



## MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.**

**Present:**

Parish Councillors:

Jeff Channing (chair)  
Julia Barnett  
Peter Barnett  
Gareth Jenkins  
John Millns  
Andy Simmonds

Vicky Fletcher General Manager, The National Trust,  
Cllr Andrew Gibson Hampshire County Council  
Sue Holder clerk to the Parish Council.

**21/033 Open Forum**

No items were raised.

**21/034 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Johnston, Test Valley Borough Council.

**21/035 Declarations Of Interest**

None.

**21/036 Minutes of the last meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 23 September were agreed as a correct record.

**21/037 Matters arising from the previous minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**21/038 National Trust**

The General Manager of the Mottisfont estate, Vicky Fletcher, was invited to provide a report summarised as follows:

- the grounds of Mottisfont Abbey have remained open during the second pandemic lockdown but the House has been shut;
- a booking system remains in use and is working effectively. Visitor numbers are capped at 1000 per day which is also the capacity of the car park;

- The National Trust is waiting for guidance from the Government regarding Christmas events. However, the Nativity scene in the village is planned as normal;
- the security of the tool store in the Abbey farmyard has been improved;
- the door of the BT phone box on Spearywell Road has been repaired by the Trust;
- details of the Reset programme are still unclear. Some staff have chosen to be made redundant and others are waiting to be fitted into new posts where available. The parish council extended its best wishes to Alison Evans who is leaving the Trust to take up a new position as Chief Operating Officer of Winchester Cathedral.

### **21/039 County Councillor's report**

Cllr Andrew Gibson provided the following report:

- a new head and deputy head of Hampshire Highways have been appointed. The new team will be based in Hook and will be supported by new engineers who may be unfamiliar with the Test Valley area;
- Hampshire Highways routinely maintains 60,000 gullies and 4,600 catchpits as well as carrying out a continued programme of improvements to highway surface water drainage systems in order to make Hampshire more resilient to the effects of extreme weather;
- recycling centres remain open during lockdown and continue to operate a booking system. It is understood that there are slots readily available;
- Cllr Gibson reported that he will not be standing for election next year.

In discussion, councillors said that:

- repairs to the B3084 undertaken by Hampshire's contractors earlier this year were already deteriorating, especially the road edges. This was likely to be due to the impact of heavy goods vehicles which were too wide for the road. Cllr Gibson agreed to raise this with Hampshire Highways although he was not optimistic about putting a weight restriction on the road;
- the surface of Barley Hill was also deteriorating as a result of use by HGVs. Large potholes had appeared and road edges had eroded;
- parts of Hatt Hill were collapsing making pothole repairs ineffective. Some home delivery drivers were now becoming reluctant to make deliveries to local homes because of speeding traffic. This is of particular concern during the pandemic with many vulnerable residents relying on home delivery services.

### **21/040 Finance**

TSB Account 00182619	£ 8705.23
TSB Account 01542503	£ 11545.26
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	£ 20250.49

a) payments received were reported as: VAT reclaim £535.41, Precept £3254.50

b) payments for approval (R) = Retrospective

Website costs	£ 59.98 ® #654
PKF – external audit	£240.00® #655
National Trust – Village Hall insurance	£459.20
Clerk's salary for Oct – Nov	£429.02

c) internet Banking: the clerk was asked to report to the next meeting on the benefits for the parish council of using internet banking;

d) External Audit Report: the clerk reported that the external audit had now been completed satisfactorily. The auditors stated that, on the basis of the review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices. No other matters have come to the attention of the auditors that would give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The auditors commented that the wrong date was used on the notice period for the 'exercise of public electors' rights' notice.

#### **21/041 Planning**

a) New applications received:

20/02493/TREES Mottisfont Abbey

Carry out various works as described in tree works application

The application was noted by the parish council.

b) Decision:

20/00631/OBLS – TVBC decision to MODIFY the Planning Obligation

#### **21/042 Highways**

a) **Dunbridge village gateway:** it was agreed that the lengthsman would complete the erection of the village gateway. Cllr Simmonds would remind Hampshire Highways of the need to complete markings on the road surface.

b) **Lengthsman:** the lengthsman has replaced the broken footpath signs on footpath 10.

#### **21/043 Coronavirus pandemic**

Cllr P Barnett reported that the phone service for emergency assistance in the parish during the pandemic would continue. This was provided free and he had been in touch with TVBC who felt that the service would be of interest to other parishes.

#### **21/044 Correspondence**

Correspondence received was as follows:

- Test Valley impact survey: noted.

- Test Valley information on COVID-related grants: noted.
- Hampshire County Council written report from Cllr Gibson: considered at the meeting and noted.
- Mid-Test Matters: noted.

**21/045 Any other business**

- Cllr P Barnett will contact a local carpenter to arrange the repairs to the Dunbridge noticeboard;
- the Chair and other councillors thanked all those involved in the recent parish clean-up which was reported to have been well attended and very effective.

**21/046 Date of next meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

There being no further business, the chair closed the meeting at 8.40 pm.