

Newsletter Spring 2021



Ampfield Parish
Council

An update on what's going on in our parish



*Ampfield Annual Parish Assembly
Monday 17th May 2021
7.30pm at Ampfield Village Hall*

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend

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Acronyms Used

APC	Ampfield Parish Council
ARG	Ampfield Recreation Ground
TVBC	Test Valley Borough Council
HCC	Hampshire County Council

Chairman's Introduction

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to the Annual Parish Assembly on 17th May. This will be the first "real" meeting of parish councillors since March 2020, and of course, we were unable to hold the Assembly last year. Virtual meetings have proved to be effective but it will be nice to be able to meet in person again, although there will be restrictions regarding the use of the Village Hall.

The year has seen the addition of several new assets. The freeholds of the Village Hall Car Park and Morleys Green – excluding the residential area – were acquired. A new playground, (beside the pavilion) ,and car park were installed and 2 new bus shelters erected.

The annual precept for 2021/22 has been set at £39,490 which is an increase of 1.9%.

We thank the volunteers who meet as Friends of Chapel Wood and continue to keep the Woodland and Burial Ground in good order.

Parish Council Website

At our website at www.ampfield.org.uk you can find information about Ampfield parish.

The "Planning Tracker" function is now working and enables you to see what planning applications are Pending and Decided and to go directly to the information on Test Valley Borough Council's website.

We have our own newsletters on there as well as St. Mark's Church's "Messenger" newsletter. We have a "Report it!" page that directs you to the appropriate authority (usually not the Parish Council!) to report all sorts of problems you may have.

We also have traffic speeds and volumes collected by our Speed Limit Reminder sign.

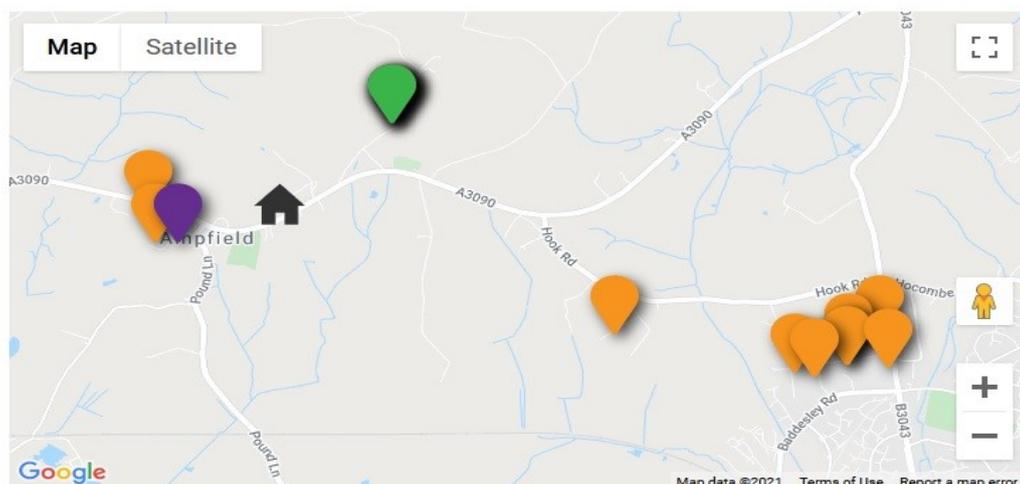
As a work in progress, we are starting to include some walks from the "Keble Way" booklet that was published in the mid 1990's.

Planning Applications

[View list](#)

This page includes planning applications for locations within Ampfield Parish Council. Refine your search using the Refine Results menu and sign up to email alerts to have updates sent directly to your inbox.

Displaying: 16 applications



[Sign up to our Email Alerts](#)

Refine Results

Enter your postcode

S051 9bq

Select Distance / Radius

3 miles

Show results from

Last 12 months

- Pending Consideration
- Application Granted
- Application Refused
- Application Withdrawn
- Application Appealed

Planning

The planning committee has met regularly and reviewed about 120 applications in the last year. The use of PowerPoint in virtual meetings, rather than paper documents at a committee table, has probably improved the process.

The Parish Council continues to engage with TVBC Planning Enforcement about perceived breaches of planning regulations. This can be frustrating and is a slow-moving process.

Recreation Ground and Pavilion

A new playground was installed on the site of the former ramshackle wooden changing pavilion in June and is being well used.

