

## Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010 commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Mr. B. Nanson (Acting Chairman) – Presiding  
Mr A Clark, Mr. J. A. Jones, Mr. G. C. A. Roads,  
Mr D. Stevens

1713 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Miss M.I. Rothwell and Mr D.J.E.Gilks who were absent for personal reasons, and from Mr E.H. Butcher and Mr M.D. Hatley who had other commitments.

1714 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Acting Chairman.

1715 Matters Arising from the Minutes

1715.1 Works at Two Lakes, Straight Mile

Further letters had been exchanged between the Chairman of the Council and the Chief Executive of Test Valley Borough Council about the work carried out on ponds and lakes at Two Lakes, Straight Mile. Local residents felt the situation remained unsatisfactory and would continue to press for action. Council was thanked for the representations made to Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) on their behalf. Borough Councillor Mr Hatley, along with Borough Councillor for Romsey Extra Mrs Nokes, would conduct a site visit and report back.

1716 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1717 Public Participation

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

1718 Ampfield Recreation Ground

1718.1 Drainage

The pitch continued to be waterlogged especially on the original section of the Recreation Ground near the secure container. Very little football had been played over the winter although the situation was the same in many other grounds. Council agreed that the drainage problem should be addressed and would be tackled when funds had been identified.

1718.2 Provision of water

Southern Water would be connecting water from the mains to the new standpipe on the Recreation Ground on Monday 15 March 2010.

1718.3 Cricket Club

Two meetings had been held with members of the Cricket Club. Council was aware of the financial problems being faced by the Club, the loss of members and the deteriorating facilities. Having considered the proposals put forward by Mr Nanson, Council agreed to the conclusion of the lease with the Cricket Club by mutual consent and to the drawing up of a new agreement to come into effect from April 2011. The rent for 2010/2011 would be increased in accordance with the current lease but a discount of 50% would be applied to help the Club improve the changing facilities. The recently connected stand pipe would be available to water the cricket square. Council also agreed to look at the feasibility of supplying water to the changing rooms. This would end the arrangement whereby water had been generously provided by the White Horse Pub for many years.

It was also agreed that a monthly reading of the water meter, to monitor consumption, could take place as part of the Recreation Ground inspection regime. The Clerk had discussed broadening cover with the Council's insurers to include public liability for the Cricket Club but this was not permitted under the current policy. Maintenance of the square was costly and needed a high level of knowledge and expertise. Council agreed to the provision of soil improvement and weed products. An advert for help with ground maintenance would be placed by the Club in the Annual Newsletter.

Moles had appeared on the north eastern section of the Recreation Ground and there was concern about possible damage to the square. There were also health & safety issues with the molehills. It was agreed that Mr Nanson would get a quote to deal with the problem and, if under £100, would go ahead with treatment.  
(Afternote: Quote was accepted at £50 per visit up to a maximum of £250)

1718.4 Height Barrier

The barrier had been strengthened and improved. The contractor was awaiting suitable fencing to complete the job at the carpark entrance; this was expected to be done by the end of March.

1718.5 Design of sports pavilion

Drawings showing 2 designs and various options were expected within the next few days. Once received and reviewed a special meeting might be needed to determine the way forward.

1718.6 Inspections

The minor actions identified during the annual inspection of the playground by Digley Associates had been completed. Mesh had been attached to the swing barrier but the poles had been damaged in the process. It was agreed that new poles would be bought and fixed up to a maximum cost of £100. Quotes had been received to conduct 3 quarterly, and one annual, playground inspections for the coming year. Council agreed to accept the quote from Digley Associates. The Clerk reported that most of the issues raised during weekly inspections in 2009 were to do with litter and excess water.

1718.7 Ground maintenance contract

Council agreed to accept the quote from TVBC to carry out ground maintenance work for 2010. The quote showed an increase of just under 3% compared with last year.

1719 Financial Matters

1719.1 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)
EMCOR-installation of stand pipe	1813.24
BTVC-community network membership	35.00
Hampshire Playing Fields Association-subscription	20.00
Mesh Direct – mesh for swing barrier	56.97
Ampfield Parochial Church Council-Messenger donation	60.00
Test Valley Community Services- donation	200.00
County Locksmiths Security-padlocks & oil	107.70
County Locksmiths Security- padlocks	148.05
D Matthews- March salary	523.26
HM Revenue & Customs – March payments	110.51
Office expenses-11 <sup>th</sup> January to 8th March 2010	<u>48.22</u>
	<u>3122.95</u>
<u>Payments made between meetings</u>	
Southern Water Services- connection to stand pipe	1481.56
Itchen Valley Trees – tree works	100.00
CBA Trees Ltd- tender process for tree contractor	587.50
Cllr. Clark – various repairs items for Recreation Ground	52.00
Archer Signs-“no dogs” sign	<u>52.23</u>
	<u>2273.29</u>

1719.2 Income

Income had been over £1000 in the period 11<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010, largely due to a VAT refund and rent for the Recreation Ground.

1719.3 Anticipated expenditure

Details of anticipated expenditure to end March 2010 had been circulated. It was agreed that the forecast for the new hedges in the Burial Ground should be reduced from £2400 to £1250; the work would still be completed but not before the end of the financial year. It was also agreed that the repair of the seat at Green Pond Lane would be reduced to £20.

1719.4 Allocation of reserves

Council agreed to allocate reserves of £5000 to the Recreation Ground Fund and £5000 to General Contingency.

1720 Communication policy

The Parish Council was being asked increasingly to display information, or alert Parishioners to an activity, by the Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and linked organisations, and by local groups, charities and other non-profit making organisations. This was likely to increase as electronic mail made such mail-shots easy to deliver. It was agreed that a review of Council's communication policy should be done starting with the use of Notice Boards. Mr Nanson and the Clerk would review and report back to Council.

