

## Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010 commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Miss M.I. Rothwell (Chairman) – Presiding  
Mr A Clark, Mr G.J. Choules,  
Mr D.J.E. Gilks, Mr M.D. Hatley, Mr. J. A. Jones,  
Mr. B. Nanson, Mr. G. C. A. Roads, Mr D. Stevens

1763 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mr Edward Butcher who was attending a School Governors' meeting.

1764 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

1765 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

1766 Declarations of Interest

Mr Hatley declared an interest in the Village Hall as Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee.

1767 Public Participation

9 Parishioners attended. The Chairman read out a statement from the Council about the approach made by a developer to discuss a possible housing scheme on land between the Village Hall and Keats Restaurant and about the pre-planning process which was being followed. The full statement is attached to these minutes at Annex A. The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7.12pm to allow the Parishioners to speak and to ask questions about the housing needs survey, which had just been issued, and about the proposed development. Concern was expressed about the content and independence of the housing needs survey and its funding.

Mr Hatley confirmed that the Parish Council had not commissioned the survey, nor had any hand in the design of the poster for it. It was quite usual for such surveys to be done; the neighbouring village of Braishfield had just completed one. David Couttie Associates, which was running the survey, was an independent, professional organisation and would present the data as found. The developer was not connected to the Parish Council. There was discussion about the skewed demographics in the Parish and about the decline in numbers at the School and Pre-school.

Mr Hatley explained that, although the proposed site was in a conservation area, this did not mean that no building could take place. There were various planning policies which governed building in the countryside; parishes were allowed to review their situations. Concern was also expressed that further developments might be agreed should this one go ahead. Mr Hatley advised that no precedent would be set, again referring to Braishfield where a small enabling development, and

nothing else, had been agreed to help fund work to a listed building. Explanations were given about what was meant by rented and affordable housing and how such properties might be allocated. The amount and use of any Section 106 funds collected as a result of any development would be determined by Test Valley Borough Council. Mr Hatley encouraged residents to get in touch with him if they wanted to discuss any aspect of the planning process.

The meeting re-convened at 7.38pm.

1768 Housing Needs Survey

It was noted that a housing needs survey, conducted by David Couttie Associates, had been sent to all households in the Parish with a closing date of 6<sup>th</sup> August 2010. This would provide data about the current and future housing needs of residents.

1769 Ampfield Recreation Ground

1769.1 Drainage

Council had agreed to the issue of a tender to appropriate suppliers to improve the drainage on the Recreation Ground; this would help ensure that play could continue during the winter months. However, as the cost would be significant and funds would not be allocated from the annual Precept, grants would have to be obtained before the work could start. Mr Nanson and Mr Clark would prepare the tender for issue by the Clerk and seek funding.

1769.2 Provision of electricity and water

Water had been connected to the Recreation Ground in March. Council noted Mr Clark's paper on the connection of electricity to the portakabins. The current arrangements involved the use of a long lead from the shower rooms; this was not considered to be safe nor convenient. Also the portakabins were sparsely equipped and cold in the winter months. The cost of the work which would be just over £1000. After discussion, 7 Councillors voted in favour of the project and it was agreed that Mr Clark should go ahead if possible in such a way that the cabling could be adapted for use for any eventual pavilion. Grant funding would be sought but if this was not available the project would be paid for out of existing funds in which case a smaller, and less expensive, cable size would be used. Ampfield Cricket Club had agreed to contribute to the costs.

1769.3 Maintenance

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) had flailed and then sprayed the weeds around the perimeter. It was still intended to rotovate the area behind the pavilion base, and at the new entrance, and to put down grass seed to help control the weeds longer term.

1769.4 Inspections

No details had been received from Digley Associates about the quarterly inspection which had been due in June 2010; a response was awaited.

(Afternote: Inspection had been conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2010- there were no new findings.)

