

# MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th JULY 2023, 7.30PM, AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL

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

In attendance: Heather Bournier – Clerk  
3 members of the public.

### **Apologies for Absence**

1) Apologies for absence had been received from Vicky Fletcher-National Trust and TVBC Cllr Alison Johnston.

### **Co-Option of New Councillors**

2) Due to unforeseen circumstances two of those interested in joining the Parish Council were unavoidably absent. Co-option of new Councillors will take place at the September meeting.

Outstanding declaration of acceptance of office and register of interest forms were provided by Cllr Simmonds.

### **National Trust Report**

3) Vicky Fletcher, General Manager of Mottisfont Abbey had sent apologies but had confirmed she was happy to be contacted after the meeting about any matters arising relating to the National Trust.

The Clerk was asked to contact her and ask for her or a representative to come to the next Parish Council meeting and explain how they are managing the estate and, in particular management of the river.

### **Public Participation**

4) A member of public raised concerns regarding overgrown hedgerows and, in particular, on Oakley Road. The Clerk will contact the National Trust to establish if hedge trimming is tenant responsibility.

Cllr Barnett will put a note in the newsletter reminding householders of their responsibilities.

### **Declarations of Interest**

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

### **Planning**

6) **The following decisions by TVBC were noted:** 23/01266/LWBS- remove & repair marble fire surround- Mottisfont Abbey-consent

**Resolved: that the planning decisions on the following applications were endorsed:**  
23/01266/LWBS- remove & repair marble fire surround- Mottisfont Abbey- no objection

## **7) County and Borough Councillors' Reports**

**HCC Cllr David Drew** – was not present.

**TVBC Cllr Johnston** – sent apologies.

### **Minutes**

8) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2023 were agreed unanimously as a correct record. These were signed by the Chairman.

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

9) Cllr Channing confirmed the agent for the landowner has written to say work is continuing regarding the flood risk at the site and conclusions are awaited.

### **Highways issues**

10) Cllr Simmonds reported some delay with lengthsman tasks caused by his absence through illness. He hopes to catch up in the next few weeks. Cllr Simmonds also said work is taking place on Hatt Hill to clear drains although there is still work to be done to complete the task.

Cllr Barnett confirmed some potholes had been filled although these appeared to be temporary. Permanent repairs had been made at the Kimbridge level crossing.

Cllr Simmonds had circulated a report to all councillors with a proposal to install 'village gates' at the River Dunn. He suggested that these would indicate to drivers that another settlement was imminent and that the gate would create a pinch point which would assist pedestrians where there is no footpath. He suggested he would attempt to obtain funding for this initiative but there would be a cost to the parish council. In discussion, Cllr P Barnett raised concerns as to what this proposal might achieve given that there were already hazards in place such as the railway crossing, a bridge and a sharp bend which slowed traffic down. Concern was also raised that the small gates would not provide any visual narrowing which would warn drivers to reduce speed.

Cllr Channing said Hampshire CC is in negotiation with a company to supply speed awareness cameras approved by the County and it is intended that the price of these machines will be more achievable for Parish Councils. HCC believe the cameras lead to a reduction in vehicle speeds and are recommending them as a way forward. The Clerk gave some background information about a recent installation of speed awareness cameras in which she had been involved. In the circumstances, Cllr Channing said he could not support Cllr Simmonds proposal for gates and Cllr Mrs J and Cllr Mr P Barnett also agreed that this was not a proposal they could support.

### **Kissing Gates**

11) Cllr Mrs J Barnett explained the work on footpath number 1 behind the Mill Arms had yet to be carried out. She said she is still awaiting responses from other landowners contacted and will now will follow this up.

### **12) Resilience**

Cllrs Mr P & Mrs J Barnett reported on a recent resilience forum they had attended. TVBC have been asked by the national government to produce a resilience plan for individual communities. In turn they have asked those in smaller communities to compile plans. Cllr Mr P and Mrs J Barnett will be meeting with a representative from Kings Somborne to review their plan, following which they propose that MPC should create one for Mottisfont & Dunbridge which might then be adapted for other parishes. Significant work will be required but the TVBC project will support many communities in the long term.

The SSEN grant portal was discussed with the possibility of applying for funding for a generator at the Village Hall and, if feasible, to consider a grant application before the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> July.

### **13) Mottisfont & Broughton Bus Service**

Cllr Mr P Barnett reported that there is now a new bus route to Romsey which passes through Awbridge and Audley retirement village which became active on 29<sup>th</sup> June. The service is

fairly well used but not yet back to the strength of numbers pre-Covid. Concerns were raised that additional stops may mean some customers could not get a space, although this would only become a problem if the bus was full. Cllr Barnett said detailed statistics of bus use were kept and he would check to establish user numbers.

#### **14) Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported the audit return for 2023/24 had been submitted and acknowledged by BDO LLP the external auditor body.

She also reported that she had sent a response to the agent who had contacted them with regard to the proposed telecommunications mast. She had posed several questions all of which remain unanswered. Comments had also been sent to TVBC who had acknowledged receipt.

#### **Finance**

15) Balances in the bank accounts were noted at 30/06/2023 as: -

TSB Charity account  
£7037.69  
TSB Business Instant  
£11694.38

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

H Bourner sal July	£296.30
HMRC	£74.20
H Bourner exp	£24.15

#### **Future payments**

H Bourner sal Aug	£296.50
HMRC	£74.20
H Bourner sal Sep	£296.50
HMRC	£74.20

#### **16) Correspondence**

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

Clerks & Council Direct magazine

An email regarding Village Hall bookings

Notices of Public Order from TVBC re Andover & Romsey- dog fouling and alcohol consumption in public places

Email confirming the annual Test Valley Association and TVBC annual conference that will be held on the morning of 30 September- venue to be confirmed.

An email from CPRE giving details of planning advice available

An email from TVBC community engagement officer providing details of activities for youngsters in the area which will be advertised in the village WhatsApp group.

#### **Attendance at Events**

17) See paragraph 12

#### **New Items for next agenda**

18) None at present

The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

#### **Date of next meeting**

19) Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 7.30pm at Mottisfont Village Hall