

**MINUTES OF MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING Held on
Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 7.30pm in the village hall.**

PRESENT: Parish Councillors Channing, in chair, J Barnett, P Barnett, Millns, Simmonds, Jenkins and clerk to the council, S Holder. Also, in attendance was Test Valley Borough Cllr Johnston, Louise Govier of the National Trust and two members of the public.

19/049 APOLOGIES: Cllr Gibson

19/050 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

19/051 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 10TH JULY AND 7TH

AUGUST: were sent to all councillors prior to the meeting and unanimously agreed and signed as a correct record by the chairman.

19/052 MATTERS ARISING: None

19/053 OPEN FORUM: No comments received

19/054 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT:

Cllr Gibson sent a report with the following items of note:

- A number of Hampshire County Council sites opened their doors for the Heritage Open Days including The Great Hall, Hampshire Records Office and the Winchester Discovery Centre.
- All children attending Reception Year to Year 2 are entitled to free school meals and older children may be eligible too.
- Highways England updates for major road projects: M3 Junctions 9 to 14 Smart Motorway, M3 Junction 9.
- Many verges across Hampshire offer a vital refuge for rare species of plants and other wildlife. Maintenance of these areas seeks to preserve wildlife habitats as far as possible, without impacting on road safety. Rural grass verges are cut once a year, usually during summer, with the cutting of some verges timed to allow rare species to flower and seed.
- Surface Dressing helps protect the road surface by providing a waterproof seal to prevent potholes and restore any lost skid resistance. Surface dressing treatments are applied when the road is dry. It is a quick process with most sites taking less than a day to complete. A thin layer of new stone chippings improves skid resistance and also reduces the risk of aquaplaning.
- At the Full council meeting on the 18th July, the Council endorsed the decision to declare a 'Climate Emergency' in line with the action taken by many other Councils and Organisation's in the UK and globally, and to commit to develop an action plan to provide a meaningful and effective set of measures to ensure that Hampshire moves towards carbon neutrality and greater resilience to the effects of climate change.

19/055 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

A copy of Mid Test Matters was sent to all councillors in advance of the meeting, and Cllr Johnston highlighted the following items:

- Affordable Housing Strategy – currently out for consultation and of particular interest to rural parishes the rural exception schemes which are 100% affordable, 'community led development' (Policy COM9) schemes where parishes have worked with landowners and developers to bring forward both open market and affordable homes as well as community benefit.
- Abbeywell doctor's surgery, is now offering some out of hours pre-booked routine appointments.
- Scottish and Southern Electricity priority scheme to provide a higher level of service in the event of no power to more vulnerable customers.
- TVBC has also declared a climate emergency and Cllr Jeffrey is chairing the Borough's action group.
- Poor broadband coverage was also discussed.

19/056 NATIONAL TRUST

Louise Govier gave the following report:

- The Abbey took part in the Heritage Open Day.
- The current exhibition is 'Snapping the 60's' in addition to the Harvest being celebrated at the Abbey.
- The recent road closure in the village centre was instigated by Hampshire Highways.
- The Trust have now adopted the BT phone box at Spearywell and it will contain a history display.
- The car park and sustainable travel projects are progressing and will address drainage and properly marked parking bays.
- A surveyor's report has concluded that the cracks in the village hall walls are the result of drainage problems.

19/057 RURAL BROADBAND – RURAL GIGABYTE VOUCHER SCHEME

It was reported that 16 households have responded to the recent Acorn article regarding a voucher scheme to provide funding towards a super-fast broadband solution, and Cllr Channing has had initial discussions with Openreach and Virgin Media.

19/058 PLANNING

At a planning meeting on the 7th August
19/1603/FULLS Former Railway Siding

10 new dwellings

The Parish Council resolved to submit a 'no objection' response to Test Valley Borough Council and to comment on the need for traffic calming measures and to preserve access to the Network Rail land for potential station car parking.

