



DRAFT MINUTES

West Meon Parish Council
07 Mar 2023; 7.30pm; West Meon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair); Cllr Nicholson; Cllr Waller; Cllr Edwards; & Cllr Gedye (arrived 7.33pm)

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Bolton (WCC; left at 8.19pm) & ten members of the public.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2270	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of all villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2271	Apologies	Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Silk & Lumby. Darren Lewis (WCC) & Kim Smith (EA) also sent apologies.	
2272	Disclosable pecuniary interests	Cllr Trenchard declared an interest in item 2285 as recipient for one payment. Cllr Trenchard will refrain from taking part in any discussion or vote associated with this payment.	
2273	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2274	Public questions & comments	<p>Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. Members of the public commented on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic speed update – results of survey to be e-mailed to cllrs idc. [The Chair reiterated that a PC Cllr needs to lead - Cllr Gedye agreed to take this on.] [Cllr Bolton confirmed that speed cameras & noise reduction cameras due to be implemented this spring. Re 20mph – this is a HCC issue. Currently reflecting on survey data and how to take it further.] [The Chair asked that Cllr Gedye should liaise with villagers if an open village meeting is to be organised.] Flooding issues – Cllr Edwards read out the recommendations made by WCC following the site visit. HCC have said landowners’ responsibility; EA to advise. EA has not yet responded. Cllr Edwards has already spoken to landowners & they are happy to comply, but agree that need to wait for EA input. [Cllr Bolton advised that EA needs to be involved as solution needs to work for whole area. Liability needs to be considered. Will find out who the best contact at EA would be.] Clerk to e-mail Cllr Bolton asap with all recent correspondence. 	Clerk

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If septic tank is overflowing, would EA dictate that you have to replace at your own expense? [Cllr Bolton confirmed not if caused by flooding, but EA may insist that if the tank is not suitable it is replaced on sale of house.] 	
2275	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	
2276	Flooding Issues	<p>Cllrs noted that both HH and the EA declined to attend this meeting. WCC was unable due to staff sickness.</p> <p>Resolved: that, as per discussions in mins ref 2274, above, the PC provides Cllr Bolton with all available information and correspondence regarding the flooding issues to enable him to take the matter further with the EA.</p>	
2277	District councillor's report & questions arising	<p>Report received (Appendix A). Cllr question to Cllr Bolton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will WCC be writing to every resident re voters' ID? [Yes, as far as aware. Easiest option is to register for postal voting.] Are footpath/steps between Marlands Lane & Storeys Meadows owned by WCC? [Will find out - Clerk to send e-mail trail to Cllr Bolton.] 	Clerk
2278	County councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (Appendix B).	
2279	Police/PCSO report	<p>Not received. Cllr noted the recent theft of catalytic convertor from 4-wheel-drive vehicle in WM. Cllr Nicholson to put note to villagers in Parish News. Cllr Trenchard to put an alert on We Are West Meon.</p>	Cllrs Nicholson & Trenchard
2280	Mins of previous meetings (14/02/23)	Agreed as a true record.	
2281	Clerk's progress report	<p>Parish Lengthsman Agreement Final visit of the financial year 14/02/23. Communication received 01/03/23 from RP Gardening (via Lead Parish). Unable to continue scheme as is due to rising costs, but has offered the following two options: Option 1: Continue with 5 visits a year with 1 team member at each visit instead of 2. Option 2: Continue with 2 team members at each visit but reduce visits to 4 a year instead of 5. Cllrs to advise of preference. [Clerk to inform Lead Parish by 08/03/23 that WMPC prefers option 2.]</p> <p>Finance & Administration WG WMPC-WMVH lease - e-mail received from VH 01/03/23 advising that they had received some advice from solicitor re appropriateness of lease & registration of the land. Awaiting clarification of a few outstanding questions.</p> <p>Asset Register Cllr Edwards currently working on valuing fences & gates. Cllr Waller investigating ownership of War Memorial in the churchyard. Clerk has enquired with South Coast Memorials re cost of replacement of The Cross. [UPDATE: estimate of £15k has been received.] Cllr Waller to</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Edwards /Clerk</p>

