

AWBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in Awbridge Village Hall, Romsey Road SO51 0HG on Thursday, 27th February 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Jackson (Chair) (GJ), Seymour (Vice Chair (KS), Coggon (DC), Adams-King (NAK), Sheppard (AS), Allen (PA), Legon (PL) In attendance: 6 members of the public, Fred Tucker (FT) Warden, All Saints Church Awbridge, Cllr Roy Perry, Hampshire County Council (RP)

Apologies: Cllr Gordon Bailey TVBC

Clerk: Ian Milsom

Action

STANDING ITEMS

1. 11/20

Welcome, apologies for absence and declarations of interest

GJ welcomed everyone to the meeting. No declarations of interest were made.

2. 12/20

Members' annual declarations of interest update

The clerk issued Members with a form to enable them to confirm that there have been no declarable changes to their register of interests. Forms to be completed and returned to the clerk.

ALL

3. 13/20

Public observations/questions on agenda items To suspend the business of the Council to allow members of the public to make observations or put questions to the Council about items on the agenda, and to raise issues relating to highways (including verges), footpaths and drainage ditches.

• Community litter picking

The clerk circulated, to Members, copies of an email received regarding a hazardous substance (asbestos) encountered at the bottom of Awbridge Hill by a volunteer during the latest village litter pick. The author of the email also requested that in future the clearance of litter in Awbridge become the responsibility of Test Valley Borough Council.

These issues were discussed in some detail and it was established that volunteer litter pickers receive, from the litter pick co-ordinator, a health and safety briefing and are advised of what to do if any problems are encountered. Volunteers are issued with the necessary protective clothing, such as gloves. The alleged occurrence was not reported at the time to the litter pick coordinator.

Two Test Valley Borough Council employees who were in the vicinity at the time, were not aware that asbestos sheeting had been encountered and did not, as the litter pick volunteer has suggested, simply ignore this incident.

It was agreed that the clerk and **NAK** will respond appropriately to the author of the email.

Clerk/ NAK

- **Public footpath pointer**

It was reported that the public footpath pointer at the steps leading from Romsey Road to the recreation ground is leaning towards the highway and needs attention. **KS** will add this to the Lengthsman's worksheet.

KS

- **Southern Water Goodwill Payment**

In the context of the monies received from Southern Water, see agenda item 9. below, a parishioner suggested the village pond be reinstated. This was discussed and the difficulties associated with the proposal were highlighted. The land in question, opposite Awbridge Primary School, is owned by the Highway Authority (Hampshire County Council), who are likely to be reluctant to agree as it would become responsible for the future maintenance of the pond. **RP** felt that a better use of this piece of land would be to provide much-needed parking for the school run, which has long been suggested.

4. 14/20

Reports and presentations

GJ raised the purchase of a St George's flag to fly on St George's day. The clerk advised that this would cost between £20-£30, and its purchase was unanimously approved.

CLERK

RP informed that having stepped down as leader of Hampshire County Council, he has been elected Chairman of South East England Councils, a grouping of over seventy local government bodies spanning the counties of Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, and Buckinghamshire. The major task of this group is to remind government of the investment needs of the south of England. **RP** also represents Hampshire on the County Council Network and the Local Government Association.

Councillor Perry's written report to the parish council forms appendix 4. To these minutes.

NAK provided a verbal report to the parish council covering:

- **Southern Water**

After a lengthy period of negotiation, the utility company has made a goodwill payment of £1000 to the parish council. This is in recognition of the considerable inconvenience endured by the community during the protracted works to replace the water main. Whilst a significantly higher settlement was pursued, the sum received does represent a marked increase of the £250 originally offered. The parish council will now be seeking views on how this money should be spent to the benefit of all Awbridge residents (See agenda item 9. below).

- **Nitrate neutrality**

There is slow, but steady progress and the various affected parties are gradually converging towards a solution. The planned meeting with the Housing Minister did not take place due to a Cabinet re-shuffle.

Hampshire and Isle of White Wildlife Trust (The Trust) has put forward a scheme which could reduce nitrate pollution. The proposed scheme would involve removing lower-grade agricultural land (that which is less suitable for growing crops) from intensive production, stop the application of fertilisers and create natural habitats, such as traditionally grazed meadows, wetlands or woodlands. (Similar to Fishlake Meadows).

Natural England has accepted that they need to revisit their assessment of how much nitrate needs to be mitigated. By summer 2020, The Trust should be able to offer developers 'nitrate credits', that will allow residential development to move forward. Currently 100 planning applications are being held up, involving around one thousand homes.

- **Crofton development**

NAK has been liaising with Test Valley Borough Council Planning Enforcement (TVBCPE) concerning the reported infill of the drainage ditch. TVBCPE have been unable to act as the developer has stated that permission to do this was obtained from Hampshire County Council Rights of Way Officer. The developer was present at the parish council meeting and disputed that this statement had been made.

A discussion followed which ranged across the usefulness of the ditch in terms of water drainage, the incidence of surface water in and around the site (allegedly due to the infill of the ditch and movement of soil from the Crofton site to the Kents Oak care home site) and water ingress to the garden of one particular property (the owner of which was present at the meeting). It was claimed that surface water is also causing deterioration of the access lane.

The parish council asked the developer to reinstate the drainage ditch and to take immediate temporary action ahead of Storm Jorge, which it is predicted will bring further wet weather over the period 28 – 29 February, to prevent further flooding to the garden of the property mentioned above.

NAK provided information regarding the topography of the land at Kents Oak, where a 'water sponge' sub soil is topped by layers of clay and topsoil. Piercing the top two layers releases water from the sub soil which then rises to the surface, where it pools. **NAK** asked the developer to bear this in mind when developing the Kents Oak site.

