

Minutes

Ampfield Annual Parish Assembly: Monday 22 May 2023

Held in Ampfield Village Hall, 7:30pm to 8:15pm

Present

Members of Ampfield Parish Council:

Chairman Bryan Nanson – Chairing the Meeting
Cllr Martin Hatley
Cllr Julian Jones
Cllr Chris Ling
Cllr Kate McCallum
Cllr Jason Reeves
Cllr Julie Trotter

Others:

Electors of the parish - 5
Mayor of Test Valley, Cllr Alan Dowden (Hampshire County Council)
Cllr Sally Yalden (Test Valley Borough Council)

- 1 (23) Chairman of Ampfield Parish Council, Cllr Bryan Nanson, opened the Meeting and welcomed the electors and other attendees.

Apologies

- 2 (23) Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Ling (Vice Chairman of the Parish Council).

Previous Minutes

- a. The Meeting agreed the Minutes of 23 May 2022, and a copy was signed by the Chairman.

Parish Council Finances and Administration

- 3 (23) Cllr Nanson reported on finances and administration for Ampfield Parish Council:
- a. The Audit of 2021-22 was complete and no matters of concern had been identified.
 - b. The parish council precept for 2023-24 had been set at £43,084. This resulted in an overall increase from the previous year of 4.98% (3.9% per Band-D equivalent property).
 - c. Finances were healthy and some funds had been transferred into the reserves for future maintenance and replacement of assets.

Ampfield Parish Council Planning Committee

- 4 (23) Cllr Nanson reported on the Planning Committee of Ampfield Parish Council:
- a. The Committee continued to meet and decide comments on planning applications for the parish council.
 - b. The retirement village at Ampfield Meadows continued to be a major issue. Although it supported the development in principle, the parish council had objected to the latest application because of concerns over the impact on Flexford Close. Several revisions had been made. Chairman Bryan Nanson had spoken at the Southern Area Planning Committee, which had refused permission for the application. Options open to the developer included to appeal, or to amend the plans and re-submit them.
 - c. Cllr Alan Dowden noted that the latest plans would have resulted in severe overlooking of two to three dwellings. He was prepared to entertain a negotiated solution.

Ampfield Burial Ground

- 5 (23) Chairman Bryan Nanson reported on Ampfield Burial Ground.
- a. The burial ground is a Local Authority Burial Ground.

- b. Everyone of the parish was eligible for burial there.
- c. The contact is the Clerk of the Parish Council.

Transport and Highways

- 6 (23) Chairman Bryan Nanson reported on highways matters.
- a. The polycarbonate panels had been replaced on the bus shelter at the junction of Pound Lane with A3090, following graffiti damage. On the bus shelter at Baddesley Road, the graffiti had been cleaned off leaving no damage.
 - b. At the last Assembly, Community Speedwatch had been raised as a possibility for the parish. This may soon receive funding through the release of highways related s106 funds by Hampshire County Council. Sites which had received approval included Hookwood Road (south), Baddesley Road near Ampfield Meadows, A3090 at the junction with Green Pond Lane, and the entrance to Morleys Land at the Old Rectory. Volunteers had received training and more would be welcome.
 - c. The parish council's Speed Indicator Device (digital speed sign) continues to be deployed at sites throughout the parish, on a rota.
 - d. The parish council had requested a pedestrian crossing point on A3090 near to the junction with Green Pond. There had been prolonged negotiation with the highways department of Hampshire County Council (HCC) over this, concerning whether HCC considers that there is sufficient space for it, or that it is appropriate. The parish council asserts that the required road-width is present, and that there are other similar crossing points on the same stretch of road. This matter was ongoing.
 - e. Stagecoach had reinstated several no. 66 buses per day along Straight Mile and through Crampmoor.

Friends of Chapel Wood

- 7 (23) Cllr Graham Roads reported on the work of the Friends of Chapel Wood.
- a. Chapel Wood is looked after by the Friends. New volunteers are welcome to participate.
 - b. A recent problem locally was the Oak Processionary Moth. The hairs of the caterpillars can be harmful to people with respiratory problems. The Forestry Commission were working to prevent the spread of the species. Locally, in conjunction with Bartlett, they had recently been spraying affected trees. People were encouraged to report sightings, and the parish council would publish some information on the website.
 - c. A project was underway to create a path linking the grounds of St Marks with Chapel Wood, and to create an area for quiet reflection in the woods. Planting of native flowers would also take place.

