

Your Parish Council to 2nd May 2019

Chairman: Bryan Nanson

Vice-Chairman: Allan Clark

Pete Edwards, Martin Hatley, Julian Jones,
Graham Roads, Margaret Rothwell, David Stevens, Julie Trotter.

Clerk to the Council: Doreen Matthews.

Parish Website: www.ampfield.org.uk

The public are welcome to attend all Council and Committee meetings, the dates and times are advertised on Parish Notice Boards and on the website

Your Parish Councillors are the first tier of local government and are unpaid.

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Early spring on the village green

How do I get in touch with Ampfield Parish Council?

Contact: Clerk to the Council: Doreen Matthews,
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Ampfield Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

May 2019

Issue 31



Ampfield Parish Assembly

Monday 20th May 2019

7.30pm at Ampfield Village Hall.

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

APC	Ampfield Parish Council
ARG	Ampfield Recreation Ground
VDS	Village Design Statement
TVBC	Test Valley Borough Council
HCC	Hampshire County Council
ACHA	Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

To be held at

**AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 20th MAY 2019
AT 7.30PM**

The Agenda for this Annual Parish Assembly is:

Apologies for Absence
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 30th April 2018
Matters Arising
Chairman's Introduction
Borough Councillor's Report
County Councillor's Report
Council Finances & Administration
Planning
Village Design Statement
Recreation Ground
Transport and Road Safety
Friends of Chapel Wood
Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area
Other Reports - see Parish Newsletter
Any Other Competent Business & Open Session

Light refreshments will be served at about 9.30pm.

Doreen Matthews
Clerk to Ampfield Parish Council

ST. MARK'S CHURCH

This year started with a celebration. St Mark had successfully completed the work required on the bell tower and the bells and it was time to celebrate! A service was held inviting the whole community to rededicate the bells to God in the calling of people to Worship. The service was attended by parishioners, local people, parish councillors and Lady Joan Appleyard, Chairperson of the Hampshire and Islands Historic Churches Trust (HIHCT), all of whom had helped us with the funding.

After the Service the wonderful team at St Mark provided brunch and there was a tour of the graveyard given by Emily Millis MA – a postgraduate in death studies, specialising in the early Victorian period. It was a truly lovely morning.

The year continued with regular services and events including cream teas, Lent Lunches and of course the Fete which now incorporates the very popular Dog Show.

St Mark continues to pray for, and with, the community as it has done for over 170 years and we would like to thank everyone for their support.

Revd. Victoria Ashdown
Vicar of Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley

AMPFIELD PARISH VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

The Ampfield VDS progressed well during the course of 2018. The initial drafting process was completed and last October it was sent to Test Valley Borough Council for its final statutory Consultation Period.

However, it is disappointing to report that the adoption of our VDS as Supplementary Planning Guidance has been delayed. In February, at the eleventh hour, there was an unexpected objection from one department within TVBC, which ran in direct variance to the official advice already received.

Our VDS Steering Group is working very closely with the Borough's officers to resolve this issue. It is pleasing to report good progress is being made and we still hope that the VDS will be published in mid-2019.

We would like to thank the VDS Steering Group for all their hard dedicated work in seeking to produce a Village Design Statement of which we can justifiably feel proud.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

On the 2nd May parish council elections were held. As we mentioned in our autumn newsletter, they were based upon changed Ward and Parish Boundaries. The UK election process prohibits Council communications until the elections are over. So, our apologies for the rather late arrival of this annual report!

As a consequence, the date of our annual Parish Assembly (20th May) is also later than usual. The meeting will offer you an opportunity to discuss many of the topics herein and meet the Councillors elected on 2nd May. We look forward to seeing you there.

It has been another busy year with many and varied issues being handled by APC Councillors. The precept for 2019/20 has been set at £38,031. This is an increase of 6.37% over the previous year, however it results in no change in the amount paid per household.

Disappointingly, publication of our Village Design Statement and its adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance by TVBC has been delayed. More detail can be found in the item on Page 14.

During 2018 we were involved in trying to resolve issues with parking for the school in Knapp Lane. This resulted in some parking restrictions being introduced beside the school and it is hoped that this will reduce the problem.