The car park which is the final part of the pavilion “project” was finally completed in November, some 15 years after the granting of planning permission. This included a new access gate to the ground from the main road.



The pavilion, which will be available for hire again once lockdown restrictions are eased, is an ideal location for children’s birthday parties and can now be offered with parking – the lack of which was a major constraint.

At the time of writing, we are looking forward to the resumption of cricket at the recreation ground. In order to encourage kids to play sport, the Ampfield and North Baddesley Cricket Club are setting up a Colts team which will start playing this year and are also running an All Stars event over 8 Friday evenings where 5 to 8-year-olds get coaching.

Friends of Chapel Wood

Friends of Chapel Wood

The overriding memories of the year 2020/21 will be rain and lockdowns. The Friends of Chapel Wood lost at least half of their scheduled working parties through one or the other. It is at times such as these that we realise just how fortunate we are to have such a resilient team of volunteers. Despite the very difficult operating conditions experienced over the year, a great deal was achieved.

The limited number of work parties meant it was necessary to concentrate on maintenance rather than new projects. Repairs were undertaken on the perimeter fences, the signposts were repainted, and the burial ground and the glade areas were tidied and trimmed of unwanted vegetation. More recently a bonfire was organised to dispose of all the arisings.



The other outstanding feature of the past year was the work needed on the trees, with several large limbs breaking away from their stems or with old standing poles that simply fell over. The footpaths were blocked on at least three occasions. With one of these it was possible to divert the path around the fallen trunk, but on the other occasions contractors were required.

The lockdown situation has seen a lot of new visitors to the wood. It is good to see people wandering around, enjoying its peace and tranquillity, listening to the birdsong. Your Parish Council is most grateful to all the Friends for what they have achieved this past year helping to produce and maintain this environment. It shares their enthusiasm for a more settled 2021/22.



Village Hall

Ampfield Village Hall – Decorated, improved and ready to open safely again!

It was a very sad day, in March of last year, when the hall committee had to put up the signs announcing that the Monthly Village Market, together with most other activities that take place in the hall, had to be suspended due to Central Government's Covid 19 preventative measures. Little did we think it would be over a year before we could reopen. Apart from the County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections, due to be held shortly on May 6, the hall has to effectively remain closed until at least May 17th.

The Village Hall Committee decided that during these sad unprecedented times, the closure actually provided them with the golden opportunity to carry out some much needed general maintenance, repairs and renewals and some more major enhancements.

The work was carried out by a mixture of paid subcontractors and a lot of volunteer work.

The first major task was to borrow a scaffold tower for the main hall to enable the cleaning of the walls and ceiling and the total redecoration of the main hall.

The teething troubles with the new hall floor were then sorted out and new oak skirting board fitted to match the floor.

Seven original doors, at the stage end, that were looking the worse for wear, (complete with dormant woodworm!) have been replaced with smart new doors that meet the current regulations.

The old kitchenette is now a bar/drinks servery. A new fixed bar has been installed, complete with a solid wood worktop all round with a wine cooler below. This was part-financed by a £1,000 local Borough Councillor's grant.

The new kitchen and Faber Garden Room have been kindly decorated by volunteers.

The serving hatch counter has been lowered and slightly extended to form a level serving area.

The area under the stage was investigated and a large trailer load of assorted rubbish was discovered and disposed of. This bizarrely included some old rotten fence posts (!) All is now clear and hoovered.

Finally, the finishing touch has been provided by the hanging of some beautiful new curtains to the windows in the main hall and garden room.

We are very grateful to Test Valley Borough Council for smoothly distributing the various Government Covid-19 grants that the hall was entitled to claim to cover the general overheads and upkeep of the hall during the shutdown. This helped a great deal to fund the above work.

Now the hall has been 'deep cleaned' and a number of automatic hand sanitisers installed, etc., and risk assessments carried out, we are all ready to open the doors again, subject to the announcements by the Government and any restrictions we will be obliged to adhere to.

All being well, the Thursday evening Yoga classes will resume on 3 June '21. For all Yoga related enquiries please email Sheila@nicholson2.co.uk We hope that the other regular groups, as well as The Monthly Village Market will soon be able to return to business as normal (albeit it might be the 'new normal'!).

