



MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th SEPTEMBER 2024, 7.30PM, AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL

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

In attendance: Heather Bournier – Clerk

3 members of the public.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Drew, TVBC Cllr Johnston, Vicky Fletcher (National Trust), Cllr Channing & Cllr Simmonds.

2) Public Participation

The public present highlighted the potholes in Bengers Lane were now being filled. Concern was raised regarding the hedges on either side of Hatt Lane and Cllr Jenkins was able to confirm this is listed as a job to be done by the Lengthsman this month.

3) Declarations of Interest

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

4) Minutes

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2024 were agreed unanimously as a correct record. These were signed by the Vice Chairman.

5) County and Borough Councillors' Reports

HCC Cllr David Drew – had sent a recent report which has been circulated to all Councillors and can be seen at appendix 1

TVBC Cllr Johnston – was not present but had recently circulated Mid-Test Matters.

National Trust Report

6) Vicky Fletcher, General Manager of Mottisfont Abbey had sent apologies but had circulated a report which can be seen at appendix 2.

Speed Awareness Cameras

7) Cllr Simmonds was absent and had already circulated information regarding permanently positioned average speed devices which remain his favoured proposal.

Cllr Barnett reported that, as a result of the article in the parish newsletter, the Acorn, in relation to a possible Community Speed Watch team, he was pleased to report some volunteers had stepped forward to help. He will be contacting a representative from Kings Sombourne to gather details about how the scheme runs in practice and what pitfalls there

may be. Volunteers are required to help in Mottisfont village.

8) Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted: 24/00745/FULLS & 24/00746/LBWS-- change of use of the Cattle Shed from storage to office and workers changing area- Mottisfont Abbey-permission

Resolved: that the planning decisions on the following applications reviewed between meetings were endorsed: None

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9) Update on Station Goods Yard

The Clerk reported a statement of fact regarding the site had been circulated to all Councillors regarding the planning history of the site. All comments made had been incorporated and the final version circulated. The intention was to send this to the planning consultant. This was proposed by Cllr Barnett and seconded by Cllr Jenkins. All agreed.

10) Highways issues

Cllr Simmonds was absent but had sent a report as follows: -

Hampshire Highways have been asked to repair the broken concrete drain pipe opposite Mottisfont Almshouses on Hatt Hill, Mottisfont, as a matter of urgency.

Hatt Hill roadside footway between the junction of Hatt Lane and Hatt Terrace cottages at Mottisfont has now been resurfaced.

Potholes are being repaired and some temporary road closures are planned as part of this work along with other measures.

These include Benger's Lane, Mottisfont, Church Lane, Mottisfont, a section of road between Hatt Lane and the A3057(Mottisfont Lane, Mottisfont) and Dunbridge Lane/Lockerley Road to allow tree works to be carried out.

Mottisfont Footpath 10 between Hatt Hill, Mottisfont and Lockerley is also going to be closed because Network Rail is working on the line and the level crossing at Mottisfont & Dunbridge Station.

The following have been logged on the HCC report a problem site:

Road drains on Spearywell Road and Hatt Hill, Mottisfont need cleaning out again following recent heavy rain, as large stones and other debris have been washed onto the highways from nearby higher ground from adjoining fields.

Drains along Oakley Road and Mottisfont Lane have also been affected and need cleaning/jetting again.

Roadside grips alongside Lockerley Road need digging out.

He also reported that the Lengthsman will be cutting back the hedges and verges along Hatt Lane this month and cutting back vegetation from village and street nameplates, information signs, speed limit signs and anywhere needed where signage is obstructed by foliage.

Finally, the Lengthsman has been asked to clean the white railings on Barley Hill at Dunbridge.

11) Resilience

Cllr Barnett reported that some information promised had not yet materialized and this meant delays in providing a draft plan which can be presented to the Parish Council and submitted to Test Valley.

The Clerk highlighted an issue of concern regarding the impact of power outage on the new digital telephone service given the lack of mobile telephone signal in the parish. A resident had contacted the Parish Council following a recent problem of exactly this and had raised concerns that in an emergency there would be no means of contacting the emergency

services. The Clerk will contact BT to establish facts and the PC will consider raising the matter with a local MP.