The cover photo reflects that the 2nd July 2019 is the 75th anniversary of the wartime plane crash in Ampfield Woods. This accident resulted in the death of five young American airmen. APC are leading the plans for a service of remembrance to mark the anniversary.

In May we bid farewell to two members of Council; Dr. Margaret Rothwell CMG (known to her friends as Meg) has decided to retire. Meg has served on Council for many years, including 12 years as Chairman until 2015. Pete Edwards, who has served for 7 years, has also decided not to seek re-election. We thank them both for their service and wish them well in future.

We are grateful to the Friends of Chapel Wood for their continuing efforts in looking after our woodland and burial ground. My thanks also go to all the APC Councillors who have continued to give freely of their time in support of Council activities.

AMERICAN AIRMEN 75TH COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

Those of you who walk regularly through Chapel Wood will have seen the commemorative monument that stands across the footpath from the Ampfield Burial Ground. This monument remembers the tragic and untimely deaths of five young American airmen in July 1944, who were killed when their Cessna Bobcat aeroplane crashed into Chapel Wood, Ampfield.

On 2nd July 2019, to mark the 75th anniversary of this event, a service of remembrance will be held around the monument in Chapel Wood. Our vicar, Rev. Victoria Ashdown, has very kindly offered to conduct the service, which is planned to commence at two o'clock in the afternoon. Included in the service will be a re-dedication of the monument.



After the service, there will be a reception in St. Mark's room, which will include light refreshments and a collection of talks/reminiscences. On that day, we are very lucky to have with us the two people who did all of the research into the incident, including tracking down surviving relatives in the USA. They have offered to give a talk, setting out how they managed to uncover piece by piece the events that took place – real detective work that will be fascinating to hear. We will also have one of the original witnesses to the crash, who again will share his experiences with us. This will be a unique opportunity to hear what it was like to be 11 years old in the summer of 1944.

If you would like to read more about the American airmen and the events that took place so long ago, there is a link on the Ampfield Parish Council website – www.ampfield.org.uk. More information will be published on the website, St. Mark's notice board and the Ampfield Parish Council notice boards as soon as it is available.

Precept and Budget for 2019/2020

Regular reviews of expenditure were carried out throughout 2018/2019 to monitor costs and determine outturn. A budget of £60,858 was set for the financial year 2019/2020; this was an overall decrease of £20,606 and reflected the completion of the fitting out of the pavilion. Similarly, receipts were reduced as financing for the pavilion was complete.

A precept of £38,031 was set for 2019/20, an increase of £2,276. However, the good news is that, due to the increased number of properties in the parish, Council Tax bills for 2019/20 have shown no increase in parish council taxation with a Band D charge of £62.14.

As usual, details of the accounts will be available at the Annual Parish Assembly.

Doreen Matthews—Responsible Finance Officer

FRIENDS OF CHAPEL WOOD

The past year has been both constructive and enjoyable. Much of last summer and autumn was spent cutting back overgrowing rhododendron to open the wood further for visitors. We are starting to provide some very attractive views, particularly to the western end of St. Marks, overlooking the pond. The pond itself has recovered very well from last year's dry spell. We hope to resume our work on the reintroduction of a dipping platform later this year, together with a small seating area around it.

In the area around the burial ground we continue to reduce the impact of the Rhododendron ponticum. We have concluded that in many areas we will need to remove the plant totally, roots and all. We have made a start but it is difficult work and the likelihood that we will need to resort to mechanical assistance looms ever closer.



Finally, we must offer the greatest praise to our most worthy volunteers. They are dedicated, enthusiastic, knowledgeable and above all great fun to be with. We thank them very much!

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE REPORT

Our accounts are settling down after the very large amounts of money going through the books for the pavilion construction. However, we can still expect some highs and lows as funds are sought from various sources to pay for the new car park and playground, and for the demolition of the old wooden changing rooms. We will also be spending money on our war memorials in the new financial year as we arrange for the delicate job of cleaning and re-pointing them, and re-painting the enamel characters.

Assets

Our pavilion has seen its first year of operation and, with its new sewerage treatment plant, is fully functional. The condition of the trees in Chapel Wood and the Burial Ground has just been the subject of a Health & Safety audit. Findings are being acted upon to help ensure that the woodland remains a safe and pleasant community asset. The notice board at the School was in poor condition and was removed. It was replaced with the one on the A3090 which was thought to be redundant and unused. However, following comments from residents the A3090 board will be replaced with a new one in the coming weeks. This will be supported by a grant from TVBC.

