

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 8th July 2013 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 2025), Mr B W Nanson, Mr G.C.A.Roads, Mr D.
Stevens

2012 Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mr J.A. Jones who had other commitments.

2013 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 13th May 2013, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

2014 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

2015 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

2016 Public Participation

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

2017 Ampfield Recreation Ground

2017.1 Maintenance

The outfield had been rolled and, where access could be gained, the perimeter had been strimmed and weeds cutback to tidy up the area and reduce the loss of cricket balls. Mr Nanson thanked Mr Clark for organising materials and fitting 6 new arras rails on the playground perimeter. It was recognised that the rails were coming to the end of their life and that the remainder would need to be replaced over the next few years. Mr Nanson and Mr Clark would determine how best to do this; it might be possible to include it with the Lengthsman programme.

2017.2 Playground inspections and cricket risk assessment

A new contractor, Play Inspections, would now conduct 2 inspections of the playground a year. Councillors would continue to conduct weekly, routine inspections in the summer and fortnightly inspections in the winter months. Ampfield Crusaders Cricket Club had expressed concern about cricket balls landing in the playground. Mr Nanson had sought advice from the Local Council Advisory Service. It was noted that Romsey Rapids had a similar arrangement in their sports area. Mr Nanson would do a risk assessment with input from the Cricket Club and seek statistics from them about numbers and ball direction of sixes. The Clerk would seek information from other Councils through the HALC round robin system. Mr Nanson would report back findings to Council.

2018 Chapel Wood

2018.1 Friends of Chapel Wood (FOCW)

Weeding the box hedge in the Burial Ground had been a priority; more work was needed there, however, and, as the FOCW did not meet formally again until September, an evening session might be organised in the summer months.

2018.2 Work in the Woodland

Weeds along the footpaths and boardwalks had needed attention. The first cut of bracken by Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) had been organised for July and a second would be set up in September. The Church summer fete had gone well and people seemed to have liked the glade as a venue. However, the position of the drums of the Thornden Community Band needed to be on something more stable than the grass and there had been a suggestion that the old wooden dipping platform might be suitable. FOCW would consider how best to deal with this. Council agreed to the Friends of Ampfield School holding their summer barbeque in the woodland, subject to having sight of their insurance cover.

More Rhododendrons would be cleared in the autumn from the area behind St Mark's. There was concern that a particular fungus, purported to be carried by *R. ponticum*, attacked Oak trees. Council would consider the removal of all or most of that species from the woodland. Mr. Clark reported that, following the clearance of Rhododendron and other shrubbery from the Burial Ground boundaries, some people had been happier to visit the area as the former vegetation had appeared threatening to them. However, it was recognized that people liked to see the Rhododendron flowers in the spring and some replacement flowering

shrubs would be considered. In the meantime, it was agreed that Mr. Roads would get a quote from TVBC for the removal of some, or all, of the Rhododendron ponticum.

A health & safety inspection of the trees in the woodland was due again this year; an invitation to tender would be circulated by Mr. Roads to Council before issue to contractors. A routine monthly inspection of the woodland had drawn attention to the potential hazard posed to visitors by a standing pole near the footpath by the American Airmen memorial. There were a number of standing poles in the woodland all of which had at one time or another been examined by arboriculturists and considered safe. However, as an inspection of all the trees would be conducted soon it was agreed that the standing poles would be specifically included. It was also agreed that other matters raised in the routine inspection would be tackled by the FOCW in their usual programme of works.

2018.3 Burial Ground

Mr. Roads had prepared an invitation to tender for the survey of the Burial Ground. It was agreed that the drainage problems would be treated as a separate study. It was noted that some of the box plants would need to be replaced, more weeding would need to be done and some bark chippings bought to inhibit the weeds. There had been a few complaints about the state of the track leading to the Burial Ground during the long, wet winter. It was agreed that Mr. Roads would explore the practicalities and costs of getting some hardcore on the footpath. Lockerley Stone had been asked to do an evaluation of the American Airmen memorial when they were next in the area. Work continued on the review of burial eligibility and related matters; it was hoped to discuss these with the Vicar during the summer months.

2019 Finance Matters

2019.1 Accounts for payment

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

<u>Cheques to be signed at the meeting</u>	£ (Inc. VAT)
Steelway Fensecure-springs for playground gates	55.20
IOT plc. /Sharp-copier hire	32.94
Southern Water- Recreation Ground usage	32.90
Office Expenses-D Matthews 12/5 to 6/7/13	52.95
July salary-D Matthews	556.83

HMRC July payments	156.63
August salary-D Matthews	556.63
HMRC August payments	<u>156.83</u>
	1600.91

Payments made between meetings

TVBC grass cutting in playground	20.98
Cllr Nanson-hard drive back-up & garrison key	72.24
Cllr Clark - mileage, Micheldever meeting re lengthsman	18.45
Cllr Clark- arras rails for playground	<u>73.32</u>
	<u>184.99</u>

2019.2 Receipts, anticipated expenditure and bank account

Council was pleased to note that Hursley Emc had renewed their sponsorship of the website. Expenditure remained modest at just over 15% of budget (not including budgeted reserves). Expenditure would increase in the next quarter when 6-monthly loan payments were due. Mr Nanson reported that the proposal to put some reserves into a Co-op savings account aimed at public sector organisations had not been pursued due to the current uncertainty surrounding that bank. It was agreed that no action would be taken for the time being. The forthcoming transfer of the branch of Lloyds bank used by Council to another, as yet unknown, purchaser had caused some concern. Council might prefer to remain with the Romsey branch but would make any decision to switch when more details were known.

