



DRAFT MINUTES

West Meon Parish Council
5th Dec 2023; 7.30pm; West Meon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair); Cllr Edwards; Cllr Nicholson; Cllr Gedye; Cllr Thomson; Cllr Silk (left the room at 8.15pm; returned at 8.17pm); & Cllr Waller.

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Lumby (HCC; arrived 7.43pm; left 7.47pm); Cllr Pett (WCC; left 7.47pm) & three members of the public.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2545	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of all villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2546	Apologies	No apologies received from WMPC cllrs. Apologies received from Cllr Bolton (WCC)	
2547	Disclosable pecuniary interests	Cllr Nicholson declared an interest, as a neighbour to the property, in agenda item 2559 - SDNP/23/05019/TPO (1 Stones Yard) and will refrain from commenting/voting.	
2548	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2549	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rep from West Meon Safe & Sound - asked about The West Meon planning app (SDNP/23/02695/FUL). Cllrs confirmed that this app has recently been withdrawn. Woodlands resident spoke about progress made with the community Renature Program. Seeking PC's backing in approaching HH for e.g. new signage, replacement/ repaired fingerposts. Exploring lots of funding issues. Would PC back funding? Cllr Pett advised to find out if Highways depo in Bishops Waltham covers WM (some funding may be available). Cllr Pett to provide contact details. PC's grant application process discussed. 	
2550	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	

2551	District councillor's report & questions arising	<p>Report received (Appendix A).</p> <p>WMPC comments to Cllr Pett:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was attempted to download data from speed device but not possible due to huge volume (must have included data from other parishes). Data was wiped so that meaningful data for WM can be collected & downloaded. Device will be taken down end of this week. 	
2552	County councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (Appendix B). No questions to Cllr Lumby.	
2553	Police/PCSO report	No report received. Clerk to request stats for 2023 (for Parish News).	
2554	Mins of previous meetings (07/11/23)	Agreed as a true record.	
2555	Clerk's progress report	<p>Parish Lengthsman Agreement - timetable for 2023/24 as follows: 31st Jan 2024</p> <p>WMPC-WMVH lease – no further updates.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Replacement by HCC of x2 redundant traffic speed signs on A32. No update.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Footpath 10 Cllr Edwards to update.</p>	
2556	Bank account	Bank balance - £135,499.02 Cllrs have been provided with statement 161(current account; balance £85,483.95) & statement 3 (savings account; balance £50,015.07) 01 Nov 2023 to 31 Nov 2023.	Clerk
2557	Grant Requests – WM PCC	<p>Resolved: that the PC approves the following grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £250.00 for WMVH to assist with the insulation of the ceiling of the storage room; and • £435.00 for WM PCC to assist with covering the costs of mowing the churchyard 2023. [Clerk to request that going forward a grant request is made at the beginning of each financial year for a set amount (up to £500).] 	Clerk

2558	Payment of accounts	<p>Mrs J C Tester Clerk's salary & mileage claim (Nov 2023; includes back-pay for Sept & Oct 2023) £688.39</p> <p>Mrs J C Tester Expenses – mileage claim for 2 x additional meetings in WM; & 1 x meeting in Swanmore for computer data transfer £19.98</p> <p>NEST Clerk's pension (Nov 2023; includes back-pay for Sept & Oct 2023) £64.48</p> <p>West Meon Village Hall Hall hire (Nov 2023) £18.00</p> <p>Mrs J C Tester Reimbursement for Macbook purchase £829.00</p> <p>CloudNext Ltd. gov.uk Domain (westmeon-pc.gov.uk) £132.00</p> <p>CloudNext Ltd Home Hosting 1 x Hosted Site (westmeon-pc.gov.uk) £59.98</p> <p>HugoFox Monthly website charge £11.99</p> <p>Online Computer Consultancy Ltd Remote IT assistance £13.00</p> <p>Computer Problems Solved Ltd Data transfer & setup — Clerk's laptop £155.00</p> <p>West Meon PCC Parish News grant 2023/24 £250.00</p> <p>The Royal British Legion. Donation for 2023/24 £30.00</p> <p>J West Christmas Tree Supplier Village Christmas trees £144.00</p> <p>Chris Waller Reimbursement for Christmas tree lights & batteries £46.50</p> <p>Payments in addition to those listed on the agenda:</p> <p>Computer Problems Solved Ltd E-mail/website domain set up 04/12/23 £60.00</p>	Clerk
2559	Planning applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/23/05019/TPO - 1 Stones Yard West Meon Hampshire GU321AR. G1Beech - Prune back side over garden to near previous pruning points to maintain trees distance from house/property. [NO OBJECTION.] • SDNP/23/04793/TCA - Rose Bank , Court Lane, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1JF. T1 beech tree located to left of front drive to be reduced by 5-6ft overall to maintain size. [DECISION ALREADY MADE.] • SDNP/23/04526NMA - 3 Park View High Street West Meon Hampshire GU321LN. Non Material Amendment to planning application SDNP/23/02806/HOUS. [NO COMMENT.] 	Clerk

