



DRAFT MINUTES

West Meon Parish Council
07 May 2024; 7.30pm; West Meon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Edwards (Acting Chair); Cllr Waller; Cllr Thomson; Cllr Davies & Cllr Burke

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Wallace (HCC; left 8.47pm); Cllr Bolton (WCC; arrived 8.10pm; left at 8.34pm); Cllr Pett (WCC; arrived 8.10pm; left 8.34pm); & 2 members of the public.

Meeting started at 7.33pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2701	Election of Chair for 2024/25	Resolved: that Cllr Trenchard is elected as Chair of the PC for the year 2024/25. [Cllrs voted unanimously for.]	
2702	Chair's Acceptance of Office Forms	Councillors agreed that, in Cllr Trenchard's absence, the Chair's Acceptance of Office Form could be signed as soon as possible after the meeting.	
2703	Election of Vice-chair for 2024/25	Resolved: that Cllr Edwards is elected as Vice-chair of the PC for the year 2024/25. [Cllrs voted unanimously for.]	
2704	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of all villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2705	Apologies	Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Gedye & Trenchard.	
2706	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None received.	
2707	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2708	Public questions & comments	<p>Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative of WMS&S commented that the group is disappointed that PC has not supported its request to apply for 20mph speed limits & a reduction in speed limit from 40 to 30mph on the road from East End. [Cllr reiterated that PC has agreed to request from HCC four actions at this point in time. These four are considered to be achievable & at no cost to the PC. However, if these are not successful, other options will be considered.] 	

2709	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	
2710	District councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (Appendix A). Cllr Pett also gave the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in the law late 2023 - WCC must actively 'seek to further the purposes' of the South Downs National Park when taking any decision that affects the Park area. May need a review of Boom Town's licence (with a view to a change from 4am finish to 11pm). • Jn 3 on M27 - decision should be announced 16/05/24. 	
2711	County councillor's report & questions arising	No report received but Cllr Wallace introduced himself and WMPC councillors asked the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has there been any feedback from the passenger transport side of HCC consultation? [Nothing has been concluded at this time. Will take away and ask re. deadline.] • Police & Crime Commissioner average speed cameras on the A32 - positioned North of WM only but most of the sound disturbance comes from South. Historically, the latter was the focus of the original campaign. Does PCC intend to look into positioning average speed cameras to the South? Cllr Edwards thought Police were supposed to be monitoring more in the South; the current cameras have been placed in high usage areas. Cllr Edwards to forward relevant e-mail to Cllr Wallace. 	Cllr Edwards
2712	Mins of previous meetings (04/04/23 & 18/04/24)	Agreed as a true record.	
2713	Delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, staff & other local authorities	Resolved: that no amendments are made to current arrangements.	
2714	Terms of reference for working groups	Resolved: that no amendments are made to the terms of reference for working groups.	
2715	Election of members to existing committees/working groups	Resolved: that the PC approves the appointment of the following cllrs (lead councillor in bold) to existing working groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning - Cllrs Burke, Waller, Trenchard & Silk • Community, Housing & Recreation – Cllrs Waller, Edwards, & Davies • Finance and Administration – Cllrs Edwards, Thomson, & Burke, with the latter supporting the Clerk with the NEST pension scheme & leases etc. • Highways & Transport - Cllrs Waller, Davies, & Thomson • Communications – Cllrs Waller, Trenchard & Davies, with the latter leading on PC website • Flood Action Group - Cllrs Gedye & Davies <p>Clerk to update the website with the above details.</p>	Clerk

2716	Arrangements with other local authorities	Resolved: that the PC postpones approving the Lengthsman Scheme contract with Soberton PC (Lead Parish) for the period 01/04/24 to 31/03/25, as the contract has not yet been drawn up.	
2717	Representation on external bodies	Resolved: that the PC approves the following cllrs to represent the PC on external bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Meon & Warnford Sports Club – Cllrs Waller & Edwards • Rifle Club – Cllr Edwards 	
2718	Community Liaison Representatives	Resolved: that the PC approves the following cllrs to act as community liaison reps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touchet Trust – Cllr Edwards • Village Shop Committee – Cllr Trenchard • Bob Russell Trust – Cllrs Trenchard • Neighbourhood Watch – Cllrs Gedye, Davies, & Thomson <p>Clerk to update the website with the above details.</p>	Clerk
2719	General Power of Competence	Resolved: that the Clerk will endeavour to complete the CiLCA qualification this financial year (cost to be split between WMPC and Hambledon PC).	Clerk
2720	Arrangements for ordinary meetings & next annual meeting	Resolved: that the ordinary meetings of the PC will be held on the first Tuesday of the month, with the exception of August 2024 (no meeting held in August). The APM will be held on the third Thursday in April.	
2721	Clerk's progress report	<p>Parish Lengthsman Agreement Timetable for 2024/25 has not yet been made available, but first visit of the year took place 05/04/24.</p> <p>WMPC-WMVH lease Application has now been expedited.</p> <p>Lengthsman (steps between Marlands Lane & Storeys Meadow) Mark Armitage (Hyde Housing) has confirmed that he has moved on to a new role but will support his successor with background info etc.</p> <p>Replacement by HCC of x2 redundant traffic speed signs on A32 No update. Steve Woodward & Jenny Wallace (HCC; Casualty Reduction Team) have confirmed that devices have been ordered but awaiting confirmation of when they can be fitted.</p> <p>PDS Paul Andersen & Cllr Waller have completed the re-write using changes agreed with SDNP. This will go back to Sarsen Printers & then to SDNP for them to use in their final consultation-probably May/June.</p> <p>Footpath 10 Cllr Edwards to update. [Left message with agent in charge of land; will chase again.]</p> <p>Repair/replacement of fingerpost signs in Woodlands Mark Keighley (HCC Highways Engineer) has confirmed that not a priority but hoped that a quote would be sought soon from JK Engineering & once this is received and the work can be approved, they will instruct for the work to take place this Spring/Summer.</p>	Cllr Edwards

