



DRAFT MINUTES

West Meon Parish Council
9th Jan 2024; 7.30pm; West Meon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair); Cllr Edwards; Cllr Gedye; Cllr Thomson; Cllr Silk; & Cllr Waller.

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Lumby (HCC; arrived 7.46pm; left 8.41pm); Cllr Bolton (WCC; arrived 7.52 pm; left 8.41pm); Cllr Pett (WCC; arrived 7.52pm; left 8.41pm) & four members of the public.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2569	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of all villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2570	Apologies	No apologies received from WMPC cllrs.	
2571	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None declared.	
2572	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2573	Resignation of Councillor	Resolved: that the PC formally acknowledges the resignation of Jane Nicholson and approves the Clerk advertising for a further co-opted councillor. Specific roles to be re-assigned as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance WG - Cllr Thomson. • Parish News - Cllr Waller (Clerk to update website). • PC website (Cllr Silk; as a back-up to the Clerk). Generic e-mail address on website to be changed to clerk's new e-mail address. • NEST pension for Clerk (as back-up to Clerk) - Cllr Thomson. 	
2574	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. No questions.	
2575	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	

2576	District councillor's report & questions arising	<p>Report received (Appendix A). Cllr Bolton commented as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampshire hospitals consultation - encouraged to get involved. • Hampshire 20mph speed policy paper - PC would be financially responsible - legal side likely to cost circa £10k; officer's time would be charged for. • Bus contract subsidies - HCC proposal that service 67 reduced to school bus service only. Cllr Pett to send full info to Clerk. <p>Questions to WCC Cllrs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is data from speed indicator devices available? [Cllr Pett to sort.] • Flooding update? [Cllr Bolton has been looking at quote for a consultancy survey of the river situation, incl. remedial action required and in what order, to reduce flood risk. Quote from RAB - £4.5k to £5k (would cover just the section of river through WM). Cllr Bolton to send quote etc over to FAG team and Clerk. No idea of time-frames at the moment. Cllr Bolton to check. FAG group to meet.] <p>Cllr Pett asked if there had been any contamination from East Meon sewage plant? [Not as far as cllrs are aware.]</p>	
2577	County councillor's report & questions arising	<p>Report received (Appendix B).</p> <p>Questions to Cllr Lumby:</p> <p>Is Lengthsman scheme protected for 2024/25? [Not known. Cllr Lumby to enquire.]</p>	
2578	Police/PCSO report	<p>No report received. Clerk has requested stats for 2023 (for Parish News) but not yet received. Cllr Trenchard to join Neighbourhood Watch app to receive details of regular stats.</p>	
2579	Mins of previous meetings (05/12/23)	<p>Agreed as a true record.</p>	

2580	Clerk's progress report	<p>Parish Lengthsman Agreement - timetable for 2023/24 as follows: 31st Jan 2024 Cllrs to supply list of work for Clerk to send to Lengthsman. To include - three bus shelters - moss to be removed from roofs. - section of pavement used frequently by school families mossy & requires cleaning - Cllr Waller to e-mail details to Clerk. WMPC-WMVH lease – no further updates. Community, Housing & Recreation WG Lengthsman (steps between Marlands Lane & Storeys Meadows). Awaiting response from Mark Armitage (Hyde Housing) re update on if/when repairs are taking place. Replacement by HCC of x2 redundant traffic speed signs on A32. No update. VDS – Cllr Waller has been in contact with SDNP to clarify exactly what is needed on the consultation response sheet. Assistance to be given. Second consultation (by SDNP) will happen in 2024. Footpath 10 Cllr Edwards to update. (Public questions & comments) repair/replacement of fingerpost signs in Woodlands - Clerk contacted Mark Keighley (HCC Highways Engineer) who is happy to coordinate. Small amount in the HCC budget for finger post repair/replacement, but it will have to come out of the 2024/25 budget. However, quotes etc can be sought before April 2024. Mark has requested location maps, historical pictures, info on what remains/is missing etc. This info has been requested from Woodlands residents.</p>	<p>Cllrs Edwards/ Waller</p> <p>Cllr Waller</p>
2581	Bank account	<p>Bank balance - £134,343.52 Cllrs have been provided with statements 162 (current account 01/12/23 to 04/12/23) & 163 (current account 05/12/23 to 31/12/23; balance £83,981.77); & statement 04 (savings account 01/12/23 to 31/12/23; balance £50,361.75).</p>	Clerk
2582	Grant Requests – WMVH	<p>Resolved: that the PC approves the following grant: • Additional £250.00 for WMVH to assist with the insulation of the ceiling of the storage room. (Note: original application was for £500.00. Incorrect amount of £250.00 was stated on the Dec 2023 PC agenda, and hence approved. This is the balance of what was requested.)</p>	Clerk
2583	Q3 2023/24 Financial Report & Statement	<p>Resolved: that the PC approves the Q3 2023/24 Financial Report & Statement.</p>	
2584	Insurance premium	<p>Resolved: that the PC accepts the insurance renewal quotation of £1,617.12 for Dec 2023 to Dec 2024 from Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd. [2022/23 - £1,532,78; £84.34 increase; 5.5% increase.]</p> <p>Clerk to ask insurance co re boules court i.e. if land registration hasn't yet been sorted & no lease in place, who is responsible?</p>	Clerk

