



West Meon Parish Council

c/o Mrs D Heppell, 77 Chalton Lane, Clanfield, Waterlooville, Hampshire
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MINUTES OF WEST MEON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th MAY 2018 AT 7.30PM AT WEST MEON VILLAGE HALL

THOSE PRESENT: Residents including Cllrs C Waller, C Adams, P Brannon, A Trenchard, C Johnson, J Nicholson. and G Silk.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs D Heppell (Minutes)

BY INVITATION: County Councillor R Huxstep and WCC Councillor L Ruffell.

APOLOGIES: T Over.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 42

1. Welcome from Chairman

Cllr Waller (Chairman of the Parish Council) welcomed residents and guests to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Village Hall AGM

Mr Chris Town (Chairman) welcomed Members, and introduced the Village Hall Management Committee and circulated the AGM minutes, annual reports and accounts. The Chairman advised that income was £20,703 and expenditure was £19,187 which included grants which gave a net surplus of £1,565.

The Chairman advised that the village hall continues to be well used with Pre-school, dance and tap clubs, keep fit, table tennis, Theatre and the Garden Club. One off events have also been held and table and chairs are hired out. The kitchen has been replaced and the electrical distribution and circuit breakers replaced. Hiring fees have not increased and a copy of the accounts are available. Mary Dawson has raised over £10,000 in National lottery grants and £4,000 from HCC. Thanks were given to Rosemary Morrish and Mr Faulkner for doing the kitchen. No issues have been raised on the accounts and they have been audited by John Claisse.

The current 8 Trustee Members resigned from Committee and were all re-elected for the coming year and there is one space. The newly elected members took the roles of: Chris Town Chair, Mary Dawson Vice Chair, Vanessa Wills Treasurer, Sally Williams Secretary and Hazel Town Booking Secretary, Neil Falconer, Ingrid Sparshott, Rosemary Morrish and Tallulah Silburn committee members Philip Brannon and Gemma O'Reilly.

Questions from the Public.

A parishioner asked about solar panels for the village hall and the Chairman advised that this was looked at a couple of years earlier at a cost of £15,200 and at the time it was agreed to repair the inside facilities first, which included the kitchen and toilets. Mr Town advised that this could be looked at again, but would depend on costs.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th April 2017

Cllr Waller circulated the 26th April 2017 minutes and these minutes were accepted and approved.

4. Report from Cllr Waller, Chairman of West Meon Parish Council (WMPC)

The Chairman advised that last twelve months have been a most productive time for the WMPC. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council were 8 in numbers and they are seeking another Parish Councillor. The Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors and their Clerk for their commitment and hard work, also the work of the maintenance team of Mac Edwards and Dayle Westwood and Martin Cowell for footpaths. He gave thanks to both Roger Huxstep Hampshire County Councillor and Laurence Ruffell, Winchester City Councillor for their support this year and the Lengthsman scheme

The Parish Council set a reasonable and responsible precept again this year. WMPC are continuing to improve their communications through revisions to the website, ensuring detail in our reports in the Parish News and the Listening Post which is held in the West Meon café. The Parish Council also regularly and thoughtfully post on 'We Are West Meon' Facebook site. Cllr Waller reminded parishioners that the noticeboard is available for village enterprise notices too, as does the website. In the last twelve months the Parish Council has:

- * Continued to liaise with the Police, PCC and MP and Meon valley parish councils over motor biking, road safety and the A32/A272-despite the setbacks over the installation of average speed cameras with the appointment of the new PCC and helped initiate CANS
- * Strongly supported the community shop and its management committee
- * Purchased new lights for the High Street and house brackets for Christmas trees
- * Mounted a campaign to reduce dog fouling, including producing new signs for summer 2018
- * Made grants to and supported a whole range of village institutions and enterprises
- * Continued to promote the re-development of West Meon old station as the Meon Valley Trail head and the establishment of a nature reserve within station yard.
- * Improved our management of finances at WMPC
- * Drafted the revised VDS and Landscape Character assessment for consultation
- * Continued to improve the facilities at the recreation ground, including the new table tennis table

The Chairman reported that many more mundane matters have also occupied the Parish Council over the past year. West Meon still struggle with car parking in the High Street, and the Parish Council worry about the sustainability of our village shops and clubs and how to recruit younger parishioners into parish institutions going forward, including this Parish Council. Currently the Parish Council are seeking a new member of WMPC and those interested should contact the Clerk.