Website

- 8 (23) Cllr Bryan Nanson reminded electors that the parish council's website was www.ampfield.org.uk, where events and useful information about the parish could be found. There was also a page called "Report It", with links to the services of other councils and organisations, for reporting issues such as pot holes.

Any Other Competent Business and Open Session

- 9 (23) An elector asked whether reflective junction definition posts could be installed at the junction of Morleys Lane with the A3090. Cllr Graham Roads noted that he had requested these for Chapel Lane and no reason had been given by Hampshire County Council for their refusal to provide them. The parish council would put the idea forward.
- 10 (23) An elector from Ratlake was already in touch with the parish council for assistance with establishing the ownership of some ash trees outside their property. There was concern that they had been affected by ash die-back disease. Cllr Roads had responded by email the afternoon of the meeting; and Cllr Sally Yalden (Test Valley Borough Council) would also look into it.
- 11 (23) Electors requested an update on the alleged unauthorised industrial activity and unauthorised residential caravans at a site on the A3090 near to the Potters Heron. Cllr Bryan Nanson confirmed that the parish council continued to press the enforcement authority (Test Valley Borough Council - TVBC) for action. Cllr Martin Hatley was aware that TVBC had served a notice for access to inspect.

It was discussed whether the parish council could accept a gift of the adjoining agricultural land, should a group of residents purchase it. This may be possible, and had happened in Ropley. Chairman

Bryan Nanson noted that, should this take place, it would be subject to acceptance by the parish council; and it was extremely unlikely that the parish council could contribute any funds.

- 12 (23) An elector requested an update on planning application 22/00115/FULLS (change of use from agricultural to a single gypsy & traveller pitch). The application had timed-out.
- 13 (23) An elector was concerned about lighting at Morleys Green. He felt that the light pollution was causing a reduction in wildlife. The Clerk would forward the contact details of the management company.
- 14 (23) Chairman Bryan Nanson summarised the position with the freehold of the land on which the houses stand at Morleys Green. This had been purchased by a third party, but registered to Ampfield Parish Council with the Land Registry when the parish council had purchased the freehold land of adjacent land (the village green etc). The parish council had traced the original and subsequent purchasers and informed them of the error. The parish council needed legal advice, for which an indemnity had been sought from the purchaser, to ensure that the freehold was restored to the correct party. So far this had not been forthcoming, and the position had not changed for many months. The management company had safeguarded the ground rent collected since the position had been identified, and had delayed collecting further ground rent for the time being. The parish council would suggest that it resumed collecting ground rent now. Any ground rent received by the parish council would be ring-fenced until the matter was settled.

Close of Meeting

- 15 (23) Business was concluded and the Meeting was closed at 8:15pm.
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Chairman

Date

Appendix

Hampshire County Councillor's Baddesley Division Report 2023/24

Hampshire County Council tax will increase this year by just under 5%, raising the band "D" Council tax to £1,460.25 which is an increase of £69.45.

All councillors know the system of local government finance is broken and has been for a very long time; caused by cuts to government grants since 2010 and largely unfunded social care pressures. Pressures which have been exacerbated by post-covid demand across children and adult services.

Those services which still survive today are continually getting worse each year.

There will be a further £700K of cuts to Voluntary Organisations in Hampshire. This will have significant consequences; volunteers are the essential component that have kept many services available to residents.

Unless the upper tier Councils receive more government funding next year Hampshire County Council will not be sustainable. The Government have treated Hampshire very badly indeed.

The latest impact on families who are just about managing ,is the further increase in the cost of school dinners. Many families are really struggling to make ends meet with the cost of living crisis.

Despite the above, in the parish of Ampfield I have achieved work to be carried out on the highway of the A3090 through the Operation Resilience programme. The Ampfield care home developers have also assisted by financing the new "lighting scheme" on the Baddesley Road, this has now been started and should be completed this year.

All areas of Hampshire have suffered potholes and Hampshire's Highway's Department have received a large amount of complaints about damage to vehicles. Getting them repaired is a lottery, as there are so many, but I have worked tirelessly to get them fixed within the Baddesley Division.

HCC Cllr Alan Dowden

Baddesley Division