

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 30th November 2009 commencing at 7pm.

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

1679 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mr G. J. Choules who was absent for personal reasons. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Choules about his return to Council.

1680 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 14th September 2009, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

1681 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

1682 Declarations of Interest

Mr. Hatley declared an interest as Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee.

1683 Public Participation

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

1684 Ampfield Recreation Ground

1684.1 Ground maintenance

Both sides of the hedge along the northern boundary had been cut by Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC). A new “no dogs” sign had been erected along the eastern boundary next to the White Horse Pub. A “private property” sign had been erected at the stile leading to the field on the southern side. This had been erected to stop members of the public using the field as a footpath. The owner of the field had been pleased with Council’s prompt action on the matter.

1684.2 Water for the pavilion

An estimate for connection of water to the pavilion site was awaited. Mr Nanson continued to liaise with the contractors concerned.

1684.3 Inspection outcomes

A written report had been received following the annual inspection of the playground. As expected there were no matters of concern but there were a few low risk items to be followed up. These included the fixing of a loose post, sanding of splintered wood and the trimming of bolts on the reverse side of the playground signs: Mr Clark would attend to these items. Comment had been made about the wooden barrier to the swing section being used for climbing by children. Council agreed to the purchase of wire mesh to be fixed over the barrier to help prevent any accidents.

1684.4 Letting agreement with Ampfield Football Club

Council noted that Ampfield Sports Club was now called Ampfield Football Club. The letting agreement, for use of the Recreation Ground for football, had now been signed by Ampfield Football Club. Miss Rothwell and Mr Nanson then signed the agreement on behalf of Council. It was also noted that the pitch had been waterlogged for some weeks due to the heavy and prolonged spells of rain and that no football had been played. Mr Nanson would seek advice about improvement to the drainage.

1684.5 Height barrier at the new entrance

Mr Clark had received 2 quotes to improve the security of the height barrier and adjacent fencing at the main entrance. After consideration Council agreed to accept the quote from Ford Fabrication. The acceptance would be subject to work being completed by end January 2010. The gate at the original entrance would be re-hung using existing wooden posts. Mr Clark would undertake that work. Mr Hatley reminded everyone of the existing planning agreement which required the original entrance gate to be permanently closed when the work on the pavilion was complete. It was noted that the owners of the White Horse Pub intended to improve the fencing along their car park which formed part of the eastern boundary of the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that another "no dogs" sign should be put up adjacent to White Horse car park Mr Hatley would check if TVBC had any signs otherwise the Clerk would place an order with Archer Signs.

1684.6 Design of sports pavilion

Council had considered Mr Clark's paper on the scope and cost of a pavilion for the Recreation Ground. Some concerns were expressed about the likely building costs and the need for such a facility in the Parish. It was agreed that Council should engage an architect or professional person to develop drawings to cover 2 levels of design and expenditure with sufficient information for grant applications and for seeking variations to planning permission. It was also agreed that an amount of up to £2000 could be spent on getting the proposals drawn up. Mr Clark and Mr Nanson would take this forward in the New Year. Arrangements would be made to visit other Councils who had recently built a sports pavilion to seek information and advice. The Chairman thanked Mr Clark for his efforts in taking the project forward.

1685 Asset Maintenance Schedule

It was agreed that this item be postponed until the January 2010 meeting. Mr Hatley advised that one of the slats on the bench at Green Pond Lane was broken. This would be examined under the maintenance programme.

1686 Financial Matters

1686.1 Accounts for payment

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

<u>Cheques to be signed at the meeting:</u>	£ (inc VAT)
D Matthews - November salary	517.11
HM Revenue & Customs - November payments	181.84
D Matthews - December Salary	517.31
HM Revenue & Customs - December payments	181.64
Office expenses- 14 September - 29 November 2009	57.13
Poppy wreath & donation- Martin Hatley	50.00
Ampfield Village Hall hire 10th & 15th June 09	42.00
Ampfield Village Hall hire 2 July - 26 October 09	186.00
Ampfield Village Hall hire 17th & 30th November 09	<u>42.00</u>
	<u>1775.03</u>
<u>Payments made between meetings</u>	
Sharp Electronics-photocopier hire	74.96
CBA Trees - first stage health & safety work Chapel Wood	1771.00
Information Commissioner- annual registration	<u>35.00</u>
	<u>1880.96</u>

1686.2 Income

Income for the period was just under £18,000; this included £17705.50 which was the second instalment of the Precept. Payment had been received from Ampfield Football Club for matches and training sessions played to date. Bank interest remained negligible. Mr Jones had identified a new sponsor of the website; this was Mr Paul Collard of Heating & Plumbing Services.