2560	Planning apps received after 29/11/23	None received.	
2561	Planning decisions	<p>Noted, with the addition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/21/03384/FUL - Loomies. DEEMED WITHDRAWAL • SDNP/23/01850/HOUS - 11 Woodland Cottages. APPROVED • SDNP/22/05223/HOUS - Davena, Lynch Lane, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1LT (AMENDED PLANS) Ground floor and first floor extension and raise the roof. APPROVED. • SDNP/23/02695/FUL - The West Meon, Alton Road, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1JX. Reconfiguration of existing car park and expansion to provide additional parking to serve the existing public house. APPLICATION WITHDRAWN. • SDNP/23/04793/TCA - Rose Bank, Court Lane, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1JF. T1 beech tree located to left of front drive to be reduced by 5-6ft overall to maintain size. RAISE NO OBJECTION. 	
2562	Planning WG	No written/verbal report this month.	
2563	Community, Housing & Recreation WG	<p>No written report. The following updates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boules - SC confirmed that all conditions of approval requested by the PC (and noted at the Nov 2023 PC meeting) will be accommodated in the court design & re-submission to Planning. (See Appendix C.) • Playground equipment - five potential tenderers have conducted a site visit. Two more to come. • Parish News – Items to be included in the next PC report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salt bins • Shovels • Clerk’s new e-mail address (to go on We Are WM also) • Speed indicator device - results from trial • Car parking at VH - PC aware that there have been issues & is monitoring situation. Will continue to monitor unauthorised/abandoned vehicles. • Dog poo - reminder to owners to pick up after their dogs. 	Cllr Nicholson
2564	Finance & Administration WG	<p>No written report received & Cllr Edwards and the Clerk confirmed that there is no current update on leases and land registration.</p> <p>Finance WG to meet 12.30pm Wed 13 Dec 2023 to draw up a draft budget, ready for discussion at the Jan 2024 PC meeting.</p>	
2565	Flood Action Group	<p>Cllr Gedye reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCC has finally taken responsibility for the weir. • Cllr Edwards to speak to landowner where tree work has been carried out around the weir. Appears to be incomplete. 	
2566	Reports & Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax base for WM parish for 2024/25 is 406.47. • Emergency Planning & Resilience Focus Group for Hampshire Resilience Forum. Available dates are Thursday 14 December, and one of either Tuesday 09 January 2024 or Thursday 11 January 2024. Cllr Trenchard may be able to attend 11/01/24. 	

2567	Date/time of next meeting	• Tues 9 th Jan 2024 at West Meon VH (Small Hall); 7.30pm.	
2568	Confidential matters	No members of the public/press were present. No confidential matters were discussed.	