		ask Blackwell Moody for an estimate for replacement of the War Memorial in the Churchyard. Community, Housing & Recreation WG Lengthsman (steps between Marlands Lane & Storeys Meadows) – info & photos have been sent to HCC Community Engagement Ranger. Not possible to report online as not on an official footpath. [UPDATE: HCC unable to assist as not an official fp and for GDPR reasons they cannot pass on details of land ownership. Clerk to contact WCC or Hyde Housing as one/both were responsible for the initial building of the steps.] Coronation Tree Planting Cllr Trenchard has been advised that the PC will need a much stronger tree and it will need to be planted Jan/Feb. Also it will need care and a suitable planting spot. [PC INTEND TO PLANT AN OAK TREE IN THE NEXT TREE-PLANTING SEASON. REVISIT IN OCT 2023. To be advertised on Parish News etc.] Snow Shovels Cllr Edwards does not have any spare therefore Clerk to look in local hardware store/s. Reports & Issues PC noticeboard – resident has arranged for replacement of the damaged leg. Cllrs to confirm that work has been carried out to an acceptable standard. [Confirmed completed to an acceptable standard. Clerk to thank villager.]	Cllr Waller Clerk Cllr Nicholson Clerk Clerk
2282	Bank account	Bank balance - £112,434.15 @ 01/03/23 (Cllrs have been provided with bank statement 149, 01 Feb 2023 to 28 Feb 2023.)	Clerk
2283	Review of Statutory PC Docs	Resolved: that the PC approves the revised Standing Orders, Risk Assessment, and Finance Regulations.	Clerk
2284	Grant application – WM Village Hall	Resolved: that the PC approves a grant of £500.00 to WM Village Hall towards the cost of the purchase of an electric projector screen.	Clerk
2285	Payment of accounts	Mrs J C Tester Clerk’s salary & mileage (Feb 2023) £704.01 NEST Clerk’s pension (Feb 2023) £56.16 West Meon Village Hall Hall hire 14 Feb 2023 £15.00 West Meon Village Hall Biffa Trade Waste @ VH £130.57 <u>The following payment is in addition to those advertised on the agenda:</u> HMRC Clerk’s Tax & NI £73.63 [Payment to Cllr Trenchard of £3.00 as reimbursement for printing costs, as per agenda, was withdrawn by Cllr Trenchard.]	Clerk
2286	Planning applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDNP/23/00744/TEL - Telecom Mast Site at Brocklands Farm, Old Winchester Hill Lane, West Meon, Hampshire. Regulation 5 notification under the Electronic Communications Code regulation 2003 (as amended) to utilise permitted development rights at Land at Brocklands Farm, West Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 1JN. [NO COMMENTS.] 	Clerk

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/23/00678/TCA - West Meon House, Station Road, West Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 1JG. [THIS HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN.] • SDNP/23/00779/FUL – Stoney Dean Farm, Chicken Shed, Marlands Lane, West Meon, Hampshire GU321JY. Temporary Agricultural caravan to be occupied by owner/manager for a temporary period of 3 years. [OBJECTION – exact wording to be confirmed to Clerk asap after the meeting.] 	
2287	Planning apps received after 01/03/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/22/04577/HOUS - Little Headdon Farm, Marlands Lane, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1JY. Swimming pool in garden. [NO OBJECTION.] 	Clerk
2288	Planning decisions	<p>All decisions were noted, with the addition of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/22/05641/FUL - Woodlands House, Woodlands, Bramdean, Hampshire, SO24 0HW. Installation of a 50kW ground mount solar PV system comprising of 132 x Canadian Solar 380W modules. APPROVED. • SDNP/23/00678/TCA - West Meon House, Station Road, West Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 1JG. APPLICATION WITHDRAWN. 	
2289	Planning WG	<p>No written report. The following updates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boules – Cllr Edwards reported that four households attended the public viewing of the plans. Cllr Waller asked for noticed in shop etc to be left until after the consultation deadline. • VDS - Cllr Waller commented that both consultations will now be organized by SDNPA. Have asked for treasured views grid references. April or May 2023 meeting – final version to be approved by Council & copy of minutes sent to SDNP so that they can start consultation. 	
2290	Village Design Statement	This proposal was WITHDRAWN. (No longer appropriate for the PC to organize the first consultation given the recent confirmation from SDNPA that it will arrange both.)	
2291	Community, Housing & Recreation WG	<p>No written report. The following updates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metis Homes – no update. Cllr Silk to update Council. • Northfields – currently no street lights. No curtilage to put lights in. No complaints to date. No further action needed. • Girls' Football Club at WM – WM Sports Club will be meeting soon to discuss the proposal & should therefore be in a better position to brief the PC at its April 2023 meeting. • Recreation Ground playground - Cllrs Edwards & Waller recently met with Playsafe – awaiting drawings. • Parish News – Items to be included in the next PC report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items mentioned above. • VDS. • Outdoor gym equipment (item 2292, below). 	<p>Cllr Silk</p> <p>Clerk/Cllr Waller</p>