Current Financial Year 2018/2019

Receipts and payments for the current financial year 2018/2019 are not complete at the time of writing; the Council Chair will give an update at the Annual Parish Assembly on 20th May. In the meantime, receipts to end February 2019 were £87,439. This is much lower than last year as most of the large amounts of S106 developer funds for the pavilion construction have been used. Council did, however, receive £7,670 towards the cost of a sewerage treatment plant for the pavilion. Other receipts included the precept at £35,755, income from the Burial Ground and the Recreation Ground of £2773 and VAT refund of £39,597- a significant amount paid out in the construction of the pavilion. Interest from bank accounts, which has been about £3 a month for the past few years, is now making a welcome comeback at just under £50 a month.

As with receipts, expenditure to end February 2019 was much lower than the previous year at £70,003 (inc. VAT). This was due again to the completion of construction work at the pavilion although the cost of the new sewerage plant was significant at £18,552 and general fitting out and running costs are on-going. Most other payments relate to the routine maintenance of our community assets of Chapel Wood, the Village Green and Allotments, and the Recreation and Burial Grounds and on their loan repayments.

AMPFIELD VILLAGE HALL

2018 was another excellent year and the trustees of the Village Hall would like to thank all of you for your support throughout the year. The hall finances continued to be strong despite rising costs. The hall costs approximately £10,000 a year just to run, and there were significant one-off expenditures for maintenance and improvement of the hall facilities. This was made possible by excellent fundraising together with a strong rental income from our regular users and for one off hires. The Village Market and Café celebrated another exceptional year, raising in excess of £3800 as well as continuing to diversify, introducing highly popular fresh bakery products and seasonal fruit and veg.

The Catch Up Café is increasingly popular and offers regular baking demonstrations by Noel and Paul. The IT Support Service provides valuable help and advice to its many customers.

It was another busy year for fundraising events with a Quiz night, the May Race Night, a very successful Barn Dance and a great Panto to finish the year. These events raised £1600 but more importantly received super feedback and generated a real sense of community.

The trustees have big plans for 2019 in support of our aim to try to maintain charges at or around current levels through increased utilisation of the hall and continued fundraising activity. To support this we are in the process of developing a website to grow our social media profile. At the time of writing we are waiting to hear the results of Community Asset Fund grant applications aimed at allowing us to install a new floor, upgrade the efficiency of the heating in the hall and install some new hand driers.

We have a full programme of events planned for your enjoyment in 2019 and we look forward to your continuing enthusiastic support and participation.

The Trustees of Ampfield Village Hall

St. Mark's Church Fete

This year's fete will take place on Saturday 8th June at 12 noon located behind St Mark's Church.

As well as a variety of stalls there will be games for the children and a fun dog show, so do come along and enjoy this very popular village event.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I have just completed my 24th year as your Borough Councillor for Ampfield and Braishfield and also in the privileged role as Deputy Mayor. The past year has been very busy but also inspiring, meeting so many diverse groups and individuals who are doing so many fantastic things within Test Valley.

Over the years I have had to accept that whilst identifying problems is relatively easy, regrettably sometimes there are simply no practical or possible short term solutions – or if there are, they will not please everybody. One recent example is the parking situation by the school in Knapp Lane. The Parish and Borough Council have worked hard to find a solution but most suggested 'solutions' only moved the problem to another part of the village. In the end I brokered a compromise with a reduced yellow lining scheme. Together with the permission for parents to use the Village Hall car park, this provides a solution, albeit not an ideal one for all.

I have been pleased to support a number of grants from the Borough for use within the Parish, including grants for the Village Hall for a new floor and more sustainable heating and grants to APC to enable them to upgrade and relocate the playground to a more suitable and safer site within the recreation ground.

Finally, the Borough's council tax and car parking fees have been frozen this year, due to very prudent investment of our money in our Project Enterprise scheme which we set up in 2014. This year we received £1.9 million from these investments in real estate – that's £1.7m more than if we kept the money in the bank. The Council Tax remains one of the lowest in the country – and is £43 lower than the average in the rest of England.

