

Minutes

Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council : Monday 09 October 2023

Held at Ampfield Village Hall, 7:00pm to 8:35pm

Present

Members of Ampfield Parish Council:

Chairman Bryan Nanson
 Vice Chairman Chris Ling
 Cllr Patricia Carter
 Cllr Martin Hatley
 Cllr Julian Jones
 Cllr Graham Roads (until 7:55pm)
 Cllr Julie Trotter

Others

Kate Orange, Clerk/RFO

Apologies

4147. Apologies were received from Cllrs Kate McCallum and Jason Reeves, and Borough Councillor Sally Yalden.

Previous Meeting

4148. The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 11 September 2023 were agreed, and a copy was signed by the Chairman.

Declarations of Interest in Business on the Agenda for the Meeting

4149. No Councillor had any interest to declare in any of the business on the agenda for the Meeting.

Borough Councillor's report

4150. Test Valley Borough Councillor Sally Yalden's written report is attached to these Minutes.

Financial Matters

4151. *The Council received the bank reconciliation to the end of September 2023.*

RESOLVED

4152. *The Council received the calculation of working capital to the end of September 2023.*

RESOLVED

4153. *It was agreed that the following payments should be made:*

	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount, £</u>
	<i>Insurance (final year of a long-term agreement with Hiscox)</i>	3012.31
	<i>BDO, audit</i>	252.00
	<i>Redington, PIRs etc</i>	648.00
	<i>J N Landscapes Grounds Maintenance</i>	2877.60
	<i>Clerk, refund of expenses inc toilet roll holders for pavilion</i>	54.80
	<i>Staff costs</i>	891.12
	Total (including VAT)	£7,735.83

RESOLVED

4154. *It was noted that the following payments had been made between Meetings:*

	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount, £</u>
<i>Direct debits and direct transfers to 30 Sept</i>		
	<i>Electricity, 2 invoices</i>	320.49
	<i>PWLB loan repayment September</i>	3016.65
	<i>Southern Electric Power Distribution - disconnection of telephone kiosk</i>	328.12
	<i>Website</i>	11.99
	<i>Dutton Gregory, legal advice: freehold matters</i>	360.00
	<i>Staff costs</i>	199.81
	<i>TVBC grounds maintenance</i>	344.66
	Total	£4,581.72

RESOLVED

4155. *It was noted that the Council had received the following income:*

	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount, £</u>
	<i>Burial ground, fees</i>	141.00
	<i>Interest</i>	59.14
	<i>Allotment rent to 30 Sept 2024</i>	600.00
	<i>Pavilion hire</i>	160.00
	<i>Ground rent</i>	10,125.00
	<i>Precept, 2nd tranche</i>	21,542.50
	Total (including VAT)	£32,627.64

RESOLVED

4156. *The Council received the report of expenditure against budget to the end of September 2023.*

RESOLVED

4157. *The revised Financial Regulations dated 11 September 2023 were adopted.*

RESOLVED

4158. *It was noted that the limited assurance review of the accounts for the year 2022-23 was complete, and no actions were required arising from the report from the external auditor.*

RESOLVED

4159. *It was proposed that, despite Ampfield Parish Council having raised invoices for ground rent covering the whole period of Ampfield Parish Council's legal ownership of the freehold of Morleys Green, it was not realistic to pursue Mr Michalik, Morleys Green Management Ltd or their agents, for payments due to Ampfield Parish Council but made to Mr Michalik in September 2021 and earlier.*

RESOLVED

Recreation Ground

4160. Chairman Bryan Nanson reported on matters at the recreation ground:
- We understood that TVBC were near to completing the processing of the forms submitted by the developer for the release of s106 money arising from the construction of Broadgate Farm.
 - Repairs to electrical lighting were complete.
4161. Cllr Chris Ling noted that the new PIRs were of higher quality, and had been re-wired to a different circuit, separate to the freezers. There was one external light to be replaced which had recently failed.

Chapel Wood

4162. Cllr Graham Roads reported on matters at Chapel Wood.
- The Friends of Chapel Wood working parties were well attended, such that good progress could be made with projects.
 - At the latest working party, eight to nine people were working, taking out the dead or dying box plants around the cruciform. The arisings would be burned and replaced with yew.
 - Cllr Roads would purchase the additional tools required before then next working party the following Saturday.

Footpaths

4163. Cllr Graham Roads provided an update on the possible improvements to the network of public footpaths. The Forestry England Ranger for Ampfield Woods had provided the details of their land agent so that we could discuss the idea of a permissive path with them.