One of the major concerns that will challenge the Parish Council and the community going forward, is the writing of the revised Village Design Statement and Landscape Character Assessment and responding to the changing impact of planning applications and decisions on the village. Cllr Waller advised that we need to consider how we wish to protect, enhance and conserve that which is valued in the village. Decisions need to reflect the changing demands of society and to ensure that

West Meon remains a vital and living community that fits sympathetically into its precious and fragile yet working environment. He advised that whole community must be involved in forthcoming discussions about how we want the village to evolve in the coming decades, starting tonight at this Annual Parish Meeting.

He advised there are many challenges ahead, especially as the local environment changes including impacts from neighbouring communities. The Chairman advised that having a strong Parish Council is a sign of a strong and successful community and that the ambition is to ensure that we continue to have both.

5. County Councillor R Huxstep (Hampshire County Council)

Cllr Huxstep advised Hampshire County Council is proposing to change its short break activity programme and is seeking the views of users. The closing date is 3rd June for the consultation to be found on the HCC website.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Huxstep for his report and assistance over the past year.

6. **Written reports** were circulated and received from Cllr Mr R Huxstep, Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council and Hampshire Police and Communities Against Noise (CANS). The West Meon Village Design Statement and Landscape Character Assessment-consultation activity

7. Public session

The West Meon Village Design Statement and Landscape Character Assessment-consultation activity 'Opinion Finders'. Cllr Waller introduced an opinion finders questionnaire with the assistance of Mr Stewart on the Village Design Statement. Parishioners were grouped into discussion tables to record their thoughts on the VDS. Cllr Waller advised that the public participation session would use their comments and ideas in the assessment of the VDS

Cllr Waller thanked Cllr Huxstep, Cllr Ruffell and Sgt Gilmore for their reports and parishioners for attending.

There being no further matters for discussion, Cllr Waller thanked everyone and the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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Chairman

Appendix A

Hampshire County Council (HCC) Meon Valley Division County Councillor Roger Huxstep's Annual Report 2017-18 for West Meon Parish Council County Council's 2017 AGM

Last May, the council welcomed Councillor Graham Burgess as our incoming Chairman. His theme for this municipal year is the armed forces and veterans of Hampshire. Hampshire has the largest number of serving members of the armed forces, as well as veterans. He hoped to raise their profile at every opportunity in what they do and what they have achieved. Councillor Elaine Still, county councillor for the Loddon division, was appointed Vice-chairman of HCC and will take up the chairmanship on 18th May.

Also, the 4-yearly county council election took place. The make-up of the council changed significantly with all 10 UKIP councillors losing their seats. As a result, the Conservative group increased from 45 to 56 members. The Liberal Democrats numbered 19, having gained 2 seats. Labour lost 2 seats and now have 2 members. The Independents went from 2 to 1. Councillor Roy Perry was re-elected as Leader of the Council.

General Election 2017

The county elections gave way to the snap general election, the turbulence of which remains with us to date in the wake of the Brexit referendum. Seventeen of the 19 parliamentary constituencies in geographic Hampshire, therefore including Portsmouth and Southampton returned Conservatives. Of these, one is a secretary of state, 4 are ministers, 2 are chairmen of parliamentary select committees and 1 is parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister. Furthermore, Alan Mak, MP for Havant formed the All Party Parliamentary Group for Hampshire to include the Isle of Wight. Its chairman is Ranil Jayawardena MP for North East Hampshire. HCC provides the secretariat for the group. With this parliamentary group and the bevy of Hampshire MPs in government the county council is well placed politically, to lobby on issues affecting our region as well as national interests.

Brexit

Brexit has been prominent in government business and therefore devolution has slipped down the agenda but not forgotten. The county council is still intent on keeping Hampshire together. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sajid Javid has given assurances that no re-organisation of local government in Hampshire would take place without the agreement of HCC.

County Council's 2018/2019 Revenue & Capital Budget.

The councils budget setting for 2018/19 has been a big issue for officers and members to grapple with; given the £140m that had to be saved to balance the budget. Savings proposals in the autumn led the Cabinet to explore further, all viable options to revise the budgeting for community transport, school crossing patrols and household waste recycling centres. Alternative proposals were identified and with additional council tax flexibility the savings attached to the above services were withdrawn and allowed a £2m reduction in the bus subsidies saving.

