

Minutes

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

PRESENT: Miss M.I. Rothwell (Chairman) – Presiding
Mr E. Butcher, Mr A. Clark, Mr M. Hatley (from 7.06pm),
Mr J.A. Jones, Mr B.W. Nanson, Mr G.C.A.Roads,
Mr D. Stevens

1893 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Mr Edwards who was away.

1894 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 28th May 2012, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

1895 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

1896 Declarations of Interest

Mr Butcher, Miss Rothwell and Mr Roads declared an interest in St Mark's Church as they were members of the Friends of St Mark's Church. It was noted that Mr Hatley had a continuing interest in the Village Hall as Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee.

1897 Public Participation

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

1898 Ampfield Recreation Ground

1898.1 Maintenance

Weeds continued to be tackled around the perimeter and the playground grass had been cut. Better drainage and regular feeding had improved the condition and appearance of the grass.

1898.2 Repairs to pitch

Repairs to the ground caused by rabbit damage continued but the situation was now under control and the Cricket Club had been able to play their scheduled matches. Repair work would continue until the end of the season when the situation would be reviewed.

1898.3 Football

It had not been possible to reach agreement with the Football Club about playing arrangements. As a result of this, and the extra costs and maintenance which they felt they had to deal with, the Club had decided to continue to play on Southampton City Council pitches and not return to Ampfield. Council regretted the Club's departure and noted that no football would be played on the Recreation Ground in the coming season.

1898.4 Events management and risk assessment

A local Rotary Club, and a business operating in the Parish, had asked to use the Recreation Ground for summer sporting events. Mr Nanson had advised them of the health and safety issues to be considered at such events. He had informed them about the public liability insurance held by Council and advised them obtain their own event insurance should they intend to bring equipment, BBQs, bouncy castles or similar onto the Ground. He explained about the regular inspections carried out by Council but encouraged them to also do their own risk assessment; help was offered with that should they need it. The important message to organisers was that they should consider how best they could ensure their event was carried out safely. It was not for Council to conduct risk assessments for others. Council agreed the general line taken with event requests and that each should be taken on its merits.

1899 Chapel Wood

1899.1 Friends of Chapel Wood

The Friends of Chapel Wood would hold their AGM before the end of the summer. The regular working parties had now stopped for the summer and would resume in September although adhoc sessions might be arranged to tackle specific problems such as encroaching vegetation around the benches.

1899.2 Work in the Woodland

The bracken needed attention; Mr Roads would liaise with Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) who were contracted to do the work, about how best to get the job underway. The holding of the Church fete in the glade had been a great success despite the poor weather. Rustic fences had been constructed to separate the woodland from the area to be used for the fete. The fencing had also been well-received and, as it had helped define the glade, would be retained.

Generally the hedge plants in the Burial Ground were doing well although the box plants in the top part of the cruciform were in wet conditions and some might not prosper. Spares were available should any plants be lost. A great deal of effort had gone into weeding around the hedge plants to good effect although this was likely to have to be repeated later in the season. Pruning, coppicing and clearing of certain shrubs, which had improved several vistas in the woodland, would be an on-going task.

1899.3 Burial Ground

The burial plan included a section of plots marked out on the extreme western end of the Burial Ground. Over the years this area had become covered and obscured by rhododendrons and other shrubs. It had been agreed that this section should be cleared and used for burials before any new graves were placed in the eastern section. However, before that, confirmation was needed about the position and extent of the unconsecrated section. Mr Roads and the Clerk would determine this with the Revd. Gilks. It was agreed that Mr Roads and Miss Rothwell would then put forward proposals to Council about the clearance of shrubbery, marking out of new graves and the effect on any benches or trees in the area.

1899.4 War memorial

Lockerly Stone had reviewed the War Memorial and seat and had given an estimate of between £25,000 and £30,000 to replace them. Current cover was just over £13,000. Council would consider how best to proceed before the annual renewal of the insurance premium was due in October. Mr Roads noted that Mr & Mrs Butcher continued to do an excellent job in maintaining the memorial garden.

