

# MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th FEBRUARY 2023, 7.30PM, AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Mrs J Barnett (vice chairman) Cllr P Barnett, Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Simmonds & Cllr J Milns.

In attendance: Heather Bourner – Clerk  
Vicky Fletcher- National Trust  
0 members of the public.

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Channing & HCC David Drew.

### Declarations of Interest

2) There were no declarations of interests. All Councillors confirmed no changes were required to register of interest forms.

### Public Participation

3) No members of the public were present.

### Planning

4) **The following decisions by TVBC were noted:** None

**Resolved: that the planning decisions on the following applications were endorsed:**

23/00302/FULLS-replace rose bridge-Mottisfont Abbey-no objections

### 5) County and Borough Councillors' Reports

**HCC Cllr David Drew** – was not present but had sent a recent report which has been circulated. Of interest was the proposal that 20mph speed limits could be requested in some areas however full details will not be available until July. The proposal will be closely monitored.

**TVBC Cllr Johnston** – was not present

Cllr P Barnett highlighted two issues he wished to discuss with her. These were:-

A parishioner had received a letter from TVBC highlighting a scheme to provide householders with an energy review with potential grants to improve such things as insulation. Having signed up to the scheme the householder spent approximately 90 minutes with an assessor in their home only to receive some weeks later an email saying they were unable to continue as the home was 'off gas'. This presumably meant no mains gas was available a fact which would have been clear at the outset. It would appear that the requirements had been changed after the survey had taken place resulting in a waste of both time and money.

A local basic review of the external thermal performance of housing locally was inconclusive as the use of a thermal image camera did not highlight any significant issues. It was possible internal and more comprehensive reviews would produce a better picture.

Cllr Barnett will make contact with TVBC Johnston by email.

## **Minutes**

6) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were agreed unanimously as a correct record. These were signed by the Vice Chairman.

## **National Trust Report**

7) Vicky Fletcher, General Manager of Mottisfont Abbey reported that a new head gardener had been appointed. Repairs to internal house lintels and the damaged gate pillar will commence soon and new gates will be fitted in March.

She explained that the replacement of the Rose Bridge would be more historically accurate as it would be a flat bridge rather than the current curved. Railings will be reused where possible and the roses will be easily transferred to trail over the new bridge.

She also reported that tenants of a National Trust cottage had been targeted with hate mail regarding the hedge at the property. The matter has been reported to the police and the Trust will work with residents to carry out any appropriate hedge cutting.

Finally, she said The National Trust were very aware of traffic issues that arose over the festive period when the car park was full and traffic queued for some distance along the A3057. She apologised to villagers who had been affected and said they were now working on providing an overflow car park and would be very happy to meet with the Parish Council to discuss this. They will also seek to have better signage fitted and cone off areas in the village seriously affected by inconsiderate visitors parking on the road. The National Trust were not planning on using a booking system as they had in the past as this was felt to stifle visitor numbers.

## **Station Goods Yard, Dunbridge**

8) Cllr Mrs J Barnett explained that the potential developer of homes at Mottisfont and Dunbridge station goods yard continues to carry out surveys in respect of surface water and flooding.

## **Highways issues**

9) Cllr Simmonds reported that the painting of the agreed white line markings has been delayed due to wet weather which has caused a steep increase in pot holes that need to be repaired. There are still various pot holes that need to be filled on Barley Hill, near the station crossing and Bengers Lane remains closed to traffic because of the large holes. Cars are still attempting to access the lane, as the signage is not effective.

Cllr Simmonds proposed replacing the current village nameplate signs and showed those present a design for a new sign. He said he had one sign which he had paid to be made and wanted to ask the lengthsman to fit this on the current posts on the north west side of the river Dun at Hatt Hill. He considered that the design of the new sign made it more visible. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that The Clerk should discuss it with HCC before the parish council makes a decision on the need for a change. Cllr Simmonds will send the Clerk precise details of the location and the sign design to share with HCC.

## **Kissing Gates**

10) Cllrs Peter and Julia Barnett reported the stiles project had not progressed as they were awaiting contact details of landowner. This information has now been provided so it is hoped that progress can now be made.

## **Prevention of Crime initiative**

11) Cllr Barnett confirmed a parishioner has agreed to be village coordinator for the crime prevention initiative. A group of eight from surrounding villages met to share intelligence on crime issues and also use a WhatsApp group to share information. It is hoped details will be posted to local news letters to provide information and to highlight any issues arising.

The Clerk agreed to establish whether a new PCSO for Mottisfont has been appointed.

## **12) Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported Parish Council elections will take place in May 2023. Individuals will be responsible for completing nomination papers which have to be hand delivered to TVBC although delivery can be by a third party. Full details have been provided by the Clerk who agreed to deliver papers on behalf of any current Councillors who wish to stand for election. An appointment has been made for this purpose on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

The email service provides storage for each individual however the Clerk regularly reaches capacity and while this can be eased by deleting some emails an increase in capacity could ease concerns. Cllr P Barnett has established an increase in capacity of 1GB would cost £36.00 annually. All agreed this was a sensible precaution. The Clerk will organise this.

#### **Finance**

14) Balances in the bank accounts were noted at 31/01/2023 as: -

TSB Charity account  
£6021.75  
TSB Business Instant  
£11651.09

ii) To approve the following payments and authorise on line transactions: -

H Bourner sal Nov	£270.40
HMRC	£67.60
H Bourner exp	£30.68

#### **Retrospective payments**

National Trust Insurance £496.66

#### **Future payments**

H Bourner sal March	£270.40
HMRC	£67.40
H Bourner sal April	£270.40
HMRC	£67.40

#### **15) Correspondence**

The Clerk confirmed the following items of correspondence had been received: -

Emails regarding HALC EGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
Email with slides from HCC climate change event  
Email with HALC newsletter

Details that the Blue Star Bus service number 36 is to be withdrawn from 1<sup>st</sup> April. This was a once-a-day service from Lockerley to Romsey via Dunbridge. The Broughton & Mottisfont Bus is still operating.

#### **Items for next agenda**

16)

The Meeting closed at 8.56pm

#### **Date of next meeting**

17) Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 7.30pm at Mottisfont Village Hall