

# MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th MAY 2023, 7.30PM, AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL

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

In attendance: Heather Bourner – Clerk  
Vicky Fletcher- National Trust  
HCC David Drew.  
TVBC Alison Johnston  
2 members of the public.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr A Simmonds.

### **Election of Chairman**

2) Cllr Mrs. J Barnett nominated Cllr Channing to be Chairman for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Cllr P Barnett. All Agreed. Cllr Channing signed an acceptance of office form.

### **Election of Vice Chairman**

3) Cllr Channing nominated Cllr Mrs. J Barnett to be Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Cllr P Barnett. All Agreed. Cllr Barnett signed an acceptance of office form.

All other Councillors present signed acceptance of office documents.

### **Review and agree Standing orders, financial regulations, Code of Conduct and register of interest forms**

4) All documents had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. These were all based on NALC model documents and the Clerk confirmed no amendments had been published. Cllr Channing proposed all documents were re-adopted for 2023-24. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs. J Barnett. All agreed.

All Councillors were asked to complete new Register of Interest forms.

### **Thanks to outgoing and co-option of new Councillors**

5) Cllr Channing expressed thanks to those Councillors who had chosen not to stand for re-election, in particular thanks to John Millns who had served for 46 years. He said the Parish Council has two vacancies and these would be advertised in the next Acorn newsletter.

### **National Trust Report**

6) Vicky Fletcher, General Manager of Mottisfont Abbey reported that approaching their busy period they are working to organise overflow parking off Oakley Lane. This will increase traffic though the village but the field adjoining the car park is prone to flooding. There will also be better organisation of the current car parking system and Church Lane will be cordoned off with barriers and cones to stop parking that could prevent emergency vehicles reaching properties.

Cllr Channing said this system was used in the past and created lots of opposition from residents. He suggested other solutions should be explored. Perhaps timed tickets could be used rather than a booking system and the staff car park could be used for visitors.

A concern was raised by a member of public about overgrown areas around the village. Vicky said the previous head gardener took on some of these tasks of his own volition. The Trust now needs to work out which areas they are responsible for and take action.

She reported that there is a break in fishing on the river due to a change in contract which means the river banks are not being cut. A member of public raised concerns that the river is getting narrower because of silt build up, overgrown reed beds and no cutting back over the banks. His fear is this is likely to cause flooding. Vicky agreed to ask a staff member to come and talk to the PC about river management at their next meeting.

Finally, Vicky said the application for phone mast is not supported by the National Trust. She has established the mast is to improve the WiFi signal on the railway and that it will have virtually no benefit to the village. The mast could be sited anywhere between Romsey and Salisbury and the National Trust have asked why Mottisfont is the chosen location. The access to the proposed mast would be through a working farm and is completely unacceptable. She agreed to send some information she has received from the National Trust property team to the Clerk & Chairman to review. A site meeting with the contractor will be arranged.

### **Public Participation**

7) Public participation- see National Trust report.

### **Declarations of Interest**

8) There were no declarations of interests in matters on the agenda.

### **Planning**

9) **The following decisions by TVBC were noted:** 23/00302/FULLS-replacement rose bridge, Mottisfont Abbey-withdrawn

**Resolved: that the planning decisions on the following applications were endorsed:** 23/00908/FULLS- construction of agricultural access- comments made regarding safety

### **Pre planning notification for telecommunications mast**

See National Trust report.

### **10 County and Borough Councillors' Reports**

**HCC Cllr David Drew** – had sent a recent report which has been circulated. He said TVBC are observing No Mow May and that HCC are only cutting small part of verges to provide habitat for pollinators. However, if sight lines are obscured these should still be reported via the HCC website.

He said that the additional government funding for repairing potholes had been received by HCC and work to repair these was underway. He encouraged all residents to report potholes on the HCC website to ensure they are targeted.

Finally, he said that 99.8 % of those who voted in the recent elections took the necessary photographic ID.

