

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 9th March 2009 commencing at 7pm.

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

1589 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

1590 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 12th January 2009, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

1591 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

1592 Declarations of Interest

Miss Rothwell and Mr Hatley declared an interest in the Village Hall as Chairman and Treasurer respectively of the Village Hall Management Committee.

1593 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

1594 Recreation Ground

1594.1 Fund raising for the pavilion

The Fund Raising Sub-Committee had met on 4th March 2009 and had co-opted 3 new members- 2 from the sports clubs using the Recreation Ground, and a 3rd member from the parish. Various avenues of fund raising were being explored and an estimated cost for building the pavilion was being sought. It had been agreed that the sports club would run specific events to raise money and that Ampfield Parish Council would concentrate on business and grant-based funding.

1594.2 Football development and the movement of electric cables

Mr Clark advised that work to create a trench into which the new cables would be placed, would start the following week. A digger had been hired and the opportunity would be taken to move the mound of soil at the gate leading to the White Horse pub carpark. All legal matters had been settled with Scottish & Southern Energy (SSE) and the Deed of Grant between SSE and Ampfield Parish Council had been signed and dated 9th March 2009. Council agreed that it would be helpful to have a stile put in the hedge between the

Recreation Ground and the neighbouring field so that stray footballs could be retrieved quickly and easily. Mr Harris of Gosport Farm would be approached for permission to construct the stile. Mr Clark would arrange construction. Mr Hatley advised that the request for a grant from Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) for 50% of the costs of re-laying the cables had been agreed that day; a final part of the process had to be completed before the funds could be made available.

1594.3 Netting for football

A proposal to erect a large section of netting behind each goal to stop footballs going astray had been put forward by Ampfield Sports Club. The netting would be green and the posts would be a permanent fixture. It was thought likely that the size of the structure would require planning permission. Council decided that, although the proposal had merit, it would be better to have a trial run of using the pitch and see what the extent of the problem was before deciding to install such a large structure.

1594.4 Hedge improvement

The intention had been to clear out and replant sections of the western hedge before the end of the winter but the task was now much bigger and more involved than first thought. It was agreed that the work would be reviewed after the nesting season later in the summer.

1594.5 Golf practice

A request had been received from the golf professional at Ampfield Golf Club to use the Recreation Ground for beginners lessons, offering in particular group lessons to juniors and female players. Concern had been expressed about the safety of the public, and about the restrictions upon usage which might have to be placed on others, during lessons. Council was not necessarily opposed to the activity in principle but required more details about the frequency and timing of any proposal. Mr Roads would discuss the matter further with the golf professional concerned. In the meantime, it was agreed that no golf practice was allowed on the Recreation Ground. Council also agreed that it was inappropriate to offset any fees for usage against ground maintenance work on the Recreation Ground; they were separate activities. However, the Finance Committee would consider putting the grounds maintenance contract out to tender for the year 2010/2011.

1594.6 Rent to be charged for the Cricket Ground

Council agreed to increase the rent by £50 per annum with effect from 25th March 2009 in accordance with the conditions of the lease. Mr Hatley advised that Churches Fire Security Ltd had kindly donated 2 powder extinguishers for use in the portacabins on the Recreation Ground. The Clerk would write to thank Mr Topley for his generosity.

1595 Freedom of Information Act – new Publication Scheme

The Chairman would respond to the consultation document on a code of recommended practice on local authority publishing and circulate to Council.

1596 Financial Matters

1596.1 Accounts for payment

It was proposed by Mr. Nanson, and seconded by Mr. Jones, that the following accounts be paid:

Cheques to be signed at the meeting: £ (inc VAT)

Archer Safety Signs- D Matthews	62.05
D Matthews - office expenses 11th January -9th March 09	55.98
D Matthews - March salary	504.32
HM Revenue & Customs - March payments	<u>80.52</u>
	<u>702.87</u>

Payments made between meetings: £ (inc. VAT)

Scottish & Southern Energy	6958.65
Donation to Messenger	60.00
Donation to Test Valley Community Services	200.00
BTCV- annual membership	35.00
TVBC Ground Maintenance Contract	<u>1319.52</u>
	<u>8573.17</u>

1596.2 Income

Income for the period had been just under £2300. This had included monies from the insurance claim for the damaged notice board at Beechwood Crescent, back payments of a wayleave on the Recreation Ground and Braishfield Parish Council's part-payment for the speed limit reminder sign. Council was pleased to note that Ampfield Electrical and EMC Hursley had agreed to sponsor the website for another year.

1596.3 Anticipated Expenditure

Members reviewed the expenditure to February 2009 and the forecast to the year end. A grant towards the re-laying of electric cables on the Recreation Ground would help off-set some of the costs. Payment for the pedestrian refuge would be covered by S106 funds but Council would still be expected to pay for the work at Green Pond Lane.