2585	Budget & Precept 2024/25	Resolved: that the PC approves the budget (as per draft supplied to councillors in advance of the meeting) and precept of £40,503.00 for the financial year Apr 2024 to Mar 2025.	
2586	Grant limits	Resolved: that the PC agrees that the current limit of £500.00 per applicant per year remains appropriate. Info on what is remaining in the grants budget to be released in Jan each year & previous plus new applicants can then apply. Clerk to update PC's grant policy.	Clerk
2587	Payment of accounts	<p>Mrs J C Tester £609.35 Clerk's salary & mileage claim (Dec 2023)</p> <p>NEST Clerk's pension (Dec 2023) £60.32</p> <p>West Meon Village Hall Hall hire (Dec 2023) £18.00</p> <p>HugoFox Monthly website charge £11.99</p> <p>Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd £1,617.12 Insurance premium Dec 2023-Dec 2024</p> <p>Payments in addition to those listed on the agenda:</p> <p>Computer Problems Solved Ltd £135.00 E-mail/website domain set up 04/12/23</p> <p>M R Edwards £3907.24 Rec ground maintenance for 2023. [N.b. Cllr Edwards did not take part in any discussion/ voting on this due to personal interest.]</p>	Clerk
2588	Planning applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/23/05261/HOUS - 1 and 2 Pest Houses Petersfield Road West Meon Hampshire. Two storey extension to rear of semi-detached pair of cottages. [NO OBJECTION.] [<u>Cllr Silk did not take part in any discussion/voting on this due to personal interest.</u>] • SDNP/23/05251/FUL - Westbury House Nursing Home , West Meon Road, East Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 1HY. Demolition of the existing structures that comprise the disused care home and replacement with a new single dwelling and associated buildings including a lodge with additional ancillary residential accommodation and associated landscaping works. [NO OBJECTION to this application on the understanding that the following conditions are imposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A competent, regulated company for the removal of asbestos should be employed. • A comprehensive traffic management plan is provided. The new entrance will be within West Meon. The PC requests sight of this plan in advance of the start of works. • There is provision of protection for St John's House. • Potential impact on the River Meon is carefully considered. There is substantial flow of water through this land, and extensive existing flooding issues in West Meon.] 	Clerk

2589	Planning apps received after 03/12/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/23/05377/HOUS & SDNP/23/05378/LIS - Graziers, Alton Road, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1JF. Single storey extensions to Grade II listed building; internal alterations; alterations to drainage and external landscaping, internal and external alterations to garage and installation of solar panels on garage roof. [NO OBJECTION.] 	
2590	Planning decisions	Noted.	
2591	Planning WG	No written/verbal report this month.	
2592	Community, Housing & Recreation WG	<p>No written report. The following updates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boules - SC sent new plans to Planning Authority. Changes are non-material. Application to be submitted on this basis. Ecological enhancements appear acceptable. SC have met with a contractor who has estimated that the works will take approx. 2 weeks & should start some time in April 2024. • Parish News – Items to be included in the next PC report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital consultation • Bus service consultation • Reminder to keep vehicle speed down in High St • Flooding - progress is being made. Cllr Gedye main contact. • Salt/grit in WCC bins - not for personal use. • Salt bins - clerk to report empty bin on Marlands Lane (half way up; blue) 	Clerk
2593	Gate from Carpark to Recreation Ground	Resolved: that the PC agrees to replace the current 10ft gate with a 12ft gate to allow easier access onto the Recreation Ground. Costs to be split between the PC and the Sports Club. Max total spend £400 (£200 each). Cllr Edwards to cost.	Cllr Edwards
2594	Recreation Ground Play Equipment Tender	<p>Resolved: that the PC awards the contract for the new Recreation Ground play equipment to Creative Play Ltd, at a cost of £49,705.00 subject to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory reference checks • Cllrs Waller & Edwards delegated to agree mulch vs wet pore; colour of surfacing etc. <p>Adult gym equipment:</p> <p>Cllrs agreed that the adult gym equipment at the Rec Ground should be removed to negate the need for fencing around the new play equipment (at a cost of circa £4k if carried out by Cllr Edwards or £8k if Creative Play). Cllr Edwards to organise removal and storage. Clerk to look into sale etc.</p> <p>Cllr Waller to include details in Feb 2024 not Jan 2024 Parish News.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllrs Edwards & Silk/ Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Edwards/ Clerk</p>
2595	Annual Play Area Inspections Mar 2024	Resolved: that the PC agrees to The Play Inspection company (organised by WCC) carrying out the annual inspection of the play equipment at both the Recreation Ground and Meon Wara, at a cost of £54.95 per site, with no optional extras required.	

