

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of the Parish of Ampfield held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 30th April 2018 commencing at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Mr Bryan Nanson (Chairman of the Parish Council)–Presiding

Parish Councillors Mr Allan Clark
Mr Pete Edwards
Mr Martin. D. Hatley (Borough Councillor)
Mr Julian A. Jones
Mr Graham C. A. Roads
Dr. Margaret Rothwell
Mr David Stevens
Mrs Julie Trotter

County Councillor Mr Alan G. Dowden (County Councillor)

Approx. 15 parishioners

Clerk to the Council Mrs Doreen Matthews

1/18 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr & Mrs Greenham, Sally Kerson of St Mark's ministry team and Marcus Roe, Executive Head Teacher Ampfield & John Keeble Schools.

2/18 Minutes

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Assembly held on 24th April, 2017 having been circulated, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3/18 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising not covered by items on the agenda.

4/18 Chairman's Review of the Year

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. It had been another busy and interesting year as activities in the Parish continued to increase and new

responsibilities arose. The construction of the pavilion had been completed and it would become a valuable asset to the community as its potential developed. The revised Village Design Statement was well underway. This was a very important task and he thanked the VDS team for the effort and time they were putting in to it. The Burial Ground and Chapel Wood were major assets in the Parish and he was very grateful to the Friends of Chapel Wood without whom maintenance costs would be significantly higher than they were and the woodland less accessible to visitors. The Benefice team helped make the administration of the Burial Ground run smoothly and offered much support to bereaved families.

5/18 Borough Councillor's Report

The Chairman introduced Martin Hatley. He had nothing further to add to his report which had been included in the spring newsletter. However he did refer to the huge fire at the Potters Heron Hotel the previous month and the fantastic work done by the Fire Services in dealing with the blaze. He was very pleased to report that he would be Deputy Mayor of Test Valley in the coming year and Mayor in 2019.

6/18 County Councillor's Report

The Chairman then introduced Alan Dowden and invited him to add to, or expand on, items in his report. He was pleased with the re-surfacing job done in Flexford Close. He was not satisfied with the response from Highways about the concerns expressed about accidents and animal deaths in the stretch of the A3090 around Ratlake. It was not acceptable to take action only after serious accidents or fatalities had occurred. He encouraged Ampfield Parish Council (APC) to persist with the matter and to respond accordingly. Bruce Robinson thanked APC for ensuring that the "deer signs" were put up along the road; this had been agreed at the previous Assembly. Lack of funds continued to have a bad effect on our roads as maintenance levels were reduced. Alan Dowden was pleased to report that the 46 bus service would continue for another year after which it was expected the route would go out to tender. A number of Ampfield residents relied on that service.

7/18 Council Finances & Administration

The Chairman presented the following to the Meeting:-

- (a) the Audited Accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31st March 2017 together with the schedules and assurances required by the External Auditors
- (b) expenditure details to March 2018 (provisional)
- (c) the budget and build-up of figures for the Parish Precept for 2018/2019

Details of the financial information presented were included in the packs made available at the meeting and on the parish website. Using slides, the Chairman showed the major variances between budget and actual costs for 2017/2018. The overall underspend of £13,700 included the war memorial, running of the pavilion, the VDS and professional fees much of which was expected to be spent in the following year. He explained how capital spend was treated in the accounts.

The Precept for the new financial year had been set at £35,775 which, compared with the previous year, was an increase of 3.88%. However, taking account of the additional properties in the Parish, the overall impact was expected to be around a 1.4% increase per household.

At 1st April 2018 the overall cash situation was £103,769. This was represented by £36,964 at bank (including £1,225 allotment refundable deposits and £1,071 for a new dipping platform) and £66,805 intended for the maintenance of green spaces at Morleys Green. The Chairman explained the meaning of a commuted sum in relation to Morleys Green.

There being no further questions the meeting agreed to receive the finance report.

8/18 Planning

Allan Clerk referred to his article on planning issues in the parish newsletter. The Morleys Green and Broadgate Farm developments were now a part of the Parish. The Ampfield Care Village had provoked a great deal of interest and was recognised as having a significant impact on parts of the Parish. APC Planning Committee had first objected to the application being concerned about the proximity to Trodds Copse and the effects on neighbouring properties of increased traffic, a convenience store and a 3-storey building. A subsequent application, which addressed many of the points of concern, was recorded as “no objection” by APC. The application was expected to go before the Southern Area Planning Committee the following month. It was noted that the parish boundary was expected to change once the Governance Review was complete. Some properties in the Straight Mile, and at Jermyns Lane and Crampmoor could transfer to Ampfield Parish.

9/18 Village Design Statement

Graham Roads updated everyone about progress with the review of the Village Design Statement (VDS). Public consultations had been held with exhibitions. A draft had been completed with associated photographs ready for review by TVBC. He thanked the officers at TVBC who had been very helpful throughout the project. What remained now was to create the maps needed, engage a graphic designer, edit and proof read the material and submit everything to TVBC. He thanked all the members of the VDS team for their commitment, enthusiasm and contribution throughout the task. Martin Hatley advised that the Head of Planning

Policy at TVBC had praised the team for their professionalism and speedy approach.