1721 Correspondence and Communications

1721.1 Hampshire County Council (HCC)

Hampshire Countryside Access Newsletter, Summer 2009  
Small Grants Scheme Newsletter, Spring 2010-03-20  
Ploughing-Crops & Paths, a guide issued by the Countryside Service  
Hampshire Now magazine

1721.2 Test Valley Borough Council

Older People's Wellbeing-items relating to insulation and home improvements  
Draft Test Valley Access Plan

1721.3 Hampshire Association of Local Councils

Training leaflets advising on a range of courses.

1721.4 Other Correspondence

Letter from Mr Tetstall, Chief Executive, TVBC  
Southern water – letter of consent  
Letter to Mrs Birtwistle from the Chairman  
Letter from Fire & Rescue Service about prevention of fires in thatched properties  
Letter from Sandra Gidley, MP about developers funds  
Letter from Ampfield Parochial Church Council about hedge reduction  
Hampshire Playing Fields Newsletter – winter 2010  
Employer Bulletin from HM Revenue & Customs.

1722 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

1722.1 Planning Committee

The following applications had been commented on after discussion on:  
4 February 2010

10/00076/TPOS	Clearwell, Hook Road
10/00079/OUTS	Beech Hollow, Baddesley Road
10/00113/FULLS	Land Adjacent to Ampfield Golf Club
10/00131/FULLS	16 Beechwood Crescent
10/00198/TPOS	The Beeches, 28 Straight Mile

22 February

10/00171/FULLS	Cloud End, Winchester Road
10/00289/TPOS	Land adjacent to Green Acres, Hook Road
10/00036/TPOS	28 St James Park

1722.2 Footpath Warden

Council was sorry to learn that Mrs Birtwistle, the Footpath Warden felt that she was not able to continue to monitor the footpaths in the Parish. The Chairman had written to Mrs Birtwistle thanking her for the work she had done, often in difficult circumstance, and urging her to remain; a reply was awaited.

1722.3 Public Transport & Highway Liaison (PT&HL)

There was nothing new to report; the next forum would be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

1722.4 Village Hall Liaison

Miss Rothwell and Mr Hatley were not present at the meeting.

1722.5 School Governor

Mr Butcher was not present at the meeting.

1722.6 Website

Mr Jones advised Council that a revamp of the site was due in the coming months. A new sponsor, recruitment agency HugoFox.com, had been identified.

1722.7 Tree Wardens

Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

Test Valley Association of Parish Councils (TVAPC)

Hampshire Association of Local Councils

Finance Committee

There was nothing new to report.

1723 Highway Matters

1723.1 Extension of Speed Limits

Mr Clark had finally received the speed data from TVBC. It was agreed he would develop outline proposals on speed limits for inclusion in the Annual Newsletter and seek comments from Parishioners

1723.2 Signage throughout the Parish

In Mr Hatley's absence there was no news about this topic.

1723.3 Snow and ice conditions

Following the snow and ice conditions during the winter, Hampshire County Council (HCC) was seeking suitable locations in Parishes for gritting bins. Responses had to be with HCC by end April and Councillors were asked to put forward suggestions to the Clerk by end March.

1723.4 Chapel Hill- road condition

The tarmac had fallen away at the edge of the lane at the top near the junction with the A3090. The Clerk would report the problem to Highways.

1723.5 Bench at Green Pond Lane

Mr Clark reported that the repair to the bench was in hand.

1723.6 Wood on Highways Land

Mr Clark reported an incident of a person collecting, sawing and removing wood from the section of land between the service road at the Straight Mile and the A3090. Some of the timber had been there for many years. The Clerk would ask Highways about their current policy on such matters.

1724 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Mr Hatley was not present at the meeting to give the Borough Councillor's report.

1725 Chapel Wood

1725.1 Friends of Chapel Wood

The Friends of Chapel Wood had met in February when 9 volunteers tackled a range of tasks including coppicing Holly, removing some Rhododendrons and clearing the rootball above the fountain. Bonfires remained a feature of working in the Woodland and health and safety issues around making bonfires continued to require attention. Specific areas would be designated for bonfires and trenches would be dug around the bonfire to help stop any spread and to improve safety. Suggestions about fencing off the bonfire and putting up signs would be considered.

1725.2 Work in the Woodland

Mr Roads and the Clerk had met with Christopher Hoare, the new contractor for the Woodland; work would start in April. CBA Trees were reviewing the tender for the removal of the fallen Oak and related work. They would send details to appropriate contractors. It was uncertain whether the work could be done at nil cost; the cost of removal of the tree would not necessarily be offset by the value of the timber.

1725.3 Burial Ground

Mr Roads had received a quote from TVBC to dig trenches at the approach to the Burial Ground, fill them with various fertilisers and bone meal, and to plant yews. Council agreed the quote of £680. The work would be done before the end of March. The hiring of a dedicated grave-digger was still agreed in principle and would be pursued at a later date. Council noted that an up-to-date burial plan and details of the burial register had been received from the Revd. Gilks at the start of the year.

1725.4 War Memorial

Ownership of the land on which the War Memorial and garden sat was not clear and would be pursued at a later date. Weeds were returning; Mr Roads would clear them and get the roses pruned.

1726 Parish Assembly 2010

Councillors were reminded of the deadline to submit articles for the Annual Newsletter.

1727 Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council, which would be the Annual Meeting, would be held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in the Village Hall starting at 7.00pm. The Parish Assembly would be held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010, also in the Village Hall, and starting at 7.30pm.

1728 Closure

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

**Chairman**.....

**Date**.....