



## DRAFT MINUTES

West Meon Parish Council  
5th Mar 2024; 7.30pm; West Meon Village Hall

### PRESENT:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair); Cllr Edwards; Cllr Gedye (left 8.39pm); Cllr Silk (left the room at 9.14pm; returned at 9.16pm); Cllr Waller; Cllr Burke; & Cllr Davies.

### In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Bolton (WCC; left 9.26pm); Cllr Pett (WCC; left 8.47pm) & five members of the public.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2637	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of Georgina Rose and all other villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2638	Apologies	Apologies received & accepted from Cllr Thomson. Apologies received from Cllr Lumby (HCC).	
2639	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None declared.	
2640	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2641	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. Members of the public commented on the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WM Safe and Sound Working Group - will WMPC be putting forwards an application to HCC for traffic calming measures? [Chair advised that report is to be discussed later in meeting. Cllr Waller to send Tony Dees a copy of the Ben Hamilton-Bailey 2011 Toolkit for Traffic Calming and Civility.]</li></ul>	
2642	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	

2643	District councillor's report & questions arising	<p>Report received (Appendix A). Cllrs Bolton &amp; Pett commented as follows:</p> <p><b>20mph</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wouldn't apply to A32 due to nature of the road. This is a major road therefore main purpose is for the use of traffic. Also, policy states that there is no funding for this. Circa £30k - legal costs and work costs. CiL funding may possibly be used. Grants? But quite unlikely. HCC have made clear that any work will be carried out on a full cost recovery basis. May be able to make a case for 20mph on High St/ Church lane/Station Rd. 40mph-30mph on East Meon Road is also a possibility. Entrance gates &amp; virtual pavement could potentially be considered, but total cost likely to be huge. Support in principle but not practical. Funding for refreshing traffic calming in centre of village?</li> <li>• Cllr noted that when the lollipop lady was no longer funded by HCC, nobody in the parish came forward to offer alternative funding.</li> <li>• Cllr also commented that, during previous traffic calming measures in 2010, the virtual pavement was supposed to be coloured as well, but this didn't happen. Having this carried out could be beneficial.</li> <li>• Farringdon village has introduced graduating speed sign changes (50mph-40mph-30mph). How did this happen? Could work on A32 through West Meon.</li> <li>• Cllr Waller confirmed that there are 7k-9k vehicle movements through West Meon on A32 per day.</li> <li>• Road surface changes carried out in 2010 have only been repaired once, and only by cross-roads. Average speed reduced by 4mph.</li> <li>• Cllr Pett reiterated that anything proposed to HCC will be on a cost recovery basis. Much stronger case to go back to HCC re repairing original 2010 work done.</li> </ul> <p><b>EA/Sluice Issue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Bolton - although sluice is on EA asset register, they have confirmed that they don't own it.</li> </ul> <p><b>Apparent Work on Carpark at the West Meon Hut</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Bolton commented that it looks like the landowner is just tidying up, rather than doing major works.</li> </ul>	
2644	County councillor's report & questions arising	<p>Report received (Appendix B). WMPC cllr - commented re areas on HCC consultation. Huge list. Individually, must respond. Looks like County Councillor grant funding will no longer happen. [Lots of money going into transport in more heavily populated areas e.g. Basingstoke.]</p>	
2645	Mins of previous meetings (06/02/24)	Agreed as a true record.	
2646	Flood Action Group	To be covered in item 2647.	

