



## MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.**

**Present:**

Parish Councillors:

Jeff Channing (chair)  
Julia Barnett  
Peter Barnett  
Gareth Jenkins  
John Millns  
Andy Simmonds

Vicky Fletcher General Manager, The National Trust  
Cllr Andrew Gibson Hampshire County Council  
Sue Holder clerk to the Parish Council.

**21/047 Open Forum**

No items were raised.

**21/048 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Johnston, Test Valley Borough Council.

**21/049 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**21/050 Minutes of the last meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November**

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November were amended and agreed as a correct record.

**21/051 Matters arising from the previous minutes**

- Poor-quality pothole repairs were noted.
- Dunbridge noticeboard has now been repaired.

**21/052 County Councillor's report**

County Councillor Andrew Gibson provided the following report:

- the Hampshire Police Chief Constable has made an operational case for investment in policing through an increase in the council tax;

- the new Highways team have stressed that they depend on the Parish Councils and residents, reporting Highways issues and problems on the Highways portal which can be escalated through the County Councillor;
- local communities across Hampshire will continue to benefit from the County Council's Parish Lengths man scheme;
- Hampshire County Council is asking for views on the new, Hampshire Local Transport Plan;
- plans to accommodate up to 500 asylum seekers in cabins near Barton Stacey have been condemned by both the local MP and council leader.

In discussion, councillors said that:

- Heavy Goods Vehicles were damaging the recently resurfaced B3084;
- The Hatt Hill footway needs surface dressing.

### **21/053 National Trust**

The General Manager of the Mottisfont estate, Vicky Fletcher, was invited to provide a report summarised as follows:

- the grounds of Mottisfont Abbey have remained open during lockdown in line with Government guidelines. Reinforcing the 'local only' message is harder to manage. Spearywell car park has been busy, but to close it would only displace the problem;
- numbers of booked visitors to the Abbey have reduced. Staff numbers have also been reduced;
- Ash dieback management is to start in Spearywell Woods;
- Willow trees in the main car park, whilst good for flood prevention, are prone to limb drop and may need pollarding.

### **21/054 Finance**

#### **a) Budget/Precept**

The budget for 2021/22 was discussed and then approved by the council. Based on the anticipated year-end figures the council agreed not to increase the precept for 2021/22. The clerk will therefore request a precept of £6509.00.

#### **b) Payments to ratify**

National Trust Rent	£900.00	#656
Noticeboard repairs	£235.34	#658
Clerks expenses for Dec,Jan	£429.02	#661

#### **c) Internet Banking**

The chairman, as a signatory on the bank account, will contact TSB to establish the process for internet banking.

### **21/055 Planning**

- a) New applications received:  
20/03204/FULLS Hazel Cottage

Proposed conversion of existing garage and workshop to form studio and flat roof dormer and storage area.

The parish council resolved to make no comment on this application.

#### **21/056 Highways**

- a) **Dunbridge village gateway:** reported that the village gateway is now finished but the road markings still need to be done by Hampshire Highways.
- b) **Lengths man:** it was reported that the Lengths man scheme will continue with extended duties being offered under the scheme and additional training. Work assigned to the Lengths man this month will include repairing the Lockerley road sign and reinstating the footpath 10 post.
- c) **Other:** jet patching is scheduled for some of the B3084 and Oakley Lane and potholes continue to be reported.
- d) **Traffic Speed Indicator:** the parish council discussed a Traffic Speed Indicator for the parish and will establish if neighbouring parishes would like to share the costs and use of the equipment in line with Hampshire guidance. Further details will be discussed at a future meeting.

#### **21/057 Census 2021**

An article will be in the Acorn to encourage everyone to complete the 2021 census.

#### **21/058 Website**

Parish Councils now have a duty to ensure their website meets with accessibility standards, ensuring it can be used by as many people as possible including those with a disability such as visual impairment, motor difficulties, cognitive impairments and impaired hearing or deafness. Cllr P Barnett proposed testing the site to establish what is required to make the website fully compliant and will report back to the parish council.

#### **21/059 Correspondence received was as follows:**

- Hampshire County Council written report from Cllr Gibson: considered at the meeting and noted.
- Mid-Test Matters: noted.
- email received from a resident noting that the Dunbridge Goods Yard had been left untidy following track work by Network Rail. The council noted that the site has been cleared up.

#### **21/060 Any other business**

- Cllrs J and P Barnett attended a recent resilience planning meeting and felt flooding may be a risk for parts of the parish. Resilience planning will be discussed at the March meeting.
- Cllr P Barnett reported attending a bus committee meeting and said that the service would need new volunteer drivers once it resumed.
- South West Rail will continue to provide an hourly service from Mottisfont and Dunbridge station.
- Village Hall noticeboard requires refurbishment.

#### **21/061 Date of next meeting:** 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

There being no further business, the chair closed the meeting at 9.18 pm.