



MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th JULY 2024, 7.30PM, AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr J Channing (Chairman), Cllr Mrs. J Barnett (Vice Chairman), Cllr P Barnett, Cllr A Simmonds & Cllr G Jenkins.

In attendance: Heather Bourner – Clerk
HCC David Drew.
TVBC Alison Johnston
Steve Lees planning consultant for Orchard Homes
8 members of the public.

Apologies for Absence

1) There were no apologies for absence.

Public Participation

2) All the public present where there to discuss the proposals for Station Good Yard. See item 9.

Declarations of Interest

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

Minutes

4) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2024 were agreed unanimously as a correct record. These were signed by the Chairman.

5) County and Borough Councillors' Reports

HCC Cllr David Drew – had sent a recent report which has been circulated to all Councillors

TVBC Cllr Johnston – had circulated Mid-Test Matters. She confirmed she was a member of the TVBC Planning Committee so would not stay and hear the discussions regarding the possible development of the old Station Goods Yard.

National Trust Report

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

Speed Awareness Cameras

7) Cllr Simmonds had circulated a proposal to consider installing average speed cameras in the parish. He provided information from a parish in East Hampshire where these were fitted, along with evidence in the reductions in average speeds. Details of car registration numbers and speed are recorded during daylight hours and data gathered can be analysed and passed to the Police who might then set up a speed trap. The system was supported by East Hampshire but not by HCC or, necessarily, Hampshire Police.

Cllr Johnston detailed how local volunteers could be asked to set up a Community Speed Watch team, who would receive training and conduct roadside speed checks. The data was

handed to the Police who would write to offenders. Average Speed Camera machines essentially recorded the same data and she suggested this should be discussed with The Police and Crime Commissioner. There might be a reluctance in Mottisfont to set up a speed watch team because it was potentially hazardous to stand alongside the roads. HCC Drew detailed how speed indicator devices (SIDs) worked and how these were shown to reduce traffic speed.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and review the possibility of installing Speed Indicator Devices. The Parish Council will consider which device is best for Mottisfont and Cllr Channing asked for volunteers to take on this project.

Planning

8) The following decisions by TVBC were noted: None

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:
24/01524/LBWS-internal alterations, Mottisfont Abbey- no objections

Update on Station Goods Yard

9) Cllr Channing reported on the public engagement events relating to the development of the Old Station Goods Yard. He said the Parish Council's role had been to facilitate Orchard Homes' consultation with the community regarding the possible development. The first event was attended by around 50 people, the second by just over 20. The chairman summarised the three key issues that had emerged, which were the number of houses proposed, possible additional parking on the main road, and drainage and surface water issues. He said that all concerns had been put to the potential developers and, in particular they had undertaken further investigations regarding surface drainage and sewerage - the findings needed to be made more available. HCC Cllr David Drew said the time to deal with possible on-road parking issues is when a planning application is submitted and then Highways can be asked to consider prevention methods to stop any parking on the main road. He said the draft plans for the site meet the standards for parking required by Test Valley Borough Council.

Steve Lees planning consultant retained by Orchard Homes, said that the feedback from those who had attended the first consultation event was very positive and the evidence from the questionnaire responses also showed support from the community for the scheme. The plan was to build 12 homes and there was a suggestion that 10 was preferred: however, the developer has confirmed that building 10 would not be commercially viable. He felt that the second community engagement had gone backwards to some extent and that there was less support for the proposal put forward by the developer.

A resident of Dunbridge said she had carried out a survey today knocking on doors on Barley Hill Dunbridge and the general consensus was there was not a need for additional houses - the preference was for a Village Hall or Community Centre, a play area and parking for the railway station. She suggested that a survey of all residents should be undertaken to establish what they really want. Cllr Channing pointed out that the land was not owned by the Parish Council but the suggestion was that it should be purchased by the community. Cllr Channing said purchasing and developing the land would require a huge commitment and would probably need a Community Interest Company to be set up which would then have to obtain funding via grants and match funding. He said that the Parish Council had considered this in 2021 as one option for the site and had concluded that it would be difficult to put together a viable proposal and a major task to take it forward. The Parish Council were unsure of their legal powers to undertake this but were clear they did not have the capacity to take on such a commitment. This would need to be a project taken forward by the community.