2647	Flood Risk Report	<p><b>Resolved:</b> that the PC delays until April 2024 the appointment of a contractor to carry out flood modelling, options testing and consultation on the section of the River Meon that runs through West Meon. The Clerk will seek a third quotation and also request advice from the internal auditor regarding any alternative powers for funding.</p> <p>It was noted that there is a meeting involving Flick Drummond 05/04/24.</p>	Clerk
2648	WM Safe & Sound Report & Community Speed Watch	<p><b>Resolved:</b> that the PC has received the report from WMS&amp;S, considered the potential benefits of the Community Speedwatch Scheme, and will act as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllrs to review the WMS&amp;S report before the April meeting.</li> <li>• Clerk to look into Auto Speedwatch box. To bring to April PC meeting.</li> </ul>	All cllrs Clerk
2649	Bus Service 67 & Community Transport	<p>Background discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WMPC has already responded to the HCC consultation regarding potential reduction in rural bus services.</li> <li>• Cllr Waller has received figures from Stagecoach. Data may support the PC's case but need more in depth explanation. [Cllr Pett advised that the bus fare has reduced due to Central Government funding &amp; reduction in number of journeys corresponds with restrictions on the rota-ing of drivers which has reduced services the number of services going as far as WM e.g. stopping at Meon Hut instead.</li> <li>• Cllr Pett commented that the subsidy for the Meon Valley Community Bus (MVCB) is very small. WMPC cllr asked if service 67 is parred back, does this free up the route for the rest of the day for another provider e.g. MVCB (with support from PC; other organisations etc)? [Cllr Pett advised that money from HCC is used as a down-payment for new equipment etc not running costs. Limitations are placed on MVCB in terms of there being only one bus; and a small pool of volunteers.] Cllr Waller asked if a bigger bus was needed &amp; that there is a need for a strategy looking forward 5 years or so to be able to plan. [Cllr Pett commented that the Community Bus Association has reservations about the MVCB expanding under financial assistance from e.g. the PC because it wants to retain its independence. Also could have issues with volunteers not having licence to drive larger buses.]</li> <li>• Cllr Pett asked if WMPC was a Southern Parishes member? [Not at the moment.]</li> <li>• WMPC cllr - can the PC contribute more to the HCC Consultation?</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that the PC has considered the impact of potential cuts to HCC funding for bus service 67 and community transport schemes and will act as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Trenchard to attend Transport Forum 27/03/24 and aim to raise the above concerns.</li> <li>• We are WM - note to be sent out encouraging residents to respond to HCC consultation.</li> <li>• Cllr Waller to write a further representation from the PC for Clerk to send to HCC.</li> </ul>	Cllr Trenchard  Cllr Waller/ Clerk



2655	Planning apps received after 28/02/24	None.	
2656	Planning decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDNP/24/00361/CND - 11 Woodland Cottages, West Meon, Hampshire, Medlar Cottage, Woodlands, Bramdean, Hampshire, SO24 0HW. Removal of condition 2 from planning application SDNP/23/01850/HOUS. (Approved.)</li> <li>• Clerk to chase re SDNP/23/00779/FUL planning app. More work has taken place but the PC has not been informed that planning consent has been granted.</li> </ul>	Clerk
2657	Planning WG	No written/verbal report this month.	
2658	Community, Housing & Recreation WG	<p>No written report. The following updates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Boules</b> - agenda item for April 2024.</li> <li>• <b>New playground</b> - installation started 06/02/24 but has been delayed by poor weather. Currently a couple of days behind schedule. Some work may need doing where adult gym equipment has been removed (spoil from the groundworks for the new equipment has been added but more likely to be required).</li> <li>• <b>Adult gym equipment</b> - to be given away. Clerk to look into how best to advertise. HALC? SLCC?</li> <li>• <b>A-board policy</b>. Land opposite butcher's shop belongs to HH. Any A-boards put on that piece of land will need to have a licence (obtained from WCC).</li> <li>• <b>Parish News:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A-boards.</li> <li>• Auto Speedwatch box.</li> <li>• WMS&amp;S report.</li> <li>• Flooding update.</li> <li>• Hydrologist report.</li> <li>• Ensure councillors' names are correct.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Clerk  Cllr Trenchard
2659	Entrance signs - Woodlands	<p><b>Resolved:</b> that the PC has considered all quotes received for the supply (or supply and installation) of x3 cast aluminium signs ('WOODLANDS' above; 'PARISH OF WEST MEON' BELOW) and appoints JK Engineering/K Knight Engineering to supply and install the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3x cast aluminium signs;</li> <li>• Kindersley font;</li> <li>• Lettering 89mm (above) and 50mm (below) high;</li> <li>• Oak board backing &amp; legs; and</li> <li>• Maximum cost £850 each.</li> </ul> <p>It must be confirmed that all three signs will be in the parish of WM, and that HH will grant permission.</p> <p>Agreed unanimously.</p>	Clerk

