



MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2024, 7.30PM, AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL

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

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

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr A Simmonds.

2) Public Participation

There were no members of public present.

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 & Matters Arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2024 were agreed unanimously as a correct record. These were signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising- Cllr P Barnett provided accounts regarding the finance for the Warm Hub. The first sessions have been very well attended

5) County and Borough Councillors' Reports

HCC Cllr David Drew – had sent a recent report which has been circulated to all Councillors.

TVBC Cllr Johnston – highlighted the recently circulated Mid-Test Matters. She reported that the new Local Plan to 2040 which had reached Regulation 18 stage has been suspended in view of the possible increase in housing figures announced by the new government. TVBC have written to the housing minister in view of the large top-down increase announced for the number of houses and await a response.

National Trust Report

6) Vicky Fletcher, General Manager of Mottisfont Abbey reported as follows

Village Hall

The building supervisor for the National Trust Letting team has met with a member of the Village Hall management committee and his assessment is that there does appear to be foundation movement at the hall which should be investigated. A structural engineer will be engaged to more fully assess the problem and what needs to be done. It was agreed this matter should be dealt with by the Parish Council as leaseholders and Cllr Channing agreed to meet with a structural engineer. He further said there has been previous work carried out at the hall relating to subsidence and asked that the National Trust review the works carried out.

Visitor Operations

A Nutcracker Christmas at Mottisfont is starting on 23rd November, and running until 5th Jan. The site team are actively preparing to manage the car park.

Current Projects

Rose Bridge

The bridge is currently being manufactured and is due to be craned into place in the week, commencing 30th November.

Milking Parlour/Dairy Barn

This barn is in the farmyard, planning permission has previously been granted for internal alterations within the barn to improve facilities for outdoor teams. Works are likely to start in Jan 2025.

Access Improvements

The TVBC conservation officer has confirmed that a new temporary ramp to the house will not need listed building consent. A safer bespoke ramp has been commissioned which will be arriving in January 2025. There is a plan to replace some of the bark chip paths with all-weather surfaces to improve access to the Old Kitchen Café all year round. A planning application is likely to be submitted for this in Feb/March 2025.

Gardens

New edging has been installed along the driveway to improve presentation standards. A wider project is being put together to start tackling some of the challenges within the rose garden, including conservation of the roses, replacing the archway, drainage and pathways. The river walk also needs some urgent repairs which will involve the Environment Agency and Natural England who will need to give consent.

Countryside projects

Restoration works have been completed on the Rectory Beat this November, re-profiling river banks and putting meanders back into the river. Tree planting works continue, with wood pasture trees going into the Post Office Paddock. Some 13,000 trees were planted last winter, increasing habitat connectivity on the Newlands Farm estate, plus at Mason's Field. A partnership has also been established with the Verderers of the New Forest. Some of the fields at Newlands are providing pasture for the New Forest stallions, one of the only wild herding stallion groups in western Europe. The scheme will help to ensure the breed's future is secure.

Speed Indicator Devices

7) Cllr Simmonds had circulated a proposal for the Parish Council to buy electronic speed indicator devices which could be placed in several areas around the parish on rotation. The Clerk highlighted the Hampshire County Council policy in relation to fitting signs on street furniture present on highways land, which needs to be followed in order that signs can be erected. The matter was discussed in some detail along with the potential of a speed watch scheme. It was agreed to begin by identifying sites for SID devices and seeking approved from HCC before anything can be erected. Cllr Channing and Cllr Simmonds will start by identifying sites together with other councillors. The council resolved to spend £1500 on this project.

The Clerk will circulate the policy to all councillors and in due course, ask HCC which SIDs they recommend.

8) Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted: None

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

Resolved: that the planning decisions on the following applications were endorsed: 24/02523/FULLS-re-roof detached outbuilding, create off street parking & erect gates & fences - Newlyn Farmhouse, Romsey Road.

Vicky Fletcher, Manager of the National Trust at Mottisfont explained the plans for the property. She said the alterations are mainly internal to renovate the building following the departure of a long term resident, who ended his tenancy after a lifetime spent living and working on the estate both with the National Trust and its previous owner. There were no objections raised by the Parish Council.

9) Update on Station Goods Yard

Cllr Channing had shared with all councillors the latest plans on the proposal to build 12 houses on land known as the Station Goods Yard, Dunbridge. The revised plans changed the proposed configuration of parking spaces which had previously been of concern.

No members of the parish had stepped forward with any proposals to buy the land and develop this in a different manner. The Parish Council had sent a statement of facts regarding the site to the planning consultant acting for Orchard Homes. The planning authority's view was unclear and it was agreed that Cllr Channing will contact TVBC and request a meeting to discuss the issue.

10) Highways issues

Cllr Simmonds was absent but had sent a report to confirm while potholes are an on-going problem, Hampshire Highways has been targeting these. He also confirmed that a number of short-term temporary road closures have and are to be put in place to carry out repairs to carriageways in the parish.

He also reported Hampshire County Council is to carry out further drainage inspection along Hatt Hill at Mottisfont and a short temporary road closure will be in place to undertake this work scheduled for the week commencing 25th November and expected to last one day.

Finally, he confirmed he has asked Hampshire Highways to clear blocked drains on Hatt Hill at Mottisfont and also Spearywell Road at Mottisfont (both sections of the B3084) and implement edge-of-carriageway repairs on the bend outside Lime Kiln Meadow at Mottisfont.

The Clerk highlighted concerns expressed at the last meeting by a resident regarding parking at Mill Rise where train users are leaving cars and preventing residents from parking. She confirmed Mill Rise is part of the highway and unless there are any parking restrictions such as double yellow lines, anyone can park in these areas. She had also established the parking area at the station was for those using trains with the exception of one space allocated to the residents of Station House. The house also has a private driveway.

Parish Lengthsman Scheme

Cllr Simmonds reported the Lengthsman has recently completed work on cutting back Hatt Lane, various overhanging hedges at junctions improving visibility for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, amongst other work that benefits Mottisfont Parish.

Cllr Simmonds requested the council agree to pay Stockbridge Parish Council £70 to cover an overspend in the current funding awarded annually by HCC to parish councils taking part in the Lengthsman Scheme. Extra work was required keeping Hatt Lane, road junctions and important signage clear, because of extra growth due to wet conditions throughout the spring and summer months with the result that the budget has been exceeded. HCC has not increased funding but the lengthsman's hourly fees have increased. The repayment was agreed and the Clerk will ask for an invoice to be provided and arrange payment.

11) Resilience

Cllr Barnett reported that a draft plan incorporating suggestions from TVBC will be circulated shortly.

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 and raised concerns that in an emergency there would be no means of contacting the emergency services. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted BT and established that there are solutions and individual users

needed to discuss this with BT who would recommend the best solution.

12) 2025/26 Budget

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget to all councillors along with a request to review this and make suggestions regarding any financial commitments required by the Parish Council. Increased costs to cover inflation, additional spares for defibrillators and the possible expenditure on speed cameras had been included. An increase in the precept was proposed. The matter was discussed in detail and it was agreed the level of precept should rise to £9000. Proposed Cllr Channing, seconded Cllr Mrs Barnett, all agreed.

13) Clerk's Report

The Clerk had provided details of proposed meeting dates in 2025 which were agreed. Bookings for use of the Village Hall for the parish council meetings have been made.

The new government have introduced changes to National Insurance contributions; however, Mottisfont Parish Council will not reach to threshold to make employer contributions.

The Clerk reported that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services have reached an agreement for an inflationary pay increase which amounts to 62p per hour backdated to 1st April 2024. Back pay of £107.36 is therefore due and the pay rate is increased to £19.20 per hour.

14) Finance

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

TSB Charity account

£8790.91

TSB Business Instant

£11905.78

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

H Bournier sal Oct	£322.04
HMRC	£80.40
H Bournier sal Nov	£321.84
HMRC	£80.60
Clerks Exps	£20.00
Community Heartbeat	£120.00
Clerk back pay	£85.89
HMRC	£21.47

Future payment

H Bournier sal Dec	£332.80
HMRC	£83.20
H Bournier sal Jan	£332.80
HMRC	£83.20

15) Correspondence

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

Mid Test Matters newsletter

HALC newsletter

An email asking for posters to be displayed seeking volunteers to help with Citizens Advice

A Clerks & Council direct magazine

16) Any Other Business-None

17) Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 20th February 2025 7.30pm at Mottisfont Village Hall