

**MINUTES OF MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING Held on
Wednesday 10th July 2019 at 7.30pm in the village hall.**

PRESENT: Parish Councillors Jeff Channing, in chair, Julia Barnett, Peter Barnett, Andy Simmonds, Gareth Jenkins and clerk to the council, Sue Holder. Also, in attendance were, Cllrs Ian Jeffrey and Tony Ward of Test of Valley Borough Council, Imogen Colley the Community Engagement Officer of Test Valley Borough Council and 8 members of the public.

19/025 APOLOGIES: Cllr Millns and Louise Govier

19/026 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

19/027 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 15th MAY: were unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

19/028 MATTERS ARISING: None

19/029 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT Not in attendance.

19/030 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT Cllr Jeffrey reported that a newsletter 'Mid Test Matters' would now be sent before each meeting to update the parish council on Test Valley Borough Council news. The new planning committee structure was also discussed. Cllr Jeffrey reported that Cllr Alison Johnston was now the Borough Councillor for Mottisfont parish following the reorganisation of the Mid Test area. Cllr Tony Ward was also introduced as the third Borough Councillor for the Mid Test. Cllr Ward sits on the planning committee and is the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Community.

Imogen Colley, the Community Engagement Officer for Test Valley Borough Council was introduced. Imogen's role is to support community-based projects, provide grant advice and assist with the production of Village Design Statements and Neighbourhood Plans.

19/031 RURAL BROADBAND - RURAL GIGABIT VOUCHER SCHEME

The chairman reported that the broadband speed within the parish varied considerably and following an article published in The Acorn, a number of parishioners were interested in the Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme that offers financial assistance to groups of households and businesses with a broadband speed of between >2 and >30 Mbs. The parish council resolved to establish the provider that will offer the best deal. [Action JC].

19/032 PARISHONERS OPEN FORUM:

- Inconsistent mobile phone coverage was also an issue in the village. Super-fast broadband was not a luxury anymore but a necessity to run a business.
- It was reported that on the 9th June traffic was queued in the village centre for The Abbey. Not only was this inconvenient to the members of the village but it is understood an ambulance was unable to attend an emergency at the Abbey. Concern was raised that the National Trust may be in breach of planning regulations regarding the number of days overflow car parks are being used. The

volume of traffic being directed through the village centre to the new Members car park and better use of the main car park were all discussed.

- It was reported that repairs to the handrail on the bridge over the River Test have been completed with wood that does not match.

19/033 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT Louise Govier sent the following report in her absence: *"This June has been a challenging one for us in terms of car parking, because of the prolonged period of rain in the middle of the month interspersed with very nice sunny days. We've actually had fewer visitors than last year, but they have been concentrated onto certain days because of the weather (and the forecast). We also had a period of time when the overflow or members' car park was not able to be used, as the ground was just too wet. This causes real problems when the sun is out but the ground hasn't yet had time to dry, so we are a car park down.*

As many of you will know, we had one day (Sunday 9th June) when a sudden and sustained influx of visitors over lunchtime - no doubt taking notice of the cold and rain to come and making the most of the last fine day for a while - descended from every direction. We had both car parks open but they filled very suddenly, and we then had a long queue. The team did their best to manage it, but found that some visitors refused to leave, even when told that the property was closed and would be for several hours.

This is the situation that we are always aiming to avoid, as we do not ever want to block the village for emergency access, or indeed the access of those who live here. We now have a new procedure for watching out for the speed and volume of traffic, and for any unusual patterns so that we can close and divert people immediately before any substantial queue builds up. The staff have had additional training on how to give clear but brief messages to move people on, and to discourage them from even thinking about parking in the village and walking in. We have had to close the car park because we were at capacity (and had no overflow) on a couple of occasions since then, but we have managed the Queue well and kept all accesses open.

We've also opened for longer hours on key days during June, including an hour earlier every day, and put out lots of messages on the website and social media asking people to avoid the busiest times of 11am - 2pm. By the end of June, this was definitely working, we were spreading the visitors out much better so that they were not all coming at once.