Cllr Channing said there were numerous highways issues in Mottisfont. Rather than report these piece meal he would like to organise a meeting between the Parish Council, Cllr Drew and possibly Cllr Adams-King and Hampshire Highways officers where all of these problems could be discussed and solutions found. Cllr Drew agreed this should be possible. Cllr Channing will write to him with some proposed dates.

**TVBC Cllr Johnston** – reported she was delighted to be elected to represent Mid Test. She confirmed there is a new Councillor Stewart McDonald who will be helping her. She is keen to help find grants to help with the village hall, particularly with eco efficiency in mind. Finally, she confirmed the new Borough Cllr grant scheme was open and would be very happy to support the parish with funding for speed awareness machines.

### **Minutes**

11) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2023 were agreed unanimously as a correct record. These were signed by the Chairman.

### **Station Goods Yard, Dunbridge**

12) Cllr Channing said he understands flood risk assessments have been produced and these suggest the area where flooding could occur was greater than previously thought. Further surveys are taking place and the outcome awaited.

### Highways issues

13) Cllr Simmonds was absent but had sent a report confirming he had reported the poor road surface along Kimbridge Lane, the potholes and road surface defects on Barley Hill at Dunbridge, potholes and blocked drains on Spearywell Road at Mottisfont, drainage problems and defects on Mottisfont Lane in the village centre, and finally blocked drains on Oakley Road in the village centre.

HCC have confirmed potholes and drainage issues on Spearywell Road and Hatt Hill at Mottisfont have been included in planned highway works. This also applies to Bengers Lane at Mottisfont.

He has also asked Hampshire Highways to reinstate the direction sign at the junction of Kimbridge Lane and the B3084 (Dunbridge Lane) and to reinstate an important sign warning HGV drivers there is a risk of grounding on Mottisfont & Dunbridge Station level crossing because it is uneven.

### Kissing Gates

14) Cllrs Peter confirmed he had met with the Estate Manager for the Kimbridge Estate who was in support of changing a stile to a gate but would need the land owner's approval before any agreement can be given. They will also need to apply for the necessary grants. Footpath number 7 which was the responsibility of the Kimbridge Estate was also discussed and agreement in principle had been given to replace the handrails that have fallen down subject to the land owner's agreement.

On footpath number 1 behind the Mill Arms, the stile had been replaced with a metal frame to prevent vehicular access. The fencing will be repaired by the land owner shortly.

Finally, Romsey Ramblers are carrying out a comprehensive survey of footpaths in the area and they have invited Cllrs P Barnett and Mrs J Barnett to participate.

### 15) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the audit return for 2023/24 had been completed and reviewed and agreed by the internal auditor. Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March were discussed and agreed. The Audit return was reviewed. Section 1 was reviewed and agreed followed by section 2 which was also reviewed and agreed, both were signed by the Chairman. The Parish Council also agreed it had no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP and it was agreed Cllr Channing should sign the necessary form.

She also said she had requested three quotes for insurance from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 although only two had been returned. The prices quoted were compared with last year's premium and the two new quotes. These provided the same cover and the best value quotation was from BHIB at £496.63 for a three-year deal. Cllrs agreed the Clerk should proceed to purchase this policy.

### Finance

16) Balances in the bank accounts were noted at 30/04/2023 as: -

TSB Charity account

£8534.63

TSB Business Instant

£11604.98

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

H Bourner sal May £296.30

HMRC £74.20

H Bourner exp £36.00

HALC subscription £199.31

Insurance £518.36

TVBC elections £24.00

### Retrospective payments

H Bourner sal March £270.40

HMRC £67.40

H Bourner sal April	£296.50
HMRC	£62.40

**Future payments**

H Bourner sal June	£296.50
HMRC	£74.20

**15) Correspondence**

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

Two insurance quotes

Brochure for street furniture

Email regarding Test Valley Community Energy Launch event - 13 June Stockbridge Village Hall, 6pm.

**Attendance at Events**

16) Cllr Channing confirmed he had attended a Community Energy meeting

**New Items for next agenda**

17) None at present

The Meeting closed at 9.35 pm

**Date of next meeting**

18) Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 7.30pm at Mottisfont Village Hall