10/18 The New Pavilion

The Chairman advised everyone that it had been about 10 years between laying the foundation slab and actually building the pavilion. There had been 3 changes to the original plans: CCTV, and an electric safety shutter between the kitchen and the main hall, had been installed, and a change in building regulations had forced the change from electric heating to LPG. The first cricket match to use the pavilion was expected to be held on the following Saturday. There were several projects still to complete before the pavilion could be used to its potential. A sewerage treatment plant was under construction. A carpark was needed but the playground had to be moved before this could be started. It was intended to move the playground to the site of the old wooden pavilion which in turn had to be demolished carefully as it contained asbestos. APC would continue to seek and apply for grants and to ensure that appropriate S106 Developer Funds and the new Community Infrastructure Levy would be pursued.

11/18 Transport and Road Safety

Although Ampfield had decided not to financially support the continuation of the 46 bus route due to the very small number of users, Pete Edwards welcomed the news that the route would continue for another year. He had met recently with Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Stagecoach who had confirmed the commercial viability of the 66 bus route. The possibility of changing the route had no commercial advantage and had been put on the back burner. Meetings with Highways about speed and accidents on the A3090 continued. He offered to let Bruce Robinson see the accident stats produced by Highways between 2012 and 2017.

Problems with School parking at the bottom of Knapp Lane continued. Pupil numbers were now at 60 and this meant more parents and teachers trying to park or drop-off children. There was concern about safety and the effects on neighbours who were often not able to get out of their drives at peak times. Pete Edwards had visited schools in the area and all had some sort of road markings to limit parking problems; Ampfield didn't have any markings. Proposals to try to alleviate the problem were being put together with HCC and would be considered by APC the following month.

Discussion with Highways to look at traffic calming measures, and to explore ways of changing the nature of the A3090, though the village, were also underway. This was not a quick process. Pete Edwards was pleased to report that the Lengthsman Scheme which funded a contractor to undertake small works related to the highway would continue for another year.

Bruce Robinson believed the accident rate was under-recorded and that the number of deer deaths had increased. He agreed to keep stats of the various incidents. It was understood that the Police would only show interest if there was a serious accident, a fatality or a road closure. They had to support any such changes as they would be required to police it and were unlikely to have the resources. It was difficult trying to influence the key people. It was noted that it could be quite frightening to turn right into Ratlake or Yellow Dot due the speed of traffic. Pete Edwards advised that Ampfield had approached Hursley about working together to change things but there had been no reply. Graham Roads mentioned that in developing the revised VDS he was advised by TBC to take specific speed limits out of the document. APC would continue to pursue improved speed limits and traffic calming along the A3090.

12/18 Friends of Chapel Wood

The newts found in the pond were not a protected species and so work on the new dipping platform could go ahead. The working parties would continue to improve the views through and around Chapel Wood, St Mark's Church and the Burial Ground. The clearance of Rhododendron ponticum was a key factor in opening up vistas. Although cutting the top growth held things in check for a few years it was a vigorous shrub and quickly re-established itself. Removal of the roots would be necessary, the largest requiring professional help; a digger would be used in the coming year. The large piles of arisings were dealt with by shredding and by bonfires. Some thought would be given this year to the need for a few more seats and where they might best be placed. Graham Roads thanked the Friends of Chapel Wood for the time and effort they spent on maintaining and improving the community Woodland and the Burial Ground.

13/18 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

The Boxing Day walk continued to be a popular tradition. The talk given by local historian Liz Hallet, about Ampfield from the Ice Age to World War 2, had been very informative and well received. It was hoped that a follow-up talk would be given in the coming November. Graham Roads praised the 3 Footpath Wardens- Ruth Holzer, Jon Milliken and Tommy Rickard - for their work in walking and reviewing paths in the Parish. Their report was very well done and would be put on the website for everyone to read.

14/18 Other Reports

Martin Hatley reminded everyone that the Village Hall Committee had organised a wide range of events for its entertainment programme including a Race Night, Barn Dance and the annual pantomime. The Thursday Café and monthly Market remained popular events. The Hall offered classes in Pilates and Yoga and there was a toddler group for those with young children. This facility helped to reduce rural isolation.

There were no comments on other reports.

15/18 Open Forum

Activities taking place on the site opposite the Potters Heron continued to concern parishioners. It seemed clear that they were not in keeping with the planning permission granted. It was frustrating that the Enforcement Team at TVBC did not appear to exert any authority over the situation. Martin Hatley had met with the Head of Planning the previous week and expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of progress. It was also noted that the verge, which contained a number of interesting plant species continued to be cut without permission. Allan Clark reported every complaint to the Enforcement Team but there was no follow up. It was recognised that this was an unacceptable situation with no obvious remedy.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Martin Hatley on his Deputy Mayor appointment.

There were no further questions or comments. The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm and invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

Chairman.....

Date.....