

## Minutes

### Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council: Monday 10 March 2025

**Held at Ampfield Village Hall, 7:00pm to 8:45pm**

#### Present

*Members of Ampfield Parish Council:*

Chairman Bryan Nanson  
Vice Chairman Chris Ling  
Cllr Martin Hatley  
Cllr Julian Jones  
Cllr Graham Roads  
Cllr Julie Trotter (also minute taker)

#### Others

Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)'s Councillor Sally Yalden

#### Apologies

4663 Apologies were received from Cllr Jason Reeves.

#### Previous Meeting

4664 The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 10 February 2025 were agreed and signed.

#### Minutes of Planning Committee

4665 None.

#### Matters arising from the Minutes

4666 None.

#### Declarations of Interest in the business for the Meeting

4667 None.

#### Test Valley Borough Council – Sally Yalden to report

4668 The report from Borough Councillor Sally Yalden was noted and is attached to these Minutes.

**Public Participation** – if necessary, the Council will adjourn for a maximum period of 20 minutes

4669 None.

#### Financial Matters

4670 **a. Bank reconciliation** – The Council received the bank reconciliation to the end of February 2025.

RESOLVED

The Council received the calculation of working capital to the end of February 2025.

RESOLVED

4671 **b. Accounts for payment** – It was agreed that the following payments should be made:

<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Alexis Lane: tree work	£ 85.00
Service charge, Morleys Green 25/3/25 to 24/3/26	£ 399.78
JN Landscapes grounds maintenance	£ 882.20
Staff costs: locum	£ 100.00
Aaron24: Pavilion heating maintenance	£ 88.80
Total (including VAT)	£1,535.78

RESOLVED

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

<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Calor	£ 17.99
TVBC grounds maintenance	£ 334.91
E.On	£ 104.38
Website	£ 11.99
Mobile WIFI data	£ 8.00
Total (including VAT)	£ 477.27
Total payments	£2,013.05

RESOLVED

4672 **c. Income and anticipated expenditure**

It was noted that the Council had received the following income during February 2025:

<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Memorial fee	£ 149.00
Interest	£ 107.53
REPF grant	£3,158.00
Total (including VAT)	£3,414.53

RESOLVED

The Council received the report of expenditure against budget to the end of February 2025.

RESOLVED

**Recruitment of Clerk/RFO**

4673 Kate Orange is to carry on as Locum Clerk until the end of the financial year in March 2025. Locum arrangements continue.

It was proposed that the recruitment campaign should commence. This includes advertising with NALC Premium, HALC website, on noticeboards and the APC website. The vacancy will be advertised on the Romsey Business and Employment and Romsey News and Information groups on Facebook. The closing date for applications will be 18th May 2025 to allow an advertisement in the Parish Council newsletter.

The Selection Panel will be Chairman Bryan Nanson, Vice Chairman Chris Ling, Cllr. Martin Hatley with Cllr. Julie Trotter as notetaker and observer. The contingency plan is to hire a locum through SLCC.

**Pollinator Pledge — update**

4674 Cllr. Jason Reeves had nothing to report.

**Recreation Ground / Pavilion**

**4675 a. Update**

There has been a mole infestation at the recreation ground, A pest controller has been engaged and the treatment has been started.

The REPF grant of £3,158 for the path at the pavilion has been received. An s.106 application is “in progress” (for six months).

Our insurer has responded to the landowner at Gosport Farm about the tree that fell down from the recreation ground. There is no liability for APC. We await a copy of the insurer’s response to the claimant.

As discussed at the February meeting, a meeting is to be arranged with Louisa Rice of TVBC in order to obtain advice on the submission of a CAF application for solar panels and battery storage at the start of the new financial year. It was agreed that, subject to the meeting outcome, an application will be made.

RESOLVED

**4676 b. Wiring contract**

Competitive tenders have been invited for the wiring to and for the new ANBCC shed/bar after our existing electricians ceased doing electrical work. The first quote has just been received and a sub-committee of Chairman Bryan Nanson and Cllr. Julian Jones has been established to make a decision on the tenders. Vice Chairman Chris Ling will do an evaluation of the bids.

**4677 c. Review of ANBCC projects**

A balance of £4,939.40 from the s.106 “refund” was held by APC pending future ANBCC projects. ANBCC spent £3,052.99 on the new shed. A payment for this was authorised in the February meeting. It was agreed that APC would make a payment of the balance, £1,886.41 to ANBCC which would be used towards the costs of the electrical installation of the new shed.