2019.3 Office copier/printer

An order for the new printer/copier had been placed and it was due for delivery on 23rd July; the old copier would be collected a few days before then.

2020 Health & Safety policy

Council considered the proposed Health & Safety policy circulated by Mr Roads and agreed that it should be adopted.

2021 Parish Lengthsman Scheme

The Lengthsman, Mr Chris Sparkes had started work the previous week. The time had been spent on the bus shelters- cleaning and staining them, and clearing away litter and vegetation. Activities worked out best when there was daily contact and clear instructions; as a lone worker, checks needed to be made to help meet health & safety requirements. Before and after photos had been taken which could be

used later, on the website, to let residents know what was happening. The next set of three days would be in early October. Mr Edwards would provide feedback to the lead Council about the first visit. Suggestions for work to go into the schedule should be made to Mr Edwards. It was pointed out that the pathway between St Marks and the A3090 was heavily overgrown and nearly impassable. Mr Edwards would check if this was a Highway responsibility before including it in the Lengthsman's schedule.

2022 Ampfield School Federation

The proposal for the federation of Ampfield Primary School and John Keble Primary School in Hursley was strongly supported by Council. It was recognised that Ampfield could not currently afford its own Headteacher and that the school had clearly benefitted from having Julie Carrington, Headteacher at John Keble with them on a part-time basis. Mr Butcher reported that the closing date for responses was 12th July. A decision was expected after 18th July. It was agreed that the Clerk would complete the consultation form on behalf of Council in support of the proposal.

2023 Correspondence and Communications

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

A number of requests had been received from organisations seeking publicity for various activities. Council agreed that information from Age Concern about their food & friendship campaign could be placed on boards and on the website.

2024 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

2024.1 Planning Committee

The following applications had been commented on after discussion on:

27 June 2013

13/011096/TPOS
13/01230/TPOS

Fardale, Hookwood Lane
2 Flexford Close

Mr. Clark advised that the Morley's proposal would not now appear before the Southern Area Planning Committee (SAPC) in July. The next dates were 6th or 27th August. It was agreed that Mr. Clark and Miss Rothwell would represent APC.

2024.2 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

Mr Roads and Mr Stevens had met with an expert about how best to attract butterflies to the woodland and the Burial Ground. It was hoped that the expert would give a talk on butterflies in the next few months.

2024.3 Public Transport & Highway Liaison

Mr Edwards had attended a Transport Forum in May; a report had been circulated to Council. A key theme had been the development of community transport for which Hampshire County Council had set aside about £500,000 to spend over the next 2 years. At this stage Council was not aware of any significant need in Ampfield which was not already being met by existing services. The contract was being placed for the deer signs which were to be placed in Pound Lane and on the A3090. This followed issues raised by residents at the Parish Assembly in April.

2024.4 Safer Neighbourhood-Local Action Group

The Local Action Group last met on 23rd May. The main topic of discussion was the Community Speedwatch Scheme which the neighbouring parish of Braishfield appeared keen to adopt but Ampfield still had reservations and had not received any positive feedback about it from residents.

2024.5 Website

It was agreed that the planning register and the inspections of the playground and the recreation ground would be placed on the website. Mr Nanson confirmed that items needing attention should continue to be reported until fixed. It was also agreed that a “notice board” for items of general interest to the community would be created on the home-page.

2025 Test Valley Borough Council

Mr Hatley reported that Hampshire was apparently on track with the broadband improvement initiative although few people in the SO519 post code area had registered their interest.

There was some uncertainty over traffic control measures which were part of any S106 agreement being discussed between TVBC and the developer of Morleys Green. Mr Clark explained that this had been made clear and agreed in correspondence with the agent. A speed limit reminder sign had been proposed which would be owned by Ampfield Parish Council. He would pass all correspondence about it to Mr Hatley. Council re-affirmed its support for railings along a stretch of the A3090 from Morley’s Lane to Knapp Lane to help protect the children. Mr Butcher confirmed that the railings were also wanted by Ampfield Primary School. He agreed that, to avoid any future misunderstanding,

he would invite the School to write to Ray Alborough, Snr. Highways Engineer at TVBC; Miss Rothwell would also write to him on behalf of Council.

A review of car-parking in Romsey was underway. It was not thought that there were problems with the number of parking spaces available but with the location of the car parks. Some items for consideration might be the use of the reclamation yard next to the station or putting another level onto an existing car park; funding might come from the sale of the Duttons Road site. The former offices were being bought by a retirement homes developer. Mr Hatley welcomed any ideas for new parking places or any problems with existing parking arrangements.

2026 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Ampfield Parish Council would be held on Monday, 16th September 2013 at 7pm in the Village Hall, Ampfield.

2027 Closure

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....