I apologise for the disruption that some people wanting to visit us on 9th June caused, and can assure you that I and my team take this matter extremely seriously. I would like to invite members of the Parish Council who wish to come to meet with me and a few key colleagues to talk through a) the initial enhancement and marking works that we'll be undertaking on the main car park before September, b) the longer term plan to improve this car park, and c) our overflow provision for peak times."
[Action to meet with the NT: JC].

19/034 PLANNING

a) Applications Received from TVBC:

19101523/TREES - Abbey To fell ash trees.

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

19101679/LBWS Mount Farm Removal of chimney breast on first floor level

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

b) Test Valley Borough Council Pitch Strategy The Borough Council has started the process of preparing the next Local plan, and as was noted in the Issues and Options consultation of last summer, part of this process is to ensure that evidence held is up to date. This consultation highlighted the need to think about sport and leisure provision, how this might change, and how the next Local Plan can help meet any identified needs, and to identify the priority sites and projects for future investment in infrastructure for sport and physical activity for the health and wellbeing of our communities. From an initial review of local websites, the following main sports facilities within the Mottisfont parish were identified as 1x Grass Cricket Pitch and 1x Grass Football Pitch (Adults), in addition to the following active community sports clubs, teams or groups in the parish that use these sports facilities in the parish as Mottisfont cricket club and Mottisfont football club. The parish council resolved to respond as follows : " a) The list provided is correct; b) the cricket and football pitches are run by private clubs and the land leased; c) the facilities shared by the clubs are in need of upgrading; d) the parish council has identified a need for children's play facilities especially in Dunbidge. A children's adventure area is available in Mottisfont Abbey provided by the Nationat Trust principally for its visitors and the Trust permits use by the children of the parish residents who obtain an access pass. The parish council would also like to make available a set of removable junior goal posts."

19/035 HIGHWAYS

- a) **Potholes** continue to be reported around the village on Kimbridge Lane, Lockerley Road and Barley Hill. Cllr Simmonds will meet with Hampshire Highways to discuss. Parts of Barley Hill were reported to be cracking and a water leak has been identified at the junction of Bengers Lane and Hatt Hill.
- b) **Lengths man** The Lengths man has cut the grass at the Dunbridge playing field and in Hatt Lane and cleared the vegetation from around and cleaned the village signs this month.

19/036 VILLAGE HALL It was reported that the asbestos survey had been completed with no concerns.

19/037 FINANCE

- a) Bank Balances: £10,720.98
- b) Payments approved at this meeting:
 - Clerks pay £433.94 #625

PCC (Grass cutting)	£500.00	#626
Mrs Black (internal Audit	£25.00	#627
TVBC (uncontested election)	£28.80	#628

c) Internal Audit: The clerk reported that the internal audit had been completed for the year ending 31st March 2019, with no outstanding issues.

d) BT Phone Kiosk: Cllr Simmonds proposed that the parish council adopt the BT Phone Kiosk at Spearywell for £1 and spend approximately £330.00 on replacing the missing door (being half of the cost of a replacement door, the remainder to be funded with a Test Valley Borough Council grant). Other members expressed concern for additional charges associated with the disconnection of any electricity to the kiosk and did not support the proposal at this time,

e) 'Please pick up' stickers. Resolved to purchase 20 stickers for a cost of £14.20 to remind dog walkers to clear up after their dogs.

f) Church Lane green posts: Resolved to replace and install 6 posts around the Church green at a cost of £360.00.

g) Grass cutting at the cemetery: Resolved to provide a grant of £500 to the PCC towards grass cutting costs at the cemetery.

19/038 CORRESPONDENCE.

- Internal Audit Report - noted;
- TVBC Playing Pitch Strategy - 19/034 (b)
- 'Please Pick Up stickers - 19/03-7 (e)

19/039 MEETINGS ATTENDED: None

19/040 ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None

19/041 PARISHONERS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- An out of hours service from Test Valley Borough Council was discussed;
- Travellers at Timsbury were reported;
- Thanks, were offered to the parish council, for supporting the parish.

19/042 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 25th September 2019.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 09.25 pm.