Cllr. Martin Hatley
Borough Councillor

Electrical Power Surge

A recent electrical power surge in Ampfield left a number of households without power and some with damaged domestic equipment.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks manage our network.

They can be contacted via www.ssen.co.uk

SSEN also offer a priority services facility for certain groups, including people over 60 and households with children under 5.

You can register for this service on www.ssen.co.uk/priorityservices

AMPFIELD COUNTRYSIDE HERITAGE AREA

Footpaths

Following a very wet 2017 / 2018 winter the footpath network largely recovered over the course of a wonderful summer. A number of complaints have been lodged with HCC over the poor drainage and waterlogged state of a couple of the key routes but without any success to date. Elsewhere, a number of improvements have been seen. Concerns have been raised about the "no parking" signs at both main entrances to Ampfield Wood at Knapp Lane and Jermyns Lane. These are a response to a minority of people blocking access with their cars - hopefully a satisfactory solution can be found.

ACHA

The autumn talk was very well attended. We were very lucky to be able to listen to John Hanks, Master Beekeeper, provide a highly informative and absorbing talk on the importance of bees in our daily lives. The whole evening was a great success. John's enthusiasm was infectious and his knowledge seemed boundless. We are planning another evening meeting for this November; please keep an eye on the noticeboards. The ever popular Boxing Day walk attracted a good number of people. It is hoped to organise something for the summer, as well as next Boxing Day.

AMPFIELD SCHOOL

The school continues to play an important part in the community for local families and those from out of catchment. The number on roll is around 60 children, across three classes.

In the summer of 2018, the school was inspected by Ofsted and maintained '**Good**' in all categories. The inspector found that "The executive headteacher leads a dedicated staff team whose members ensure that pupils enjoy learning and achieve well. Parents and carers report how happy their children are to attend school because of the care and support that each child receives."

The school is part of a federation with John Keble School and this was recognised in the report as a strength as it has supported the school's development. There are places available in some year groups and parents should contact the school office or go to the federation website (www.ajkfed.com) for further information.

Marcus Roe
Executive Headteacher
Federation of Ampfield & John Keble CofE Primary Schools

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Hampshire County Council Tax will increase by 2.99% Therefore Hampshire's Band "D" Council Tax will rise to **£1236.87p** during the 2019/20 financial year. This is on top of last year's Council Tax rise of 5.99%.

Over recent years, Hampshire County Council has struggled to protect adult social care, relative to other services. But, the overall funding picture for local government nationally, means adult social care services still face a £3.5 billion funding gap by 2025 just to maintain existing standards of care. The likely consequences of this are more and more people being unable to get the quality and reliable care and support they need. Children's services are also facing challenging financial pressures. With no firm government plans yet in place for what happens to council funding and finances after 2020 obviously makes it very difficult for councils because they require budget certainty.

The Government claims that they have provided more funding for education. But analysis by the House of Commons Library, shows Education spending has actually fallen from £95.5 billion in 2011/12 to £87.7 billion in 2017/18.

All the schools within my Baddesley Division have achieved either good or outstanding status by OFSTED. I recognise the huge difficulties that the reduced funding imposes on the school management and congratulate the teachers and pupils for their hard work and dedication.

Ampfield - I have gained development funding from the **Care Complex** application at North Hill to provide lighting on the **unlit** portion of Baddesley Road. **Flexford Close** has had a complete refurbishment of the highway and surface water drains.

Ampfield / North Baddesley/Valley Park

The 46 bus service has been retained, enabling residents and students to continue travelling to Winchester.

I have supported various organisations through my County Council Community funding allowance.

- Eastleigh/Romsey Mencap and Romsey/North Baddesley Foodbank.
- North Baddesley: Companions of St John's Church and over 60's club, Community Library and Unity Social Prescription Pilot
- Valley Park: The Friends of the Park, Mulberry pre school and the summer floral displays
- The Romsey Chamber Music Festival & Hampshire Rescue Search Dogs

Cllr. Alan Dowden, Baddesley County Councillor

PLANNING

Planning

From the end of March 2018 the Parish Council Planning Committee met 15 times to consider 55 applications including 14 concerning tree work. Excluding trees, the planning application rate for the Parish has increased by about 10% to 41.

