



## MOTTISFONT PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.**

**Present:**

Parish Councillors:

Jeff Channing (chair)  
Julia Barnett  
Peter Barnett  
Gareth Jenkins  
John Millns

Cllr Andrew Gibson Hampshire County Council  
Cllr Alison Johnson Test Valley Borough Council  
Sue Holder clerk to the Parish Council.

**21/062 Open Forum**

No items were raised.

**21/063 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Simmonds and Vicky Fletcher (National Trust).

**21/064 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**21/065 Minutes of the last meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January**

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January were agreed as a correct record.

**21/066 Matters arising from the previous minutes**

- It was reported that £122.00 deficit from the Lengths man budget for the parish would be carried over to next financial year.

**21/067 Borough Councillor's report**

County Councillor Alison Johnson provided the following report:

- Test Valley Borough Council reserves will be used to offset some of the financial burden caused by the pandemic.
- The Environmental Bill is expected to receive Royal Assent in the Autumn which will deliver consistency in door-to-door waste collection services. This will however be a further financial strain on TVBC as new vehicles and skills

will be required. It is anticipated that door to door collections will include separate card, plastic, glass, and food collections.

- Test Valley Borough Council are conducting a review of the Strategic Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA).
- Hampshire County Council elections are scheduled for this year with some socially distanced leaflet drops permitted.
- The Community Asset Fund and Councillor Community Grant scheme will open again from April. This year Houghton parish council received funding towards a speed indicator device.
- A request to install a telecommunications mast in Lockerley may benefit residents of Mottisfont.

Questions from Councillors:

1. Is there any progress to improve energy efficiency through planning? Test Valley Borough Council have input into the Government review of Building Regulations and the Local Plan to influence new building design and retrofit older buildings to improve energy efficiency. Government grants are also available to support those who wish to be more energy efficient but are constrained by the cost.
2. It was reported that the the owners of Dunbridge Goods Yard seem reluctant to take any planning advice to progress a proposed housing development there.

## **21/068 County Councillor Report**

County Councillor Andrew Gibson gave the following report:

- Hampshire County Council will approve £2.1 billion spending on local services in 2021/22. Plans for the next financial year focus on the county's ongoing work associated with the pandemic, support for vulnerable children and adults, investment in Hampshire's roads and infrastructure to support economic recovery, as well as climate change mitigation. The annual council tax charge for a Band D property will be £1,350.45 – an increase of £1.23 per week, equating to 4.99%, of which 3% is for adults' social care – a Government request. The budget includes £13 million for the maintenance of 5,500 miles of roads and an extra £1.2 million in carbon reduction measures across the County Council. HCC's four-year capital programme of £744 million is one of the largest in the country. The proposed capital programme includes: £68 million in new and extended school buildings to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire, £118 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years, £91 million for integrated transport schemes including over £18 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements, £141 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings and land holdings over the next three years, £33 million for decarbonisation schemes covering solar PV, single to double glazing window replacements, transition from oil to gas and the implementation of heating controls. Over £1 million agreed to support children and young people with disabilities.
- The County Council reinforces its commitment to tackle fly-tipping and is asking residents always to report fly-tipping and ensure that residents use a

licensed company to take away waste, or to take it to a recycling centre themselves.

- Hampshire County Council has announced that Chief Executive, John Coughlan CBE will retire this year.
- A deterioration in the service provided by Highways is expected as the budget will only allow for emergency work.
- Cllr Gibson reported that the Manager of Highways is adamant there will be no change to the status of the B3084.
- New funding is available to supply super-fast broadband to the rural areas.

#### **21/069 National Trust**

The General Manager of the Mottisfont estate, Vicky Fletcher, sent a short report:

- Savills have won the contract for provision of a call service for tenants to report repairs and issues with their property providing a 24 -hour service.
- The visitor booking system remains in place. Visitor numbers are lower than normal due to lockdown, but the Trust is gearing up for an outdoor-only Easter keeping to the capacity of the main carpark. The Trust will have extra staff on duty if needed to help manage the carpark etc.
- The booking system is likely to stay at least until July, after the rose season.
- Visitors who phone up to book continue to be advised to respect government guidance before they book and travel. The Abbey has had a visit recently from the police who were happy with the management and booking arrangements.
- All countryside sites are reporting very busy carparks, including Spearywell.

#### **21/070 Finance**

a) TSB Account 00182619 balance reported as	£ 6162.25
TSB Account 01542503	£ 11564.60
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	£ 17,726.85

#### **b) Payments ratified:**

HALC subscription	£198.41
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- c) Internet Banking: to be carried forward
- d) Insurance pre renewal invitation: The fixed asset register will require updating to establish if cover is adequate.
- e) HALC subscription: The parish council resolved to subscribe to HALC.

#### **21/071 Planning**

- a) New applications received:  
20/03204/FULLS Hazel Cottage – Application withdrawn.

**21/072 Resilience Planning** – Nothing to report.

#### **21/073 Highways**

- a) **Dunbridge village gateway:** reported that the road markings still need to be done by Hampshire Highways.

- b) **Other:** The poor state of road repairs was mentioned again with recent repairs degrading very quickly. Left over tarmac was reported to have been dumped on a verge. Potholes in Barley Hill were reported to be so dangerous that residents are putting traffic cones in them to warn cyclists. Cllr Jenkins agreed to look at the short footpath on Hatt Hill to assess what is required to improve its surface.
- c) **Traffic Speed Indicator:** Cllr Millns prepared a report regarding the various types of speed signs which Councilors could consider. The clerk reported that East Dean and East Tytherley parish councils were unable to share a device for financial reasons. Houghton will be contacted as they have recently purchased a sign.

#### **21/074 Website**

Parish Councils now have a duty to ensure their website meets with accessibility standards, ensuring it can be used by as many people as possible including those with a disability or impairment. Cllr P Barnett reported he has tested the parish site using 'WAVE' and it was fully compliant with the necessary standards. A statement to that effect was agreed to be published on the website.

#### **21/075 Correspondence received was as follows:**

- HCC Access Team – Countryside Code which will be included in the Acorn
- Came and Company – pre renewal message
- Mid Test Matters 21
- HCC Report by Cllr Gibson

#### **21/076 Any other business**

- The village hall noticeboard was reported to be rotten in places and may cost more to repair than anticipated.
- It was reported that the clerk had resigned from the parish council and this would be her last meeting. The parish council thanked her for her support and advice over a period of more than a decade and wished her every success for the future.

**21/077 Date of next meeting:** to be confirmed.

There being no further business, the chair closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.