RESOLVED

### **Chapel Wood**

#### **4678 a. Update**

Cllr. Graham Roads reported that a working party was held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Due to a lack of volunteers, the bonfire was postponed until next month. The planting at the west end of the church has taken place. £361.17 has been spent on bulbs, six trees and three briar roses. Cllr. Graham Roads submitted a proposal that a further £664 would be spent on primroses, trees and shrubs. This spending is from a £1,000 grant kindly given by Waitrose for the enhancement of community space. The proposal was approved in principle.

RESOLVED

#### **4679 b. Use of Glade for church fete**

The use of the glade for the church fete on 14<sup>th</sup> June was approved. Cllr. Graham Roads is to take this forward and liaise with the PC. A request has been received from St. Mark's church to create new paths in Chapel Wood for use by families. The request was approved, on condition that there is a risk assessment, a health and safety report and a stipulation that users remain on the footpaths.

RESOLVED

### **Burial Ground**

#### **4680 a. Purchase of yew hedge plants**

Because of the non-availability of the proposed yew plants, larger plants need to be used. The purchase of 150 plants at a revised cost of £1,500 was approved.

RESOLVED

### **War Memorial**

#### **4681 a. Addition of Tommy**

No progress.

RESOLVED

### **Morleys Green – Update**

4682 A letter was received on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 from solicitors acting for Mr Michalik, ten months after our previous response to them. A response was sent on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 saying that our position on the Morleys Green freehold remained unchanged, that is, we still require and indemnity for our legal costs and for a payment to reflect any time spent on this matter by our Clerk before obtaining legal advice on whether we could transfer the freehold to Mr Michalik. The letter said that any claim that we expected to have acquired the freehold of the houses would not be valid and could be “unjust enrichment”. In reply, we have denied ever making a claim that we expected to acquire the freehold of the houses. It should be noted that WE started the process by contacting Land & Fields, SCH solicitors and Jeffries solicitors to advise them of the mistake in the Land Registry registration and that none of them replied to us.

Ground rent is due this month. Previous payments have been received from Belgarum five months late. The lease requires payment in advance, due on the payment date. If payment is made more than 14 days late, then interest at currently 8.5% is due on the balance. The same clause applied to the sub-lease to the houses, so Morleys Green Management are not disadvantaged by any late payment by householders.

It is proposed that we require future payments to be made by Belgarum by standing order, as the lease allows us to require. Further, interest due on earlier payment are to be waived if the next payment is received on time.

RESOLVED

### **Allotments**

#### **4683 a. Update**

There has been one more cancellation due to a house sale. There are currently three vacant plots. The key deposit and the plot deposit will be refunded. Cllr. Julian Jones will cover the plot with black plastic. An item is to be included in the newsletter advising that plots are available.

### **Telephone Kiosk – Update**

4684 Cllr. Julie Trotter gave personal thanks to Cllr. Julian Jones for restoring the windows to such a high standard. A huge amount of work has been completed on the telephone kiosk to date, but a large amount of work remains to be done.

### **Highways**

#### **4685 a. Update**

No update.

#### **4686 b. Cycle path proposal**

Hampshire County Council have approved £700,000 of funding for Halterworth junction upgrades as part of the Romsey to Ampfield cycle path proposal. This is funded from a s.106 payment from the Abbotswood development.

### **Resilience**

4687 Chairman Bryan Nanson attended the Test Valley Community Resilience Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a meeting with TVBC officers in about 6 months to discuss the Ampfield Resilience Plan. The role of parish councils in resilience is limited, but battery storage at the pavilion would improve the availability of resources for resilience. The TVBC Chief Executive is arranging local distribution points, such as Ganger Farm Sports Pavilion, to address future water outages. It was approved that APC resilience contacts are put on our website.

RESOLVED

### **Acquisition of ampfield.gov.uk domain and transition of website to that domain**

4688 Vice Chairman Chris Ling has advised Hugo Fox that we would like to proceed with the acquisition of the domain name ampfieldparish.gov.uk No further response has been received.

### **Newsletter progress**

4689 There will be 8 delivery rounds delivered by 7 councillors. Chairman Bryan Nanson and Vice Chairman Chris Ling will handle the spare round.

Only three properties are currently occupied at Ampfield Meadows. Chairman Bryan Nanson is to contact the sales office there to provide newsletters when available.

### **Parish Assembly 19 May – Progress**

4590 No update.

**Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders**

4691 None.

**Correspondence and Communications**

4692 Southern Water Spring 2024 Consultation – Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project – We received an invitation to comment on the consultation, but this consultation only covers the work from Havant to Otterbourne and does not involve work in Ampfield.

