



DRAFT MINUTES

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

PRESENT:

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

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Bolton (WCC; arrived 7.33pm; left 9.13pm); Cllr Pett (WCC; arrived 7.33pm; left 9.13pm).

Meeting started at 7.31pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2667	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of all villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2668	Apologies	No apologies received.	
2669	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None declared.	
2670	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2671	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. No members of the public in attendance.	
2672	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	
2673	District councillor's report & questions arising	<p>Report received (Appendix A). Cllrs Bolton & Pett commented as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By-election & PCC election 02 May 2024.• WCC Small grants - all applications were successful. More funding was available if there had been more applications.• Volunteering opportunities.• Cllr Bolton commented re Hugh Lumby's resignation. <p>Questions to WCC councillors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation on buses - when will there be feedback? [Nothing will happen before the elections in May. Bargaining-chip material for policy change etc. therefore probably nothing imminent.]	

2674	County councillor's report & questions arising	<p>No report received.</p> <p>The PC formally acknowledged the standing down of Hugh Lumby as Hampshire County Councillor, and expressed thanks for his hard work on behalf of the parish. To be published via Parish News and on the website.</p>	
2675	Mins of previous meetings (05/03/24)	<p>Agreed as a true record.</p>	
2676	Clerk's progress report	<p>Parish Lengthsman Agreement Timetable for 2024/25 has not yet been made available, but first visit of the year should have taken place 05/04/24 (Clerk to check).</p> <p>WMPC-WMVH lease – no further updates. Sally Burton (Bramsdon & Childs) chased 04/04/24. [UPDATE: response received from Heidi Chapman 05/04/24. App still showing as pending; could take over a year (from July 2023) as it's a 'first registration', and has not been expedited. Clerk has explained background, incl. assurance from Sally Burton that this app would be expedited. Awaiting response.]</p> <p>Steps between Marlands Lane & Storeys Meadow Awaiting response from Mark Armitage (Hyde Housing) re update on if/when repairs are taking place. Chased 04/04/24. [UPDATE: Mark Armitage no longer manages this area but will assist the new Neighbourhood Officer by providing necessary 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) chased 04/04/24. [UPDATE: Jenny Wallace has confirmed that new signs have been ordered & paid for. Currently waiting for the installation programme by the unit provider. They're looking to programme all the works in Hampshire currently, and Jenny has asked if the safety sites can be expedited.]</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.</p> <p>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 was received from Woodlands residents 28/02/24 & forwarded to Mark, who has responded that there is only sufficient funds to pay for one fingerpost. Decision on priority post has been sent to Mark 05/03/24. No response. Chased 04/04/24. [UPDATE: Mark has commented that emergency work has had to take priority, but will instruct JK Engineering to produce quote & work will hopefully take place this spring/summer.]</p> <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 (half way up; blue) has been reported to HCC online.</p> <p>Entrance 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 colleagues in Community Funded Initiatives Team. Chased 04/04/24.</p>	Clerk

2676	Clerk's progress report	<p>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 to report online once Cllr Gedye has sent over photos/full details of the problems. (Chased 04/04/24.) [UPDATE: photos received; Clerk to report.] <p>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 underway. To be completed before 12/04/24.</p>	
2677	Q4 Financial Statement & Report	Resolved: that the PC has received and approved the Q4 2023/24 financial statement and report.	Clerk
2678	Asset Register	<p>Resolved: that the PC has received and approved the updated asset register:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of the new playground equipment on the WM Recreation Ground; value £50k. • Removal of the old laptop. • Addition of the new MacBook Air. 	
2679	Insurance Premium	Resolved: that the PC has approved the increase in premium by £281.21 to include the new playground equipment on the WM Recreation Ground.	Clerk
2680	Parish Online	Resolved: that the PC subscribes to Parish Online at a cost of £70 + VAT per annum.	Clerk
2681	Bank Account Signatories	<p>Resolved: that the PC approves the amendment of the bank account mandate as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two, instead of one, authorisers required for all online payments. • Cllr Burke to be added as an authoriser. 	Clerk
2682	Bank account	Bank account balance as of 31 Mar 2024 - £126,270.69 [Cllrs have been provided with current account statements 166 (01 to 04 Mar 2024) & 167 (05 Mar to 31 Mar 2024; balance £75,054.73) & savings account statement 7 (01 Mar 2024 to 31 Mar 2024; balance £51,215.96 .)]	Clerk
2683	Payment of accounts	<p>Mrs J C Tester Clerk's salary & mileage claim (Mar 2024) £609.35</p> <p>NEST Clerk's pension (Mar 2024) £60.32</p> <p>West Meon Village Hall Hall hire (Mar 2024) £18.00</p> <p>HugoFox Monthly website charge £11.99</p> <p>WCC Planning Pre-app advice (Rec Ground car park) £72.00</p> <p>Creative Play (UK) Ltd Play equip Rec Ground (95%) £65,663.72</p>	Clerk