The following points were raised by the members of public:

There was a view that the consultations by Orchard Homes were actually presentations.

There was a view that any survey should have been issued by the Parish Council

A view was expressed that the problem was not lack of community facilities but lack

of community engagement. The Village Hall and the Social Club find it very difficult to attract volunteers to sit on their committees and help with required tasks. A comment was made that there were only 8 members of public in the room who are opposed and there are many more in the community who may not be.

Steve Lees said the developer had considered the Parish Plan which suggested housing development in Dunbridge would be acceptable and there had been two previous applications on which there had been no public comments to TVBC. He said in his view Mottisfont Parish Council has done more than other parish councils to facilitate discussion on the potential project. This proposal has been in the public domain for two years, at Parish Council meetings, in minutes and in newsletters but negativity has only started 4 days ago. This is not the message that has been communicated over the past two years.

Cllr P Barnett said there seemed to have been a consistent stream of support since this proposal was first aired and asked if something had happened to change views. The response being the realisation at the recent presentation that there may be other options that could be explored.

Cllr Simmonds suggest the Parish Council defer any decisions about this proposal and allow the community time to explore other possibilities. Councillors agreed that they would resume the discussion if a viable proposal could be submitted for consideration in time for their next meeting.

Cllr Channing said it was still possible that Orchard Homes will feel they have the support required and could submit a planning application.

Further views, community plans and proposals and evidence can be reviewed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Highways issues

10) Cllr Simmonds expressed concern with recent drain repairs where work required had been carried out over several days - in his view a joined-up approach was required. Cllr Drew asked the Parish Council to draw up a list of all the road problems that need to be addressed and send details to him, perhaps on a quarterly basis. Cllr Simmonds will draw up the necessary list.

Resilience

11) Cllr Mrs.J Barnett hopes within the next week to put forward the Mottisfont Community Emergency Plan to TVBC. This will be followed by an exercise to gather community volunteers to offer help in the event of an emergency. Funds may be required from the Parish Council for such things as hi-viz jackets, although grants may be available.

12) Clerk's Report

The Clerk had circulated the new financial regulations as supplied by NALC and recommended by HALC. Cllr Mr. P Barnett proposed these be adopted and this was seconded by Cllr Jenkins. All agreed.

She also reported she had been notified by HCC Countryside Access that their seasonal vegetation maintenance programme had been reduced and any problems with overgrown footpaths could be reported to Countryside Access who would try and raise a team of volunteers to help. She suggested the Parish Council may wish to consider raising the precept to ensure funds were available to engage a contractor/lengthsman if HCC were no longer going to carry out this work.

Finance

13) Balances in the bank accounts were noted at 11/07/2024 as: -

TSB Charity account
£6523.36
TSB Business Instant
£11846.82

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

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H Bournier April	£322.04
H Bournier July	£321.84
HMRC	£80.60
Clerks Exps	£30.00

Future payment

H Bournier sal Aug	£322.04
HMRC	£80.40
H Bournier sal Sep	£322.04
HMRC	£80.40

14) Correspondence

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

An email confirming the next resilience forum on 19th October 2024

An email confirming planned drainage works on Hatt Hill will take place but dates to be confirmed.

Flyers for events taking place in Andover and Romsey during the summer school holidays

Mid Test Matters newsletters

Any Other Business

15) A question was asked regarding fitting CCTV at the station to deter antisocial behaviour

Cllr Simmonds will pass on contact details for the relevant railway body.

Concerns were raised regarding overhanging hedges and bushes on the Millenium Walk. Cllr Simmonds will ask the lengthsman to clear this.

The meeting closed at 20.59

16) Thursday 19th September 2024 7.30pm at Mottisfont Village Hall