

Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of Ampfield Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Ampfield on Monday, 9th January 2017 commencing at 7pm.

PRESENT: Bryan Nanson (Chairman)
Allan Clark, Pete Edwards, Graham Roads,
Margaret Rothwell, David Stevens and Julie Trotter

2484 Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Martin Hatley and Julian Jones.

2485 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 14th November 2016, having been circulated previously, were confirmed by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

It was noted that there had been a duplication of subjects on the agenda for the evening's meeting; agenda item 12 - Reports from portfolio holders - would be removed.

2486 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

2487 Declarations of Interest

Julie Trotter declared a personal interest in Morleys Green, and also in the Village Hall as she was a Trustee and member of the Committee. Margaret Rothwell declared an interest as a representative and Trustee on the Village Hall Committee.

2488 Public Participation

Hannah Howard and Declan Fahy, of the Old Village Store, were in attendance for item Future of the Telephone Box (para 2489). The Chairman suspended the meeting at 7.04pm and invited them to speak.

2489 Telephone Box

Ms. Howard and Mr Fahy had consulted neighbours about the telephone box and there was interest in keeping it; it was seen as a land mark and an integral part of the Village. They wanted the box to be adopted and retained in its current location and were happy to look after it. How it might be used in the future could be decided at a later date. Allan Clark advised that the options available were to let BT take it, adopt it and leave it where it was, or adopt it and move it. It was recognised that Ampfield Parish Council (APC) had to seek the adoption- the box couldn't be taken over by individual residents. Residents would work in partnership with APC in maintaining the box.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.10pm. Allan Clark reminded members that they had already decided not to keep it as a working phone. He advised that BT wouldn't maintain the box although it was thought that they would do minor maintenance to the electricity supply. The box was an AK6 designed by George Gilbert Scott and probably first placed in the Village around 1946. Members voted unanimously to retain the box. Julie Trotter would liaise with residents about the future use of the box. Allan Clark and the Clerk would advise Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) about the decision and would confirm with BT the initial cost of £1 and determine the situation with electricity supplies.

2490 Financial matters

2490.1 Accounts for payment, income and anticipated expenditure

It was proposed by Graham Roads, and seconded by Margaret Rothwell, that the following accounts be paid:

Cheques to be signed at meeting	£ inc VAT
County Locksmiths - work on container locks	89.50
December salary - D Matthews	558.27
December payments to HMRC	155.09
JN Landscapes Ltd - Morleys ground maintenance contract	834.00
DEK Graphics & Print Ltd newsletter VDS questionnaire & envelopes	700.00
Office Expenses	<u>16.50</u>
	2353.36
 Payments made between meetings	
TV Community Services - VDS bus tour	36.10
Royal Mail response license - VDS	112.80
TVBC maintenance contract	1458.01
NEST pension - Council's payment for November D/D	22.04
NEST pension - Council's payment for December D/D	22.04
VDS expenses - Cllr Roads	<u>80.36</u>
	<u>1731.35</u>

Council noted and approved the cheques signed between meetings. It also noted that the December pension payment had been taken early by NEST in November. The bank statement for December had not been available at the time of the meeting due to the new year holidays; the Clerk would circulate the bank reconciliation at a later date. Receipts for December had been modest at just over £134 due primarily to a grave memorial. The bank accounts at 8th January, determined by telephone banking, stood at £158,713.13 of which £18,411 was in named reserves, and of which £1,225 was set aside for refundable allotment deposits. It was noted that the majority of funds in the bank accounts was intended for ground maintenance of the open spaces on the Morleys development.

2491 Budget & precept 2017/18

Papers showing the outturn for the current financial year, the proposed budget for 2017/18 and the resulting precept for 2017/18 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Figures were reviewed in detail. Council noted the predicted outturn figure of £51,697 and the proposed budget figure of £52,039; these together with anticipated receipts produced a precept of £34,419. This was an increase of 1.53%. Council noted that £6,964 which was the balance of S106 monies remaining after the purchase of the new Speed Limit Reminder Sign, would be transferred to reserves at the end of the financial year. Council approved the budget and the precept. The Clerk would advise TVBC.

2492 Ampfield Recreation Ground – pavilion project

The Chairman had circulated a paper in December about progress with the pavilion project. Since then the 3 bids had been reviewed and reduced to 2 potential contractors. The Chairman and Allan Clark, together with a technical consultant, were in the process of discussing and exploring the bids in detail with the 2 remaining contractors. It was intended that a letter of intent would be issued to the successful contractor by the end of the month. The Chairman had written formally to TVBC, providing all the project details, to support Council's bid for a grant of £25,000 towards the cost of the pavilion. Potential monies from S106 funds were also being pursued with TVBC. A number of other actions needed to be taken before the building project could start including the removal of the container, the portakabin and the scorer's hut. Martin Hatley had agreed to deal with the first 2 items and the Cricket Club would move the hut. Martin Hatley was also in discussion with the Highways Engineer about the need to move the playground in order to install a car park.