Mr Hatley advised that Section 106 money from developer funds could be available to finance the new hedge in the Burial Ground and the work on the hedges along the path leading up to St Mark's Church. He would investigate and advise Mr Roads of the outcome.

1686.3 Anticipated Expenditure

Council reviewed expenditure against budget for the period ending October 2009. Approximately a third of the budget had been spent to date. Expenditure on the Recreation Ground and on Chapel Wood would increase towards the end of the year due to on-going projects and maintenance. Council noted that the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) continued to lobby Parliament for changes to the system whereby local councils required 2 signatories on a cheque. A move to on-line banking and card payments was being pursued

1686.4 Budget & Precept Arrangements

An informal meeting of key portfolio holders would be held on Tuesday, 15th December 2009 to prepare outline forecasts for the year and to start the budgeting process for 2010/2011. It was agreed that the Finance Committee would meet on Friday, 8th January 2010 to make budget and Precept recommendations to Council for the new financial year. TVBC had advised that Precept requests had to be made by 22nd January 2011 at the latest.

1687 Green Space Strategy

Mr Hatley would check and advise Council if the costs of the football and cricket nets had been added to the template of proposed projects in Ampfield Parish when the details had been forwarded to TVBC at the end of August 2009.

1688 Adoption of red Telephone Box

BT had identified the public phone box on the A3090 in Ampfield Village as one that was rarely used (8 calls had been made in a 12-month period) and whose upkeep was not covered by the calls made. As part of a national scheme for phone boxes in this category, BT had invited Ampfield Parish to adopt the kiosk. The telephony would be removed and the ownership transferred. No obvious use could be identified for the redundant phone box which would require maintenance; Council decided, therefore, not to proceed with the adoption.

1689 Correspondence and Communications

1689.1 Hampshire County Council (HCC)

Consultation about Hampshire Minerals & Waste Core Strategy.
Community Transport News Autumn edition
Hampshire Now Magazine Autumn edition
HCC Consultation Survey

1689.2 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Test Valley Access Plan
Remembrance Day- 2 minute silence campaign

1689.3 Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC)

Newsletter Issue 230 Autumn 2009
Letter from Steven Lugg re membership of NALC
NALC briefing note on payment rules

1689.4 Other Correspondence

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Crimestoppers Annual Report 2008/2009
Romsey & District Citizens Advice Bureau AGM
Hometruth newsletter Autumn edition from STL
Hampshire Playing Fields Association- autumn newsletter & annual report
Letter from BT Payphones about adopting our red kiosk
Letter from CBA Trees
Letter from Mrs Cant, Ampfield Parochial Church Council
Hampshire County Youth Band Association- request for financial support
Carers Together- request for information
LCAS Bulletin Autumn 09
Beat report Hampshire Constabulary
Rural Services Network – Parish Newsletter Nov 09

1690 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

1690.1 Planning Committee

The following applications had been commented on after discussion on:

26 October 2009

09/02011/TPOS 4 Baddesley Road
09/02152/TPOS 26 Beechwood Crescent

17 November 2009

09/02240/TPOS Rowans Wood, 28 straight Mile
09/01914/FULLS Ampfield House Cottage, Winchester Road
09/01854/FULLS 32 Beechwood Crescent
09/01734/FULLS Rowans Wood, Straight Mile
09/02167/FULLS 344 Hursley Road
09/02144/FULLS Larkspur, 23 Straight Mile
09/02350/TPOS Green Acres, Hook Road
09/02360/TPOS 38 Baddesley Road
09/02266/TREES Chapel Wood, Winchester Road

Council had had an informal meeting with a representative of the Pegasus Planning Group on 19th October 2009 regarding a potential development in Ampfield Parish. A response to queries raised was awaited.

1690.2 Footpath Warden

Mrs Birtwistle had noted that there was a tree down across Bridleway 12. She would report it to the Forestry Commission together with any other problems when she had carried out further walks.

1690.3 Hampshire Association of Local Councils

Council noted the concerns expressed by HALC about the perceived lack of services provided by the National Association. A questionnaire was expected by the end of the year which would seek local council views before any withdrawal from the National Association was proposed.

1690.4 Public Transport & Highway Liaison (PT&HL)

A large number of old fridges had been dumped at the slip road on the Straight Mile. TVBC had been very quick to remove the items and do a general litter pick around the area.

1690.5 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

A programme of events had not yet been developed. It was thought unlikely that the Boxing Day walk would go ahead due to the very wet conditions.

1690.6 Village Hall Liaison

Mr Hatley advised that the next entertainment at the Village Hall – the “Buffalo Gals”- was sold out. The Cinderella Story panto would be on the 2nd Saturday of January. A musical evening with “Mas y Mas”, who had been extremely popular on their last visit, had been booked on the 1st Saturday in March 2010. The Village Hall Management Committee would meet next on 10th December 2009.