2684	Planning applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/24/01255/TCA - West Meon House, Station Road, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1JG. G1 group of 8 Sycamore trees to be felled to ground level due to recent damage to the neighbouring property, all are large and within reach of the adjacent properties causing a danger to life and property. Once felled stumps are to be left for regeneration. [NO COMMENT.] • SDNP/24/01081/TCA T1 - Edwina Cottage, Lynch Lane, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1LT. Reduce overall by around 25-30% the 3 silver birch trees located adjacent to the property to create a uniform canopy works to maintain size and correct the shape of the tree. T2 Reduce overall by around 25-30% the 3 silver birch trees located adjacent to the property to create a uniform canopy works to maintain size and correct the shape of the tree. T3 Reduce overall by around 25-30% the 3 silver birch trees located adjacent to the property to create a uniform canopy works to maintain size and correct the shape of the tree. [Cllr Gedye noted an interest as this is his property, and did not partake in any discussion. NO COMMENT.] • SDNP/24/01077/PA 14J - Whitewool Farm, Meon Springs, Whitewool Lane, East Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 1HW The installation of additional 280No. roof mounted solar PV panels at Whitewool Farm, GU32 1HW, of total installed capacity 154.5kWp including existing PV system (115 No. panels - 29.9kWp). [NO OBJECTION - but panel design should comply with SDNPA policies, to mitigate impact on the visual amenity of the local area. Clerk to confirm policies/technical advice, and note affected public rights of way.] • SDNP/24/01297/FUL - Brocklands Farm, Warnford Road, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1JN. The erection of a steel portal frame barn, used in conjunction with the farming business and the existing camp site. [NO COMMENT.] 	
2685	Planning apps received after 03/04/24	None.	
2686	Planning decisions	Noted.	
2687	Planning WG	No written report or verbal updates.	
2688	Petanque Court - Fencing	Resolved: that the PC DOES NOT approve the request by the Sports Club (SC) to amend the requirement for wooden picket fencing to post, rail and weld mesh fencing. Clerk to inform SC.	Clerk
2689	Petanque Court - Reinstatement Requirements	Resolved: that the PC does not approve the terms and conditions of the reinstatement requirements for the pétanque court, as suggested by the Sports/Petanque Club, but instead seeks legal advice.	Clerk

2690	Community, Housing & Recreation WG	<p>No written report. The following updates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petanque - Cllr Edwards reported that a second possible site has been suggested by the Sports Club. • New playground - installation and sign-off complete. Cllrs discovered eight protruding screws on the inside of one of the play towers. Sharp ends removed. Creative Play informed and a rep will attend on site 10/04/24. Clerk has also requested removal of Heras fencing as it is still in the car park. Creative Play informed PC that removal co unable to do so due to cars blocking the area. Cllr Edwards to fence off 10/04/24. • Adult gym equipment - no update on sale. • Parish News: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgment of resignation of Hugh Lumby • Flashing signs • A-frame policy updated • New bins for Rec Ground • Elections (need ID) • PDS update • Horses & cyclists should only be on bridal ways, not footpaths (unless with the permission of the landowner) • Involvement of public in PC meetings 	<p>Cllr Edwards</p> <p>Cllr Waller</p>
2691	Finance & Administration WG	<p>No written report received. Update on land registration given in Clerk's report, above.</p>	
2692	Flood Action Group	<p>No report received. Cllr Gedye commented as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held last Fri. Flick Drummond & EA in attendance. • EA - won't get involved in work on weir unless at least 4 houses have been flooded. • Riparian owners - only obligation is to remove boards if they are obstructing flow. • Do we need weir? If so, what should it be doing? <p>Cllr Bolton commented as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA asset register marks assets that could be important to the EA. No records of weir being put in. EA can exercise its statutory rights to get involved with maintenance of assets on the asset register, but weir is not its asset. • Landowner has no responsibility unless boards falling into water impede flow of water. • EA consider a hydrologist report is the right route to go down. • EA has very limited funds so alleviate floods where they can using risk assessment. WM is low down on priority list. • If septic tanks start flooding that would make WM more of a priority. 	

