



MINUTES

West Meon Parish Council
4th June 2024; 7.30pm; West Meon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair); Cllr Edwards (arrived 7.56pm); Cllr Gedye (left 9.16pm); Cllr Silk; Cllr Waller; Cllr Thomson; Cllr Burke; & Cllr Davies.

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Bolton (WCC; left 7.46pm); Cllr Pett (WCC; left 9.10pm); Cllr Wallace (HCC; left 8.29pm); & one member of the public.

Meeting started at 7.35pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2738	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of Jane manners and all other villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2739	Apologies	Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Edwards. Cllr Pett gave apologies for arriving late for the meeting.	
2740	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None declared.	
2741	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2742	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. No questions received from member of the public in attendance.	
2743	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	
2744	District councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (Appendix A).	

2745	County councillor's report & questions arising	<p>Report received (Appendix B). Cllr Wallace commented as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan Consultation - important for PC & villagers to give input. <p>Question to Cllr Wallace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the protocol on county councillors commenting during purdah? (With reference to Cllr Waller's comments re. HCC budget 2025/26.) [Not a problem. Comments from public consultation still being considered; will go through committees, but all postponed until after general election. Sept/Oct 2024 - final decision to be made.] 	
2746	Mins of previous meetings (07/05/24)	Agreed as a true record.	
2747	Annual Governance Statement 2023/24	Resolved: that the PC has completed and approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24. Period for the exercise of public rights to be Tues 11th June to Mon 22nd July 2024.	
2748	Accounting Statements 2023/24	Resolved: that the PC has approved the accounting statements for 2023/24.	
2749	Conflict of Interest with BDO LLP Form	Resolved: that the PC has approved the form confirming that it has no conflict of interest with BDO LLP (external auditor).	
2750	Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24	<p>Resolved: that the PC has received and approved the annual internal audit report for 2023/24; discussed recommendations made; and approves the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Non-decision minutes' - WGs (where appropriate) to provide written reports in advance and these will be presented as addenda, to reduce non-decision minutes & discussion on non-decision items. 'Policies' - coherent usage policy for the whole Rec Ground incl. car park to be drafted for the July 2024 meeting. Existing parking policy to then be removed. 'Reserves' - the main project for 2024/25 will be the car park extension. This is currently waiting on advice from SDNPA Planning, & decision re CiL funding. 'Budget monitoring' - quarterly reports to be attached to hard copies of minutes. 'Land rental income' - Cllr Edwards to investigate whether peppercorn rentals have ever been paid by VH and Rifle Club. 'Leases and tenancies' - leases to be progressed as soon as land registration has been confirmed. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Edwards</p>

2751	Clerk's progress report	<p>Parish Lengthsman Agreement schedule for 2024/25 as follows: 05/04/24; 03/07/24; 04/11/24; & 31/01/25</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. [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> <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>	Clerk
2752	Bank account	<p>Bank account balance as of 31 May 2024 - £86,272.08 (Cllrs will be provided with bank statements 169, 01 May 2024 to 31 May 2024 & 170, 01 Jun 2024 to 03 Jun 2024 (£35,056.12; current account); and bank statement 09, 01 May 2024 to 31 May 2024 (£51,215.96; savings account) as soon as they become available.)</p>	Clerk