1900 Financial Matters

1900.1 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)
Sharp/IOT-photocopier hire	46.05
D.A. Matthews-Office Expenses 26/5-9/7/2012	86.09
Southern Water	31.57
Cllr Clark-plastic name holders	19.75
TVBC -playground grass cut	20.44
D Matthews-July salary	540.16
HMRC - July payments	150.25
D Matthews - August salary	540.16
HMRC - August payments	<u>150.25</u>
	<u>1584.72</u>

Payments made between meetings

HALC- planning training for Cllr Edwards	36.00
TVBC -playground grass cut	20.45
TVBC - spring feed and weed strimming-Rec Ground	504.00
Zurich Municipal-LCAS subscription renewal	<u>114.00</u>
	<u>674.45</u>

1900.2 Income and anticipated expenditure

Bank reconciliations for April and May, together with expenditure & income, and office expenses statements, had been issued prior to the meeting. A budget and actual statement had not been issued as expenditure had been modest at the start of the financial year. Council noted that a VAT refund of £3,266.04 had been received. A figure of £238, which was 50% of the total costs of the new sign posts in the woodland, had been obtained from S106 developer funds. There had been no news from TVBC about the monies owed from the new houses built next to the Golf Club. TVBC was reviewing election costs; depending on the outcome Council may have to review the £2500 set aside in reserves to pay for elections. The Clerk advised that the accounts for 2011/2012 had been available for examination by electors from 22nd May to 21st June 2012; no-one had requested to see them.

1900.3 Grant application for projector

Mr Nanson had spoken to members of the Village Hall Management Committee who agreed to help in the supply of information needed to support the application for a projector kit for use in the Village Hall.

1901 New Code of Conduct

A new Code of Conduct for Councillors had been published. Council had seen the documents and correspondence from the Monitoring Officer at TVBC. Council agreed to adopt the Code of Conduct, as modified by TVBC, with immediate effect. There were some concerns about the wording of the additional factors described under the heading of “Code of Conduct interests”; the Clerk would advise TVBC of this and ask that it be considered when the Code was reviewed in 12 months’ time. Councillors would now complete new Register of Interests forms which would be lodged with TVBC and also put on the Ampfield website. Mr Hatley confirmed that the new Code did not change his declaration of interest in relation to the planning application for Morleys Lane from the Perbury & Hyde Groups which would still stand.

1902 New website

Mr Jones advised that the new website was progressing well and should be ready to “go live” at the end of the summer. Mr Roads had some amendments to the existing material. In response to a query Mr Jones explained that Planning minutes and then Council minutes were the items most frequently visited.

1903 Parish Lengthsman Scheme

Mr Clark would report on this initiative in September once he had had the opportunity to consult with local parishes.

1904 Correspondence and Communications

A list of items received on paper and electronically is at Annex A.

Council had received notification from Southern Water that they intended to fit water metres to all households in the S0519 postcode zone, starting in the autumn. Letters had been received about the recent meetings held to discuss the proposed development at Morleys Lane. For consistency it was agreed that Mr Clark would respond to all such letters. Miss Rothwell had received a letter of thanks from the Parochial Church Council for permission to use the glade and surrounding woodland for the annual Church fete.

1905 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

1905.1 School Liaison

Mr Butcher announced that Mrs Carrington, Head Teacher of John Keble CE Primary School in Hursley, would become Executive Head Teacher of Ampfield for the Autumn term for the equivalent of 2 days a week. Mrs Kirby had been appointed as interim Head Teacher of Ampfield to work 3 days a week in partnership with Mrs Carrington. The governing bodies of both schools fully supported the arrangements which were considered to give Ampfield a secure future to build on. A net increase in pupils of between 4 and 6 was expected in the new term.

1905.2 Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

Mr Roads and Mr Hatley had met to consider how best to take this forward. It was hoped that evening presentations could be arranged for the winter months.