For all other hall hire related enquiries please ring or email the Hon. Hall Manager, (Martin Hatley) on 07970 501050 or Email: villagehall@ampfield.org.uk



Ampfield Crime

Report It

Over the past year, Ampfield Parish Council has been made increasingly aware that there is the perception amongst local people of rising crime rates across the parish. In response to this, the Parish Council has been in touch with our local policeman PC Tristan Pugh, and believe it is very much worth reiterating the following advice. Please note that the 'Report It' section of the parish council's website also provides valuable information on other subjects as well as crime. PC Pugh has updated us below.

'If parishioners are unfortunate enough to experience a crime either directly or indirectly, it is always worth advising the police and providing them with full details. Only by so doing, can we provide the police with the pieces of information that will enable them to build the bigger picture. Details of how to do this are on the Ampfield Parish Council website, www.ampfield.org.uk. Go to the heading 'Report it', you will see full details covering how to report crimes. Remember, if a crime is in progress, the suspects are still at the scene or a person is in immediate danger and needs support right away - call 999. Otherwise, ring 101'. (Source: Hampshire Constabulary)

PC Report

Crime levels for the Crime statistics for Ampfield can be publically viewed here:

<https://www.crime-statistics.co.uk/postcode/so51%209bd>

Ampfield area remain low. However police have been conducting some burglary patrols in the early evening after a series of shed breaks, attempted breaks and suspicious activity last month. some high value pedal cycles and garden machinery were stolen across this series.

One suspect from Southampton was interviewed and had his house searched for one of these offences, however there was insufficient evidence to prosecute the male involved.

Police believe this male and a group of his associates were responsible for the suspicious attempted breaks in the Broadgate Farm estate and surrounding area.

Throughout the year local policing has been heavily subscribed with 'Op MIX' activities policing COVID legislation compliance as well as our usual work managing vulnerable people and investigating / preventing crimes.

I have conducted some speed enforcement activities over the year, many of which have been logged on our twitter feed and Facebook accounts for the public to be kept informed.

These activities have been on the A3090 and Hook Road as speed enforcement data supported speeding at certain times in these locations.

If there are any specific police related matters on your agenda then I would be happy to pass comment where I can.

Police Constable 3672 Tristan Pugh

Ampfield Broadband

Ampfield Parish Council is aware that slow broadband speed is a major limiting factor when trying to work from home or trying to run a business from home. In several of the more rural area in the parish, homeowners' access to acceptable broadband speed is poor. Central government is currently launching a further initiative to resolve these issues. Type <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-5bn-project-gigabit> into your web browser to see full details.

Further government announcements covering broadband in Hampshire are expected in June. In the meantime, your council is investigating to what extent it can assist in the efforts currently being made to resolve these issues.

Ampfield C of E Primary School

The children and staff have returned from the Easter holidays with a spring in their step and ready to learn. The good weather and sunshine has meant lots of outdoor play and happy children! We have welcomed many new families to our school this year and we are currently full in Year 6. There are currently 48 children on roll across two classes. We do have spaces available for Year R (September 2021) and we have such a lovely, small, nurturing environment to offer children in their first year of formal education. Call us if you would like to know more. We have a temporary phone number: 01794 335879, which is operational until 30 April. We will then revert to our original phone number: 01794 368219.

During the national lockdown, our teachers worked with both children at school and with those at home, using Google Classroom. They managed live 'catch up' sessions with all the children in the class each day and implemented recorded and live teaching online. It was a joy to see everyone back in school, in person, however!

We are very lucky to have talented and dedicated staff at our school. In February, we welcomed our new Business & Admin Manager, Mrs Cyrilyn Scott, to the federation. She oversees both schools, keeping tight control of the finances and managing the admin team. Please do contact her if you would like to discuss hiring facilities at either Ampfield or John Keble School. In other news, Mr Cascarini, our Junior Class teacher, has been successful at securing the role of Headteacher at Braishfield Primary School. We are thrilled for him (and them) and we will very much miss him when he leaves us at the end of the summer term. We will, therefore, be advertising for an ambitious, creative, adaptable and dynamic Key Stage 2 teacher to take charge of our Junior Class. If you know someone who might fit the bill, ask them to get in touch!