2753	Payment of accounts	<p>Mrs J C Tester Clerk's salary & mileage claim (May 2024) £609.35 NEST Clerk's pension (May 2024) £60.32 West Meon Village Hall Hall hire (May 2024) £18.00 Do the Numbers Ltd (internal audit 2023/24) £320.00 West Meon Village Hall (Biffs waste Rec carpark) £130.57 WCC (playground inspection Meon Wara) £65.94 WCC (playground inspection Rec Ground) £65.94 HugoFox Monthly website charge (May 2024) £11.99 HugoFox Monthly website charge (Apr 2024) £11.99</p> <p>Added:</p> <p>Hillier Garden Services (Rec ground maintenance/strimming) £450.00</p>	Clerk
2754	Planning applications	None received.	
2755	Planning apps received after 29/05/24	None.	
2756	Planning decisions	Noted. Devina Cottage - Clerk to look at original planning consent to check that work carried out matches consent/any conditions given..	Clerk
2757	Planning WG	No written report or verbal updates.	
2758	Community, Housing & Recreation WG	<p>No written report. The following updates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holm Oak with a TPO at The Cross needs cutting back. Cllr Edwards to ask for arboriculture advice. • Parish News: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants • Speed/traffic - two actions to be done • Bus service - impact of road closure on High St 	<p>Cllr Edwards</p> <p>Cllr Waller</p>
2759	Recreation Ground Usage Policy	<p>Original proposal: that the PC approves the creation of a new policy governing the use of the Recreation Ground, including the car park.</p> <p>Amended proposal: that the PC discusses usage of the Recreation Ground for over-flow car parking and agrees upon conditions associated with any such use. This can then be incorporated into a Recreation Ground Policy, to be considered at the July 2024 PC meeting.</p> <p>Resolved: that the PC does not allow any areas of the Recreation Ground to be used for over-flow parking of vehicles, unless requested for a one-off, exceptional event, and approved in advance by the Chair, Clerk and Groundsman. Exact criteria to be given in the Recreation Ground Policy, which will be considered for approval at the July 2024 PC meeting. The PC will carry out a full risk assessment, to be linked to the Policy, and event organisers will need to adhere to all risk-mitigating requirements.</p> <p>Councillors voted unanimously for.</p>	<p>Clerk/ Cllr Edwards/ Cllr Davies</p>

2760	Pétanque Court	Resolved: that the PC DOES NOT take on the construction and on-going responsibility of the pétanque court at the Recreation Ground. Councillors unanimously agreed that whilst the PC remains supportive of the endeavour, it is the responsibility of the Sports Club. Cllrs voted unanimously for.	
2761	Finance & Administration WG	No written report received.	
2762	Financial Regulations - Update	Resolved: that the PC postpones approving the updated Financial Regulations until July 2024 PC meeting.	
2763	Flood Action Group	No report received. Cllr Gedye commented as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Hydrock today. Walked length of river. Will now draw up report. Likely to be a 3-4 week lead time for report. Cllr Bolton commented as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk job first to work out size of problem. If, at that stage, the consultant considers modelling necessary, then that will go ahead. • EA has not, to date, been helpful with supplying data requested (eg mapping already done). • Report will help with identifying riparian responsibilities. • Need a list of actions to take to reduce risks to everyone. 	
2764	Reports & Issues	None.	
2765	Date/time of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues 2nd July 2024 at West Meon VH; 7.30pm. Cllrs Waller & Trenchard gave apologies for this meeting. 	Clerk
2766	Confidential matters	No confidential matters were discussed.	

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair)

Dated:

APPENDIX A

Election Special

A General Election will take place on Thursday 4th July 2024. Following the 2023 review of constituency boundaries, Winchester City Council, which includes the Upper Meon Valley, is now covered by a single constituency, "Winchester."

Who can vote?

To vote in these elections, you will need to be registered on the Register of Electors and you must be:

- Resident in the Winchester City Council area on the date of the election;
- A British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen, or a British citizen living overseas
- 18 years or older.

Signed:

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

WCC Councillors' June 2024 Report

If you are an eligible elector and you are already on the Register of the Electors for Winchester City Council, you do not need to re-register for these elections.

Information on how to register can be found on www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and the deadline for registration is 23:59 18th June 2024.

How to vote

- Voting in person

You can vote in person at your designated polling station. Your polling station will be listed on your poll card, or you can check on wheredoivote.co.uk.

Remember, you'll also need to bring along an accepted form of photo ID, such as your passport or driving license, to be able to vote.

Members of the Armed Services can use the MOD Form 90 ID card as valid ID but Veterans CANNOT use their equivalent, so will need to ensure they have one of the above or apply for a Voter Authority Certificate.