2596	Entrance gates/signs for Woodlands	Resolved: that the PC refuses the proposal to support entrance gates for Woodlands, BUT agrees to the Clerk looking into the feasibility/cost of signs ('Woodlands/Parish of West Meon') for Feb/Mar meeting. These would be in keeping with signage throughout the parish. Clerk to consult HH (approval would be required). Clerk to ask Cllr Lumby for a County Councillor grant. Woodlands residents to be informed of the decision.	Clerk
2597	Finance & Administration WG	No written report received & Cllr Edwards and the Clerk confirmed that there is no current update on leases and land registration.	
2598	SDNPA CIL Funding	Proposed: that the PC postpones discussing potential projects for the 2023/24 round of the SDNPA CIL funding until the Feb 2024 PC meeting. Cllr Waller to e-mail initial ideas to councillors in advance.	Cllr Waller
2599	Flood Action Group	Cllr Gedye reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Butcher has reported that drainage work has been successful this time. • Westbury House - work ongoing. • Hall Place - agreed to do necessary work. • Lynch Lane - very flooded (2 x drains are completely blocked). By Davina Cottage; 1st bend in Lynch Lane. Clerk to report to HH. • Builder working on Davina Cottage has reported that at the bottom of Lynch Lane there is a bridge - prevents water flowing back into the river. Gullies required. HH to be approached. 	Clerk Clerk
2600	Reports & Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pothole on Lippen Lane reported to HH but not considered requiring action at this stage. Cllr Waller to send new photo to Cllr Lumby to take further action. • Cllr Trenchard & the Clerk plan to attend the HALC Hampshire Local Resilience Forum 11/01/24. 	Cllr Waller
2601	Date/time of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues 6th Feb 2024 at West Meon VH (Small Hall); 7.30pm. 	
2602	Confidential matters	No members of the public/press were present. No confidential matters were discussed.	

The meeting closed at 9.22pm

Signed:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair)

Dated:

Signed:

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

APPENDIX A

Go Greener Faster Grant Clinic

Winchester City Councillors' Jan 2024 Report

Last month we highlighted several grant sources for various types of projects and one of which was the Go GreenerFaster Grant scheme available from Winchester.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations/go-greener-faster-grant>

The Sustainability Team are holding an Advice Clinic on the Go Greener Faster Grants to advise and assist applicants. Please follow the link below for further details about the event.

[Go Greener Faster Grant: Advice Clinic Tickets, Wed 17 Jan 2024 at 13:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Contact Anna Wyse, Sustainability Manager, via email awyse@winchester.gov.uk or phone 01962 848 538.

Modernising our Hospitals and Health Services Programme Team

Just before Christmas the public consultation about how between £700 million and £900 million should be invested in hospital services to transform healthcare for communities across Hampshire.

The NHS are asking people to tell them what they think about the plans put forward to build a new hospital, invest in Winchester hospital, and proposals for future services.

The proposals – in a nutshell

- Building a brand-new hospital on the current Basingstoke hospital site or near Junction 7 of the M3 for specialist and emergency care, such as strokes, heart attacks, trauma (treating life and limb threatening injuries), emergency surgery, obstetrician-led maternity care, and separate children's emergency department.
- Significantly investing in the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester which would focus on planned operations and procedures and provide a 24/7 doctor-led urgent treatment centre that would see and treat around 60% of the patients who currently go to Winchester A&E, same day emergency care services, and midwife-led birthing unit.
- Continuing to deliver day-to-day hospital services such as outpatients, diagnostics, and therapy services from both the main hospital sites.

More detail is available at the following website, www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk

Get involved and have your say

Clearly the proposals are more complex than a few, perhaps over-simplistic, headlines might suggest. They will also likely have an effect on other NHS facilities used by people in the UMV Ward, particularly if some of the 'blue light' load is taken by Queen Alexandra Hospital in Cosham. It's therefore important to understand the full implications of the proposals, beyond the headlines and soundbites, and the wider effect on NHS services in our part of rural Hampshire. There are several opportunities to have your say:

So far, they have held three in person listening events, in Winchester, Andover, and Alton, and an online event.

There are many more in person and online events planned throughout January and February 2024, and details are on the website along with a consultation questionnaire for people's feedback, as well as other ways that they can get in touch to share their views: by email at hiowicb-hsi.mohhs@nhs.net, by calling 0300 561 0905, or by writing to Freepost HAMPSHIRE TOGETHER.