1770 Assets

Mr Hatley was awaiting confirmation from Hampshire Highways about the procedures and charges involved in the dismantling of the bus shelter at Green Pond Lane. Permission to erect fencing on the

highway had to be sought first but it was expected that this would be granted and at no cost. Having received further information, Council re-considered its original findings that the bus shelter, which was in poor condition, was not used. It concluded that the bus shelter was still in use, particularly by school children, but that it was badly situated. It was agreed that the shelter should be dismantled and replaced by a structure more appropriate to the site. Funds would be sought from Section 106 monies in relation to non-car modes of transport for both demolition and erection. If necessary Council would, however, cover the costs of dismantling as previously agreed. Mr Hatley would organise a meeting with Mr Clark and representatives of Highways. Mr Clark would then prepare a paper about the way forward for consideration at Council's next meeting in September.

## 1771 Financial Matters

### 1771.1 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)
P Reynolds, Fair account- year end audit	100.00
Allbrook Pest Control- moles on Recreation Ground	225.00
Office Expenses- May-July 2010	54.74
Sharp Electronics- photocopier	74.05
D Matthews - July salary	523.26
HMRC- July payments	185.51
D Matthews - August salary	523.26
HMRC- August payments	<u>185.51</u>
	<u>1871.33</u>

### Payments made between meetings

Southern water- standpipe at Recreation Ground	23.28
--	-------

### 1771.2 Income

Income for the period had been modest at just over £1000; the majority of this figure was due to a VAT refund of £833 with the remainder being the revised quarterly rent from the Cricket Club.

### 1771.3 Anticipated Expenditure

Council reviewed expenditure against budget for the period ending June 2010. Expenditure was low at this early stage in the financial year with most costs being incurred by the maintenance of Chapel Wood and the Recreation Ground.

### 1771.4 Insurance renewal

The new schedule from Aviva for the year June 2010 to May 2011 had been received and was noted by Council. In reconciling the asset value on the balance sheet with the insurance values, it had been discovered that the speed limit sign had been omitted from the schedule. Aviva had corrected this and the speed sign was now covered along with the two height barriers on the Recreation Ground.

1772 Appointment of Footpath Warden

Council was pleased to confirm the appointment of Mr Martin Trotter as the Parish's new Footpath Warden. Mrs Robinson and Mr & Mrs Jerrome had also expressed interest in the task and would join the footpath team and support Mr Trotter. The Clerk would write to all concerned and confirm the appointments. The Chairman would write to thank Mrs Birtwistle, the former Footpath Warden, for her services to the community. Council looked forward to regular reports from the new team; the Chairman would write to the Forestry Commission about any problems or unresolved issues.

1773 Correspondence and Communications

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

1773.1 Test Valley Borough Council

2011 Census

Council noted the preparations being made for the 2011 Census. It was not envisaged that Ampfield would be part of the work being undertaken to correct address anomalies but, if this should change, handbooks had been issued to Councillors to help deal with any enquiries.

Public Involvement

TVBC's attempts to increase public awareness and involvement in the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was appreciated but Council had no effective ways of displaying the monthly calendar of meetings and could not comply with their request.

New Executive Arrangements

TVBC was required to introduce new decision making arrangements with effect from the elections in May 2011. Parish Councils were being consulted. Two options were available: a Leader and Cabinet Executive or a Mayor and Cabinet Executive. After discussion Council expressed a preference for the Leader & Cabinet Executive option; the Clerk would advise TVBC.

1773.4 Other Correspondence

A request for funds had been received from Victim Support. Council would consider their request, along with others, at budget time.

1774 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

1774.1 Planning Committee

The following applications had been commented on after discussion on:

25 June 2009

10/01325/TPOS	Green Haze, 25 Straight Mile
10/01304/TPOS	Badger Wood, Hook Crescent
10/01212/EXTS	Broadgate Farm, Hook Road
10/01268/FULLS	Lynton House Outbuilding, Winchester Road
10/01386/FULLS	Ballard Wood, Straight Mile

1774.2 Footpath Warden

See paragraph 1772.

1774.3 Public Transport & Highway Liaison (PT&HL)

Hampshire County Council would take over the operation of the concessionary fares scheme from TVBC in April 2011. Mr Clark would attend a seminar about the future management of the scheme in July. It was agreed that Council preferred the status quo and Mr Clark would vote accordingly.

1774.4 Village Hall Liaison

The Village Hall Management Committee had yet to meet. Mr Hatley reported that the remaining work on the overhead lights had been completed. A popular comedian had been booked for the Autumn and the “Opera Dudes” had been booked for Spring; both were highly recommended acts.