If you do not have any of the accepted forms of photographic identification, and you want to vote at the polling station, you will need to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. This is a new document which Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) will be required to provide, free of charge, to any eligible elector who applies for one.

The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate is 26th June 2024.

Voters who do not produce valid photographic Identification or a Voter Authority Certificate will not be able to vote on polling day.

Full details on voter ID requirements and how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate can be found on [Voter ID webpage](#).

- Voting by post

If you can't get to a polling station in person on Election Day, you can also vote by post. The deadline to register for a postal vote is 5pm on 19th June 2024 and is easy to do online up to that deadline. To apply for postal vote by post the paper application must arrive at your local Electoral Registration Office by the same deadline.

For more information on voting by post go to www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/postal-voting.

You'll need to provide your National Insurance Number, date of birth and signature to apply for a postal vote. Postal vote applications will expire after three years, and a fresh application will have to be submitted.

There are new rules in place on voting by post, these are summarised on the [Postal vote new rules webpage](#).

Postal voting packs for the General Election should start to arrive from approximately 14th June 2024.

- Voting by proxy

You can also choose to have someone else vote on your behalf, known as voting by proxy. The person you choose to vote on your behalf must be a registered elector who is eligible to vote at this election, and who is able to get to your polling station on polling day.

The person you chose to vote on your behalf will need to bring their photo ID with them on polling day.

The deadline to register for a proxy vote is 5pm on 26th June 2024 and is easy to do online up to that deadline. To apply for proxy vote by post the paper application must arrive at your local Electoral Registration Office by the same deadline.

You can find out more about voting by proxy at www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/voting-by-proxy.

Key Deadline Date summary

1. Approx arrival of postal vote packs 14th June 2024

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| 2. Register to vote for new electors | 18 th June 2024 |
| 3. New postal vote registration | 19 th June 2024 |
| 4. Voter Authority Certificate application | 26 th June 2024 |
| 5. Proxy vote registration | 26 th June 2024 |

Hampshire County Council changes

Councillor Keith Mans has been elected as Chairman and Councillor Nick Adams-King has been elected as the new County Council Leader.

The County Council met to formally establish the new administration where Councillor Adams-King officially took up his new role, following a decision by Councillor Rob Humby to step down as Leader following two years in post.

Councillor Adams-King has been the Hampshire County Councillor for Romsey Rural since 2021, and a Member of the County Council's Cabinet since 2022.

The full County Council Cabinet has been confirmed as follows:

Councillor Nick Adams-King – Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services

Councillor Jan Warwick – Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing

Councillor Liz Fairhurst – Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Councillor Zoe Huggins – Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 (Climate Change, Culture and Partnerships) and HR, Communications and Performance

Councillor Roz Chadd – Executive Lead Member for Children's Services

Councillor Steve Forster – Executive Member for Education

Councillor Kirsty North – Executive Lead Member for Universal Services

Councillor Lulu Bowerman – Executive Member for Highways and Waste

Neil Bolton & Jerry Pett

Winchester City Council Ward Members for Upper Meon Valley

APPENDIX B

HCC Councillor's June 2024 Report

Cllr Malcolm Wallace (malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk)

All Change at the County Council – New Leader and Chairman

At the Council AGM on 23-May, Councillor Nick Adams-King was elected as the new County Council Leader (following Cllr Rob Humby's decision to step down as leader after two years in the post) and Councillor Keith Mans was elected as Chairman.

The new Cabinet Members are:

- Councillor Nick Adams-King – Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services
- Councillor Jan Warwick – Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing
- Councillor Liz Fairhurst – Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
- Councillor Zoe Huggins – Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 (Climate Change, Culture and Partnerships) and HR, Communications and Performance
- Councillor Roz Chadd – Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
- Councillor Steve Forster – Executive Member for Education
- Councillor Kirsty North – Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
- Councillor Lulu Bowerman – Executive Member for Highways and Waste

Decisions on Future Services Delayed

Following the announcement that a General Election will be held on 4 July 2024, decisions on the Future Services Consultation (tip closures, road investment, etc.) have been postponed until the autumn.