Marcus Roe

Executive Headteacher



St Mark's Church

This has been a year in the life of the Church like no other. Our worship has been mostly online across the benefice on a Sunday and more catching up later in the day or week. Whilst most weddings have had to be cancelled and rebooked - some several times, three weddings were able to go ahead, one in each parish, although very hastily arranged, socially distanced and very different from first envisaged, with the marriage at St John being organised within a week! There have been no Baptisms during this time. Funerals and later burial of ashes have been far more extensive, with 51 Services taking place across the Benefice, almost all of these being graveside services as churches remained closed.

As well as online, there have been periods when we have been able to meet in the church or in the churchyard albeit in reduced numbers and with restrictions. One such event was the opening of the church during Holy Week to allow access for private prayer, this was achieved by the church being industrially, deep cleaned and volunteers ensuring those who attended sanitized and stayed safe.

There are two main items of news, we were again the victims of lead theft, this time from St Mark's Room and although we have the theft recorded on CCTV the police are not very optimistic of catching the thieves as there are no clear clues such as car number plates for example. The second item is a much welcome heritage fund grant of c.£25,000 which St. Mark's church is benefiting from a successful application to the national Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund, for funding to support the urgent restoration work required for the beautiful stain glass windows in the west wall. Unrepaired the windows would be permanently damaged. The work is scheduled to begin sometime in April 2021 (date yet to be confirmed) and will involve the temporary removal of the windows so they can be reset in lead and the structure of the window strengthened. The work will be carried out by artisans from Sunrise Stain-glass Windows using techniques appropriate for the age and historic value of the windows.

The church has been supporting friends and neighbours, particularly through the first lockdown. The Ampfield Messenger, weekly Newsletters, weekly 'From the Vicarage', and Social Media have aimed to keep the congregation and wider communities in touch with each other and sought to provide Spiritual comfort and support. Unfortunately the Ampfield Messenger has not been printed since the start of the pandemic and the lockdowns. However, it has been available online via www.acnb-church.org and on the parish council website under newsletters. If you would like to receive a copy, please email the editors, Chris and Rob Kerr, their email address is c.l.kerr@btinternet.com.

Undoubtedly the world has changed, undoubtedly we have to adapt to a new way of being, but I do feel that as a strong Christian Community in this Benefice we can overcome and adapt to whatever life throws at us and come out stronger than before.

If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

With every blessing,

Rev. Victoria Ashdown



Borough Councillor's Annual Report

This time last year I think we all hoped that the World would have been able to get Covid-19 more under control than it has by now. In the UK our immensely successful vaccination programme, social distancing etc, means that we are the envy of many other countries. However, worldwide it seems Covid-19 may not have yet peaked (eg in India) and so at the Borough Council although we remain optimistic we are not complacent and the pandemic related work continues as well as all the normal workload.

The last year has been a very difficult one for many residents and many of us have had to adopt to new ways of working and to be flexible in carrying out duties which are new or different. This has been particularly true within Test Valley Borough Council. Fortunately our flexible modern telephone and computer system, and our willing and resilient workforce, has meant that a large number of normally office based staff have become home based in an apparently seamless way, as far as the public were concerned. Many staff, including my Mayor's assistant, answered over 3,000 calls to the special Test Valley Community Helpline.

Staff have also worked tirelessly checking Covid-19 related grant applications and distributing over £56 million of Government aid to 3,280 local businesses and village halls in the form of business support grants and rate relief. Unlike in some authorities, our bins continued to be collected regularly (56,363 each week – 2,930,876 in total). Staff from Parks and Leisure Services showed brilliant goodwill and were willingly drafted in to support the service. 440 homeless persons were helped into permanent housing including almost all those sleeping rough in the Borough (a very small number including one in Romsey unfortunately refused the offer).

As a result of Covid-19 and the reduced possibilities of face to face meetings, I was humbled to be asked to continue as Mayor for a consecutive second year. This being a first for Test Valley.

I have missed meeting many representatives from various local charities, groups, nursing homes etc., although I did, of course, have the immense privilege and honour to meet a great number of people during my year as Deputy Mayor and the first three quarters of my first Mayoral year.

When Government rules and guidelines have allowed I have been able to carry out a limited number of personal engagements- including remembering and honouring those who gave their lives for our country, albeit somewhat reduced but still special and appropriate commemorations, on both Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant and I also paid our respects on behalf of Test Valley residents to the late Duke of Edinburgh, at a very small but poignant service in the grounds of St. Marys Church, Andover.