2693	Flood Risk Report	<p>Resolved: that the PC has considered quotations for, and approves appointing a contractor to carry out, flood modelling, options testing and consultation on the section of the River Meon that runs through West Meon. However, this is subject to majority support by parishioners at the APM (based on costs not to exceed £8,500 + VAT, which is the most expensive of the three quotations obtained). If this support is evident, the FAG WG will subsequently meet to discuss the quotes and provide a recommendation to councillors at May PC meeting.</p> <p>[Background: cllrs to note that clerk has sought advice from Internal Auditor and there isn't a specific power under which the PC can pay for the report. However, if councillors are supportive, the proposal should be taken to parishioners at the APM for them to vote on. If a majority of Parishioners at the APM are in support, the PC will then appoint its preferred contractor to carry out the report.]</p>	
2694	Traffic Working Group	<p>Resolved: that the PC DOES NOT establish a Traffic WG, to investigate issues surrounding speeding and pedestrian safety within the parish, and to identify and develop potential solutions that are within the PC's remit to undertake.</p> <p>However, the PC will pursue four main points with HCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstatement of flashing traffic speed indicators on A32 (this has already been reported & is in hand); • Re-colouring on the road of the existing traffic calming measures on the A32 in the centre of West Meon; • Re-marking of the virtual pavement in the High Street and colouring it so that it is clear to traffic that the virtual pavement is not part of the road and that pedestrians have right of way. This should have been completed during the installation of the original traffic calming works in West Meon in 2011; and • Replacement of one of the 50MPH signs on the approach to West Meon from the north on the A32 with a 40MPH sign so that the sequence runs 50MPH, 40MPH, 30MPH (not the existing 50MPH, 50MPH, 30MPH) as you approach West Meon on the A32. Precedent has been set as such a change was made on the southern approach to Farringdon on the A32 as part of traffic calming. <p>The above to be relayed to the WM Safe & Sound Traffic Group, & to be discussed at the APM.</p>	Clerk
2695	SDNPA Renewable Energy Study	Resolved: that Cllr Thomson will respond to SDNPA's consultation on renewable energy on behalf of the PC.	Cllr Thomson
2696	A-Frame & Banner Policy	Resolved: that the PC approves the updated A-Frame & Banner Policy. Clerk to update on website.	Clerk
2697	Reports & Issues	None.	
2698	Date/time of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues 7th May 2024 at West Meon VH (Small Hall); 7.30pm. • Annual Meeting of the Parish Thurs 18th April 2024, 7pm in WM Sports Pavilion. 	Clerk
2699	Confidential matters	No members of the public were in attendance.	

2700	Clerk's Working Hours	Resolved: that the PC considers the Clerk's request to amend working hours timetable to Mon-Thurs, 12.30-3pm; additional 2 hours to be worked on a flexible basis.	
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The meeting closed at 9.38pm

Signed:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair)

Dated:

Signed:

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

**APPENDIX A
Elections**

WCC Councillors' Mar 2024 Report

No, not the big one, but all households in the Upper Meon Valley should by now have received polling cards for the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner on Thursday 2 May.

Those in West Meon, Warnford, Exton and Corhampton & Meonstoke parishes may also be aware that Hugh Lumby, the Hampshire County Council member for the Meon Valley Division, recently resigned his seat for health reasons. Hugh has contributed much to the area as both a County and District Councillor over the years, as well as being a stalwart supporter of all things in his home village of Meonstoke. It would be very sad to see Hugh step down at any time but far more poignant given the circumstances. We both wish Hugh all the very best and thank him for his service to our communities. There will now be a by-election for his HCC seat, also on Thursday 2 May. Note that, in these parishes only, electors will shortly receive a second polling card for the by-election – the decision came too late for it to be included on the card for the PCC election.

Finally, Winchester City Council are advertising for overnight count staff to be part of the casual election staff team on election day. No prior experience needed and full training given, together with pay of £17.50 per hour. Anybody interested should visit winchester.gov.uk/elections/working-at-elections-staff-recruitment or e-mail ElectionsStaffing@winchester.gov.uk.

Small Grant Awards

The WCC Small Grant scheme was one of the many that we highlighted earlier in the year. It was good to see three Upper Meon Valley groups recently being successful in their applications for support. Congratulations to Upham Parish Council, for securing funding towards for a thermal imaging camera to aid their efforts at 'greening' their parish, the River Meon Conservation Volunteers based at Warnford, who receive funding for equipment needed to help their work, and Tichborne Cricket Club for their successful bids. The scheme is currently closed but will re-open later in the year. It is understood that the fund was under-bid for in the last round – if your community has a scheme that could use up to £1000 then it would be worth thinking early about a bid for the next.

Spring is (almost) here

As the days lengthen and the weather, we hope, starts to relent, it is a good time to reflect and realise our good fortune to live in the most beautiful ward within the Winchester District and in the South Downs National Park. Our network of waymarked rural footpaths and bridleways are the key to access our most scenic places; for the more adventurous, we have not only the South Downs Way (100 miles) but also the Wayfarer's Walk (70 miles from Emsworth to Inkpen Beacon via Corhampton Down, Kilmeston, Hinton Ampner and Cheriton). For a real challenge, there's also the 625 mile Monarch's Way, designed to trace Charles II's escape route following his defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651. He passed through Owslebury, Upham, Preshaw and Warnford on his way! Volunteers play a huge role in maintaining our rights of way, helping with the upkeep of our river habitats and generally keeping our countryside as healthy as we can make it. Why not encourage your parishioners to get involved? Ideas for 'microvolunteering' projects are listed at this link: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/volunteering/national-park-volunteers/opportunities/additional-volunteering-opportunities/microvolunteering/>

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