2660	Telephone kiosk - Woodlands	<p><b>Background information:</b> some Woodlands residents have requested that the PC funds the purchase of a K6 George V crown telephone kiosk, to be positioned opposite Woodlands Pond (same position as original kiosk which was removed circa 10 years ago). Costs estimated at £4,860 (purchased from X2 Connect). Sum of £1k to be donated by Woodlands WEB (obtained through a grant awarded by Cllr Hugh Lumby).</p> <p><b>Amended proposal:</b> that the PC <u>reconsiders</u> in the next financial year the request from (some) Woodlands residents for the PC to fund the purchase and installation of a K6 George V crown telephone kiosk opposite Woodlands Pond. For the proposal to be <u>reconsidered</u>, the following conditions would have to be satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A defibrillator should be installed within the kiosk.</li> <li>• There needs to be a clear paperwork trail regarding any SDNPA funding (50%?).</li> <li>• Clear consideration is given to the priority of more important, practical pieces of heritage infrastructure e.g. fingerpost sign/s.</li> <li>• The Clerk obtains copies of the formal quote from X2 Connect (and all other associated suppliers/contractors), and strives to obtain a further two comparative quotes, as per the PC's standing orders.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that the PC <u>reconsiders</u> in the next financial year the request from (some) Woodlands residents for the PC to fund the purchase and installation of a K6 George V crown telephone kiosk opposite Woodlands Pond. For the proposal to be <u>reconsidered</u>, the following conditions would have to be satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A defibrillator should be installed within the kiosk.</li> <li>• There needs to be a clear paperwork trail regarding SDNPA funding (50%?).</li> <li>• Clear consideration is given to the priority of more important, practical pieces of heritage infrastructure e.g. fingerpost sign/s.</li> <li>• The Clerk obtains copies of the formal quote from X2 Connect (and all other associated suppliers/contractors), and strives to obtain a further two comparative quotes, as per the PC's standing orders.</li> </ul>	
2661	Clothes bank	<p><b>Resolved:</b> that the PC approves the request from Recycling Solutions on behalf of the Hampshire Air Ambulance to host a clothing bank in the Recreation Ground carpark. To be sited next to the Beech tree near Rifle Club building.</p>	Clerk
2662	Finance & Administration WG	<p>No written report received &amp; Cllr Edwards and the Clerk confirmed that there is no current update on leases and land registration.</p>	



20mph speed limits on roads that have a strategic function, where the movement of motor vehicles is the primary function, will only be permitted where stringent technical requirements need to be met. On the other hand, there are less requirements needed to be met on minor roads such as residential roads which are well suited to the introduction of 20mph speed limits.

The revised policy position sets out the “before” mean speed thresholds for the different hierarchy of roads where 20mph limits can be considered without the need for additional traffic management measures.

The thresholds will be 24mph on the Primary and Secondary Strategic Road Network and also those parts of the Primary Distributor Road Network that have a strategic function and 26mph on the Secondary Distributor Road Network and Local and Minor Road Network which do not have a strategic function.

Where “before” mean speeds are above the relevant threshold, supporting measures will need to be explored to enable a 20mph speed limit to be progressed/introduced.

Speed Limit Reminder/Speed Indicator Device (SLR/SID) ‘before’ mean speed data can be used as evidence for consideration of a 20mph speed limit on those roads that do not have a strategic function.

A relaxation of the current requirement to move SLR and SID signs every 2-3 weeks is proposed to allow devices to remain and be re-deployed at locations giving more flexibility to address key locations of community concern.

It is anticipated that wider use of electronic speed signs will play an important part in helping manage traffic speeds, particularly on strategic routes that would not be suited to a 20mph limit.

The proposed revised policy position seeks to enable wider use of 20mph restrictions in appropriate locations where drivers are most likely to respect a lower speed limit. However, this will only be considered on a full cost recovery basis, but it was agreed that section 106 and CIL funding could be considered to support applications.

A very interesting fact from the HCC report that does make you question the cost/benefits of 20 mph speed limits is that the Task-and-Finish Working Group were presented with updated ‘before’ and ‘after’ speed data for the Winchester City Centre which showed that ‘before’ speeds were 21.4 mph and the latest ‘after’ speeds recorded in 2022 were 20.9 mph resulting in a 0.5 mph reduction and there were no further changes from the earlier ‘after’ speed data.

This probably reinforces the theory that rather than 20 mph speed limit signage, other traffic management measures that makes a motorist feel they are entering an area that requires slower speeds to navigate, such as a sense of the road narrowing by the introduction of gateways for example, will ultimately achieve better results and could be considerably cheaper.

### **Southern Water - Clean Rivers and Seas Task Force**

Councillors recently received a briefing where Southern Water explained their ongoing work to reduce storm overflow releases by finding new and innovative solutions to deliver infrastructure that's more resilient and adaptable. Southern Water established a Clean Rivers and Seas Task Force in November 2021, and the team has ambitious targets to meet.

The Task Force is responsible for delivering six pathfinder projects over the next two years with £35m of accelerated funding agreed with Offwat, as well as delivering a regional plan to reduce storm overflows between now and 2030.

If you would like to understand the problem more and some of the solutions being explored please follow this link: <https://youtu.be/WtCyMY9G3ug>

### **Waste and Recycling update**

In response to the Council’s ‘go greener faster’ priority, the Environment Act 2021 and the government’s ‘Simpler Recycling’ announcement in October 2023, the council proposes to, and must by law, introduce



changes to the waste and recycling service that allow residents to recycle more, including food waste, and wishes to do so in the most environmentally friendly way possible.