It has however been fascinating, and often unintentionally quite entertaining, to take part in numerous virtual meetings of many organisations including a talk on Broadlands given by local historian, Phoebe Merrick, to the Andover Town Twinning Association. I was able to speak to folks in Andover, Hants, Andover, Massachusetts, USA and Goch in Germany. As well as attending virtual meetings, I have recorded a number of short video clips for showing to members, residents, staff etc for various groups.

Two interesting things have happened in the last year during the lockdowns. The amount of garden waste has increased greatly and so has the amount of glass collected in the bottle banks. Consequently an extra green waste collection vehicle has been purchased and a number of extra bottle banks have been acquired. I hope this does not mean residents are mowing whilst under the influence of alcohol!

Finally, on behalf of all the residents of Test Valley, enormous thanks go out to all of you in Ampfield who have continued to help, in so many different ways, not only our local community but also other neighbouring areas, to cope with this pandemic. They join some 1986 recorded volunteers within Test Valley – there are of course many more other unrecorded good Samaritans. It is no exaggeration to say that in many instances you have literally been a lifeline to individuals.

Well done and thank you!

Cllr. Martin Hatley

County Councillor's Annual Report

As County Councillor for the last thirty years for the Baddesley Division, I believe we need a vision to put hope back into Hampshire.

Hampshire needs hope, and new direction in 2021/22.

The Council Tax will rise by 4.99%, a Band "D" property will be charged £1350.45p a £64 increase. There will also be an additional £15 for a Band "D" from the Police precept. Many vital services have already been reduced or cut and this heavy increase of council tax will be an additional pressure to many families during this most difficult of years.

As we start to recover from Covid-19 the County Council must put people and communities first, fix problems, and have the vision to address the climate emergency. We need our County Council to truly recognise young people as the future, and respect and value older people and those in need of help. We also need a County Council that backs skills and business to generate the wealth to support world class services.

Our Climate Emergency

Hampshire has a plan for zero emissions by 2050, but is this 20 years too late!

I believe there should be a plan of tackling our climate emergency at the heart of all our policies, recognising it will be too late for our children and grandchildren if we don't. That means rethinking transport to minimise unsustainable journeys, learning lessons from the Covid emergency, and supporting safety with reduced speed limits, where there's local support. It means greening new and existing homes, promoting walking and cycling, tackling air quality and demanding a healthier Hampshire for all.

Our NHS, Health and Social Care

We should be working towards preventing ill health, and that leads to longer and more enjoyable lives and takes pressure off our doctors and NHS. We need to protect and enhance public health budgets and put mental health first from schools to old age. We also need to rethink all our 'people' services from restarting youth services, working towards a Hampshire where food banks are consigned to history and where elderly care is celebrated as a valued part of life.

Our Homes & Infrastructure

Roads and pavements are collapsing with pavement resurfacing down to once in every 99 years. Bus services axed. The County Council should be working with district councils to ensure infrastructure comes first, with the right homes in the right places. Backing Green Belt plans such as in South Hampshire, to allow our communities and wildlife space to breathe and move. That means bringing forward investment in sustainable transport, integrating rail and bus services, support for buses and improved community transport, and a County-wide plan for electric charging points.

Hampshire People: Our Communities

We have witnessed major cuts to community groups and the arts announced in the middle of this pandemic. It's time to foster that spirit for the future. We will only do this by encouraging and supporting our communities and thinking afresh about local services. That must include an end to library closures, and partnership with villages and communities for new library spaces with extended hours.

**HCC Cllr Alan Dowden
Baddesley Division**

Parish Assembly Covid 19

Please note the following if you are planning to attend the Annual Parish Assembly:

- ✦ The Hall capacity is much reduced due to legal restrictions
- ✦ Once we are full we will have to turn people away
- ✦ Please wear masks, use sanitizer on entry / exit and maintain 2m distance
- ✦ We will be asking for your details for track and trace, or you can use the NHS app

If you cannot attend, you may send your questions or comments in advance to the Clerk, clerk@ampfield.org.uk (min. 3 days ahead please)

Transport and Highways

Two bus shelters have been installed by the parish council using money from the developer at Morleys Green. The bus shelters are located on the North side of the A3090 opposite Ampfield Recreation Ground and on the South side of the A3090 near the Potters Heron hotel.



