damage presented the most persistent problems. The pest controller was currently engaged in dealing with moles. Mr Clark would attend to the loose posts and missing sign in the

playground. It was hoped that the door from the old portakabin would replace the damaged door and frame on the remaining kabin. Council agreed that the Chairman and Mr. Nanson could authorize fitting a new, or the old, door up to a cost of £200.

2186 Chapel Wood

2186.1 Friends of Chapel Wood and Work in the Woodland

Mr Roads had made a written report. There had been 2 working parties since the November meeting. The fence had been inspected and six posts had been replaced. Large clumps of Rhododendron ponticum had been cut back to open up the view at the northern end of the Burial Ground and to clear space around benches and specimen trees. The large amount of arisings from the Rhododendron had to be disposed of. Council agreed that quotes should be obtained for commercial shredding. As an alternative, it was also agreed that a bonfire could be made subject to insurance considerations. It was noted that the outstanding work relating to the health & safety audit of the trees in Chapel Wood was almost complete; Mr Roads would meet with the contractors to finalise the work.

2186.2 Burial Ground

Council adopted the revised management agreement and code of practice for the governance of the Burial Ground. Interim arrangements, to deal with some practical aspects of the operation of the Burial Ground, had been agreed until the appointment of a new vicar was made. Council noted that these arrangements would normally have been covered by the annual administration fee. The water table was being monitored regularly; it remained high. The box hedge was likely to need about 30 replacement plants. This would be done in February provided growth was not too advanced.

2187 Financial Matters

2187.1 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)
Southern Water - Rec Ground June -December 14	5.40
St Mark's PCC - advert in Messenger	15.00
Office Expenses 10/11/14 - 12/1/15 - D Matthews	49.04
D Matthews - January salary	569.35
HM Revenue & Customs - January payments	149.13

D Matthews - February salary	569.35
HM Revenue & Customs - February payments	148.13
War memorial flowers - Cllr Butcher	64.94
Posts for Chapel Wood - Cllr Roads	<u>22.62</u>
	1,592.96

Payments made between meetings £ (inc VAT)

APCC - Burial Ground admin 2014/15 as per agreement	200.00
Ace Liftaway - soil for Rec Ground	42.00
HALC - planning training- Cllrs Clark, Roads & Edwards	108.00
C Hoare Tree Services - work related to H & S audit	<u>3594.00</u>
-cheque held back	3,944.00

2187.2 Receipts and anticipated payments

Council confirmed the payments made between meetings. It was noted that the cheque in payment for tree work following the health & safety audit had not yet been sent; once some outstanding queries had been resolved the invoice would be paid. The Clerk was pleased to report that the £2,457.26 VAT refund had finally been paid. The bank accounts stood at £ 52,655.10 of which £33,250 was in named reserves.

2187.3 Village Hall

The Clerk had submitted the application to have Ampfield Village Hall registered by TVBC under the Community Right to Bid scheme as a community asset which could not be sold without the Parish Council being informed early enough to put together a bid to buy the place if it so wished. A decision would be given within 8 weeks from submission.

2188 Budget & Precept 2015/16

Council agreed in principle not to increase the precept. Papers showing detailed budget and outturn for 2014/15, and actual expenditure to November 2014, had been circulated prior to the meeting, together with budget proposals for 2015/16. Council discussed all costs and projections and, with some adjustments, agreed a provisional budget figure of £39,527. Council agreed that the £1600 annual licence fee, due from Ampfield & North Baddesley Cricket Club to play on the Recreation Ground, would be not be increased by RPI and would be discounted by 50%, in line with previous years, to take account of the very limited facilities at the ground. Having then discussed and agreed all other projected income and any change in reserves, a precept of £32,336 was agreed. This represented a modest decrease of 0.42% over the previous year.

2189 Planning update

The public hearing about the appeal against the refusal to allow a gypsy site on the paddocks opposite the Potters Heron Hotel had taken place on 16th December 2014. The inspector's decision was not expected until the end of January. It was agreed that the Clerk would reply to an enquiry from a resident about certain documents relating to the hearing. Mr Clark advised that Council had been given the opportunity to take part in the consultation over the review of the Romsey Town Access Plan. The Plan included a strategy that identified where improvements could be made to highway infrastructure. It was also a mechanism for allocating funds from various bodies, including S106 developer funds, to improve schemes. It was agreed that Mr Clark would advise Council at the February meeting about whether it should take part or not and take any subsequent action.

(All planning 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).

2190 Parish Assembly 2015

It was confirmed that the Parish Assembly would take place on Monday, 27th April 2015 in the Village Hall.

2191 Newsletter

Mr Edwards gave a short presentation on the review of the autumn newsletter, highlighting good points and areas for improvement. The whole process was well supported by contributors and by those processing and distributing the newsletter. It was estimated that about 30% of costs had been saved by in-house production, although the time spent hand folding A3 sheets was not considered necessarily to be best use of the Clerk's time. Mr Hatley had a folding machine which would be kept in mind for any future use. It was agreed that Mr Edwards would review the lay-out and format of the annual newsletter, taking account of the positive elements of the autumn newsletter and setting out any options for change. It was acknowledged that Council might need to change its logo to make sure people knew when a publication was from them. The Chairman's badge would be looked at to see if it was suitable. Mr Hatley reminded everyone that the annual newsletter underpinned the Parish Assembly and that it benefitted from contributors other than council.