1596.4 Internal audit

The accounts were being audited up to January 2009 and all finance and related documents were now with the auditor. It was noted that the Audit Commission were likely to require the accounts for the financial year 2008/2009 to be completed and agreed by Council by 30th June 2009. As Council did not meet ordinarily in June, a special meeting would have to be convened to approve the accounts. The Clerk would advise Council as soon as the date was confirmed.

1596.5 S106 Developer Contributions

TVBC had produced guidance notes on how Developer Contributions might be allocated to Parish Projects together with tables showing amounts already spent and monies in the pipe-line. Allocations were spread over various categories of spend e.g. playgrounds, formal recreation. This could create barriers to the release of funds where Councils could not easily fit these categories. Mr Hatley was in discussion with TVBC about a more flexible "one-pot" approach.

1596.6 Replacement photocopier

Council considered a cost and features comparison of replacement photocopiers and agreed that the Sharp AR-M 165 photocopier would be the most suitable machine. The Clerk would arrange for the removal of the existing photocopier and place an order for the new one.

1596.7 Ground Maintenance contract

Council reviewed the quote for ground maintenance work from TVBC for the year 2009/2010 and agreed to accept it. The quote did not specify grass cutting for the playground and the Clerk would ask TVBC to include it. It was agreed that grass cutting at the Village Hall would still be included in the contract and that the external hedge at St Mark's Church would remain at 3 cuts for the year.

1597 Parish Assembly

The Parish Assembly would be held at 7.30pm on Monday, 20th April 2009. A number of articles for the Parish Newsletter were outstanding; the Clerk would pursue these with the authors. Mr Hatley would liaise with Mrs Swan who had kindly agreed to serve the refreshments. It was agreed that the development of the Recreation Ground and the improvements in road safety would be featured topics at the Assembly. Mr Clark and Mr Nanson, together with Mr Stevens, would put together a slide presentation. Councillors would meet at 6.30pm on the night of the Assembly.

Council considered 3 tenders for the printing of the Parish Newsletter and selected a printer to carry out the work.

1598 Speed Limit Reminder Sign

The speed limit sign had been in operation since January although it was clear that the agreed schedule was not being followed. TVBC had advised that the position of the sign in Baddesley Road had not been ideal and had suggested a new pole be bought. Council agreed to the purchase of a new pole to maximise the effect of the sign but stipulated that it must be fixed on the northern side of the road as the southern side was outside TVBC's jurisdiction. The redundant pole should be removed. Mr Clark would liaise with TVBC. It was noted that the speed limit sign had been insured separately by Braishfield and Ampfield Parish Councils.

1599 Freehold of Chapel Wood

The Chairman had written to Mr & Mrs Squire of Hursley 2000 Ltd to thank them for their generosity in converting to freehold the lease on Chapel Wood. Zurich Insurance had been advised of the change in the status of the asset. Land Registry had declined to remove the liability for chancel repairs contained in the title deeds of both Chapel Wood and the Burial Ground despite the search findings produced by Godwins, the Parish Council's solicitors. The Clerk had written to Land Registry about this but they were unwilling to review their decision. The Clerk would now seek quotes for possible insurance against the liability and report back to Council.

1600 Correspondence and Communications

1600.1 Hampshire County Council (HCC) Circulars

Community Action Hampshire- Parish Plan News January 2009

1600.2 Test Valley Borough Council

Procedure for Allocating Developer Contributions to Parish Projects

Holocaust Memorial Day 2009

1600.3 Other Correspondence

Eastleigh Borough Council – Planning Policy & Design Team Newsletter, February 2009
Standards Board for England, Town & Parish Standard Newsletter issue 4. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask HALC about a standard complaints procedure.

Letters from and to Mr Barnes, Golf Pro at Ampfield Golf Club

Letter to Chief Finance Officer at Enterprise Inns.

Letter from Braishfield Parish Council re speed sign

Letter to and from Rev Gilks re Messenger donation

Letter from Mr Case to Editor Romsey Advertiser re 30mph change on A3090

Letter to Mr & Mrs Squire of Hursley Estate re freehold of Chapel Wood

Letter from SSE re conditions on Recreation Ground title deeds and response from Godwins.

Letters to and from Land Registry, Godwins and Ampfield Parish Council about the Chancel liability

Letter from Forestry Commission about work in Ampfield Wood
Ground Maintenance contract for 2009

1601 Reports

1601.1 Planning Committee

The following applications had been commented on after discussion on:

15 January 2009

08/02862/FULLS	Deer Park Court
08/02907/TPOS	The Oaks, 19 Straight Mile
08/02926/TPOS	20 Beechwood Crescent
08/02984/TPOS	350 Hursley Road
08/02970/FULLS	Grosvenor Crt, Winchester Road
08/02834/FULLS	Blossom Hill, Jermyns Lane
09/00019/TPOS	31A Beechwood Crescent
09/00038/TPOS	Woodlands, 31 Beechwood Crescent

3 February 2009

08/02828/FULLS	The Taj, 2 Hook Crescent
08/02921/FULLS	9 Beechwood Crescent
09/00146/TPOS	350 Hursley Road

16 February 2009

09/00187/TPOS	The Birches, 25 Beechwood Crescent
09/00247/FULLS	Linson House, Hookwood Lane
09/02277/TREES	The Vicarage, Knapp Lane

1601.2 Finance Committee

There was nothing new to report.