1690.7 School Governor

Mr Butcher had been elected Chairman of Ampfield School Governors. More Governors were needed and Mr Butcher would be happy to talk to anyone who was interested in helping the School. The next Ofsted was likely to be in September 2010 and, as standards

continued to be raised, preparation for this would be interesting and challenging for everyone involved.

1690.8 Website

Some people had been experiencing problems with the drop-down menus. This was due to the release of a new browser and could be easily resolved by users enabling the compatibility view.

1690.9 Finance Committee,
Test Valley Association of Parish Councils (TVAPC)
Tree Wardens

There was nothing new to report.

1691 Highway Matters

1691.1 Speed Limit Reminder Sign

The speed sign was not working properly and had been removed for repair. It was now back on schedule outside Monkswood on the A3090.

1691.2 Extension of speed limits

Information was awaited about the data gathered by the radar units which had been positioned on the A3090 and near Ratlake. Mr Hatley advised that HCC and TVBC were in discussion about the rationalisation of speed limits in certain areas.

1691.3 Signage throughout the Parish

A sign advertising a charity event at Lainston House had been positioned at the junction of Jermyns Lane and the A3090. As this was a notorious accident spot Mr Clark had asked the event organisers to remove the sign on safety grounds. The Potters Heron had removed some of its advertisements after discussions with Highways. Council appreciated that an amount of forecourt advertising was necessary, and that seasonal signs at Hillers were to be expected, but they would continue to be vigilant. Mr Hatley advised that this was a borough-wide problem which was under review.

1691.4 Flooding on the A3090

Heavy rains invariably caused flooding at the bottom of the hill on the A3090 near Jermyns Lane. Highways had done some remedial work, which had helped, but the problem remained. Mr Hatley reported that Highways were now looking at a more permanent solution.

1692 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Mr Hatley reported that the work on the Baddesley Footbridge was nearing completion; some lighting problems had still to be sorted out. TVBC and Eastleigh Council had agreed to fund jointly an extension to the Valley Park cycle way. Work on the footpath outside Wheelhouse Park had now been completed and a proper kerb had been inserted at the bus stop. There had been complaints about the state of the footpath at Hook Road to Woodlea which had not been cleared for some time; this had now been done.

1693 Chapel Wood

1693.1 Friends of Chapel Wood

The October working party had planted bulbs in the glade and had trimmed up a number of hedges. There had been no November working party as the Woodland had been closed due to the damage caused by the mini tornado in the early part of the month. A working party was due to meet on 8th December to clear away the debris at the Knapp Lane entrance. It was noted that training in the use of chain saws for some of the Friends of Chapel Wood would be helpful.

1693.2 Work in the Woodland

Health & safety

CBA Trees Ltd had completed the health & safety risk assessment of Chapel Wood and had presented their report. About 44 trees were considered to need attention; this was much less than in the previous assessment conducted 3 years ago; remedial work could probably be done in a single year. About 20 actions, which were thought to have been done after the previous assessment, appeared to be outstanding. Arrangements would be made with CBA Trees to check the work completed by contractors in the future.

Three of the four contractors who had been invited to tender for the work had returned quotes. Arrangements would be made for Mr Roads and the Clerk to review the tenders with CBA Trees and make a recommendation to Council. It was noted that a felling license would not be needed to undertake the work.

Storm damage

The mini tornado in early November had caused considerable damage including the uprooting of a substantial Oak tree which had fallen across the 2 boardwalks and whose canopy had landed in the pond. This part of the woodland remained cordoned off for safety reasons. Mr Roads had sought advice from various sources about how best to deal with the fallen Oak tree whose root ball had to be made safe. As this stage it was thought that a “no-cost” option to remove the tree would be the best solution although responses were awaited from several firms. Council agreed to be guided by Mr Roads on the best way forward. The Chairman and Vice- Chair were authorised to agree the necessary expenditure. It was also agreed that any logs produced as a result of clearing up after the storm would simply be left in various parts of the woodland to rot down.

Proposed bonfire

It was agreed that Ampfield Parochial Church Council (APCC) could have a bonfire in the Woodland as part of a carol singing event. APCC would be asked to provide some information for health & safety reasons and the Clerk would contact the Council’s insurance agent to ensure that appropriate cover was in place.

1693.3 Burial Ground

The Clerk had sought information about appointing a dedicated gravedigger from other clerks in the county. There had been few responses and this did not appear to be a common practice. Other sources of information would be pursued in the New Year.

1693.4 War Memorial

Thanks were expressed to everyone who had worked to clean up the War Memorial and seat, and to tidy up and replant the garden. The whole area had looked very smart on Remembrance Day.

1694 Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 11th January 2010 in the Village Hall, Ampfield commencing at 7.00pm.

1695 Closure

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....