

## AWBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the online Zoom meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm

**Present:**

Cllr Nick Adams-King (**NAK**)  
 Cllr Peter Allen (**PA**)  
 Cllr David Coggon (**DC**)  
 Cllr Grahame Jackson (**Chair**) (**GJ**)  
 Cllr Paul Legon (**PL**)  
 Cllr Kelly Seymour (**Vice Chair**) (**KS**)  
 Cllr Angela Shepherd (**AS**)

**In attendance:**

10 members of the public

**Apologies:**

TVBC Cllr Gordon Bailey  
 HCC Cllr Roy Perry

**Clerk:**

Ian Milsom

- 1. 01/21 Welcome**  
**GJ** welcomed everyone to the meeting

- 2. 02/21 Apologies**  
 As above.

- 3. 03/21 Declarations of interest**  
**AS** declared an interest in item 08/21 B

- 4. 04/21 Reports and presentations**  
**NAK** gave a verbal report covering the following:

**Corona Virus update**

The TVBC grant stream to support local community groups has been re-opened.

Crosfield hall will be used as a vaccination centre when vaccines become available.

West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group are on target to complete vaccination of care home residents by the end January 2021.

**Romsey car parking charges**

These have again been suspended during the full lockdown period.

### **Nitrate credits**

TVBC Cabinet recently discussed a report setting out plans to create nitrate credits by purchasing and converting agricultural land to woodland or wetland. It may be possible to subsequently open such land to public access.

### **Roke Manor Quarry**

Raymond Brown Quarry Products (RBQP) are bringing forward an application, probably in March 2021, to extend the Roke Manor site. Hampshire County Council is the planning authority for minerals and waste and will consider the application.

The proposal will affect residents in Awbridge and Wellow. There will be an online public consultation and **NAK** has suggested that a representative from RBQP attend the February 2021 meeting of the Parish Council to explain the proposal in more detail and to answer any questions.

### **Planning**

Fence at *Earles Combe*. TVBC planning enforcement believe it needs planning permission and a retrospective application will be forthcoming.

**5. 05/21 Public observations/questions on agenda items**

None.

**6. 06/21 Minutes**

It was proposed that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 be accepted as a true record of the business conducted. **Resolved**.

**7. 07/21 Matters arising from the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020, not on the agenda or included in reports.**

- **Fire hydrant water pressure**

The clerk advised that a letter had been sent to the Chief Executive of Southern Water (SW) on 23 December 2020 requesting information about the testing of the Awbridge fire hydrant. A reply is awaited.

This issue to be placed on the agenda for the February 2021 meeting when, in the absence of a reply from SW, the submission of a Freedom of Information request will be discussed.

**Action: Clerk**

- **Traffic calming project.**

The clerk advised that there was nothing further to report at this time. The project will remain as a standing agenda item.

**Action: Clerk**

- **Neighbourhood development plan (NDP)**

**DC** and **NAK** have made progress in moving this forward and have had further discussions with Action Hampshire

about the Housing Needs Survey. They have also talked further with the consultant who can help with preparation of the NDP. Hard copies of original parish survey sought, together with work carried out on local footpaths.

Parishioner **GP** has a copy of the latter.

- **Invoice for emptying of dog waste bins.**

The clerk advised that following contact with TVBC Finance Department, future annual invoices for the full cost of this service will be issued to the Parish Council and the clerk will undertake to recover fifty-per-cent of the cost from Awbridge Village Hall Trust.

A query was raised about the regularity of the emptying of the dog waste bins, and the general waste bin by the bus shelter on Romsey Road. The clerk undertook to obtain this information from TVBC.

**Action: Clerk**

- **Logo competition.**

The clerk advised that to date there has been no interest in the competition. The clerk will re-launch the competition when schools fully re-open.

**Action: Clerk**

## 8. 08/21 Planning

### A. To consider planning applications notified to the Council

No notifications were received at date of issue of the notice of this meeting. Subsequently, however, information pertaining to application No. 20/02810/FULLS, former Stanbridge Earls Playing Fields, Old Salisbury Lane, Awbridge, was received and discussed at the meeting.

The 20/02810/FULLS application is for retention and regrading of the existing levels to the western side of the site in the location of the former playing fields, and the provision of additional soft landscaping.