2292	Recreation Ground Play/Exercise Equipment	<p>Resolved: that the following should be communicated to villagers via Parish News & We Are West Meon:</p> <p>‘The PC is considering dismantling and selling the outdoor gym equipment at the Recreation Ground. Regular use by adult gym enthusiasts has not materialised, meaning that the equipment is rarely used but still requires maintenance. Removal and sale will also assist the PC in improving play equipment for children and young people at the Recreation Ground. However, should an adult group wishing to use the equipment on a regular basis come forward, the PC will take this into serious consideration.’</p> <p>Cllrs asked if roundabout seats could be replaced. [Yes, given that it is a H&S concern.] Warning to be put on We Are West Meon to use with care until replacement can take place.</p>	Cllr Trenchard
2293	Finance & Administration WG	<p>No written report received. The following updates were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMPC draft leases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rifle Club – Clerk has written to RC to advise better to wait to sign lease until the PC-VH lease is finalized so that terms e.g. carpark maintenance can be made comparable. • VH – has appointed its own legal representation. Would VH solicitor be willing to work with PC’s solicitor? Awaiting response. Responsibility over carpark maintenance is one issue that needs to be confirmed. 	
2294	Annual Meeting of the Parish	<p>Resolved: that the following items are included in the Annual Meeting of the Parish (Thurs 27th April at WM Sports Club at 7pm for 7.30pm):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding • Speed (Cllr Gedye to lead) <p>Clerk to inform WCC, HCC & PCSO of date. Cllr Nicholson to advertise in Parish News.</p>	Clerk Cllr Nicholson
2295	Community event	Resolved: that this item is deferred to the April PC meeting.	Clerk
2296	Reports & Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean event – 17/03/23 to 02/04/23. • HCC new draft Guidance on Planning Obligations and Infrastructure Guidance – Public Consultation open 17/02/23 to 31/03/23. • South Downs Local Plan Review – PCs are being asked to identify the facilities and open spaces for any settlements within the Parish. Deadline for responses 06/04/23. • MoP has approached the PC with regard to the huge amounts of litter in WM along the A32, and requested assistance in looking into what action could be taken for these areas to be cleared and kept clean. Cllr Lumby has advised that this is WCC responsibility & asked Cllr Bolton to investigate. 	Clerk
2297	Date/time of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues 4th Apr 2023 at West Meon VH (Main Hall); 7.30pm. • To discuss next meeting – summer event; WMRC lease; WMVH lease. 	Clerk

2298	Confidential matters	No members of the public/press were present.	
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The meeting closed at 9.23pm

Signed:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair)

Dated:

Signed:

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

APPENDIX A

Winchester City Councillors' March Report

Thank you to Hugh Lumby

It wouldn't be right if I failed to mark the occasion of Hugh's retirement from the Winchester City Council as the ward representative for the Upper Meon Valley.

I have only really got to know Hugh over the last 18 months, whereas many of you have known him for many years, or at least for the 4 and a bit years that he has represented you.

He has been an extremely kind and helpful mentor to me. He was, after all, the one who persuaded me to throw my hat into the ring, making out that there wasn't much to being a councillor and it doesn't take up too much time. So, you can well imagine he has spent much of the last year rowing back from both those fundamental economies of the truth.

Hugh has led by example, showing me the qualities exhibited by a model ward councillor. He takes his role in our community very seriously and has worked incredibly hard on your behalf over the years whilst maintaining his trademark great humour. I have witnessed this more than most over this last year. We have worked very closely as a tag team, trying to get to as many of the parish meetings as possible. Many clashing in our diaries, as you all know too well.

Hugh will be missed by all of us, but thankfully, he will still be here focusing more of his time on County Council work.

Thank you Hugh for all you have done and continue to do.

The picture above shows what we hope will be the progression of our team introducing Astrea Hurlock who will stand as the candidate to replace Hugh. Obviously, candidates of other political persuasion may well be available on election day, BUT ONLY, if you send in your postal vote or make sure you have your ID at the polling booth.

Info on voter ID: www.winchester.gov.uk/elections/voter-id

Southern Water update

At the Health and Environment committee this week, we had Dr Toby Willison, the former Acting Chief Executive and Executive Director of Operations at the Environment Agency, who now represents Southern Water as Natural Capital and Environment Director. He was speaking at the committee answering questions from members and the public regarding failures in water supply and ongoing Combined Sewage Outflow (CSO) discharge into the rivers and sea along the South coast.

SW apologised generally for the shortfalls in water supply and any sewage discharge issues that they are responsible for.

On sewage discharge, SW reported they had set up a task force 2 years ago that will publish a regional plan to resolve CSO issues next month. They have also applied to Ofwat for an acceleration of funding into the current 5 year cycle to release funds to combat this problem. This would be focussed on 3 main areas, infrastructure investment to separate surface water and foul water to reduce overflow, nature projects to slow the flow of ground water and bigger storage and treatment works.

Regarding the water outages recently, they apologised for the failure of service which was unacceptable. SW added that the two recent events had different causes and they are shortly publishing a review of the incidents and what action they will be taking to mitigate in future. They promised to pay double the statutory minimum compensation to customers and £50k to 5 local food banks.

Hopefully, more to come on actions but this will take years to resolve.