2192 Emergency Planning

Mr Roads was not in attendance and the subject was deferred.

2193 Defibrillators

Some members had attended a briefing by a representative of the Ambulance Service about the provision of a defibrillator which was intended to help anyone suffering from a heart attack. The machine, and the cabinet to hold it, would cost approx. £1410. Mr Hatley confirmed that a grant of £500 towards the cost could be awarded through TVBC. It was noted that the running costs were minimal although a weekly visual check of the machine would be required. Council agreed to purchase a defibrillator on behalf of the community and that it would be best placed on the outside of the Village Hall. A grant application would be made immediately to TVBC. Budget provisions under S137 had been made to cover the outstanding balance. It was agreed that Mr Nanson and the Clerk would take forward the purchase.

2194 Correspondence and Communications

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

It was agreed that Miss Rothwell would write a letter of appreciation, on behalf of Council, to the Revd Peter Gilks following his departure to a new parish. It was also agreed that Mr Hatley would include Ampfield Parish Council in his letter of condolence to the family of Nora Loader, a former Headteacher of Ampfield Primary School, who had died recently. Mr Nanson would respond in support of the changes to the parish poll processes being proposed by the Department for Communities & Local Government. It was noted that Government was conducting a review of the Public Works Loan Board with a view to its abolition and transfer of its functions to another body. No changes to existing loans or terms were expected. It was agreed that the notice about fuel poverty, and the help available to older residents, would be displayed on the website and notice boards. One option being considered by DEFRA to reduce its budget was to withdraw funding from the Action with Communities in Rural England network (ACRE). This body had been helpful in providing advice over the years about matters to do with the Village Hall. Council agreed that Ampfield Parish Council should sign the petition in support of continuing Government funding for ACRE. Miss Rothwell and the Clerk would take it forward.

(Afternote: Mr Hatley advised on 23 January 2015 that DEFRA had agreed to continue funding ACRE for 2015/16.)

2195 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

2195.1 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

The Boxing Day walk had been well attended although many paths had been very wet and muddy. The next talk would be given on 16th March by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust about the work they did in local reserves. HCC was

reviewing the rights of way paths which would be maintained by them during the summer. Mr Roads would discuss the schedule with the Footpath Warden and respond accordingly.

2195.2 Ampfield Primary School

Pupil numbers remained at 52. Ampfield's Head of School had left; a temporary appointment had been made whilst the recruitment process to appoint a successor was underway. The Executive Head was providing increased support to Ampfield whilst the situation continued.

2195.3 Ampfield Village Hall

The next meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee had been fixed for 19th January.

2195.4 Allotments & Morleys

Messrs. Clark, Jones & Stevens had met with Mr O'Brien of the Perbury Group to discuss development of the allotments. TVBC had determined that the allotments could not be made available until the 30th dwelling at Morleys had been occupied. It was not expected, therefore, that the allotments would be available before early 2016; preparation would start in the autumn. Mr Jones & Mr Stevens would continue to meet with other allotment groups. Consideration was being given to affiliating with other allotment organizations for economies of scale and sharing of knowledge. It was agreed that the setting up of an advisory panel, to consider various aspects of the Morleys development, would be determined at the February Council meeting

2195.5 Transport & Highways

Mr Edwards had discussed the position of the Flexford Road notice board with the owners of the land on which it was situated. It was estimated that a new board would cost about £900 not including posts or nameplates. As £1500 had been allowed for in the budget, any spare money could be used to refurbish the board at Ampfield School. It was doubtful that the board could be delivered before the end of January when the Lengthsman would have been available to install it. Mr Hatley would accept delivery of the new board. Mr Edwards would put forward a recommendation to Council about purchase of a new board. Mr Edwards advised route C3/C4 had been renamed X6/X7.

2195.6 Website

Mr Jones reported that the updated website was now live. A few elements, including the Village Hall calendar and the inspection reports, still needed attention but everything else was operational. The website could now be accessed

from smart phones and tablets as well as PCs. Miss Rothwell thanked Mr Jones for his work on the maintenance and improvement of the parish website.

2196 Test Valley Borough Council

Mr Hatley brought members up to date with various issues in Test Valley. The old Magistrate's Court had become a hub for many activities including Children's Services. Crosfield Hall had been re-furbished and was being used for many of TVBC's meetings. The Revised Local Plan was currently under examination by the inspector who was unlikely to announce his decision until after the elections in May. He was pleased to report that TVBC tax would not go up in the new financial year despite significant reductions in support from Government, nor would parking charges be increased.

The inspector dealing with accusations that TVBC had not consulted properly with neighbouring councils about shared affordable housing provisions in connection with the Parker Farm development, had found in TVBC's favour. Changes had been made to the trigger used to calculate affordable housing requirements on applications for new developments. This meant that new developments of 10 or fewer dwellings would not now be required to build any affordable houses, although exceptions could be made in rural areas. Mr Hatley would report the damage to the road sign on the north side of the Straight Mile.

2197 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Ampfield Parish Council would be held on Monday, 9th February 2015 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Ampfield.

2198 Closure

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....