1601.3 Footpath Warden

Mrs Birtwistle had advised that the gate into the woods from the field at the end of Wingham Lane was in working order again. Notice had been received from the Forestry Commission about proposed works in Ampfield Wood which would include harvesting, road and track improvements, stock planting and control of invasive plants. Concern was expressed about the effects of such works as earlier operations had created a muddy mess, made the woodland look unkempt and made some footpaths impassable for long periods of time. Mr Roads reported that some paths were already impassable with deep ruts full of water and tree matter left across them. It was agreed that the situation would be closely monitored and that the Clerk would write to the Forestry Commission and to Hampshire County Council to insist that damaged areas be made good.

1601.4 Test Valley Association of Parish Councils (TVAPC)

Mr Butcher had attended a meeting on 5th March 2009. Items discussed included the Rural Housing Programme in Test Valley, economic conditions in the area and the request to increase public speaking time at planning meetings from 3 to 5 minutes.

1601.5 Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC)

Council agreed to renew a subscription to the quarterly Local Council Review Journal.

1601.6 Public Transport & Highway Liaison (PT&HL)

Mr Clark reported that it appeared reminders for renewal of concessionary travel passes were no longer being sent out. Confirmation of any change in procedure would be sought from TVBC.

1601.7 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

No lecture dates had been planned yet; a date for the summer walk would be decided shortly.

1601.8 Campaign to Protect Rural England

There was nothing new to report.

1601.9 Village Hall Liaison

The musical evening with Mas y Mas on 28th February 2009 had been a great success. A date for the AGM had yet to be fixed. The next project that the Village Hall Management Committee had to tackle was a new fire alarm system.

1601.10 School Governor

Mr Butcher reported that the school continued to concentrate on improving standards and that results were very encouraging; pupil numbers were expected to increase by 10 in the next academic year. Parents' views had been sought about the new Safer Routes to School submission but local residents had yet to be consulted. It had been noted that the school children were not using the pedestrian refuge to cross over to the Recreation Ground. Mr Butcher would find out why this was happening.

1601.11 Tree Wardens

There was nothing new to report.

1602 Highway Matters

1602.1 Speed Limits

It was noted that the new speed limits were helping to slow down traffic, especially outside commuter times.

1602.2 Condition of road surfaces

Highways had attended to numerous potholes and verge damage in both Knapp and Pound Lane; the area was much improved.

1602.3 Jermyns Lane junction

Road markings at the junction had been renewed; the experimental red banding on the road showed up very well at night.

1602.4 Baddesley Road bridge and the movement of the bus shelter

The project had started and a great deal of the vegetation had been cleared from the site. There was some concern as to whether the bus shelter, which had a non-removable side, was suitable for re-positioning at the Hursley Road bus stop; Mr Hatley would discuss this with the Highways Department.

1603 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Mr Hatley reported on the budget deficit at TVBC caused largely by the significant fall in the value of investments following the drop in interest rates. Each department had had to find cost savings but support services were being maintained. Although Ampfield Parish Council had reduced its precept for the coming year it still remained the highest in Test Valley. A review of the length of time a member of the public could speak at planning meetings was underway; an increase from 3 to 5 minutes was being considered.

1604 Chapel Wood

1604.1 Friends of Chapel Wood

In recent sessions the Friends of Chapel Wood had concentrated mainly on coppicing Holly. The next working party would start to clear away the debris around the fountain and clean up the stonework. A litter pick would also be done as there was some rubbish lying around the Woodland.

1604.2 Work in the Woodland

The bracken would start to emerge again soon. Council agreed that it might be sensible to have a contractor tackle the problem; Mr Roads would get quotes. A new health & safety audit was due to be done this year. It was agreed that Mr Roads would seek quotes which would include the previous contractor. A new risk assessment regime would start in Chapel Wood on 14 March 2009 when Mr Roads would conduct a training session for those involved. The task would continue to be performed monthly and dates would be linked to the playground inspection timetable whenever practical.

1604.3 Burial Ground

A start would be made soon on cleaning the War Memorial.

1605 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Parish Assembly would be held on Monday, 20th April 2009 starting at 7.30pm and that the next meeting of the Council (its AGM) would be held on Monday, 11th May 2009 starting at 7.00pm. Both meetings would be held in the Village Hall, Ampfield.

1606 Closure

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....