The meeting closed at 8.38pm

Signed:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair)

Dated:

Signed:

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

**APPENDIX A
Grant funding sources**

Winchester City Councillors' Dec 2023 Report

We are often asked about sources of funding for various local projects ranging from Woodland creation grants to Community Automated External Defibrillator (AED) grants. The government website has 123 grants available on the link below and a very useful search function that helps you locate the right grant for your project. The AED example above is a £1m scheme, open until 21st September 2024, for public and private applicants awarding between £450 to £1,250. This would contribute the bulk of the funding for a community to purchase their own AED.

<https://www.find-government-grants.service.gov.uk/>

The following are a number of more local sources of grant funding available through Winchester and the South Downs National Park.

Rural England Prosperity Fund:

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/news/2023/nov/funding-boost-for-winchester-s-rural-communities>

South Downs Trust Re-Nature Fund:

<https://southdownstrust.org.uk/renature-fund/>

South Downs National Park Authority Sustainable Communities Fund:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/our-communities/grants-and-funding/sustainable-communities-fund/>

Winchester City Council CIL Funding (can be applied to projects outside the Winchester LPA area providing they deliver benefit to that area, apparently):

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/apply-for-cil>

South Downs National Park Authority CIL Funding (for projects within the South Downs LPA area that deliver benefit towards the Park's Management Plan purposes):

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/community-infrastructure-levy/revision-of-spending-cil/applying-for-cil-funds-for-an-infrastructure-project/>

Winchester Small Grants Scheme (up to £1000):

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations/small-grant-scheme>

Winchester Go Greener Faster Scheme:

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

Elections 2024

We already know that on Thursday 2nd May 2024 there will be a number of elections. The Police and Crime Commissioner election, 5 Parish elections and 14 ward elections except for Colden Common and Upper Meon Valley (so no getting rid of Neil or Jerry just yet!). All of this is subject to change if the government decide to have the General Election on that date.

As was the case last May the new Voter ID rules apply and all voters must present suitable ID at the polling station. If a resident does not have one of the accepted forms of ID listed on the website they must apply to Winchester for a free Voter Authority Certificate.

New postal vote applications have been introduced and the application can be submitted online or by post, however, all new applications require your National Insurance Number and the link below takes you to the relevant section of the government website. It is worth noting that there is a new rule regarding postal votes having to be accompanied by a specific declaration if it is hand delivered to a polling station or posted through the letterbox of the council offices. Without this declaration the postal vote will not be counted. It is far easier and less likely to result in problems by posting the postal vote pack via Royal Mail.

It is still the case that this applies to new postal vote applications and so existing postal voters need do nothing until they come up for renewal. However, there will no longer be an automatic refresh at this point so as to incorporate the voter ID requirements.

Changes also apply to Proxy Voting. An individual will only be able to act for up to 4 people of which only 2 are living in the UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/vote-uk-election>

And finally, a very happy Christmas to one and all and best wishes for 2024.

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

APPENDIX B

Hampshire County Councillor's Dec 2023 Report

1.HCC budget reductions

Public consultations will now begin on the implementation of budget reductions approved by the County Council at its meeting in November, to reduce its £132m budget gap forecast by 2025/26. It identified that £90.4m could be generated through the savings proposals, of which £75m is expected to be delivered by 2025/26, leaving a forecast unmet budget gap of £57m in 2025/26. Increases in fees, changes in how services are offered as well as more use of smart technology are planned as part of the budget-cutting measures. The council also said it would continue to use its reserves, which have dropped by £38m since 2021/22. As part of the plans, school crossing patrols would be removed from routes considered "safe" or where other pedestrian facilities could be installed in order to save £1.1m. All non-statutory local bus and community transport services would also be suspended. I will update you on the consultations as these get underway.

2.Schools

Hampshire parents and carers with children due to start school in Reception Year or move to Year 3 at a junior school next year, can now apply for their child's school place for September 2024. School applications are open until 15 January 2024. Parents are being reminded to name three schools on their applications, to give them the best chance of being offered a place at one of their preferred schools. Three Hampshire schools (located in Fleet, Chandlers Ford and Eastleigh) are set to benefit from greener energy following the approval of a scheme to install ground source heat pumps and provide low-carbon heating systems. The project is being financed from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and the council's school buildings improvement budget. The council is separately consulting on proposed changes to the admission arrangements for 2025/26 for community and voluntary controlled schools within its area. Check whether local schools are effected and how to respond, at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/admission-arrangements25-26>. The consultation will run until Friday 29 December 2023.