The council tax requirement for the County Council for this financial year beginning 1st April 2018 is £608,175,704.00. This results in a Band D property's county council tax for this year of £1,200.96. This is an increase of 5.99% on the last financial year's tax. It comprises the new referendum threshold of 2.99% and 3% which is specifically for adults' social care. You may recall that the council froze council tax at its 2010/11 level for the following 5 financial years but for 2016/17 the government discontinued the council tax freeze grant on the assumption that councils would apply the 1.99% increase they were allowed to do, without a referendum. For the last financial year, 2017/18, as indicated above an extra 3% was allowed, to be ring-fenced for adult social care costs so the increase then was 4.99%. Had the 2010/11 council tax been raised in line with the RPI on a yearly basis, then for this year it would now be set at £1295.48, an extra

£94.52. If in addition, if the 1.99% increase had been applied over the same period, including the extra 5.99% for this financial year, 2018/19 the Band D tax would have risen to £1352.47, an extra £151.51. So, although council tax this year has increased, the tax it is well below that which would have been expected had inflation been applied and the council exercised its permissible 1.99% rise annually.

So, the budget is not only balanced but is to provide for the increase in demand for our services. To meet the continuing increase in demand for services, we need to improve what we do and to utilise capital schemes to help reduce revenue expenditure as far as possible. The increased demand in adult social care means more residents being looked after in their own homes, and in our residences. Recently we have committed another £26 million to provide 90 more units for adults with learning disabilities in Basingstoke, New Milton, Aldershot, Eastleigh and Fareham and the first of these comes on stream shortly. There is an increased demand for children's services, apart from the 18,000 more school places needed, with more looked after children being cared for and an increase in asylum seekers. Some children need a safer place, those with severe learning difficulties can find a haven in the purpose-built houses we have made for them. Those who need family intervention will be helped by the increase in children's social workers that we are budgeting for - more social workers for children, not fewer. In 2016/17 it was met by increasing their budget by £9.5 million to allow also for the increased demand for Home-to-School Transport. A one-off amount of £7.6 million was needed for 2017/18.

We have used our capital programme to increase investment in libraries, country parks, and outdoor centres. Some £17 million thus far has been committed. This will improve the visitor experience and bring in more income, making them self-sustaining instead of being a revenue cost.

In the Highways Department, we now receive over 100,000 enquiries per year. That is ongoing, so we need more, not fewer, electronic methods of dealing with it. And, as housing and population increases, waste disposal is increasing too. So, we need to recycle more, and it is important to fund the Household Waste Recycling Centres, not to reduce their capacity. We have revised the PFI financing on our street lighting contract, so that over £1 million per year in savings has been produced for the Highways Department thus reducing the need to find savings in waste recycling centres.

A review of our longer-term future capital needs noted the urgency for several schemes to be added to our capital programme. The longer-term requirement is assessed as some £440 million. £218 million for Invest-to-Save Schemes, £133 million for stand-alone schemes and some £55 million for the Schools Programme. The Invest-to-Save Schemes are part of a very clear strategy to produce short stay hubs for Adult Social Care for re-abling clients before they return to their own homes. We shall remodel much of our nursing and residential estate to cater for increasing instances of dementia. The stand-alone schemes involve a number of infrastructure additions, for example an enhanced material's recovery facility. They must be based on a beneficial business case, as must each of the Invest-to-Save Schemes and those business cases will be forthcoming in due course.

Our innovative investment in energy saving projects has already saved £29 million and will reduce our targeted carbon levels by nearly 40% now, not in 2025 as we originally envisaged. So, we are setting a new target of 50% by 2025 which we would raise to 55% if it proves feasible to replace all our street lamps with LED lights. And, we are working on that possibility. We are leading the way in providing for electric car charging points. We are ourselves now owners, and we shall save more than £200,000 per year on fuel costs for the investment of an extra £1million in electric cars over diesel. We are investigating Battery Storage technology to reduce further our energy bills as well as help with carbon reductions for a better environment. Although we have taken advantage of the cost benefits of photo-voltaic technology, we are mindful that the Energy Performance Projects relating to our buildings provide a 7-times better return on investment, so we continue to concentrate on that.

Conclusion

Hampshire County Council, for this financial year end levies the second lowest council tax in the country after Somerset; with a balanced budget, while striving to become ever more efficient and effective at delivering good services.

17th May 2018

Appendix B

City Councillor L Ruffell

June Report

Winchester City Council launches ‘paperless’ system for councillors

Winchester City Council is preparing to roll out a new ‘paperless’ system to all its councillors at the beginning of June.

The system, which has been piloted for a month will mean that they will no longer need to print and carry lengthy reports and documents and will manage their drop-in sessions, appointments and correspondence using tablets instead.

The move - which is in line with the Council’s evolving Digital Approach to doing business - will also make it easier for members of the public to access meeting agendas, reports and minutes, by simply downloading the ModernGov app on their phone or tablet. This technology will enable members to keep track of council meetings and decisions from across the District. The roll out will also save on the production of significant quantities of paper and effect a financial saving to taxpayers through the reduction printing and postage costs.