4693 Cllr. Graham Roads reported that the Forestry Commission had notified him that the Oak Processionary Moth program had started. Spraying will take place between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 30th June. Bartlett tree surgeons will be doing the spraying and will be in touch.

**Next Meeting**

4694 The next ordinary Meeting will be held at Ampfield Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 14 April 2025.

4695 The next Planning Committee meeting will be held at Ampfield Village Hall at 7pm on Monday 24 March 2025.

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Chairman -----

Date -----

## **February 2025 Report from Cllr Sally Yalden Test Valley Borough Councillor**

### **Planning Inspectorate appeal decisions**

There were three appeal decisions. Two were dismissed and one was allowed.

[Land and premises known as Mount Pleasant Game Farm, Mount Lane, Lockerley.](#) It was a breach of planning control and construction of a dwelling. The appeal is dismissed and the enforcement notice is upheld.

[Land at Rowan Oak, Craydown Lane, Over Wallop.](#) The development proposed is creation of two self-build plots and associated hard & soft landscaping at Land at Rowan Oak, Over Wallop. The appeal is dismissed.

[Land east of Premier Way and South of Botley Road, North Baddesley.](#) The appeal was by Stratland Commercial Ltd. The development proposed is the erection of 16 light industrial units including access, parking, landscaping and drainage. The appeal is allowed.

### **Councillor community grant**

This financial year's grant is still £668.51. The deadline for new applications is 22 March. However, the amount will be carried forward if not used before the end of the financial year. A reminder that it can be used for equipment for community groups, enhancements to green spaces and play areas, improvements to community building and facilities, support for local events, and small-scale infrastructure improvements. Louisa Rice is happy to assist with any applications.

### **Planning update**

A reminder that the Government published a new NPPF on 12th December 2024 which came into immediate force. Proposed changes to the NPPF were set out to parish and town councils at briefings last year in which broadly remain in the new NPPF. The new NPPF means we have had to review the timetable for preparing the draft Local Plan going forward. A Report is going to Cabinet tonight (26/2) to seek approval for a revised timetable to prepare the draft Local Plan and means we will need to undertake an additional round of consultation (which is known as the Regulation 18 stage) by the end of September 2025. The draft Local Plan will need to address the significant uplift in our housing need (which is now 934 homes per year) and set out additional housing site allocations to ensure we can meet this.

### **Full Council meeting 27 February**

A detailed forecast report was provided by Carl Whatley who is the Head of Finance and Revenue. Council tax for a Band D property is to be increased by £5 to £168.91. The impact of local government reorganisation and its budget is still unfolding.<sup>2</sup>

### **Update following Council Motion on Southern Water**

Following the motion resolved by Council at its meeting on 29 January 2025 the Chief Executive and Leader attended a meeting with Southern Water and other partners on

Friday 31 January to discuss the Testwood incident. At this meeting, the Council's views on the approach taken by Southern Water during the incident, in particular communication and the local supply of bottled water were raised.

Following attendance at the meeting, Andy Ferrier further sent a letter to the Chief Executive of Southern water expressing the Council's concerns and requesting that it undertakes a comprehensive review of its procedures and communications strategy and to work with TVBC to develop an Emergency Planning and Public Awareness strategy relevant to Test Valley.

Officers have now been invited to attend a session hosted by Southern Water to discuss how the actions and recommendations made by TVBC and other partners can be taken forward and implemented should there be future incidents.

### **Apply for a grant to mark historic VE Day anniversary**

Communities across Test Valley are being encouraged by the borough council to mark a special Victory in Europe (VE) Day anniversary in May.

Thursday 8 May 2025 will mark 80 years since Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces, bringing the end of World War Two in Europe.

To honour this, the council have set up a VE Day 80th Anniversary Grant Scheme, which will enable communities to apply for up to £500 towards local celebrations to mark the historic event.

Not for profit organisations, clubs and societies, parish and town councils and schools can all apply for a share of the pot.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 25 April and all activities must take place within two weeks of 8 May 2025.

### **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Devolution**

It is difficult to know what is actually happening and that statement is from the LGA! The Local Government Association (LGA) and District Councils' Network (DCN) are all opposed to enforced reorganisation. Devolution was in the new Government's Manifesto, but LGR was not.

County Councils are not the lead authorities on LGR – all councils involved are equals in the process. County Councils are however the lead authorities on devolution talks.