- **Planning applications**

TVBC agreed to change the scheme of delegation. In circumstances where there is a recommendation for refusal solely on the grounds of nitrate pollution, this can be called into Committee. The nitrate information will be added to the refusal documentation, enabling the developer to assess the action needed.

- **Council Tax**

Test Valley Borough Council's precept has gone up by 3.1 per cent.

- **Motor vehicles parking on pavements**

NAK confirmed that this is a police matter

- **Garden furniture sales**

There have been incidents recently of scams involving the sale of garden furniture. Report any local incidents to **NAK**.

5. 15/20 Minutes

Outstanding queries on the draft minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2019 were addressed and the necessary text added/deleted. It was then proposed by **NAK**, seconded by **DC** that the minutes of 28th November 2019 be accepted as an accurate record of the business conducted. **CARRIED.**

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2019 not on the agenda or included in reports

• Payroll administration

The clerk confirmed that this task would remain in-house

It was proposed by **KS**, seconded by **PA** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2020 be accepted as an accurate record of the business conducted.

Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2020 not on the agenda or included in reports. None.

6. 16/20 Planning

Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Action Hampshire has recently approached Council regarding commencement of the housing needs survey. **NAK** and **DC** will pick this up.

Church Lane – Land adjacent to All Saints Church

Prior to the meeting, **FT** had circulated the information requested by the Parish Council regarding the capacity of the church graveyard and typical traffic volumes/vehicle parking when the church is in use.

FT advised that the Church would have a further meeting with Test Valley Borough Council Planning in the week beginning 2nd March 2020 and the Parish Council will receive an update at its meeting on 2nd April.

The Parish Council requested that Winchester Diocese provide written confirmation that they will not provide financial support for the extension of the All Saints Church graveyard, or for parking provision at the church.

7. 17/20

Financial and Administrative

• Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) licence.

The clerk was authorised to sign the licence agreement with Hampshire County Council. Clerk to establish if current SLR can be changed for one which displays a smiley mojo when vehicles approach within the speed limit.

• **Bank reconciliation** was circulated and signed by **GJ** and the clerk and forms appendix 3 to these minutes.

• **Review of current statement of employment.**

Change to employment law notified by Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) was discussed. Clerk to ask HALC for cost of providing a new model staff contract which covers the changes and additions required. **KS** also offered to provide relevant information.

• **Review of Risk Register.**

Council's view was that the format should be changed to a colour-coded and number-scaled assessment of risk, with the addition of impact details. Clerk to produce a draft for further discussion at the April meeting. **CLERK**

• **To authorise payments detailed at Appendix 2.**

It was proposed by **PA**, seconded by **NAK** that these payments be authorised. **CARRIED**

• **Parish Lengthsman** – to receive tasks for worksheet

- Check on condition of Council-owned outdoor assets and make recommendations for maintenance, repair or replacement
- Secure public footpath pointer at the steps leading from Romsey Road to the recreation ground
- Remove mud from road at site of RTC on Saunders Lane. o Highway verge near Stanbridge Earls.
- Secure roadside reflector post that is leaning into road.

8. 18/20 Workplan

This was reviewed, and progress noted.

OTHER BUSINESS

9. 19/20 Southern Water (SW) goodwill gesture

To discuss how the payment of £1000 from SW may best be spent for the benefit of the Awbridge community.

Various options were considered, including a contribution to audio/visual equipment for film nights at the village hall.

It was proposed by **KS**, seconded by **PA**, that the monies received from Southern Water be earmarked as a contribution towards audio/visual equipment for the village hall. **Carried.**

10. 20/20 Grants to voluntary organisations

Following discussion, it was proposed by **NAK**, seconded by **DC** that the following grants be made:

- All Saints Church £500
- Victim Support £50

11. 21/20 Correspondence received

All relevant correspondence had been circulated prior to the meeting.

12. 22/20 Date of next meeting and items for the agenda

Next meeting confirmed as 2nd April 2020

GJ circulated a paper containing ideas for the use of monies received from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and asked that this be placed on the agenda for the April 2020 meeting. The range of ideas were:

- Multi Use Games Area – cost approximately £100,000
- Outdoor Gym Equipment - cost approximately £1,000 plus installation and ground works
- Additional parking provision at Cowleas Cottages – cost approximately £32,000
- Village entrance gates – cost approximately £250 plus installation (Clerk to ask Wellow Parish Council what they paid in total)
- Footpath from Hansards to Village Hall

Appendix 1

Planning Applications

No planning applications were considered at this meeting.

Outcome of previous planning applications

19/02940/FULLS Land Adjacent Dunbridge Lane, Awbridge. Erect equestrian barn and provision of associated parking and turning area. REFUSED.

19/02596/FULLS East View, Saunders Lane. Erection of 5 Dwellings. CURRENT.

19/02494/LBWS Coles Farm Cottage Awbridge Hill Awbridge Romsey Hampshire SO51 0HF. Extend chimney to a height of 1.8 metres and provide chimney pot. CONSENT subject to conditions and notes.

19/01563/FULLS Kents Oak Rest Home Kents Oak Awbridge SO51 0HH. Partial demolition and conversion of existing care home to detached house with attached car port and erection of two further detached residential units with attached/detached car ports. CURRENT

Appendix 2

Cheque payments for authorisation

Cheque no. 000009 S Nightingale £76.88 SLR Maintenance

Cheque no. 000010 ADVA £165.00 12 x monthly parish council features in ADVA News

Cheque no. 000011 All Saints Church £500.00 Grant

Cheque no. 000012 Victim Support £50 Grant