They are also keen to come to talk to community groups about the proposals, either in person or virtually – please do contact them if this is of interest.

As you know, with these proposals, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve hospital facilities and hospital services for our local community. It is important we have our say and express clearly the different needs that a rural community, such as ours may have, within Hampshire.

Neil Bolton & Jerry Pett
Winchester City Council Ward Members for Upper Meon Valley

APPENDIX B

Hampshire County Councillor's Jan 2024 Report

1. Household DIY waste charges ended

From 1 January 2024, residents using Hampshire County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) will no longer be charged for disposing of their DIY waste - in line with the Government policy changes.

Up to two 50-litre rubble bags, or one bulky item such as a sink or toilet pedestal, will be accepted for free, at a maximum frequency of four visits over four weeks. Anything more than this amount will be chargeable at current rates, as permitted by national legislation, to cover specialist disposal costs. DIY waste can be accepted at all HWRCs in Hampshire except New Alresford due to its restricted size. Customers must also be able to lift, carry and empty out their DIY waste.

The Council estimates that the removal of the charges could impose an additional cost to Hampshire council taxpayers of up to £2 million every year. This is because recycling or disposal of DIY waste, such as soil, rubble, asbestos and gypsum board, requires specialist processing and the fees we currently charge help to cover these expenses. This will need to be taken into account as part of the Council's savings proposals to help meet a £132 million budget shortfall faced by the local authority from April 2025. This will include a review of Hampshire's HWRCs.

2. Schools

Parents with children due to start school or move to a junior school in September 2024 are reminded that they have until **Monday 15 January 2024** to submit their primary school applications. Parents will have the best chance of being offered a place at one of their preferred schools by applying on time and naming three preferences on their applications.

A recent survey across secondary schools and colleges in Hampshire shows a large increase in the percentage of young people both experimenting with, and using vapes. The survey shows that experimentation with vapes increases from 4% in year 7 to 53% in year 13. Similarly, vape use increases from 7% in year 10, to 18% in year 13. The Council is therefore continuing its clampdown on shops selling vapes illegally to underage buyers. Test purchase operations took place in December 2023, with visits to 17 different premises with teenage volunteers helping officers by going into the businesses to attempt to buy a vape, also known as an e-cigarette. Since September 2023, Trading Standards has prevented the sale of over £200,000 of illegal vapes and e-cigarettes by removing them from shops across Hampshire.

3. Fire and Rescue Authority Mid-Year Update

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service has published its mid-year update on their annual performance. This provides useful (and positive) insights as to the activities of the service and is well worth a look. The update can be seen at <https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/HIWFRS-2023-24-Mid-Year-Performance-Update-Report.pdf>

4. Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan consultation

The consultation on the updated plan is expected to start during the week beginning 08 January 2024 and to last for 8 weeks. Details can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/minerals-waste-update>

5. Climate change and nature recovery

The Council has published its Climate Change Annual Progress Report which highlights the progress of council backed community initiatives and its own efforts to tackle climate change. One example is the Solar Together scheme - over the past two years, 2,100 households have purchased competitively priced solar panels, resulting in the installation of 7,400kw of rooftop solar power, which has the capacity to save an estimated 46,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.

Separately, the Council is launching a survey asking residents where they would like to see improvements for nature recovery, their views on nature priorities and what action they may be taking locally to help nature in their area. This is an important first step in the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which is intended to create a blueprint for the recovery of nature in Hampshire – outlining what we can do, where the opportunities for doing it are, and considering how it can be delivered alongside wider positive environmental outcomes for people and nature, such as reduced flood risk. It will provide organisations with a framework for developing nature recovery projects and help prioritise funding and investment in Hampshire's nature's recovery. Here is a link to the [online survey](#).

6. Roads

A reminder that part of the A32 Droxford Road near Wickham – from the crossroads junction with the B2177 Southwick Road and Bridge Street to north of Rookesbury Park Farm – will shut for one week starting on Monday, January 8.

A final report for your perusal, this time the County Council's [Highways Service Annual Review](#) for 2022/23 which offers useful insights into the Highways team's activity over what has been an exceptionally busy and challenging period. You can access the review via the link. You will notice the continuing intensive focus on fixing potholes and other road defects following confirmation of the 3-year Stronger Roads Today campaign in July. This has enabled the deployment of significantly more repair teams and specialist equipment with the primary aim of making our roads better, fixing defects more quickly, and addressing the widespread deterioration from last winter's wet and freezing weather.

7. Happy New Year

My best wishes to everyone for 2024, I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Councillor Hugh Lumby, Meon Valley divisionhugh.lumby@hants.gov.uk