A recent consultation exercise provided strong evidence that our residents care about recycling, want to recycle more, and want to keep it simple. In response to this and the government's latest guidance, and following an options appraisal, it is being recommended that the council introduce a co-mingled recycling collection and a separate weekly food waste collection by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

Further consultation and engagement detailing these proposed changes and how they impact residents will be completed before any change is implemented. Discussion of all these changes is ongoing and includes consideration of financial and carbon costs, infrastructure, and timescales for implementation, as well as changes to the service offered by our waste disposal authority, Hampshire County Council. Further updates on HCC's county wide decision is likely in March 2024.

Kind Regards

Jerry Pett

Neil Bolton

Winchester City Council Ward Members for Upper Meon Valley

## APPENDIX B

## HCC Cllr Hugh Lumby's Mar 2024 Report

### 1. County Council Budget Consultation

I talked about the ongoing consultation on the County Council's future services in my last report. That consultation is seeking Hampshire residents' views on proposals to change and reduce some local services and help the Authority address a £132 million budget shortfall faced by April 2025.

You can read more about the consultation here: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/future-services-consultation>

A reminder about the areas covered by the consultation - road maintenance and winter gritting, public transport, street lights, school crossing patrols, parking charges at rural countryside car parks, homelessness support, library stocks levels, adult social care contributions, grants for voluntary and community organisations, funding to Hampshire Cultural Trust and changes or closures of local Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Many people have already responded. The consultation runs until **the end of the month** so if you have not responded yet, I do encourage you to take part. This affects us all. A number of people have emailed me with thoughts - again, do still reply to the consultation or email the thoughts to the Council's Insight & Engagement Unit on [insight@hants.gov.uk](mailto:insight@hants.gov.uk).

### 2. HCC budget 2024-25

The County Council's budget for the next financial year has been approved by council. This budget covers £2.6 billion of public spending on the ongoing delivery of important local services to Hampshire's 1.4 million residents.

From 1 April 2024, Hampshire County Council's portion of council tax will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care and supporting the county's higher numbers of older people and adults with complex needs and disabilities – in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,533.24 for a Band D property – an increase of £72.99 per year or approximately £1.40 a week.

The increase will generate an extra £39 million of vital income towards the delivery of crucial services to the people of Hampshire in 2024/25, and still means that Hampshire has one of the lowest council tax precepts of any county in England. Even with this increase, there is still a significant gap in the budget which will be filled from reserves – dedicated funds set aside specifically to address such shortfalls.

The County Council also approved the spending of £880.6 million over the next three years on capital programmes to help boost jobs and the local economy, the quality of the environment and contribute towards the County Council's commitment to tackling climate change. This provision for Hampshire's infrastructure, including more school places, improving roads and bridges and investing in the fabric of Hampshire's older people's social care estate, is one of the largest in the country, and brings the County Council's four-year total investment in the fabric of Hampshire to £1.4 billion, providing a huge boost to the local economy through jobs, skills and construction.

### **3. Transforming in-house care for older people**

I have referred previously to the proposed changes to how the County Council operates its in-house care homes for older people. The plan is to focus on specialist nursing and complex dementia care, as well as short term pre and post-hospital support, to better meet the needs of the county's ageing population.

These plans have now been approved, comprising a £173 million investment programme. It will increase the overall number of beds available to local people from 900 to 1,000, within a reduced network of 13 homes. Approving these plans secures the long-term future of our in-house homes ensuring they remain in the Authority's ownership – in stark contrast to the many other local councils who have sold their homes in recent years.

### **4. New Local Transport Plan approved**

The County Council's new local transport plan (known as LTP4) has been approved. Its aim is to boost economic prosperity, reduce carbon pollution and help promote healthy lifestyles and build stronger communities over the next ten years. It is guided by two principles, widening the choice of travel options that people can use and providing a transport system that puts people first and creates high quality places.

### **5. County councillor grants scheme**

Thank you to everyone who applied for grants from the County Councillor grant scheme before its close on 29 February. I was able to support a diverse range of projects from across the division this year, including helping the coronation party and new Christmas lights switch on in Whiteley, supporting works to the village hall in Waltham Chase and the youth club at the Methodist Church there, a grant towards the Cricketers Pond renovation in Curdridge, help refurbishing the war memorial in Swanmore, contributions towards goal posts in Droxford and play areas in Hambledon, support for the film club in West Meon and new signs and a telephone kiosk in Woodlands.

**Councillor Hugh Lumby, Meon Valley Division**