



## **MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025, 7.30PM, AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr J Channing (Chairman) Cllr Mrs. J Barnett (vice chairman), Cllr P Barnett & Cllr A Simmonds.

In attendance: Heather Bourner – Clerk  
1 member of the public.

#### **Apologies for Absence**

1) Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr G Jenkins, HCC David Drew, TVBC Alison Johnston & Vicky Fletcher General Manager National Trust.

#### **2) Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interests for matters on the agenda. All Councillors confirmed no amendments were required to Register of Interest forms.

#### **Minutes & Matters arising**

3) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 were agreed unanimously as a correct record. These were signed by the Chairman.

#### **4) Public Participation**

The member of public present raised concerns about overgrown hedgerows in particular on Barley Hill near Barley Hill Cottages and on Oakley Road. Cllr Channing will ask the National Trust to remind all tenants to cut back hedges as appropriate.

#### **5) Village Hall Update**

The Clerk reported on a meeting she had attended with Oliver Cooper regarding the cracks now showing at the Village Hall. Notes of the meeting had been circulated to all Councillors and the National Trust had now supplied further information regarding a previous survey by structural engineers and the work carried out. The National Trust had suggested they would ask the company who carried out this work to review this and the Parish Council agreed this was a sensible course of action.

The question of liability for the building structure was unclear. While the lease was a repairing lease and referred to insured risk, given the possibilities of liability to the Parish Council it was agreed the Clerk would approach HALC for some legal advice. While the first hour of advice was free to members the Parish Council agreed expenditure of up to £500 in order that the Clerk could obtain an accurate legal view.

Finally, the Clerk confirmed an invoice for insurance for the year 2024/25 had just arrived too late to be included in this agenda and would therefore need to be listed for review at the September meeting. The Parish Council discussed this and the fact that public funds were used to pay for, or perhaps toward, a policy for which they had no details. It was unanimously agreed they needed to know what cover they were paying for and the Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the policy to which this payment refers.

#### **6) National Trust Report**

Vicky Fletcher, General Manager of Mottisfont Abbey was not present.

#### **7) Speed Indicator Devices**

Cllr Channing had prepared a report from all information gathered and circulated this to all Councillors. This provided a possible seven sites. The report was discussed along with further sites and Cllr Channing will

review these and update the report.

Given it was likely the report would be ready to be submitted the HCC very soon the costs of the project were discussed. To initiate a report from HCC regarding sites costs £250.00. It was likely further posts would be required at an approximate cost of £250 per post and the cost of a Speed Indicator Device was approximately £2000. It was agreed that the Clerk should start the process for requesting a Councillor grant to help fund the project.

## **8) County and Borough Councillors' Reports**

**HCC Cllr David Drew** – had sent apologies. His recent report has been circulated to all Councillors.

**TVBC Ali Johnston** had sent her apologies.

## **9) The New Draft Local Plan**

The new draft local plan has been issued which takes into account the large target increases in housing set by central Government. Cllr Channing said there are no sites selected in Mottisfont but he recommended Cllrs attend an exhibition to see what sites are proposed in the area. There are proposals for both Lockerley and Broughton and Lockerley Parish Council have asked Mottisfont to support them in objecting to the proposals in their parish.

It was noted the Dunbridge Station Goods yard site was not included in the report and the current application status remains no decision.

The public consultation on the proposed plan is open until mid-day on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

## **10) Local Government Reorganisation.**

Test Valley Borough Council has circulated a document with the three options for the reorganisation of Hampshire and Hampshire County Council will be consulting on five additional options. The Clerk confirmed the consultation into the TVBC proposals was open until the 27<sup>th</sup> July. The HCC consultation was expected to commence imminently.

## **11) Planning**

**The following decisions by TVBC were noted:**

25/00712/FULLS remove shed, erect car port & garden store, The Old Stores, Barley Hill-permission

25/01077/TREES work to 3 x London Plane trees-Mottisfont Abbey-permission

**Resolved: that the planning decisions on the following applications reviewed between meetings were endorsed: None**

**Resolved: that the planning decisions on the following applications were endorsed: None**

## **12) Highways issues**

Cllr Simmonds reported some possible road closures in the parish but dates had yet to be advertised. He said pot holes continue to be filled by the patch process. Cllr Mrs J Barnett said there is a pothole at the entrance to Mill Rise that is getting larger and which she will report this.

## **Parish Lengthsman Scheme**

Cllr Simmonds reported the lengthsman has cleared verges at Hatt Lane and the bottom of Barley Hill and continues to clear around signs and at junctions

## **13) Resilience**

Cllr Mrs J Barnett reported that a meeting had been held in June to which the public were invited. She and Cllr Peter Barnett had, along with a local resilience specialist, agreed to proceed with establishing a local resilience group for which volunteers would be sought.

## **14) Finance**

i) To note the bank balances 11/07/2025: -

TSB Charity account	£7097.97
TSB Business Instant	£12024.31

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

H Bournier July	£322.80
HMRC	£83.20
Clerks Exps	£ 33.50

**Future payment**

H Bournier sal Aug	£322.80
HMRC	£83.20

**15) Correspondence**

The Clerk noted that she had been informed that all funding for the creation of Neighbourhood Plans had been withdrawn.

She also confirmed she had completed a survey regarding playing fields in the parish.

**16) Any Other Business-**

None

**79) Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 7.30pm at Mottisfont Village Hall