

Newsletter Autumn 2020



**Ampfield Parish
Council**

An update on what's going on in our parish



Parish Council in Lockdown

When lockdown was declared on 23rd March the council meeting scheduled for 6th April was cancelled.

The annual parish assembly was due to take place on 27th April but it soon became clear that it was not going to happen this year. Articles had been written for the annual newsletter for delivery in mid-April and it was decided to publish it on the council website which is much easier than hand delivering some 800 copies.

Most of the day to day activities of the council are conducted online and our clerk, Kate Orange, works from home so there was no adverse impact upon the business.

We installed Cisco Webex and conducted virtual meetings from early May. These meetings took place with the use of a shared PowerPoint screen and have not presented any problems, other than one or two technical glitches when people couldn't get into the meeting.

At our meeting on 8th June we co-opted Mujeeb Rahman to the council. This was conducted using Survey Monkey to facilitate a confidential ballot online.

At the time of writing, our virtual meetings continue.

Chapel Wood



The past six months has proved quite challenging for Chapel Wood. Despite conducting a full survey of the health and safety of the wood last year, there have been a number of incidents where branches, some substantial, have fallen away from their main trunk. On each occasion, the council has undertaken remedial work, either directly or through its contractor. One exception to this was when SSE was called out to remove a large branch that was suspended above the overhead power cable in the vicinity of Chapel Hill.

Whilst this has proved an expensive exercise, both in terms of time and resources, it is important that the council continues to look after the woodland in this way. Chapel Wood is an idyllic setting, enjoyed by many local people both as a community wood and as the home of Ampfield's parish burial ground.

Ampfield Parish Council is most grateful to its dedicated team of local volunteers. The Friends of Chapel Wood take care of the wood, act as referee where appropriate and seek to develop features that will improve the enjoyment that the wood brings to many people, for example adding strategically placed seats. Over the next year, the Friends hope to continue to develop their plans to maintain and improve the burial ground, as well as enhancing the pond area.

The Friends meet in the church car park at 09:45 on the second Saturday of every month. New members are always welcome.

Parish Councillors

Bryan Nanson (Chair), Graham Roads (Vice Chair), David Stevens, Chris Ling, Julie Trotter, Julian Jones, Martin Hatley, Kathleen McCallum and Mujeeb Rahman

St Mark's Church

During the pandemic the church was forced to close its doors and follow the government guidelines. Currently there is an In-person Communion service at St Mark's on some Sunday mornings between 11am and 12noon, attendance requires pre-booking by emailing joinin@acnb-church.org. There is a Tuesday morning service held in the glade behind the church, weather permitting, at 10.30am, no booking required. The website: www.acnb-church.org has all the service updates and news from the benefice.

Ampfield Neighbours

In response to Covid-19

AMPFIELD **NEIGHBOURS**

working with

unity

The Test Valley Borough Council Volunteer Support Group

A group of Ampfield residents have come together to help as volunteers working with Unity during the Covid-19 pandemic. Unity is the Test Valley Borough Council Volunteer Support Group.

If you live in Ampfield and need help with collecting prescriptions or shopping

contact Unity on the Test Valley Community Helpline -

0330 400 4116

or

UnityC-19@unityonline.org.uk

Someone from **AMPFIELD NEIGHBOURS** will be in touch.

Over the past few weeks, the news bulletins covering the incidence of Coronavirus have made depressing reading. The number of cases reported nationally is on the rise again, as is the number of cases being reported in the borough, although the latter remains below that being experienced in the country as a whole.

With that in mind, the Parish Council thinks it is worth reminding parishioners of the help that is available locally, for instance picking up medicines or essential shopping where people are trying to self-isolate or shield. On its website, Test Valley Borough Council provides details of available local services:
<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-1>

For residents of Ampfield, Ampfield Neighbours has been set up to work with the charity Unity, assisting local people with shopping and collecting prescriptions. Details are available on the Parish Council website: www.ampfield.org.uk. If you want assistance, you should contact Unity and someone from Ampfield Neighbours will be in touch.

Equally as important is the need for more volunteers. When we had the idea to set up Ampfield Neighbours, it was with the hope we would never be called upon but, if there was a need, we would be ready. To make sure this can remain the case, we will always want and welcome new volunteers. If you would like to help, please email ' graham@ampfield.org.uk '.

Recreation Ground



Following delays caused by heavy winter rain and then Covid, the new playground was installed in June and appears to be popular.

The car park, for which planning consent was obtained in 2005, is finally being constructed and should be completed when the Newsletter is published, thanks to the securing of several grants from Test Valley Borough Council. As a result the recreation ground facilities will become more readily available to those parishioners who live outside a normal walking distance. Hopefully, this will result in greater use of the Ampfield Pavilion (when Covid restrictions are eased).

This represents the implementation of our strategy of new pavilion, playground and car park. We are now taking the opportunity to review and consider what more, if anything, is now needed.

Dog walking continued unaffected by lockdown and after a relaxation of restrictions, the cricketers managed to squeeze in a few matches before the end of season.

Planning

We have experienced a high volume of planning applications which has necessitated frequent (virtual) meetings of the Planning Committee. We also spoke at a recent meeting of the TVBC Southern Area Planning Committee.

Ampfield Village Hall

Whilst the village hall has been closed we have carried out some much needed maintenance. The walls have had a fresh coat of paint, roof repairs have been completed, we have new curtains to hang, we had new energy efficient heaters fitted in the garden room and the main hall floor is getting its finishing touches. The hall will look better and brighter than you'll remember. We are fully prepared to face the future with our thoroughly sanitised community hall. We're very excited about welcoming you all back and celebrating a new beginning together, but we will be making sure that our re-opening will be as safe as possible for everyone.

The Market's 20th year celebrations are on hold and it looks like the earliest possible easing of restrictions will be February 2021, but there's no certainty. However we believe that the Market, when it re-opens, will be bigger and better than you'll remember. So, on behalf of the village hall committee, we look forward to seeing you as soon as the current restrictions are lifted.

Julie Trotter (Village Hall Secretary)

How do I get in touch with Ampfield Parish Council?

Correspondence to the Clerk to the Council: Kate Orange
2, The Square, Braishfield Road, Braishfield, Romsey SO51 0PQ
Tel: 07922 118840
Email: clerk@ampfield.org.uk

Parish Website

Our new website has gone live

Here are some improvements that the new website at www.ampfield.org.uk brings:

- The new design works smoothly on your tablet, smartphone, laptop or desktop PC.
- Content has been rewritten to make it easier to read.
- The structure of the website has been redesigned making it easier and quicker for you to find the information you are after.

We welcome any feedback you may have on how we can further improve the website.

On the website you can find out about the history of Ampfield, what the parish council is doing, about the church, village hall, Ampfield Pavilion, cricket club, burial ground, heritage area, Chapel Wood, footpaths, traffic speeds and volumes, who to report many of the everyday problems in the village to, this and earlier copies of the newsletter and much, much more. Please note that the "Planning Tracker" function is not yet working.

No personal information is collected by this website (we do ask for your email address if you want to contact us), but if desired a secure https version is available at <https://www.hugofox.com/community/ampfield-18484/home> 2020