1774.5 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

Conditions had been much too wet for the winter walk to take place. Every effort would be made this year to make sure the walk went ahead.

1774.6 Website

Mr Jones had started to train Mr Nanson and the Clerk on how to update the website.

1774.7 Test Valley Association of Parish Councils (TVAPC)  
Finance Committee  
Hampshire Association of Local Councils  
School Governor  
Tree Warden  
Environment

There was nothing new to report

1775 Highway Matters

1775.1 Extension to speed limits

There had been no information about progress on the review of A roads in the county nor on the outcome of speed monitoring on the A3090. Mr Clark would resume contact with the Hampshire Action Team (HATs) and the Highways Engineer at TVBC to establish the current position. Mrs Miessler at Potters Heron Lane had written to Council about the difficulty experienced trying to cross the A3090 because of the volume and speed of traffic. Mr Clark would write to her and would let her know what Council was doing to help improve the situation. Mr Hatley would write to colleagues at TVBC and members of HATs about Parishioners’ concerns.

1775.2 Speed Limit Reminder Sign

The sign had been repaired and was working again. Council did not expect to pay for the damage caused to the sign by its fall into a ditch. Mr Clark would draw up a revised schedule of movements and consult with colleagues in Braishfield.

#### 1775.3 Signage

Mr Hatley would seek to get an appropriate road sign put up to warn motorists about the presence of children at the Yellow Dot Nursery on the A3090. It was noted that a sign advertising a camping and caravan site on the field near South Holmes had been put up on Highway land. Mr Hatley advised that TVBC Planning Officers continued to monitor the situation and that logs were being kept on caravan movements.

#### 1775.4 Satisfaction Survey

It was agreed that Mr Clark would complete the on-line National Highways and Transport Public Survey on behalf of Council.

#### 1776 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Mr Hatley reported that the Police had been monitoring traffic speed recently on the Baddesley Road. He would chase up the placement of a speed camera sign on that road. Paths had been dug up during the installation of street lighting for the footbridge/cycle way; these had now been re-laid which made it easier for elderly people to get to the bus stop. The South East Plan, which had specified housing numbers required, was no longer in existence. It was thought that housing numbers required to be built in Southern Test Valley would be reduced but other factors such as skills shortages, and local areas no longer being able to build their original quota, could affect the final number.

#### 1777 Chapel Wood

##### 1777.1 Friends of Chapel Wood

There had been no organised meeting in June due to holidays but an evening work force had been arranged the following week to clear bracken. Mr Roads had done some research on the health issues linked to bracken spores. They were not considered to be a danger but he would continue to monitor findings. Council approved the purchase of face masks for the use of those working with bracken. The annual meeting of the Friends of Chapel Wood was due. The registration of the Woodland would be done by September.

##### 1777.2 Work in Woodland

Thanks were expressed to those volunteers who had worked hard to repair the boardwalks, paths and pond in Chapel Wood, after the damage caused by the fallen Oak. Views were being sought about how best to use the wood that had come from the Oak. Some sections of the community would welcome rustic seating and tables for use in the Woodland. Mr Clark had completed the monthly inspection of the Woodland and had noted that a Silver Birch had fallen over and was leaning against another tree. Mr Roads would check the situation and, if necessary, the tree would be taken down.

##### 1777.3 Burial Ground

The Burial Ground was looking neat and tidy after TVBC had done their regular cut. The protective wire frames around the hedge would be organised by September. Few of the Woodland's assets had been insured; it was not yet known if permanent damage had been done to the pond. Council agreed that an evaluation of certain assets should be done with a view to providing insurance cover.

1777.4 War Memorial

The War Memorial continued to be well taken care of by local residents and the garden was in full bloom.

1777.5 Hedges at St Mark's Church

The hedges leading from the fountain to the churchyard had re-generated well. Council had made budget provision to have similar work done on the outer hedges along the A3090. The best time to have the work done would be in September/October; Mr Roads would organise this with TVBC.

1778 Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in the Village Hall, Ampfield commencing at 7.00pm.

1779 Closure

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm.

**Chairman**.....

**Date**.....