

MINUTES OF THE MOTTISFONT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Parish Cllrs. Jeff Channing (in chair), Andrew Simmonds, Gareth Jenkins, John Millns, Peter Barnett and Julia Barnett. Clerk: Sue Holder. Guest Speakers Borough Councillor Ian Jeffrey, County Councillor Andrew Gibson, Louise Govier, National Trust, one member of the public and Councillor Alison Johnston were also present.

APOLOGIES: - None

1. CHAIRMANS REPORT – Given by Cllr Channing.

Village Hall As a parish with few facilities, the Village Hall is important. The Parish Council holds the lease from the National Trust and although it had a few years to run, it was approaching its end. The lease has now been renewed with thanks to the Trust for dealing with this so promptly.

The Hall is however, suffering from subsidence and this has got worse recently. The Trust's surveyor and a structural engineer inspected before Easter and they believe that the movement is being caused by inadequate rainwater drainage. Fixing it will require some building works in the car park and possibly some patching of brickwork and then the position will be monitored. We are not aware that this will affect use of the building and the Village Hall committee has been informed.

Planning matters. As you know, there has been a long-standing proposal to develop the Dunbridge station goods yard for housing and the developer has had pre-application discussions with Test Valley planners. The parish council met the owner and architects for the proposed development at their request at our September meeting. We felt that the discussion had been useful because we were able to comment on things that could be improved – like access, layout, drainage and traffic. The landowner has been in contact again in the last few weeks and we understand that he is continuing with the proposal and is making progress with a land swap for part of the site with Network Rail so as to provide additional parking for the station. There is no planning application yet but we assume that if and when the landowner reaches agreement with Network Rail, one will be submitted and we will have the opportunity to consider it formally then and comment to Test Valley.

The parish council has dealt with other planning matters over the year and there is an on-going issue where we are receiving help from the Test Valley enforcement team.

The parish council makes contributions annually to important local facilities. We help pay for the upkeep of the burial ground with the Church and we also make a contribution to the village bus. We are also making a grant this year and next to the cost of maintaining the defibrillators. If there are other parish facilities that might benefit from a contribution, please let us know.

The parish council tries repeatedly to do something about highways, pedestrian safety, traffic speeds and potholes. We requested – and got – a Police speed trap on Barley Hill last year but the occasional visit won't do much good. It was also at the wrong time of day to catch the offenders in the early morning rush. We have set aside a budget to help pay for traffic calming schemes and we keep trying to get a serious conversation with Hampshire about pedestrian safety in Mottisfont centre and Hatt Hill, and traffic speeds on the B3084. We know all about Hampshire's budgetary difficulties but they simply will not engage in discussion. The B3084 is carrying too much speeding traffic and there have been several accidents this year. We are now considering asking for the 40 mph speed limit to be reduced to 30 mph and

possibly a 20 mph limit in Mottisfont centre although we recognise that the solution lies in effective enforcement or traffic calming measures.

Because we are again holding back money for traffic schemes, the budgetary position of the parish council is reasonably healthy, and we should actually like to be able to spend our money. We have agreed not to increase the parish precept this year.

Finally, a reminder of our website. All the parish council agendas and notes of meetings are on it. Feedback from residents and ideas about the website would be welcome.

Questions for the Chairman:

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- 1) **COUNTY COUNCILOR'S REPORT:** Cllr Andrew Gibson reported on the following: Hampshire's population is 1,370,700 (2017) the third most populous county in England (85% is rural and 15% urban). Hampshire CC maintains 5400 miles of roads, 4300 miles pavements, 133,000 streetlights, 481 schools, 45 libraries, 16 care homes for older people, 9 residential homes for children and young people, 24 Household Waste Centres and 5 Country Parks. Every year 94% of all household waste is diverted from landfill (40% recycled) and powers 50,000 homes. Hampshire has an 80% employment rate (UKA 73.9%) and 3.5% unemployment rate (UKA 5%).

Budget

The population of over 75 year olds will rise by 30 per cent over the next seven years - an extra 5,500 people a year who may well need social care support, to varying degrees. The 2.99% increase in Hampshire's council tax will generate an additional £18 million. HCC council tax remains the 2nd lowest in England.

HCC's capital programme is a significant investment in Hampshire's infrastructure, delivering schemes totaling £491.6 million between 2019 and 2022 and providing a boost for the local economy:

- £160 million of investment in new and extended school buildings in Hampshire in the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire
- £122 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years
- £72 million for integrated transport schemes including £9 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements
- £94 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings over the next three years.

School Admissions

98.4% of children in Hampshire have been offered a place at their top three preferred primary school. 98% of children have been allocated a place at their top three preferred secondary school.

Road Maintenance and Operation Resilience

Over 5300 miles of road are maintained by HCC. £10mis invested annually on planned maintenance on top of government funding. The first of Hampshire's brand new Dragon Patchers has arrived to help repair the county's roads, damaged by the winter weather. The

County Council has bought two Dragon Patchers for exclusive use in Hampshire. Sites of road works and road maintenance are listed on the HCC website where problems can also be reported:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance>

Connect to Support Website

(<https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/home>)

Is a useful resource providing information about all aspects of independent living, such as advice about mental and physical health, help and support for carers, and equipment to help people manage at home. The website and app also includes: A directory of local services, activities, charities and helplines to supporting individuals with specific needs; A directory of Care Quality Commission-registered home care agencies that can provide personal and nursing care in people's homes; A directory of registered care homes and nursing homes in Hampshire.

Mottisfont Grants

Last June I was able to donate £1068 toward the Village Hall floor repair from my grant fund. The 2019 grant stream opens in June.

Questions / comments for Cllr Gibson:

1. It was reported that in August Test Valley Borough Council would be relinquishing all highways responsibilities back to HCC. Cllr Gibson responded that the initiative would save money but may affect the service offered.
2. The NHS having full responsibility of Adult social care was discussed briefly.
3. It was reported that there is some confusion about what can and cannot be recycled within the Test Valley.
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- 3) **BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT:** Cllr Jeffrey reported that it was a pleasure to represent Mottisfont parish council in the Borough and introduced Cllr Johnson.
- 4) **NATIONAL TRUST REPORT:** Louise Govier gave this report:
 - The Easter bank holiday was reported to be very busy at Mottisfont Abbey, and the over flow carparks were opened. The parish council did suggest that some improvement with traffic flow through the village centre could still be made.
 - Quotes are being obtained to repair the wall damaged recently by a road traffic accident, and the Trust would be in support of some traffic calming / speed enforcement here.
 - Salmon and trout numbers were reported to have increased following conservation work on the River Oakley.
 - The cracked beam in the Whistler Room at the Abbey will be monitored for a year before any remedial action is taken but is considered safe in the meanwhile as all weight has been removed from the area.
 - The village hall lease has been renewed for a period of 30 years.
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PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS:

The meeting closed 8.15 pm