

MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th NOVEMBER 2022, 7.30PM, AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL

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

In attendance: Heather Bourner – Clerk
TVBC Cllr Alison Johnston
3 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Cllr D Drew & Vicky Fletcher - National Trust.

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) A member of the public present asked if the Parish Council knew what was happening to the area by the old tea room and post office. It was very messy and always used to be kept very neatly. It was agreed that this would be raised with the National Trust.

Planning

4) The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

22/01770/FULLS change roof, fit dormer window and replace fence with wall, Nethercote-permission

Concern was raised that vehicles were consistently parking in the turning circle near the cemetery and Nethercote. These could cause problems for a hearse when a burial takes place. Cllr Jenkins agreed to see if a sign could be erected asking vehicles not to park in this area.

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

None

5) County and Borough Councillors' Reports

HCC Cllr David Drew – sent apologies but had sent a report which can be seen at appendix 1

TVBC Cllr Johnston – Highlighted the recent Mid Test Matters newsletter.

She reported that she has asked officers at TVBC for information about a field in the parish that is registered for council tax. She agreed to try and obtain more information, however Cllr Channing said given the length of time this issue had been outstanding, he would write to the Chief Executive at TVBC.

Cllr Johnstone highlighted grants available from TVBC to community groups to help with the cost-of-living crisis.

Minutes

6) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2022 were agreed unanimously as a correct record. These were signed by the Chairman.

National Trust Report

7) Vicky Fletcher, General Manager of Mottisfont Abbey was absent.

Cllr Channing said he had been asked by the Village Hall committee to report the problems of cracks at the village hall to the National Trust. They confirmed that their building surveyor would investigate but there is no further update.

Station Goods Yard, Dunbridge

8) Cllr Channing explained that the potential developer of homes at Mottisfont and Dunbridge station goods yard has been asked by the Environment Agency to carry out further work on surface water drainage. The outcome is awaited.

Highways issues

9) Cllr Simmonds had circulated details to all Councillors of his letter direct to HCC Cllr Nick Adams-King asking for reduced speed limits on the B3084. He has asked for the existing 40mph speed limit between the River Dun and the Spearywell Wood car park entrance to be reduced to 30mph and a new 40mph zone to be imposed on the B3084 between the Spearywell Wood car park entrance to the bottom of Jerrem's Hill. The response was that there was a question about whether the speed limits could be enforced and suggested the Parish Council look at installing speed indicator devices. He also highlighted the possibility of the Parish funding Traffic Regulation Orders in the future which could mean changes to speed limits although these would still need to be agreed by HCC.

HCC have agreed to paint white lines on the B3084 from the River Dun to Hatt Hill which will indicate the narrowness of the road and provide some protection to pedestrians.

The possibility of installing speed awareness signs was discussed. It was agreed The Clerk will circulate the latest HCC policy document regarding speed indicator devices and each councillor will consider possible sites where a device might be located around the parish. This matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

Sustainability

10) Cllrs Peter and Julia Barnett reported on a possible thermal imaging project to assess some homes in the parish to provide data on heat-loss from windows and doors. Surveys will be carried out with householders' permission when the weather is cold enough for household heating to be turned on.

Kissing Gates

11) Cllrs Peter and Julia Barnett reported in detail on their survey of registered footpaths where stiles are present and could be changed to kissing gates in order to improve access to all users of the countryside. They have established there is a fund available where grants can be provided to fund replacement gates. This fund is fully committed for 2022-23 but new finance should be available in April 2023. There has been extensive discussion with Hampshire's Countryside team and their preference is to install metal gates which, although more expensive, are longer lasting. HCC will carry out ground surveys to establish if any pipes or cables are present. Cllr P Barnett confirmed very positive discussion with Romsey Ramblers who are prepared to fit and maintain gates and they are keen, enthusiastic and trained to do so.

The list of stiles has been reviewed and prioritised by Cllrs Barnett and the cost of installing three kissing gates has been established. Half the cost of these would be financed by grant and landowners would be expected to cover the remainder although installation would be undertaken by the volunteers. Cllrs Barnett will now, in conjunction with Cllr Jenkins, approach landowners of these sites to establish if they are happy for new kissing gates to be installed.

Prevention of Crime initiative

12) Cllr Channing reported on an initiative regarding crime prevention. A resident from Houghton is attempting to form a working group to include residents from surrounding

villages. Several recent crimes were noted in the area. A meeting is to be held on 22nd November at which Mottisfont and Dunbridge will be represented.

13) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that she had now been able to gather all relevant details regarding the village defibrillators and emergency telephones. Currently all equipment is covered by an annual maintenance agreement with Community Heartbeat and this is fully paid until 31st October 2023. Both machines are now registered with The Circuit a countrywide database where details of all defibrillators are stored and passed out to Ambulance call centres across the country. The parish council will need to decide next summer whether to continue to pay the contract or simply to pay for replacement parts as required by the maintenance schedule.

Details of a draft budget had been circulated and were discussed. Given the rise in prices for all items during this period of economic crisis and to assist with the costs of projects going forward it was agreed to request an increase in precept to £7750 for the year. The increase mirrors the current inflation rate.

