



Newsletter

Spring, 2023

Ampfield Parish Council

Annual Parish Assembly

The Annual Parish Assembly will take place on Monday 22nd May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This a meeting of the electors, and all parishioners are welcome. The agenda is on the parish council website www.ampfield.org.uk



Ampfield Parish Council Finance Report

The conclusion of the audit of accounts for the year 2021-22 was published in September 2022, and there were no matters for the Parish Council to address arising from the audit.

Provisional figures for the accounts of the year 2022-23 were income of £49,881.18 and expenditure of £47,254.62 (net of VAT) which allows us to set aside the balance towards repair and replacement of assets, land and property in the future.

Your Council Tax is paid towards services from local Councils (County, Borough and Parish) and the police and fire services. The Parish Council's precept is £43,084.58 for the current finan-

cial year. This is an increase of 3.9% for a Band-D property on that element of your Council Tax.

Our budgeted spending for the current financial year is £63,526.00, which is paid for with the precept together with our other income from grants, CIL (community infrastructure levy payable by developers to the Borough Council), pavilion & recreation ground, and burial ground. This is to be spent on maintenance and running costs, and one-off projects including the enhancement of Chapel Wood and refurbishment/relocation of the telephone kiosk (see elsewhere in this Newsletter).

Ampfield Burial Ground

Ampfield Burial Ground, which is in Chapel Wood adjacent to St Marks Church, is a local authority burial ground owned by Ampfield Parish Council who are the burial authority. All parishioners of whatever, or no, faith are eligible for burial in the burial ground.

Until recently the burial ground was managed on our behalf by the Church of England Benefice of Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley. It is now being directly managed by Ampfield Parish Council.

Find contact and administrative details on our website under "Burial Ground"

Telephone Kiosk

The Parish Council purchased the telephone box in the centre of the village for £1 from BT in 2017.

The current location is on the A3090, behind a hedge and sheltered from view by trees and hedging. It suffers from shading so that it is damp inside. It is difficult to access because it is located down a narrow step from the main footway, behind a waste bin, and noticeboard. It is barely visible from the carriageway.

With the aid of a Borough Councillor Grant, action is now in hand to move it to a prominent location outside the village hall where it will be in an accessible location with nearby parking. After refurbishment it will be put to some form of community use.

Village Hall

The Village Hall continues to be used for a wide variety of activities and social events throughout the year. The Trustees organised a popular Quiz Night and Christmas Pantomime at the end of 2022 which were both well supported. The Ampfield Market is now in its 23rd year, annual proceeds of £2000 support the upkeep of the hall and provide an important and popular monthly community event. Thanks to our steady income and grants we have been able to redecorate, put new flooring in the entrance hall and toilets, enlarge the patio and provide a new shed which will become useful and much needed extra storage.

The Parish Council is going to relocate the telephone box to a new location just outside the village hall in the coming months and we are hoping it will also become a useful community asset.

If you would like to join our vibrant, friendly team of volunteers and become an invaluable member of the hall committee, please contact

julie@ampfield.org.uk
for more information.

Chapel Wood

Challenges and Opportunities

The past year has provided a mixture of both. In particular, the weather on Saturdays has not been easy. It is difficult to remember a year when so many working parties have been postponed or cancelled due to heavy and persistent rain. We even had to abandon the annual bonfire!

On a more positive note, we kept the pond full, the stream flowing and the footpaths open. We managed to clear unwanted vegetation from large areas of woodland, particularly by the western approaches to St Mark's church. We plan to plant woodland flowers and shrubs; creating an attractive, peaceful area for visitors to enjoy. We also plan to remove rhododendron from other areas, thus improving the views, and, importantly, the growing conditions for our native woodland plants.

As ever, this occasion must not

pass without thanking the Friends of Chapel Wood for their dedication and hard work during the year. Without their efforts, the wood would simply become clogged with rhododendron, brambles and bracken. The Friends are always happy to welcome new members, simply turn up on the second Saturday of each month. Follow their activities in the Messenger (available on our website).



Chapel Wood and outdoor classroom in early Spring

Website

The Parish Council website at www.ampfield.org.uk has information about Ampfield itself, the Burial Ground, Community Information, a Planning Tracker, Parish Council meetings, parish News and Events and a Report it! function.

Planning Tracker lists planning applications in Ampfield and allows you to sign up to email alerts to have updates sent directly to your inbox.

Report it! includes direct links to other websites, such as the Highways website, to report such things as potholes without having to navigate the entirety of their website. Community Information includes information about Chapel Wood, Footpaths, the Recreation Ground and Ampfield Pavilion and the Village Hall.

No personal information is collected by this website (we do ask for your email address if you want to contact us), but if desired a secure https version of the website is available at

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/ampfield-18484/home>

Ampfield Parish Councillors to 6th May 2023

Bryan Nanson (Chair), Graham Roads (Vice Chair), Patricia Carter, Martin Hatley, Julian Jones, Chris Ling, Kate McCallum, Julie Trotter