By introducing a paperless system to our councillors we aim to make them more accessible to their constituents and give them the opportunity to respond to residents enquiries quicker. Apart from the obvious democratic advantages of this, we hope it will also help us to improve our costs and reduce our environmental footprint by reducing the vast amount of printing which is required for every council meeting.

Working closely with the local community and our appointed architects, the Council has now developed an overall vision for the Sport and Leisure Park at Bar End, along with concept designs for the new Leisure Centre.

The designs are now being further developed with a view to embarking upon the planning permission process later this year.

An additional process is underway to select a contractor to build the new Leisure Centre and we are also looking to implement a procurement process to appoint the operator of the Centre. .

A major Winchester City Council housing scheme has been given a £3.2m government cash injection.

Homes England has approved the windfall, which will boost the council’s £16m plan for 76 homes at The Valley in Stanmore. It also comes after the council joined the Wayfarer Consortium – a move that gives it more access to government money to build affordable housing. This government money is most welcome, makes The Valley scheme financially viable and means the council can build much needed homes for local people. It also shows that being part of the Wayfarer Consortium is already bearing fruit and the strategy to fund our ambitious target of building 600 new homes by 2020 is really working. **Work on The Valley is due to start next year.**

Small Grants – up to £500 - now OPEN - Deadline: noon 15 June

Grants of up to £500 are available to not-for-profit and voluntary organisations in the district to support their work. This grant stream is for one off activities or pieces of equipment. You may wish to apply for a health related activity, a new/additional piece of equipment for a sports club, promotional material for an arts event/project, or a community activity.

We are encouraging applicants to apply for a Small Grant for local community events or celebrations of the Armistice Day Centenary Anniversary on 11 November 2018.

To find out how to apply, visit: <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants/small-grant-scheme>

Small Project Grant Scheme – Up to £3000 - now OPEN - Deadline: noon 15 June

For grants towards the cost of one-off projects, specialised equipment, start ups and improvements or construction of facilities. Replacement, maintenance or like-for-like items are not funded under this scheme as they are deemed a core running cost. Applications can be made for up to £3,000. Please note that applicants must secure a minimum of 25% of the total project cost from their own resources. It is anticipated that this will include a mix of the organisation's own funding; fundraising proceeds; other grants; a contribution from the Parish Council/Meeting or Town Forum as appropriate etc.

Applicants must provide a statement of support for their project from their Parish Council/Meeting or Ward Member.

You can find out who your local Ward Member on our website: <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/elections/ward-map>

To find out how to apply, visit: <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants/small-project-grant-scheme> For further information please contact:

Melissa Fletcher, Funding & Development Officer, Tuesday-Thursday 01962 848 492, mfletcher@winchester.gov.uk

National Park Authority workshops – June 2018 The South Downs National Park Authority (NPA) are holding a series of workshops across the National Park in June 2018, this year the workshops will include presentations on the following topics

1. Whole Estate Plans
2. Highways and Roads
3. Dark Night Skies

In addition SDNPA officers will give a brief update on current SDNPA projects. Following the presentations there will be an opportunity for delegates to speak to the presenters as they will be available in the main hall of the venues to answer questions or provide more information.

There will be three NPA workshops, one for each county within the South Downs National Park. An agenda will be sent out before the meetings. The dates, time and venues are as follows:

- 06 June 2018 - West Sussex Parishes Workshop, Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, Midhurst: 18:30 – 21:00
- 12 June 2018 - Hampshire Parishes Workshop, 18.30 - 21:00 (venue to be confirmed)
- 19 June 2018 - East Sussex Parishes Workshop, Iford Village Hall, Iford: 18:30 – 21:00

Cllr Laurence Ruffell

Appendix C

POLICE REPORT – WEST MEON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The last twelve months have seen a period of relative stability on the neighbourhood police team based at Bishops Waltham. Under the continued leadership of Police Sergeant Stuart Gilmour, Police Community Support Officer Owen Reeves has remained the constant presence for West Meon and the Upper Meon Valley part of the district, which also includes the villages of Warnford, Exton, Corhampton, Hambledon and Droxford

A positive message this year is that the future of the police station at Bishops Waltham has recently been secured. Since a major re-organisation in 2015 Hampshire Constabulary have undertaken a significant review of not only our people but our estate as well. Many neighbourhood teams are no longer operating from police buildings but shared facilities with assorted partners. The police station at Bishops Waltham has been part of that ongoing review but not only has the presence of the police station in Bishops Waltham been assured, there will also be an increase of staff permanently allocated to the location with a small team of three Countrywatch officers moving into the building during the next couple of weeks. The expertise of rural matters that these colleagues have will provide a real opportunity for continued learning and a sharing of knowledge that I hope will have a benefit within the many quite rural areas that we police from Bishops Waltham especially through the Meon Valley.