2721 cont	Clerk's progress report cont	<p>Insurance premium Question re insurance for boules court if land registration hasn't yet been sorted. On hold until boules court project confirmed going ahead.</p> <p>Empty salt bin on Marlands Lane has been reported to HCC online.</p> <p>Entrance gates/signs for Woodlands It was identified that one of the suggested locations was actually in the parish of Bramdean and Hinton Ampner, so an alternative has been found. Clerk dealing with Kirstie Currie (Engineer; Traffic Team; HCC) who has referred to a colleague in Community Funded Initiatives Team: Joe Folland. CFI forms have been received but this was not the intended route for funding. Awaiting further info on pros and cons of going down the CFI route.</p> <p>Flood Action Group Issues on Lynch Lane:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HH has raised a job to have the 2 gullies and 2 weir kerbs outside Davena cleansed. 2. Issues at the bottom of Lynch Lane - Clerk has reported online. <p>HALC Hampshire Local Resilience Forum Info/emergency contacts leaflet for all parishioners - example has been e-mailed to cllrs. Hambledon PC is in the process of putting one together (using free software, Canva) & has costed it out with an online printing company @ circa £200 for 500 x glossy 4-fold info leaflets with bi-fold emergency info leaflets to go inside. No progress to date.</p> <p>SDNPA CIL Funding Application completed. Decision not made until Autumn 2024. Remove from report.</p>	
2722	Bank account	<p>Bank balance - 30 Apr 2024 - £87,836.05 (Cllrs have been provided with bank statement 168, 01 Apr 2024 to 30 Apr 2024 (£36,620.09; current account); and bank statement 08, 01 Apr 2024 to 30 Apr 2024 (£51,215.96; savings account).)</p>	
2723	Payment of accounts	<p>Mrs J C Tester Clerk's salary & mileage claim (Apr 2024) £609.35</p> <p>NEST Clerk's pension (Apr 2024) £60.32</p> <p>Mrs J C Tester Clerk's expenses (travel to WM for APM 18/04/24; & delivering VDS hard copy 25/04/24) £14.22</p> <p>West Meon Village Hall Hall hire Apr 2024 £18.00</p> <p>West Meon & Warnford Sports Club Hall hire & refreshments for APM Apr 2024 £135.00</p> <p>WCC Playground inspections – Recreation Ground & Meonwara £109.90</p> <p>WCC Dog bin emptying Q4 2023-24 £130.00</p> <p>HCC Lighting maintenance & energy costs £543.27</p> <p>HALC HALC affiliation fees 2023/24 & NALC levy 2024/25 £372.00</p> <p>HMRC Tax & NI for Q4 2023/24 £432.20</p> <p>Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Brokers Limited. Additional insurance premium (for additional playground equipment) £281.21</p> <p>Wicksteed Leisure New cradle swing seats x2 & shackles, bolts & pins £413.52</p>	Clerk
2724	Planning applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/24/01428/HOUS - 1 Stones Yard, West Meon, GU32 1AR. The addition of 2 windows into the loft space - one conservation rooflight to the north elevation and one small, frosted window to east elevation. [NO OBJECTION.] 	Clerk