Litter picking

There are many residents who are proud champions of our environment and organise regular litter picking. Some, incredibly brave people, along some of our more dangerous roads such as the A32 and A272. On behalf of such a group in West Meon and up towards Privett along the A32, we are working with officers to see what can be done to improve the councils rubbish collection activities in areas such as the lay-bys which at times are overflowing.

In the meantime, whilst we try to resolve this, it is worth pointing out that these groups can always contact Id verde who do support local litter clearance like this. Most weekends they have a truck out behind the locals, so they are protected a bit more from traffic. They can also provide hi viz jackets and pickers, as well as taking away the rubbish collected at the end.

www.thelitterpartnership.org

Councillor Neil Bolton, Upper Meon Valley ward Nbolton@winchester.gov.uk

Councillor Hugh Lumby, Upper Meon Valley ward Hlumby@winchester.gov.uk

APPENDIX B

Hampshire County Councillor's March Report

1. 2023/24 budget approved

Hampshire County Council's £2.6bn spending plans for 2023/24 have been approved, as set out in my report last month. Its council tax precept for the financial year beginning 1 April 2023, will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care, in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,460.25 for a Band D property – an increase of £69.45 per year or approximately £1.34 a week. Leader of the County Council, Councillor Rob Humby, said: "Each year, the County Council is tested to the limits in continuing to deliver a balanced budget, which is required by law. Planning for this upcoming financial year has been no different, and we have had to navigate further intense pressures resulting from the cost-of-living crisis, inflation and workforce pressures which are pushing up costs, and growing demand in key areas such as social care for the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities – which far outweighs available Government funding. "We are also acutely aware of the very difficult decisions Hampshire residents face in their own household budgets to make ends meet, but reluctantly, in order to help deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24, we have no other choice but to increase the council tax precept. This is a decision we have not taken lightly. But even after this increase, we are still left with a £50.8 million shortfall in our revenue budget which we will have to fill using our reserves – built to buffer this and next year's anticipated budget shortfalls. "The increase will generate £37m of vital extra income towards the delivery of crucial, high performing services to the people of Hampshire in 2023/24, and still means that Hampshire has one of the lowest council tax precepts of any county in England.

2. New school in Whiteley for children with severe learning difficulties

Its great news that Hampshire County Council's application for a new special free school in Whiteley has been provisionally approved by the Department for Education (DfE). The application will now move to a second stage and, if finally approved, will pave the way for a new 125-place, co-educational school for 4-16 year olds with Severe Learning Disabilities. Land has been made available and feasibility work is currently ongoing. The plans will now proceed to the second stage of the application process, which will see academy trusts invited to apply to sponsor the school. I have called on Winchester City Council to amend its draft local plan to reflect the proposed use (the last draft showed this as residential). At the time of the implementation of the SEN Reforms in 2014, HCC was supporting around 5,000 children with special educational needs; the figure is now 15,000 children.

3. School admissions

More than 97 per cent of parents in Hampshire have been offered a place for their child at one of their three preferences for a secondary school in September 2023, with 90 per cent offered a place at their first preference school. The County Council received 15,400 on-time applications this year – an increase of 418 applications compared to the number received for places in September 2022 (14,982). Parents and carers who have not secured a place at one of their preferred secondary schools this year are urged to please visit HCC's website for advice and guidance on their options. Offers for primary schools are due to go out to parents on 17 April 2023.

4. Parish lengthsman scheme

The County Council's parish lengthsman scheme has been maintained for the coming financial year. The scheme funds a local 'lengthsman' to carry out straightforward and low risk maintenance activities on footways, highways, and rights of way. The work mainly involves jobs that can have a big impact, such as ditch clearing, hedge cutting and sign cleaning. The scheme has since been successful in giving 186 local parish and town councils an opportunity to prioritise and deliver their own small scale highway maintenance works that will be of high value locally.

5. Grants to fight rural crime

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Donna Jones, has announced a fund to award grants to help tackle rural crime, supporting initiatives to reduce rural crime or support victims. The application window closes at 2pm on Friday 21 April 2023 and successful applications will be announced in mid to late May 2023. Applications can be made at <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/safer-together/funding/apply-for-funding>.

6. Consultation on post-16 transport policy

The County Council has launched its annual consultation on the Post-16 Transport Policy. This policy outlines the provision of transport for young people over the age of 16 with special needs or disabilities, who require additional support to access education or training suitable to their needs. The consultation includes an opportunity to comment on the proposed increase in the parental contribution by 27.1%, in line with the increased costs of running the service. This increase is being driven by national driver shortages, a limited number of transport operators on the market, and an increase in fuel prices. Families in receipt of income-based free school meals and certain means-tested benefits will not be required to pay an annual charge. The consultation will run for a period of six weeks until 11:59pm on Sunday 2 April, please visit the Hampshire County Council website for details.

Councillor Hugh Lumby, Meon Valley Division