The constant issue that continues to create more correspondence for me than any other throughout the year is the continued issue of anti-social behaviour whether through illegal exhausts, aggressive riding or speeding by some motorcyclists. The presence of approximately one hundred and sixty members of the community at a meeting in November reinforced the message that this is not a case of a few ranting against motorcyclists but a community wide issue. I was really heartened to hear some of the innovative suggestions that were being made and look forward to working with CANS as the group becomes established. I have again had conversations with Mr Hollingbery's researcher Joanna Lloyd, Inspector Andy Tester of the Road Policing Unit and the Chief Constables office all within the past week so the issue remains prominent on my list of community priorities. I believe CANS are providing a report this evening about their plans but in the short term we will continue to do some enforcement as and when resourcing and other commitments enable me to do so.

There remain a huge amount of challenges for the neighbourhood team and Hampshire Constabulary in general. I have spoken before about what I perceive to be a vulnerability for some rural communities. It is frustrating when core community facilities such as the community store are targeted by offenders who invariably are travelling to the area specifically to commit crime against softer targets. I hope the community store do not mind me highlighting that they have been targeted on five separate occasions during the past twelve months, on two occasions with lead being stripped and a further attempt burglary as well as two smaller value thefts. Each of these incidents although a couple of them relatively low in value will become known throughout the community creating a sense of anxiety and generating a fear of crime.

Another establishment that is often central to village life is the primary school who were also the victim of two burglary incidents in November and December 2017. The positive for me is that we have not had any dwelling burglary reports during the past twelve months in the village to the best of my knowledge which remains such an invasive crime for the victim.

Just moving outside of the village slightly, there have been several recent theft reports from vehicles parked in or near to Old Winchester Hill. Thankfully the Old Station Car Park has not been targeted within the past twelve months but again there is a vulnerability about leaving vehicles in rural locations. There have been several sporadic reports of vehicles being broken in to within the village during the last twelve months and indeed three incidents of vehicles being stolen. One stolen vehicle was found burnt out near Alton, again supporting the belief that offenders are travelling to commit crime. Please do not leave any valuables in vehicles when you leave them.

A core part of neighbourhood policing is the response to victims of attempt fraud or domestic violence. The safeguarding responsibility on my team to visit victims of attempt scams to offer crime prevention advice and to assess risk is a really valuable area of our work that is difficult to monitor but which often brings us in to contact with some of our most vulnerable residents whether due to age or potential mental or physical disability.

I hope your parish chair will agree that we maintain a very harmonious working relationship. We met last week and although we will normally try and attend parish meetings, I know Chris is really keen to focus attention on the Village Design Statement this evening. I wish you all a productive meeting and of course if

there are any concerns or issues then please do not hesitate to contact me either via e-mail (address below) or via your parish council.

Stuart Gilmour
Police Sergeant 2183
16th May 2018

Appendix D

Communities Against Noise and Speed (CANS) Report May 2018

We have:

- * Set up a Facebook page & linked to local village web pages. We need to expand this with your help through your own village sites.
- * Written to the PCC stressing the high KSI rates and asking him to act on road safety - one of his declared 3 priorities. Stressing the cost to the police, ambulance, NHS and the county.
- * Written to both MP's and a number of Divisional County Councillors.
- * Requested under the Freedom of Information ACT (FOI) details of the previous PCC's plan to install average speed cameras in some areas.

What we need:

- * We need publicity (Parish Magazines, the printed press and social media websites)
- * We need a mandate from local resident's affected-sign up on line or by e-mail.
- * We need engagement from local residents in collecting and collating data on noise, speed and reckless/dangerous driving, near miss accidents, actual accidents including DashCam evidence.
- * We would like Parish Council support in disseminating information to their local populations.
- * We need the local populations to lobby every level of national and local government-MP, Divisional County Councillors, the PCC, The Chief Constable, and the SDNP.
- * We would like to engage with motorcycle riders through their organisations that promote safer riding.
- * We need funding and a commitment from Parish Councils to support our campaign and endorse our plans.

In summary our AIM is to make our roads quieter and safer through the following:

1. Lowering of the speed limit along the A32 to 50mph outside of 30mph zones
2. Have clear road markings indicating these speeds.
3. Enforcement by the authorities of those breaking speed limits.
4. Impounding of bikes and cars with illegal exhausts
5. Pilot for the SD