2493 Chapel Wood

The December working party had improved the condition of the pond and the drainage around it. The clearing and pruning of Rhododendron had continued around the Burial Ground. The rate of growth was such that this was a perennial task and a quote would be sought to have some of the roots removed.

2494 Village Hall

The Chairman had issued a short report prior to the meeting. The Village Hall Committee had resolved to grant vacant possession to APC as owners of the property. APC's solicitors, Godwin had written to TVBC setting out the position; a response was awaited. The Village Hall Committee had prepared a draft lease which, together with a draft agreement, had been sent to Godwins for review and comment. It was thought likely that the Village Hall Committee would need to take legal advice of its own. The new agreement provides for an annual fee, based upon anticipated usage of the hall, to be paid by APC in place of the current agreement which grants the owner 50 days free usage a year of the hall. The proposed rate was £3.50 an hour for 60 hours a year amounting to £210. It was agreed that this rate be paid starting from the current financial year. It was noted that a grant of 50% of the cost of the purchase of the freehold of the Village Hall was still being pursued from the Community Asset Fund. The Village Hall Committee had requested that half of that money be spent on improvements to the Hall. Members were keen to have an input to how such funds should be spent. It was noted that the Hall carpark was being insured by both APC and the Village Hall Committee.

2495 Village Design Statement

The return rate of the questionnaire, issued to all dwellings in the Parish seeking views on a revised Village Design Statement (VDS), had been disappointingly low at approx 21%. It was important that a good response rate was received from the community; another issue of the questionnaire and covering leaflet had, therefore, been agreed. The Clerk would put a reminder out to the newsgroup. The landscape survey was going ahead and people living in the centre of the Village had been approached to help. A grant of £750 towards the cost of the review was expected from TVBC. A 6-week consultation period would take place during the summer. It was still expected that a draft VDS would be ready by early autumn.

2496 Planning Update

Members considered planning applications 16/03180/TPOS 56 Beechwood Close and 16/03187/TPOS 304 Hursley Road for tree works. It was decided to accept the decision of the Tree Officer in both cases.

2497 Morleys Development

A meeting with allotment holders would be held before the end of February to discuss various issues. Julian Jones had ordered a couple of plastic sheets to help in controlling weeds. The state of some plots would continue to be monitored. The offer of horse manure by a resident had been most welcome. David Stevens and the Clerk would let allotment holders know about the offer and try to get something organized.

3 firms had been approached about the making and erection of signs on the Village Hall and at the carpark. One had declined to bid. The closing date was 20th January 2017.

2498 Speed Limit Reminder Sign

Pete Edwards had issued a paper prior to the meeting. TVBC had requested a change in the movement cycle of the parish's Speed Limit Reminder Sign from 3 weeks to 2 weeks. This had been requested to help make the work flows more regular and consistent in the unit that controls the signs. It was agreed that a 2-weekly cycle would be acceptable and would provide about 7 extra placements a year around the parish. This was on the condition that no extra costs would be incurred by APC. It was also agreed that traffic data gathering at 2 locations on the A3090 would be set up during the year. This would cost £50 per location payable to TVBC for downloading and transcribing the data onto spreadsheets for APC. This traffic data would be used as a benchmark against the outcome of any traffic calming measures funded by S106 monies from the Morleys Development. It was noted that the locations would be outside Monkswood and at the Morleys Lane bus stop.

2499 Reports from Committees and Portfolio Holders

Julian Jones had requested photographs of Councillors for use of the website. It was agreed that a group photograph would be taken at the next Council meeting in February. Graham Roads reported that the Boxing Day Walk had been very successful with about 20 people taking part. Another walk was being planned for the summer. Pete Edwards was preparing a work plan for the Lengthsman who was due in the next couple of weeks. Councillors were asked to submit any suitable items for attention.

2500 Correspondence & Communications

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

Council noted the request for financial support from the Citizens Advice Bureau but there were many deserving causes and it was not practicable to favour one over another.

2501 Test Valley Borough Council

Borough Councillor Martin Hatley was not at the meeting.

2502 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 13th February 2017 starting at 7pm in the Village Hall, Ampfield.

2503 Closure

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....