Finance

14) Balances in the bank accounts were noted at 31/10/2022 as: -

TSB Charity account
£8452.21
TSB Business Instant
£11630.55

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

H Bourner sal Nov	£270.40
HMRC	£67.60
H Bourner exp	£20.00

Future payments

H Bourner sal Dec	£270.40
HMRC	£67.40
H Bourner sal Jan	£270.40
HMRC	£67.40

15) Correspondence

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

Clerks & Councils Direct
Draft Infrastructure and Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document – Public Consultation
HCC Newsletter
An email from a member of public regarding road narrowing signs.

Items for next agenda

16) Speed awareness indicators.

Date of next meeting

17) Thursday 16th February 2023 7.30pm at Mottisfont Village Hall

Appendix 1-HCC Cllr Drew report

£3 million Romsey Town Centre improvements win prestigious awards

Planning, design and construction of an historic town's central space, by Hampshire County Council, has been recognised after a place making scheme was crowned Solent's best new public space by both judges and Hampshire residents.

Market Place in Romsey, Hampshire, won both the Judge's Award and People's Choice Award in the Partnership for South Hampshire's Solent Quality of Place Awards – the first time in the Awards' 10-year history that a scheme has achieved winning two accolades.

The design team for Market Place, comprised County Council Highways Engineers, Transport Planners and Landscape Architects, working closely with Test Valley Borough Council, who worked to produce the design proposals, in close consultation with the Romsey Steering Board, whose members were senior representatives from the County Council, Test Valley Borough

Council and Romsey Town Council, as well as local community interest groups.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/01112022RomseyMarketPlacePfSHawardtradePR>

Meals on Wheels – here to support this winter

To coincide with national Meals on Wheels Week this autumn, Hampshire County Council is reminding local residents that Meals on Wheels are available to anyone with a long term health condition who may struggle to shop for or prepare food for themselves.

Meals on Wheels are designed for anyone over the age of 18 living with a health condition who has difficulty shopping or cooking for themselves.

Full details, including eligibility criteria, are available on the [County Council's Meals on Wheels web page](#).

Meals on Wheels are provided by [apetito](#) and currently cost £5.67 for a two course hot meal (a third course is £1 extra), with afternoon tea costing £3.25.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/281022mealsonwheels>

Keeping Hampshire moving in all weathers – highways teams get winter-ready

To keep Hampshire moving during the wetter and colder months of winter, Hampshire Highways are ready – with crews on standby 24/7, ready to salt the roads in snow and icy conditions, as well as deal with the impacts of high winds, heavy rain and flooding, such as those seen last weekend (22 and 23 October).

Since January, the service's year-round maintenance programme has seen the cleaning and clearance of over 107,500 roadside gullies and 22,500 metres of linear drainage, 10,076 catchpits (chambers near to the carriageway that act like gullies and from which silt has to be cleared) and nearly 16,000 intercepting ditches (known as grips which generally run between the road and adjacent ditch and help prevent surface water from pooling on the road), as well as the completion of 13 major drainage improvement schemes across the county.

For more information on the work carried out in the fight against flooding, and how residents can be prepared, see the [County Council's flooding advice webpage](#)

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20221027HantsHighwaysWinterReady>

Hampshire groups invited to apply to Leader's Community Grant Scheme to create warm hubs this winter

Communities across Hampshire are being invited to apply to Hampshire County Council for support from the Leader's Community Grants Scheme in order to create a network of warm hubs this winter

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Rob Humby, said: "While households have been given a level of assurance that fuel bills will be contained to April 2023 for now, we know that many will still struggle significantly, facing exceptionally difficult choices about how budgets are spent this autumn and winter.

"As the colder months approach, we want to do what we can to support our local communities. We are therefore now inviting voluntary and community organisations to apply for a grant of up to £5,000 to develop and host warm hubs where people can gather together. This might be in the form of a regular coffee morning, or the provision of a shared activity, however we welcome creative ideas and concepts that will deliver support especially to our most vulnerable residents." Applications are open for the financial year 2022/23. Those wishing to apply can find more information and guidance on [the Leader's Community Grants web page](#). Any organisation wishing to apply for a grant to deliver a warm hub will also need to confirm that they will register on the Warm Welcome website.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20221020LeadersGrants>

County Council sets out support package for pupils as cost rises force increase in school meal price

Hampshire County Council has set out a financial support package to help schools cover school meal costs and contribute towards school uniform for vulnerable families this winter

This comes as the County Council calls for adequate Government funding for school meals as the costs of ingredients, energy and staff wages increase. To avoid significant losses, the County Council school meal provider, HC3S, is being forced to increase school meal prices by 20p per

day from 31 October.

Nearly all of Hampshire's 426 primary schools and many of the special and secondary schools use HC3S to provide their school catering.

[Families can check if they are entitled for free school meals on the HC3S website.](#)

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20221011SchoolWinterSupport>

CIr [David Drew Test Valley Central Division, HCC](#)