2725	Planning apps received after 30/04/24	None received.	Clerk
2726	Planning decisions	None received.	
2727	Planning WG	No written report & no updates.	
2728	Community, Housing & Recreation WG	<p>No written report. The following updates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drone survey 13/05/24 (9.30am - 11.30am play area closed). • Damaged A32 traffic sign - has been reported but no update. • Woodlands signs & Bosen Hill - both reported to HCC & both returned as 'no action required'. Details to be sent to Cllr Wallace. • Damaged wall near pub will need to be repaired at some point. This will necessitate road closure (due to virtual pavement) which will impact the bus service. No date agreed at the current time. <p>• Items for Parish News:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New working group members • New HCC councillor details • Lengthsman scheme continuing (e-mail Clerk with issues) • Minor repairs for play equipment will be carried out following annual play inspections • Flooding - hydrologist report to be commissioned by PC • Details of the four traffic speed actions as discussed at APM 	Clerk
2729	Bench for New Play Area	<p>Resolved: that the PC has considered quotes for purchasing a new bench to be sited near to the new play equipment, and agrees to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recycled plastic (eco-friendly and low maintenance) • 	
2730	Annual Play Inspection reports	<p>Resolved: that the following actions are required to address issues raised in the reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits - these have already been carried out by Cllrs Edwards and Waller • Serious issue (with cradle seats) has been addressed • Moderate issue to be addressed - slide on Rec Ground • Small play area - repainting; rubbing down surfaces; surface needs weeding (ask Will Hillier to do plus power clean safety surfacing under other equipment on Rec Ground) 	Cllrs Edwards & Waller
2731	Finance & Administration WG	No written report received	Cllr Edwards /Clerk
2732	Financial Regulations - Update	Resolved: that the PC postpones approving the updated Financial Regulations to the June PC meeting (model document only received from HALC today; more time needed to create draft specific to WMPC).	Clerk

2733	Flood Action Group	No written report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of May FAG meeting to be arranged. • Roadside culvert has significantly helped. • Issues around area of Hall Place (drain pipes under farm access) have not yet been addressed by land owner. 	
2734	Flood Risk Report	Resolved: that the PC has considered quotations for carrying out flood modelling, options testing and consultation on the section of the River Meon that runs through West Meon, and appoints its preferred contractor, Hydrock @ £8,500 + VAT. [Unanimously voted for.] [It was noted that a majority of Parishioners at the APM were in support of the PC funding this initiative.]	Clerk
2735	Reports & Issues	The PC has been informed by the land owner that footpath 13 will be closed w/c 13/05/24 to allow for the safe felling of 13 ash trees alongside the footpath on the embankment. Footpath maps to be e-mailed to cllrs.	Clerk
2736	Date/time of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues 4th June 2024 at West Meon VH (Small Hall); 7.30pm. 	Clerk
2737	Confidential matters	Members of the public were asked to leave to enable confidential matters to be discussed.	
2738	Conduct at Meetings	Cllrs discussed conduct at meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are conventions regarding behaviour (e.g. 10 mins / 3 mins ruling). • Cllrs need to go through the Chair. • Meetings should not become antagonistic: PC members should not tolerate inappropriate behaviour in others; or exhibit inappropriate behaviour towards others. • Need to support Chair & Clerk. • Maintain professionalism. • The above will need to be reiterated at start of each meeting. 	

The meeting closed at 9.03pm

Signed:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair)

Dated:

Signed:

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

APPENDIX A

Winchester City Councillor report May 2024

Elections

Following the recent County Council by-election the Meon Valley Division, which encompasses West Meon, Warnford, Exton and Corhampton & Meonstoke parishes, we welcome Cllr Malcom Wallace of the Green Party as the new Divisional Member and look forward to him attending those Parish and Parish Council meetings.

Consequences of the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA 2023)

The umbrella body for the English National Parks, unsurprisingly called ‘National Parks England’, lobbied hard to firm up the duty that constituent and neighbouring local authorities have towards the statutory purposes of the Parks. Until recently, those authorities had a duty to ‘have regard to’ the purposes of ‘their’ Park. A clause in LURA 2023, which became law on Boxing Day last year, amended the original Act that created the National Parks, the ‘National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949’. Its effect is that Winchester City Council and other authorities, including Hampshire County Council, now have actively to ‘seek to further the purposes’ of the South Downs National Park when taking any decision that affects the Park area.

So much for the legalities – what is the practical effect? In both a recent planning and a licencing application we have invoked this new duty to have applications refused, against officers’ advice. We have also found that there is an urgent need for a common understanding between Park and City on how to apply this new law, that will, we hope, shortly be addressed. Similarly, we are unconvinced that the “Section 101” agreement, under which Winchester City Council assesses planning applications on behalf of the Park Authority, is working as well as it might. That said, clearly all parties are acting in good faith; rather, there is a clear need for more effective ‘checks and balances’ to be put in place and we will continue to push for these.

Roads

On the odd day, when the rain has relented, we have started to hear the noise of more “recreational traffic” on the A32 and A272 across the Ward. Whilst the average speed cameras are clearly having some welcome effect we would encourage assiduous reporting of clear cases of ‘nuisance’ noise. Altered exhaust systems or excessive acceleration on leaving village speed limits should be reported to the police on 101, noting the registration numbers of offending vehicles whenever possible. Similarly, on other roads, such as the B2177 through Upham and the B3046 through Cheriton, don’t hesitate to report clear cases of excessive speeding, supported, if possible, with video evidence, to the Hampshire Police on 101. A strong evidence base will be necessary to support applications for reduced speed limits and other, better, enforcement measures.

Summer Approaches (?)

The season of village fêtes and fairs is nearly upon us again. We look forward to getting out and about and meeting as many people as possible at these over the coming weeks, and hope for some drier days ahead!

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