3.Roads

The County Council has secured a further £132 million for Hampshire over the next ten years to tackle the issue of potholes and invest in longer term, proactive road maintenance. A ten-year settlement allows the council to plan ahead carefully with more certainty, and to allocate and prioritise resources more effectively. The money will help to tackle the challenges of unprecedented demand, soaring inflation, and the impacts of heavy rain, flooding and sub-zero temperatures. The County Council has already allocated £22.5 million of its own money over the next three years to repair potholes and other defects and this is already helping to make our roads stronger ahead of another potentially difficult winter period.

4. Mini-forests

Thousands more trees are set to be planted across Hampshire as a permanent reminder of His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation following a successful bid by the County Council for £100,000 from a national funding pot to mark the historic occasion. The national grant has been awarded from the Government's Nature for Climate Fund via Defra's Coronation Living Heritage Fund. The County Council has secured a £50,000 award for the establishment of Coronation micro-woods in urban areas – this applies techniques that enable dense woodlands, usually the size of a tennis court, to grow up to ten times faster than normal. Another £50,000 grant is available for Coronation Community Orchards. Groups or communities interested in planting a mini forest or orchard can contact the Hampshire Forest Partnership via its website. The Forest Partnership's Coronation fund is open for projects that can be planted by March 2025. Three mini-forests have been planted in Hampshire so far, in Havant, near Petersfield and in Hedge End.

5. New HCC app

The County Council's has launched its new mobile app, 'OurHants', which is available for Apple and Android mobile devices. The intent is to offer many online services through the app, beginning with the full range of County Council web pages, to allow residents to access all services. It also contains new functionality to book appointments for Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs). Details can be saved to make future booking quicker and the app will allow people to see and manage their bookings in one place and will notify the user of any important updates about their booking. So why not give it a try? OurHants - Get it on Google Play OurHants - Download on the Apple App Store

6. Police

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Donna Jones, is carrying out a consultation on her precept and priorities for the year ahead. The consultation closes on 10 December. You can find the survey here: <https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90633344/Precept2024-25>. You can also read Donna's annual report here - <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Annual-Report-2023-Online-Version.pdf>

7. Seasons greetings

December is here already, I'm not sure where the year has gone! I hope everyone has a great Christmas break and my best wishes for 2024.

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

APPENDIX C

Correspondence from Sports Club re. Boules Court

Dear Jo

I asked Mary to email you on Saturday 25th. It referred to an annex. After our Sports Club Management meeting on Monday 27th I have re-written our response to remove the need for an annex.

Thank you for your email of 8 November 2023. We will amend our plans to comply with the Parish Council's (PC) requirements in the following manner.

1 North-South dimension (To be reduced from 14.1m to 13.6m)

We will shift the entire fenced area including playing and spectator areas Northwards by 500 mm. There will be no slope at our Northern edge: it is replaced by a low timber baulk retaining wall.

2 Reinstatement of the land should the initiative fail.

We will change the reinstatement plan to ensure that, should such work be necessary, the original site above and below ground and the current profile and condition of the adjacent areas will be restored.

3 Integration of ground levels.

Grass banks of approximately 25° gradient (46.6% or '700 mm in 1500 mm' or '1 in 2') outside the Boules Court fence will slope up to or down to the surrounding Recreation Ground. All excavated topsoil and turf not needed in the above work will be removed from the site by the contractor.

We trust that these commitments are sufficient to give the PC members comfort that our development intentions are aligned with their expectations. Please could you confirm that we may proceed with our application for final approval with Planners and our discussions with potential contractors after effecting these changes.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Hugh

Hugh Morris
Chair, West Meon and Warnford Sports Club