It was reported at this meeting that the Planning Officer considers that the proposal represents a departure from the Development Plan and an objection has been raised, for reasons that include:

- COM2 – the application site lies outside the defined settlement boundaries, therefore falls within the countryside.
- The submission refers to policy COM9. Aside from reference to a series of meetings with the Parish Council (most recently in 2002) within the Design and Access Statement, no detail is provided on how the criteria are satisfied by the scheme. The proposal does not accord with this policy, therefore.
- The proposal does not comprise a form of development that is appropriate in the countryside and it has not been demonstrated that there is an essential need for a countryside location. Therefore, the proposal does not accord with policy COM2 and an objection is raised to the principle of the proposal.
- The proposal is put forward as starter homes, which now falls within the definition of affordable housing as set out within the glossary of the NPPF. Paragraphs 77 to 79 of the NPPF set out the approach to rural housing. There is no specific reference in the NPPF to starter home exception sites.

The parish council agreed that the chairman could meet the planning applicant with the advice of Test Valley planning officers to discuss the proposed housing scheme with the possibility of bringing forward a scheme acceptable to Test Valley and the parish council.

19/01943/FULLS Land off Dunbridge Lane

Change of use of land to equestrian use and construction of ménage

The parish council made no comment on this application.

19/059 HIGHWAYS

Cllr Simmonds gave the following report:

- The B3084 will be completely resurfaced within the next 18 months between Coolers Farm at Broughton and Dunbridge Lane in Mottisfont parish. This will be a thick black tar macadam surface not a chippings surface dressing.
- Cllr Barnett reported that the stile on footpath 164/1/2 has been repaired.

19/060 VILLAGE HALL

- An asbestos survey has identified low risk asbestos in the scout hut roof and an old cistern in an outbuilding.
- The Valuation Office Agency return has been completed.

- As reported by Louise Govier, work has commenced to address the cracks in the village hall walls. The Trust's structural engineer concluded that the cracking resulted from poor rainwater drainage and cost for the work will be met by the National Trust; however the parish council resolved to contribute £2500 towards the work thus fulfilling their obligations in part under the lease to pay for maintenance to the village hall. Noted that the parish council will not be in a position to pay for further work if this work does not resolve the issue and have doubts that this long-standing issue of subsidence is caused by insufficient rainwater drainage.

19/061 FINANCE

TSB Account 00182619	£ 9,033.60
TCB Account 01542503	£ 10,747.91

	£ 19,781.51

a) Payments for Approval (R) = Retrospective

Clerks pay	£434.55	#629
BDO External Audit	£240.00	#630
National Trust	£459.20	#631
Pick Up stickers	£14.20	#632
ICO	£40.00	#633

b) External Audit Report

The clerk reported at this meeting that the External Auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP, have approved the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for year ending 2019 and consider that it has been completed in accordance with Proper Practices. Furthermore, there were no matters that had come to their attention giving cause for concern, and that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have been met by Mottisfont parish council. A notice of conclusion of audit will now be published on the noticeboard and website.

c) S106 for Public Open Spaces

The clerk reported that there was £1058.70 available for public open space projects and the parish council will consider this at the next meeting.

19/062 CORRESPONDENCE

- TVBC – climate change, noted
- TVBC – digital event, noted
- TVBC – 2020 Borough of Culture, the parish council agreed to promote this event
- Cllr Ward – Mid Test Matters, noted

- External Audit Report, noted

19/063 MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllr Channing attended the first Test Valley Borough Council / Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils conference. Items for discussion included planning, resilience and affordable housing.

19/064 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Trains will not be running on Sunday due to engineering work.

19/065 PARISHONERS COMMENTS ON ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

- The Abbey needs to look at other National Trust sites for solutions to parking. It was reported that walkers also use the car park.
- A parishioner commented that he thought the work to be done to the village hall was poor value for money and objected to public money being spent in this way.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm