

MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st SEPTEMBER 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 Bourner – Clerk
Vicky Fletcher-National Trust
Ryan Scott National Trust
No members of the public.

Apologies for Absence

1) Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Cllr David Drew.

National Trust Report

2) Vicky Fletcher, General Manager of the Mottisfont Estate, reported that further planning applications are to be submitted regarding the Rose Bridge, the upgrade of wood chip pathways and improvement of the main entrance to the House. She also said the Trust was expecting high numbers at Christmas but a new visitor manager is now in post so hopefully there will be fewer parking issues.

Ryan Scott explained how the National Trust is managing conservation on the Estate and, in particular, management of the river. He said the Trust is currently moving toward a nature-friendly style of management using natural process such as leaving dead wood in the river to support biodiversity without increasing the risk of flooding. The initiative is supported by the Environment Agency

The previous lease of fishing rights on the river has now lapsed after 17 years and the position regarding a new fishing licence is still under discussion. It will almost certainly be put out to tender to ensure future fishing activity is consistent with the river management regime. Currently surveys of the river are being undertaken, including monitoring water quality. Ryan said that the science around river management has changed considerably over the years and the National Trust want to ensure that any restoration is consistent with current thinking and will be future-proofed. Finally, he said that providing more access to users other than fishermen is also high on the agenda and access to school groups, art groups and guided walks will all be considered.

The tradition of allowing Mottisfont parish residents access to the river banks on designated days in the year was highly valued and the Trust was urged to ensure that this continued.

Public Participation

3) No members of the public were present.

Declarations of Interest

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

Planning

5) **The following decisions by TVBC were noted:** 23/01901/LWBS- remove & repair lintels to West Wing Bedroom- Mottisfont Abbey. Consent

Resolved: that the planning decisions on the following applications were endorsed:

23/01901/LWBS- remove & repair lintels to West Wing Bedroom- Mottisfont Abbey. No objection

6) County and Borough Councillors' Reports

HCC Cllr David Drew – had sent apologies

TVBC Cllr Johnston – was absent.

Minutes

7) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2023 were agreed unanimously as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Simmonds, seconded Cllr Channing. These were signed by the Chairman.

Station Goods Yard, Dunbridge

8) Cllr Channing highlighted the latest position regarding the Station Goods Yard land. The following article will be published in the next village newsletter (the Acorn):

You will be aware of longstanding proposals to develop the old station goods yard for housing. The landowners were unable to secure planning permission and they put the land up for sale some months ago. The latest position is that Orchard Homes of Southampton has agreed terms with them and we now have confirmation that Orchard is starting on the process of bringing forward a small housing scheme. The company's development team is continuing with survey work to establish the site's constraints - which include for example, flood risk, site access and noise attenuation – and these will determine questions like how many homes can be built on the site, their layout and, to some extent, their design.

The proposal for housing will be brought forward under a Test Valley Borough planning policy known as 'community-led development'. This means that our community must be consulted to establish support for the proposed redevelopment and the parish council will consequently work with the developer and local residents to consider how the site could best be developed for housing. Precisely how the consultation will work has yet to be finalised but details will be published in the Acorn, updates will be circulated on the parish WhatsApp group and there will be an exhibition of the proposals which you will be encouraged to attend and to give your feedback. Depending on the progress of survey work, consultation could commence later in the autumn. The final decision on a planning application will be taken by TVBC.

Highways issues

9) Cllr Simmonds reported HCC are slowly but surely carrying out the works they have agreed to. Problems continue to be reported via the HCC 'report a problem' app.

Kissing Gates

10) Cllr Mr P Barnett explained he has reminded the Kimbridge Estate of the request to undertake improvement to footpaths on their land and the work on footpath number 1 behind the Mill Arms had yet to be carried out.

11) Resilience

Cllrs Mr P and Mrs J Barnett have met with the TVBC Chief Executive and the TVBC Emergency Planning Officer, a representative from Kings Somborne Parish Council, and Mottisfont Village Hall Committee to discuss resilience planning for the parish. They will shortly be meeting with Vicky Fletcher, National Trust. Following this they plan to create a plan for Mottisfont & Dunbridge.

Cllr Mrs Barnett said as a small rural community individuals should take personal responsibility to prepare for emergencies and the plan should help point to where they can get help locally. The draft plan will be shared with other Councillors in due course.

12) Burial Ground

Following an informal approach to Cllr Channing, St Andrews PCC has formally contacted the Parish Council to request a grant to help with maintenance and upkeep of the burial ground. (not the Churchyard which a Parish Council is prohibited from financially supporting). The Clerk confirmed that the budget plan for the year included a sum of £500 for this purpose. There was a suggestion that the Parish Council used the HCC-funded lengthsmen to carry out some of this work but Cllr Simmonds confirmed this was not an approved use of the funds.

After a short discussion it was agreed a grant of £500 would be made with the condition that it must be spent on the burial grant. Any further grant request would be expected to include details of how the previous year's grant was spent. The Clerk will action.

13) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the TVBC/TVAPTC conference would take place at Kings Somborne on Saturday 30th September. All Councillors and Clerks were invited to attend.

She also highlighted a TVBC initiative called Thriving Communities. An initial meeting held in August had laid the plans and further workshops were planned for 1st November and 5th December.

Finally, she reported on an initiative to provide some funding toward providing community defibrillators.

Finance

14) Balances in the bank accounts were noted at 31/08/2023 as: -

TSB Charity account
£6272.54
TSB Business Instant
£11712.34

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

H Bourner sal Sep	£296.30
HMRC	£74.20
H Bourner exp	£48.77

Future payments

H Bourner sal Oct	£296.50
HMRC	£74.20

15) Correspondence

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

Clerks & Council Direct magazine

An email providing advice to riparian owners

Letter from Pageant Master regarding D Day celebrations in June 2024

Email from resident regarding clearing grips on Lockerley Road

Attendance at Events

16) Cllrs Mr P & Mrs J Barnett, the Clerk and the Chairman will attend the TVBC/TVAPTC conference.

New Items for next agenda

17) Co-option of new Councillors

The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Date of next meeting

18) Thursday 23rd November 2023 7.30pm at Mottisfont Village Hall