12) Warm Hub Cinema

Cllr Barnett reported that the warm hub cinema at Kings Sombourne was to take place again this winter and that he hoped to arrange for the Broughton and Mottisfont Village Bus to pick up residents from Mottisfont who wished to attend. The events were free to those attending and last year the costs of the bus had been met by a TVBC grant along with a small contribution from both Broughton and Mottisfont Parish Councils. Cllr Barnett said he was willing to apply for the necessary grant again this year and asked that both Parish Councils agree to pay a contribution toward this initiative. All Cllrs agreed to support in principle. Cllr Barnett will present figures and costs at the November meeting. It is possible there will be more events but expenditure is unlikely to be more than £100.00

13) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that a new guardian was required to carry out monthly checks of the defibrillators. This person would need to check the machines were operational and report to the Clerk who would ensure the national database was kept updated. They would also need to replace pads and batteries when these expired.

Cllr Jenkins will speak to someone connected to Mottisfont Club to establish if they can help with the machine at the club. Cllr Mrs J Barnett agreed to check the machine at the Mill Arms. The Clerk reported that pads in the machines expired at the end of October although the spare pads were not out of date. It was agreed new pads to replace those going out of date should be purchased. The Clerk will action.

14) Finance

Balances in the bank accounts were noted at 10/09/2024: -

TSB Charity account

£9813.48

TSB Business Instant

£11876.26

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

H Bournier sal Aug	£322.04
HMRC	£80.40
H Bournier sal Sep	£322.04
HMRC	£80.40
Clerks Exps	£23.29

Future payment

H Bournier sal Oct	£322.04
HMRC	£80.40

15) 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

16) Any Other Business

Concerns have been expressed by a resident regarding parking at Mill Rise where train users are leaving cars and preventing residents from parking. Although there is a small amount of parking at the station it is not clear if this is for station users or residents of station house. The Clerk will try and establish ownership of and agreed use of each area.

The meeting closed at 20.21

17) Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 21st November 2024 7.30pm at Mottisfont Village Hall

Tap into solar power to save on bills and tackle climate change

An opportunity for Hampshire residents to benefit from competitively priced, high-quality solar panel installation and save on future energy bills is once again available through the 2024 **Solar Together scheme**

The solar energy group-buying scheme, offered by independent experts iChoosr and promoted by Hampshire County Council, enables residents to invest in solar panels for their homes, fitted by pre-vetted installers, to reduce reliance on the national grid and lower their energy bills, as well as boost local renewable energy generation.

Through Solar Together, over 28,400 solar panels have already been installed in Hampshire – it is estimated that these installations alone will reduce carbon emissions by 59,205 tonnes over 25 years – equivalent to taking over 32,600 cars off the road during the same period.

Those interested need to register online at www.hants.gov.uk/solartogether by 18 October for a free and without obligation quote.

Participants who register will receive a complimentary quote that demonstrates their potential savings on energy bills through solar panel installation. They can also learn about the opportunity to earn extra income by selling excess energy to the National Grid. Additionally, participants have the flexibility to choose to include battery storage or electric vehicle charge points at the time of registration or when they accept their offer.

To participate in the Solar Together scheme, residents need to own the property or have permission from the property owner to install a solar system on the roof. Small- and medium-sized businesses and Commonhold Associations that meet these requirements can also participate.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240819SolarTogether>

Make attendance top of the ‘back to school’ checklist for 2024/25

Hampshire County Council is renewing its call for parents and carers to prioritise regular school attendance in the new academic year

Rates of school attendance have continued to improve in Hampshire but as with other local authority areas across the country, they remain below the levels typically seen before the Covid-19 pandemic. Latest figures show that 93.4 per cent of all possible sessions, recorded at daily registers in both the morning and afternoon, were attended by Hampshire pupils in the 2023/24 school year. This is compared to 95.5 per cent in 2018/19, the last full school year before the Covid-19 pandemic. Promisingly however, Hampshire has maintained its historic trend above the national school attendance rate, which was 92.8 per cent in 2023/24.

Educational specialists advise that attending school every day, unless unwell, is best for children to ensure that the solid foundations for their future education and employment can be laid. It is also one of the best ways of supporting a child’s mental and physical health.