A public consultation was held between January and March this year, which invited people's views on 13 proposals to reduce and change some local services to help the County Council deliver savings towards the £132 million recurring budget gap faced from April 2025. Final decisions on the proposals were due to be made by the County Council's Cabinet this summer. However, with a General Election also now due this summer, the County Council has concluded that any decisions and communications activity in relation to the outcome of the Future Services Consultation should be avoided under pre-election rules. The Select Committee meetings that were due to take place next month have therefore been rescheduled to September and final decisions are scheduled to be taken by the County Council's Cabinet in October.

[Future Services – changes to planned decision-making dates | Hampshire County Council](#)

Have Your Say on Local Cycling and Walking Plans

The Winchester District Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) sets out the ambition for investment in walking and cycling in the Winchester District over the next 5-10 years. The draft is out for consultation until 14 July. Please give your feedback by completing two short surveys and adding your comments to the map at: [Winchester District Focus LCWIP](#)

Note: **This is important** as the finalised LCWIP will be used to identify priorities for investment in cycling and walking in the future. The draft LCWIP is [here](#), and includes sections on:

- Pages 59-67 – Whiteley Core Walking Zone
- Pages 87-96 – Cycle Route from Hockley to Wickham (via BW, Waltham Chase etc.)
- Pages 97-101 – Cycle Route from Botley to Whiteley

So, please get your comments in!

HCC Commemorative D-Day Events

Special tribute events to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day are taking place at two of our Country Parks – home to locations that played a key role in D-Day itself.

They include a beacon lighting at Lepe Country Park, marking the site where troops embarked on boats headed to the Normandy Beaches on 6 June 1944. On 3 June at 11am there will be Royal Dragoons Memorial event. And on 8 June, there's a Family Activity Day focusing on the heritage of Lepe Country Park and its role in the D-Day landings, followed by an Annual Memorial Service on 9 June, 11am, at the Anchor Memorial on the cliff top.

Royal Victoria Country Park in Netley – the site which was home to the Royal Victoria Hospital treating the Army and Navy's wounded (British and American troops) - is hosting 'Reminiscence in the Park' on 15 and 16 June, including a new exhibition in the Chapel telling the story of the American troops at Netley and a portrait exhibition by artist Nel Brooks of World War II veterans.

[Lepe Country Park & Royal Victoria Country Park to host commemorative D-Day events at historic locations | Hampshire County Council](#)

Community Climate Change Action

We all need to play our part to help tackle climate change – and what you can do in your local community can make a big difference.

The County Council is backing The Greening Campaign which provides expert advice to help communities undertake their own green activities, and Lottery funded support to those tackling climate change. You can find out more at their free, online information event being held at 7pm on Tuesday 11 June 2024.

[What can I do? | Hampshire County Council](#)
[Greening Campaign Online Information Event for Hampshire and IOW communities](#)

Helping new Parents and their Babies to flourish at Hampshire Libraries

Hampshire parents who have recently welcomed a baby into their lives are invited to meet and connect with other new parents and carers at dedicated drop-in sessions in local libraries.

Sessions are held from 1pm to 2pm every Friday at Bishops Waltham library, and from 1.30pm to 2.30pm every Thursday at Fareham library.

[Helping new parents and their babies to flourish at Hampshire libraries | Hampshire County Council](#)

Blood Pressure Monitors Now Available from Hampshire Libraries

In a move to help local people to take charge of their own health, the County Council is making devices available for free at all its libraries.

If left untreated, high blood (hypertension) can lead to strokes, heart attacks, coronary heart disease and heart failure but, worryingly, a third of people in the UK who are affected, are unaware. Each monitor is borrowed on a 'first come-first served' basis. It comes in a box, with a leaflet containing easy-to-follow instructions on how to use the device and understand the results, as well as what to do if you are concerned about the readings.

[Blood pressure monitors now available from Hampshire libraries | Hampshire County Council](#)