

# MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th NOVEMBER 2021, 7.30PM, AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL

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

In attendance: Heather Bourner - Clerk  
Vicky Fletcher- National Trust  
4 Members of public.

### Apologies for Absence

1) Apologies for absence were received from HCC David Drew, TVBC Alison Johnston & Cllr Mrs J Barnett.

### Public Participation

2) A member of public present expressed concerns about cars and vans being parked in Church Lane and particularly in the turning circle rather than using their own drive which is causing problems for other road users. The turning circle is adopted by the Parish Council for Church and burial ground users. The Clerk will write to residents and ask them to desist.

### Declarations of Interest

3) There were no declarations of interests.

### Planning

4) The following decisions by TVBC were noted: None

Resolved: that the planning decisions on the following applications were endorsed:  
21/03216/LBWS- Replace windows, doors and external paint finish, Oakley Farmhouse – no objections

### 5) County and Borough Councillors' Report –

**HCC David Drew** – was not present but had provided a report which has been circulated to all Councillors.

**TVBC Cllr Johnston** – was not present but has sent a report confirming her new position as Climate Emergency and Countryside portfolio holder, which gives new responsibilities for the rural areas including, building on existing networks, promoting the rural economy and helping drive community planning initiatives.

### National Trust Report

6) Vicky Fletcher, General Manager of Mottisfont Abbey, reported that visitor numbers this year had been approximately half the number than in a normal year. This has meant staff have been able to spend time working on improving galleries and exhibitions. They are exploring the possibility of using a booking system in April and June 2022 as these months are traditionally very busy periods and the times that parking problems may occur. She confirmed the house will be decorated for Christmas but there will be no carol service this year. She said the Parish pass system will be continued next year and villagers will be encouraged to renew these.

She confirmed there have been several staff changes and responsibilities are shared among several managers. A new estate manager has been appointed and there is a contract in place with Savills so tenants can report any issues with let properties. Cllr Millns asked if a list of staff with their responsibilities and contact details could be provided to the Parish Council. Vicky will organise this

## **Minutes**

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

### **8) Road repairs, potholes & lengthsman**

Cllr Simmonds reported that Network Rail are working with HCC to deal with the pot holes near the Dunbridge level crossing and further resurfacing work on the B3084 will take place in 2022.

A road safety scheme is being developed for the parish by HCC: precise details are not known at present but the scheme is believed to include better signage and road markings. The hope is the plan will be shared with the Parish Council soon.

Councillors discussed the recently highlighted motion to support a 20mph speed limit country-wide in built up areas. This is unlikely to affect Mottisfont and the parish council had repeatedly tried to have the 30mph limit extended in the parish. It was agreed that the new PCSO, Marie Stubbington, should be invited to the next meeting and asked whether the police can help enforce speed limits.

Cllr Simmonds also reported the awaited red road surface at the Barley Hill gateway was unlikely to be done for some time as Hampshire Highways claimed that there is still a shortage of materials. HCC will still complete roundels and white lining. After some discussions it was agreed to ask for a refund for the Parish Council's contribution to the special surfacing, provided that the road is resurfaced and the 30 mph roundel markings are put in place.

Cllr Barnett reported that a vehicle was being parked, and apparently stored under a tarpaulin in a dangerous position straddling the new gateway at Dunbridge, half on the road and half on the pavement, in a 40mph limit area, without lights at night. This had been reported to the Parish Council as a traffic obstruction. Cllr Barnett will ask the PCSO for advice on how to tackle this issue.

### **9) Kissing Gates**

Cllr Barnett confirmed he had discussed concerns raised where stiles on footpaths were proving difficult for accessibility with HCC's Countryside Access Team. He has discovered HCC can only work on stiles for which they are responsible and where they are still needed for stock control. Kissing gates are therefore advised near roads and pedestrian gates with a loop closure in fields.

He said the next steps are to gather details of all stiles in the parish and residents walking paths are helping with this. Once numbers of stiles are known and the most-used routes identified, a plan for replacing them can be considered. The National Trust will help if any of these stiles are on their land. Grants are available which will be considered in due course.

### **10) Closed Churchyards**

Cllr Channing reported the Parochial Church Council are meeting soon when it is possible, they will agree to serve notice on the Parish Council to take responsibility for St Andrew's closed churchyard. It has been established the churchyard was officially closed in 1868. The PCC could, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, serve notice on the Parish Council to keep the churchyard in decent order and its walls and fences in good repair. Should this happen the Parish Council can then serve notice on the Borough Council so that they have to take on this responsibility. The Clerk had sought advice from both HALC and TVBC but nothing further can be done until a notice is served. All Councillors agreed in principle that should a notice be served on the Parish Council, they should in turn serve a notice on TVBC promptly.

### **11) Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported as follows:

A schedule of meeting dates for 2022 had been prepared. Some discussions took place regarding the date for an annual meeting and also whether the volume of ordinary meetings per year was considered too much, not enough or just right. The Clerk confirmed the legal necessity was a minimum of four meetings per year. All Councillors had considered the number of meetings required and after some debate it was agreed in 2022 to hold quarterly meetings with one additional meeting in May which would be both the AGM and the parish meeting. The Clerk will circulate dates for agreement.

### **Finance**

12) Balances in the bank accounts were noted as:

31/10/2021:

TSB Charity account £7669.70

TSB Business Instant £11587.63

**Payments Resolved:** that the following payments be approved and online transactions agreed

H Bourner sal Nov           £250.03

HMRC                           £62.40

H Bourner exp               £48.77

Future payments

H Bourner sal Dec           £250.03

HMRC                           £62.40

Retrospective

H Bourner sal Oct           £250.032

HMRC                           £62.40

### **Budget**

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget and explained her figures to the Councillors present. There was some debate regarding possible expenditure and volumes of reserves with a final agreement to raise the precept to allow for inflation. Cllr Channing proposed the precept request for 2022/23 be raised to £7000. This was agreed by all.

### **13) Request for funding defibrillators.**

The clerk confirmed she had received an email requesting funds to support the two defibrillators in the village. Some funds had been raised from the sale of masks made by volunteers and also some donations given. There was a shortfall of £189.82. The Parish Council agreed unanimously to meet this expenditure.

### **14) Correspondence**

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

An email regarding a Community Governance review for Romsey and surrounding areas.

An email regarding a planning consultation for the New Forest

An email confirming the name & contact of the new PCSO covering Mottisfont.

### **15) Items for the next agenda**

None at present

### **Any Other Business**

16) Cllr Simmonds confirmed passenger information points at Mottisfont and Dunbridge station will be upgraded in the next 12 months

### **Date of next meeting**

18) Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm at Mottisfont Village Hall