1905.3 Planning Committee

The following applications had been commented on after discussion on:

1st June 2012

12/01051/FULLS	Field opposite the Potters Heron Hotel
12/00868/FULLS	Brackenhurst, Straight Mile
12/01010/CLPS	Hook Wood, Hook Road
12/01117/TPOS	Hook Wood, Hook Road

27th June 2012

12/01206/FULLS	18 Beechwood Crescent
12/01228/TPOS	4 Hook Water Road
12/01227/TPOS	2 Hook Water Road
12/01238/TPOS	21 Hocombe Wood Road
12/01263/FULLS	40 Baddesley Road
12/01264/FULLS	16 Beechwood Crescent
12/01189/FULLS	18 Straight Mile
12/01169/FULLS	18 Baddesley Road

2nd July 2012

12/01133/OUTS

Morleys Green, Morleys Lane,
Ampfield

4th July 2012

12/01133/OUTS

Morleys Green, Morleys Lane,
Ampfield

Miss Rothwell thanked Mr Clark, Mr Nanson and the Clerk for the hard work they had put into the 2 planning meetings on the proposed development at Morleys Lane. Mr Clark also thanked everyone for their input. A letter with Ampfield Planning Committee's response to the application to develop the field at Morleys Lane had been sent to TVBC; Mr Clark had also delivered a hardcopy to staff at Duttons Road, Romsey. It was agreed that there were many aspects of the proposed development that Council would wish to get involved with and that every opportunity should be taken to engage with the planning team as the process evolved. Council noted the proposal put forward by Mr Case of the Old Vicarage to have a development put on the Recreation Ground. Council would research the feasibility and appropriateness of such a proposal; any expenditure incurred in doing so, up to a maximum of £500, could be authorized by Miss Rothwell and Mr Nanson.

1905.4 Safer Neighbourhood-Local Action Group

Members of the Rural Police Team would be happy to attend the September meeting; Mr Stevens would consider whether this was the most appropriate time.

1905.5 Village Hall Liaison

The next meeting of the Management Committee would be held on 6th September 2012. Miss Rothwell confirmed that the Management Committee would be pleased to discuss terms and usage of any projector kit supplied by Council for use in the Village Hall (para 1900.3). Regrettably the training agreed for Miss Rothwell had not been booked due to an oversight; the Clerk would keep an eye out for any similar training offered in the future.

1905.6 Finance Committee

Footpath Warden

Hampshire Association of Local Councils

Public Transport & Highway Liaison (PT&HL)

Test Valley Association of Parish Councils (TVAPC)

Tree Wardens/Environment

Website (para.1902)

There was nothing new to report.

1906 Highway Matters

1906.1 Footpath changes and maintenance

Mr Nanson advised that Highways planned to use approx. £11,000 of S106 money to improve the southern side of the footpath from the top of Ampfield Hill to Pound Lane. Mr Clark would pursue the weeding of the path to Yellow Dot Nursery, along the northern side of the A3090, with TVBC as a complaint had been received. Council noted that a new bus stop had been placed near the path.

Vegetation and shrubbery on the section of road from Hook Road to the junction with Hook Wood/Woodlea Way was overgrown and presented a driving hazard; Mr Clark would raise this with Highways. Similar problems had arisen in Knapp Lane and, in the case of one property, Miss Rothwell had spoken to the agents concerned. Mr Clark would also raise with Highways the problems caused by a second property in Knapp Lane whose overgrown hedges obscured visibility.

1906.2 Speeding in Knapp Lane

There was no progress to report on this matter.

1907 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC)

Mr Hatley advised that Cllr. Tony Ward, who had attended both planning meetings about the Morleys Lane development, had described them as being very professional and well-run. A letter from a resident in Knapp Lane about the Morleys development included certain accusations about the integrity of a TVBC employee; the letter had been passed onto the Heads of Legal and of Planning at TVBC. Savings of about £100,000 a year were anticipated following the decision to move staff from the Duttons Road offices to the old Magistrate Court in Romsey. The decision to invite others to move into that building would not be taken until it was confirmed that sufficient space was available.

The Head of Legal was leaving TVBC and her replacement had been appointed. The Olympic torch would be in Andover on the afternoon of Wednesday 11th July. The Core Strategy would now be called “The Local Plan” as this name was thought to be more understandable to people. The Local Development Framework would be delayed by about 3 months to allow Parish Councils, some of whom only meet every other month, to be consulted about the “envelopes” and the settlement boundaries. It was expected that, after consultation in the last quarter of

the year, the document would be submitted in March 2013 to be adopted in August 2013

1908 Date of the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Monday, 3rd September 2012 in the Village Hall, Ampfield starting at 7.00pm

1909 Closure

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....