Proposed Care Village Baddesley Road

The most significant proposal of 2018/19, considered by the Planning Committee was for the provision of a Care Village on the former North Hill Sawmill Yard, Baddesley Road by Perbury (Developments) Ltd. Similar applications had previously been considered on two occasions in 2017 when objections and comments were made. The revised application, which was considered at the meeting held in April 2018, addressed our concerns, including the impact on Trodds Copse. In our response to TVBC Planning we referred to our previous comments and the Committee agreed to unanimously vote "no objection". The application was subsequently approved by TVBC.

VILLAGE GREEN

As the planting becomes established, the new Village Green is growing in maturity. The Green is a pleasant, managed open space for recreation and dog walking and there are also a number of benches available for relaxation. Ample parking space is available. In January we installed new signs to more clearly indicate the 15 bays which are allocated for users of the Green and Village Hall. We would like to encourage parishioners who live further from the village centre (for example in the Hocombe Wood Road, Baddesley Road, Mobile Home Parks and Straight Mile areas of Ampfield parish) to drive over and check out the amenity. During the past year we have also tried to help alleviate Knapp Lane School parking problems by allowing parents (who are dropping off or collecting children) to use these spaces in term time at around 09.00 and 15.00.

Dog walking on both the Green, Recreation Ground and Chapel Wood continues to be a popular pastime for many. Recently there have been a few complaints about a minority of owners not adequately cleaning up after their dogs and we do encourage all owners to make use of the many bins made available for that purpose.

TRANSPORT LIAISON AND ROAD SAFETY

Transport

The Stagecoach 66 Service continues to provide Ampfield with a regular link between Romsey and Winchester on the A3090. At the other end of our parish the subsidised Xelabus X6/X7 service continues to provide parishioners with a weekday only link to Fryern Arcade and Eastleigh. Currently the Stagecoach 46 service between North Baddesley and Winchester is still subsidised and running at four busses per day.

We have recently refurbished the timber bus shelter at A3090/ Pound Lane junction. Developer funding for another bus shelter in the village is also being processed and will be situated in the White Horse area.

Road Safety

Implementation of traffic calming along the A3090 in the village area has been delayed due to organisational changes in the Highways department at county level. The early work by TVBC Highways will now be implemented by HCC Highways, under their Community Funded Initiative programme. Plans are being drawn up and we hope to have more details available for public review this summer.

As reported in our 2018 autumn newsletter, in November HCC ran a public consultation on plans to alleviate traffic concerns outside the school in Knapp Lane. They proposed yellow road markings on both sides of the lane up to Chapel Hill, with parking restrictions at school start and finish times.

There was considerable feedback from Knapp Lane and the surrounding area and these results were reviewed at Borough and County level at year end. This review resulted in a modified proposal which was implemented by HCC in February. However, APC feel that the fundamental problem which needs to be addressed is the lack of adequate parking facilities at the school. We are now in communication with the Leader of HCC and senior officers to explore the feasibility of more substantive improvements.



THE RECREATION GROUND AND NEW PAVILION

The new pavilion was well used by the cricket club throughout the 2018 season and our new facilities attracted favourable comments from visiting teams. Ampfield now has a very attractive cricket venue, a pleasant place to be on a sunny Saturday afternoon. Drop by if you can and support the local team. Match details can be found on www.anbcc.co.uk/fixtures

We are also receiving enquiries from other groups interested in access to the facilities. So if you are associated with a sports or outdoor pursuit organisation and would like to find out more, please contact APC for more information.

Lack of car parking is still a constraint which inhibits full usage of the facilities at



the ground. As reported in previous newsletters, the intention is to move the playground and install a hard surface car park. This is dependent upon securing grant funding which is not a speedy, nor straightforward, process. Several grant applications are being pursued and if they are successful then work will start in mid-2019.

The pavilion is also an ideal location to hire for events such as children's birthday parties. There is a function room which can accommodate 46 people with tables and chairs. The room, which opens out onto the recreation ground, has TV and will soon have internet access. There is also an associated fully equipped kitchen area. We have already received several enquiries from interested parties and so are investigating possible temporary parking arrangements whilst the grants for the hard surface car park are being pursued.