Traffic calming measures close to Morleys Green are still being designed by Hampshire County Council (HCC) Highways. A traffic island in the centre of the road at the bus stop east of Green Pond Lane is proving difficult to implement satisfactorily.

The parish council has monitored traffic speeds at various locations in the parish using our Speed Limit Reminder sign that also reminds motorists of the speed limit. Traffic speed and volume data can be found on our website. Our use of the sign was curtailed in November 2020 when it was stolen whilst at the Pound Lane location. We hope to have a replacement soon.



Ampfield Parish Council Financial Report

Audit for Year Ended 31 March 2020

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 were audited by PKF Littlejohn LLP and the conclusion was published on 14 October 2020. It was found that we had completed our annual return in accordance with Proper Practices and there were no matters giving cause for concern. The audit of the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021 is underway, and will be concluded in the autumn.

Assets: *Over the past year we have constructed or acquired the following assets:*

New playground and carpark at the recreation ground.

Two new bus shelters (opposite the White Horse pub and adjacent to Potters Heron, on Winchester Road)

Freehold of the village hall carpark together with the village green at Morleys Green: this secures them for the community in the long term, although we already had a long lease.

The asset register records the disposal of the old play equipment. Also, we have repaired the boardwalk in Chapel Wood. A new dipping platform will be constructed soon at the pond in Chapel Wood.

Grants, s106 and CIL funding: *We received the following grants, and developer's contributions of s106 and CIL funds in 2020-21:*

Covid-19 business support grant for the pavilion: this was a series of fixed-sum grants covering the various lockdowns and local restrictions, totalling £19,907.43.

So that we could fund the purchase of personal protective equipment for Ampfield Neighbours, who are part of the network of Covid-19 local volunteers, we received £375 from Test Valley Borough Council.

£75,380.40 s106 and CIL monies for the carpark construction this year. We also used £45,444 earmarked reserves which we had carried over from the previous financial year (also comprised of s106 & CIL).

£16,712 s106 money for the construction of two new bus shelters.

At the time of publication, we hold £1,286 s106 money, earmarked solely for the construction of the dipping platform.

Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31 March 2021: *Figures stated here are draft because the audit has not yet been completed.*

We brought forward £153,993.75 from the previous financial year.

Receipts in the year were £155,555.68, including the grants, s106 / CIL monies noted above, together with burial charges, rent of the recreation ground, pavilion and allotments, as well as the £ 38,742.00 precept.

Payments in the year were £209,635.20. A large part of this was the capital projects (funded by sources other than the precept) of the playground / carpark, and new bus shelter projects which cost a total of £135,923.00. There were VAT payments of £29,957.93, most of which will be refunded to us. All other expenditure came to £43,754.27.

Budget and Precept For the year to 31 March 2022:

The precept is £39,490.00.

Budgeted expenditure is £52,188.55. We were constrained in our activities in the past year and anticipate that we will now be able to catch up on general maintenance, for example at Chapel Wood, construct the new dipping platform and undertake small improvement projects.

Kate Orange, Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer – Ampfield Parish Council

Ampfield Annual Parish Assembly

To be held at

Ampfield Village Hall

On Monday 17th May 2021 at 7.30pm

A meeting for all electors of the parish

(if you are attending please see page 12 for Covid 19 instructions)

The Agenda for this Annual Parish Assembly is:

Apologies for Absence

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 20th May 2019

Matter Arising

Chairman's Introduction

Borough Councillor's Report

County Councillor's Report

Council Finances & Administration

Planning

Transport and Highways

Friends of Chapel Wood

Other Reports—see Parish Newsletter

Any other Competent Business & Open Session

Bryan Nanson Chairman

Ampfield Parish Council

Ampfield Parish Councillors

Bryan Nanson (Chair), Graham Roads (Vice Chair), David Stevens, Chris Ling, Julie Trotter, Julian Jones, Martin Hatley, Kathleen McCallum and Mujeeb Rahman.

The parish council website, www.ampfield.org.uk, publishes all the dates and times of the council and committee meetings and are advertised on the parish notice boards. The public are welcome to attend all the council and committee meetings, if you wish to do so please contact the clerk, Kate Orange, whose details are at the bottom of the page.



How do I get in touch with Ampfield Parish Council?

Correspondence to the Clerk to the Council: Kate Orange
2, The Square, Braishfield Road, Braishfield, Romsey SO51 0PQ
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