**NAK** provided contextual information. Construction spoil deposited on the Stanbridge Earls playing field has raised the level of the field to such an extent that a substantial 'bund' has been created. This impacts on several Stanbridge Earls properties which were marketed as having an open view across the playing field. Asbestos has been buried at the southern end of the playing field, contaminating the land. The amenity of the public footpath that runs close to the boundary with Stanbridge Earles has also been impacted.

An Awbridge parishioner who lives close to the Stanbridge Earles playing field read out the contents of a letter of objection submitted to TVBC. The letter includes points

raised by NAK above and adds the further problem of flooding of gardens and land in Awbridge adjacent to the Stanbridge Earls playing field site.

Following extensive discussion it was agreed that Council's response be to object to the application. The clerk and **NAK to** liaise and produce a form of words to encapsulate the concerns and issues raised by residents and by the Parish Council. The Council's response to Test Valley Borough Council is attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

In his role as TVBC Councillor, **NAK** apologised to those present that oversight of this development did not meet the usual high standard expected of the local planning authority.

- B.** To further discuss application 20/01448, land west of All Saints Church, Church Lane.

**NAK** outlined the current situation. **NAK** had a useful conversation with a member of the Church Lane Residents Group, when a range of issues were discussed, including a suggestion that a way forward was a meeting between Church Lane residents and representatives of All Saints Church only. **DC** has carried out preparatory work in anticipation of a meeting which, it was emphasised, would not form part of the formal planning consultation process.

**DC** explained his hopes for the meeting, which should take place in the week beginning 25 January to fit with the planning process timetable. Attendance will be limited to Church Lane residents who have concerns about the development, and representatives of All Saints Church. Awbridge Parish Councillors may also attend as observers only. In summary, this will be an informal community meeting with those most affected by the development. It is hoped the meeting will aid understanding of the position of each of the parties involved and will enable them to make changes that will not compromise their respective positions. It may not prove possible to reach such a position, however, ideas may emerge that can be put to the developer for consideration. There will be no obligation on anyone to be tied to anything. No solution will be ideal for everyone.

It will be helpful if as much preparatory work as possible is done in advance of the meeting to ensure that the time available is put to best use. Anyone can contact **DC** in furtherance of this end.

**DC** acknowledge that the above process should have taken place earlier in the process, but felt we are where

we are and should take this final opportunity to try and reach as amicable a solution as possible.

**GJ** expressed concern that the developer will not be present at the meeting to deal directly with suggestions for mitigation. **DC** felt the developers presence would not be conducive to an informal community discussion. Points raised can be put to the developer via Church representatives. If these are rejected by the developer, clear reasons should be given.

It was proposed that the Parish Council defer reaching a decision on this application until its February 2021 meeting. **RESOLVED**

**Action: Clerk**

## 9. 09/21 Financial and Administrative

- a. To receive financial reports to 31 December 2020.

The reports were noted. The clerk asked Members if they have any questions on these. **DC** asked about the increase in General Admin. costs and the apparent small difference between the accounts balances and those shown in the bank statements. The clerk to provide clarification.

- b. To consider application for grant support of £250 from Awbridge District Village Association, this to support the production and publication of the Awbridge Newsletter.

This item was carried forward from the January 2021 meeting pending further information about the reason for a grant application, as opposed to the submission of an invoice, and the amount of grant requested. The clerk provided information which clarified the reason for the application and the amount requested.

It was proposed that the amount paid to ADVA, on production of an invoice, for the Parish Council's regular monthly news feature in the ADVA newsletter, be increased from £165 to £250 per annum. **Resolved.**

**Action: Clerk**

- c. To consider application for grant support from Awbridge Village Hall Trust to support the purchase and installation of a public address/sound system.

Copies of two quotations were circulated to Members prior to the meeting. One supplier quotes a price of £8727.96 inclusive of VAT, the other supplier quotes a price of £8709.41 inclusive of VAT.

The Village Hall Trust committee member leading on this project outlined the reasons for wishing to update the equipment and explained the type of equipment that will be installed and its benefits for both indoor and outdoor events held at the Village Hall.

The Village Hall Committee favours acceptance of the lower of the two quotations due to the simplicity of use of the equipment, which can easily be operated by external hall hirers.