The [County Council's website](#) provides advice and guidance on school attendance including parental responsibilities; how schools record attendance; and what to do if a child is unwell or expected to be away from school for a long period of time.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240827schoolattendance>

£1.5m boost for people led climate change action

Lower energy bills could be enjoyed by more people in the future as more communities are given the ability to lead the charge on climate change through greener, more efficient energy initiatives that will reduce carbon emissions and, in turn, lower costs

Thanks to £1.5 million National Lottery funding, Community Energy South, supported by Hampshire County Council, is set to expand its staff and volunteer numbers so that it can train and mentor a larger number of community groups, including providing expertise in human

resources (HR) and marketing, so that community projects can get up and running more quickly.

The funding will boost employment and skills related training opportunities. Nicola Davidson, from Community Energy South said: "Most of the groups we work with have done amazing things with a small core team of volunteers. But it's hard to grow projects and impact from volunteer time only. This funding will create 33 jobs across 11 community energy groups, bring on 100 volunteers and provide up to 50,000 people with energy saving advice. We will also see the creation of more renewable generation projects that are community owned, with the increased energy generated helping to reduce the overall demand for electricity from the carbon intensive national grid."

More information:-Community energy includes a variety of initiatives including community heating schemes, domestic energy advice and group purchasing schemes – schemes which enable householders to benefit from the most competitive pricing for green energy in Hampshire.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20240807CommEnergyLotteryAward>

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

Appendix 2 National Trust

Visitor Business

The summer holidays passed without major incident. We were very busy on August Bank Holiday but had a full team in to manage the carpark. The National Trust's 'Escape into Autumn' campaign has started, which includes free passes to National Trust Properties for use between 16th Sept to 18th October. This is slightly more limited than in previous years, thankfully, and stops before half term but the weekends of 5th& 6th and 12th/13th October towards the end of that period could be very busy. We are also busy planning for Christmas which will be The Nutcracker this year. We are planning for busy, and will be introducing timed tickets for the house due to long queues on property last year.

Planning & projects

Accessible routes

Pre app advice has been received from TVBC with regards two key accessibility projects – 1) a year round accessible route into the Old Kitchen Café, and 2) step free access into the house. We will also cost up having the main driveway re-surfaced and there is an urgent need to repair some of the river walk (which will need EA/NE permits) but these were not part of the pre app consultation. The advice was that permanent alterations to the house entrance would not be acceptable but a better temporary ramp would not need planning permission. The route to the Old Kitchen Café is very sensitive due to archaeology, veteran trees, and ensuring key views across the Grade II listed parkland are not adversely affected, but TVBC felt a route could be accommodated. We will progress to full planning this financial year.

Rose Bridge

Phase 1 (removal) has been completed, with the new bridge being constructed offsite and carefully craned into place. The construction plan has been designed to prevent any impacts on the SSSI below, veteran trees, archaeology and fish.

Dairy Barn - 24/00746/LBWS

This work is internal, with no alteration of the building outside or inside. The work is currently being tendered, and we are expecting to start work in November. Construction should be done over a number of weeks, and should be of very limited impact. Once we have a start date we will let our immediate neighbours know what is happening.

Countryside

We are at an early stage in tendering the new fishing license for wild fishing on our beats, with a good range of interested parties. River restoration works will be commencing on the Rectory Beat later this month, also undertaken by the Wessex Rivers Trust. The team are preparing for a tree planting project on the Post Office Paddock in Mottisfont. Happy to provide further details of any of these projects in November, or before if helpful.

Christmas

While we won't have our carol singers and Volunteer Gardener/Minister presiding over Christmas this year, we'd be delighted to open the house again one evening in December for Parish Pass holders and Tenants, with mince pies and mulled wine.

People/New neighbours

We have a new Facilities Manager in post -Kev Jones- who has moved up from the East Devon NT portfolio together with his wife, and he has taken up a Key Representative post in Lower Lodge. Paul Cook is rejoining the region as Assistant Director of Operations covering Hants, IoW, Berks, Bucks and Oxon. He will be my line manager. This is great news as Paul is very proactive.