Burial Ground

4164. Cllr Roads would meet with a contractor on the following Saturday, to discuss the clearance work needed at the burial ground.

War Memorial

4165. Cllr Roads and Mrs Roads had been clearing and tidying around the War Memorial.

Morleys Green

4166. Vice Chairman Chris Ling updated the Council on freehold matters at Morleys Green.
4167. We had appointed a specialist solicitor to handle a tenants' request to purchase the freehold of their house. The solicitor had responded to the tenant.
4168. Belgarum Property Management had invited the parish council to vote on whether to return the surplus service charge or to return it to the tenants. We were not certain that we were entitled to a vote on this.
4169. *It was proposed that, should we be entitled to a vote on the matter of whether to return the surplus service charge or carry the fund forward, we would vote to leave the money in the fund.*
RESOLVED
4170. The problem of residents' work vans being parked at Morleys Green was discussed. We noted that Morleys Green Management Ltd had established, through communication with Sovereign Housing, that the social housing tenants had the same restrictions on parking as other residents i.e. they could not park commercial vans on their own parking spaces. Cllr Julie Trotter noted that the village was short of spaces during the markets. Residents' parking in public spaces had resulted in the loss of customers to the market.
4171. The Clerk confirmed that there was no waiting list for allotments, and there would be at least one vacant plot after the annual renewals had completed. We may consider offering any vacant plots to existing tenants, perhaps towards the end of the Winter.

Telephone Kiosk

4172. Chairman Bryan Nanson reported on the disconnection of power to the former telephone kiosk by SSEN. It had been done recently during a meeting on site between Cllrs Nanson and Ling, our

contractor and an engineer from SSEN. The engineer had confirmed that the supply was dead and cut the cable at ground level. The fee that we had paid would be refunded.

- 4173. Mark Hughes of Highbridge Engineering had planned how to safely move the kiosk; the position had been agree; and the refurbishment could now be planned. Cllr Julie Trotter was in touch with the Romsey Men’s Shed who were interested in helping; and the Village Hall’s shed could be cleared and used as a workshop if they required it.

Highways

- 4174. Chairman Bryan Nanson reported that Hampshire County Council had agreed to release s106 money for the purchase and ongoing maintenance costs of Speedwatch equipment. We had received the remittance notice but although we had not yet received the funds, we could proceed with the purchase of the equipment and organising the volunteers (resolved previously).
- 4175. Cllr Ling noted that the parish council had not heard back from Hampshire County Council with their comments on the request for a pedestrian island on the A3090 near to Green Pond Lane.
- 4176. Cllr Martin Hatley noted that the white road markings on the junction of Jermyns Lane with A3090 were worn and so the junction was indistinct. The Clerk would report this to Hampshire County Council.

Consultation on the Future of Ampfield Primary School

- 4177. The Council considered the published information for Hampshire County Council’s Consultation on the Future of Ampfield Primary School. Chairman Bryan Nanson had been briefed by a member of Hampshire County Council’s staff, as had Borough Councillor Sally Yalden. Due to unforeseen circumstances arising at short notice, Cllrs Yalden and McCallum had been unable to attend the presentation at the School, which was taking place simultaneously with this Meeting. The general view was that it was sad to hear that the conditions were such that it was no longer viable to operate the school, and the closure was planned for August 2024. It was disappointing that the pre-school in Ampfield had also closed in the past few years, and that the construction of Morleys Green had not provided sufficient children to make the school viable. It was noted that some children of the parish attended other schools outside the parish.
- 4178. The Council noted that the land for the school was conveyed according to the School Sites Act 1841 and the School Sites Act 1844 and if the school is closed the site will return to the beneficiaries of Mr David Faber, who died on 3rd November 1931, with probate granted on 11th March 1932. If his beneficiaries cannot be found (unlikely), then the site will be owned by HM Treasury as bona vacantia land. The original conveyance states this and it was confirmed by Footner, Son & Taylor solicitors of Romsey on 23rd February 1946 who wrote to Mr H T White of Grate Close, Ampfield.
- 4179. Cllr Roads left the Meeting at 7:55pm in order to attend the presentation at Ampfield School on the proposal to close it.
- 4180. *For the Consultation on the Future of Ampfield Primary School it was proposed, with reluctance, to vote “Yes” to the question “Do you agree to support the proposal to close Ampfield Church of England Primary School?”. The comment would be that whilst it was sad to see the closure of the school, with reference to the briefing paper we understood that for it to remain open was not financially justifiable; and we would also note the Faber family’s interest in the land.*

RESOLVED

Date of Next Meeting

- 4181. The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held in Ampfield Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 13 November 2023.

Chairman

Date