The following issues were raised and discussed:

- the output of the sound system and any scope for associated noise nuisance affecting nearby properties.
- insuring the equipment
- protecting the equipment from theft.
- whether the village hall sound system is a strategic use of CIL, as opposed to spending money on the first project that asks for a grant.

It was proposed that a grant totalling £6449.00 be paid to ADVA from the Parish Council CIL Fund and that the balance, £2260.41 be shared between the Village Hall Trust Committee and ADVA. **Resolved.**

It was noted that the Parish Council will be able to reclaim VAT (£1451.57) on the full amount of £8709.41, leaving a net CIL grant figure (£6449.00 less £1451.57) of **£4997.43.**

- d. It was proposed that the payments detailed under be approved. **Resolved.**

S Nightingale. £78.95. SLR December maintenance  
 HMRC PAYE October – December 2020 £236.40  
 I Milsom Salary & Allowances October – December 2020  
 £997.67  
 Awbridge Village Hall. Invoice for emptying 1 x dog waste bin by TVBC £240.  
 I Milsom. Refund of cost of purchase of 1 x shredding machine £59.99.

#### **10. 10/21 Land at Newton Road, Newton**

This was raised briefly at the December 2020 meeting. Following discussion it was proposed that it be recorded that the Council has no interest in purchasing the land in question. **Resolved.**

#### **11. 11/21 National Census 2021**

To agree Council's response to the census questionnaire. It was agreed that **GJ** would deal with Council's response.

**Action: GJ**

**12. 12/21 Risk management schedule**

It was proposed that this be deferred until the February 2021 meeting of Council. **Resolved.**

The clerk was asked to circulate further copies of the risk management schedule in advance of the February meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

**13. 13/21 Public engagement/Raising PC profile**

The clerk advised that **AS** has supplied a pen portrait and photograph for the Council website.

**14. - Closure of meeting**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

**Appendix 1****TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL****Town and Country Planning Act 1990****PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL RESPONSE ON APPLICATIONS**

Application No. 20/02810/FULLS	Case Officer: Mr Paul Goodman
--------------------------------	-------------------------------

Proposal:	Retention and regrading of the existing levels to the western side of the site in the location of the former playing fields, and the provision of additional soft landscaping.
Site:	Former Stanbridge Earls Playing Fields, Old Salisbury Lane, Awbridge.

Expiry date:	11 December 2020
--------------	------------------

**AWBRIDGE Parish Council** has considered the above submitted proposal and makes the following observation:

Support  No objection  No comment  Objection

**Reasons for objection:**

1. The original planning permission was given on the basis that the field would remain for the benefit of the residents living in the new properties.
2. None of the flood issues have been resolved to the satisfaction of the flood authority. The raised 'bund' created by the works is resulting in flooding of neighbouring land and gardens in Awbridge Parish.
3. The footpath FP198/2-1 is missing entirely from the planning application – both the written and the plans. For information it is on the western edge of the rectangular field. The outlook from the footpath (Romsey Extra 2, Awbridge 709 and 710) is now disrupted and the path now runs alongside an artificially raised section of ground.
4. We are concerned that the substantially increased height of the land has a detrimental impact on the amenity of the ground floor flats in buildings built alongside the playing fields, contrary to policy LHW 4 of the TVBC Local Plan.
5. The locations in which waste from the demolished school buildings has been buried, most particularly asbestos waste, must be identified in the plans before planting or landscaping proposals can be considered in order that the safety of residents and those using the

footpath running across the site can be assured. The Parish Council considers the applicants have so far failed to provide reassurance in terms of the buried waste and consequently the application fails the test set by Policy E8 (Pollution).

6. The artificially raised surface is contrary to policy E2 (Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough) most particularly when viewed from both the footpath and the newly built properties along the boundary of the site.

*Dan Milsom*

Position: Clerk to the Council	Date: 26 January 2021
--------------------------------	-----------------------

## Appendix 2

### Outcome of previous planning applications

20/02577/FULLS. Land Adjacent Dunbridge Lane. Erection of agricultural building for storage and track room. **WITHDRAWN**

20/01449/FULLS. Awbridge Farm Cottage, Dunbridge Lane.  
Single storey side extension to form open plan kitchen, dining and living area.  
**PERMISSION subject to conditions & notes.**

20/02526/AGNS. Earle combe Church Lane. Application to determine if prior approval is required for steel portal framed agricultural building. **WITHDRAWN.**