DRAFT MINUTES

West Meon Parish Council
1st Oct 2024; 7.30pm; West Meon Village Hall

PRESENT:
Cllr Edwards; Cllr Waller; Cllr Gedye; Cllr Burke; Cllr Silk; & Cllr Davies.

In Attendance:
Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Bolton (WCC; left 7.51pm); Cllr Pett (WCC; left 7.51pm); & Cllr Wallace (HCC; left 7.51pm)

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2825	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of all villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2826	Apologies	Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Thomson & Trenchard.	
2827	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None declared.	
2828	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2829	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. No members of the public in attendance.	
2830	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	
2831	District councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (Appendix A). Additional points discussed as follows: • Cllrs Bolton & Pett have been lobbying HCC re current proposals to cut services. Cross-party agreement to try to save bus services and recycling centres. • Meon Valley Community Bus - possibility that Wed service will be cut, which would cause funding issues for WVCB. • Cuts to school crossings controls - also under scrutiny. • 14.10.24 committee decisions to be announced. • Bin collections - pre-programming changes to accommodate food waste collections etc. Trying to make rounds most cost efficient. New trucks running on HVO rather than diesel. • Strong push for mixed recycling bins to limit the number of different bins that people have. This is a recommendation only at the current time.	

2832	County councillor's report & questions arising	Discussions were held regarding the following: • M3/A34 roundabout work has started.	
2833	Flood Action Group	No report received. Verbal update as follows: • Waiting for SSE grant application result. • Have been in contact with EA re. lack of clearing of vegetation in the river between Lynch lane & Drs Lane, usually done on an annual basis but missed this year. • EA are going to contact riparian owner re culvert by Hall Place. • Cllr Bolton - neighbour has undertaken regular work on behalf of a group of individuals (like a Lengthsman; clearing culverts etc). May be worth considering.	
2834	Mins of previous meetings (03/09/24)	Agreed as a true record.	
2835	Clerk's progress report	**Parish Lengthsman Agreement** - timetable for 2024/25 as follows: 04/11/24; & 31/01/25. Cllrs to provide Clerk with suggestions for Lengthsman visit 04/11/24. **WMPC-WMVH lease** – application has now been expedited. Chased Heidi Chapman (Bramsdon & Childs) for an update 27/06/24. Chased Tom Rafferty 28/07/24. No response to date. Clerk called office 29/08/24 & left message with colleague for Heidi Chapman (confirmation e-mail also sent). No response to date. Cllr Edwards confirmed that he has spoken to Nathan Broome @ Giles Wheeler-Bennett regarding amending the plan sent to HMLR (removing the area of the tennis courts as this does not belong to the PC). Nathan has liaised with B&C and confirmed that submitting this amendment will not affect the timescale for completion of the application. Clerk has e-mailed Nathan to formally confirm that this amendment should be requested. **Lengthsman (steps between Marlands Lane & Storeys Meadow)** - confirmation received that new Neighbourhood Officer is Sam Collins. Contact requested. Chased 28/08/24. **Replacement by HCC of x2 redundant traffic speed signs on A32** - has been completed but vegetation is obscuring them from sight. Clerk has requested that this is cut back asap. HCC response was that vegetation was not overhanging signs when they were installed. Photos received. However, councillors do not think that these photos are of WM. Clerk has fed this back to HCC (Steve Woodward) - agreed that photos do appear to not have been taken in WM & it will be investigated. Cllr Edwards has cut back the vegetation on behalf of the landowners. To be removed from report. **PDS** - draft consultation statement & comments for action have been received from Lewis Ford (SDNPA). Cllr Waller to meet with Lewis in Oct to discuss. **Question re insurance for boules court if land registration hasn't yet been sorted** - on hold until boules court project confirmed going ahead. **Empty salt bin on Marlands Lane** (half way up; blue) has been reported to HCC online. **Issues on Lynch Lane**: 1. HH has raised a job to have the 2 gullies and 2 weir kerbs outside Davena cleansed. 2. Issues at bottom of Lynch Lane - Clerk has reported online.	

2835 cont.	Clerk's progress report cont.	**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. **Recreation Ground Usage Policy** - final copy has been published. Remove from report. **SSE grant app** - SSE have confirmed that cannot fund retrospectively, so FAG WG has advised that any further hydrologist work by Hydrock will need to be delayed until after the decision is made (hopefully before the end of Oct). **Letters to riparian owners** - letters have been printed & delivered by hand to relevant properties. Can be removed from report. **Holm oak (at The Cross) maintenance work** - Arbour Venture (carried out work on the tree in 2020/21) has been instructed to carry out a survey, quote for the work & apply for the necessary planning consent on behalf of the PC. This will cost £50 and be refunded if the PC appoints them. **Woodlands Entrance Signs** - JK Engineering has confirmed £1k/sign and installation within 6-months is acceptable. **Woodlands Fingerpost Sign** - awaiting update from HCC (latest chaser e-mail sent 25/09/24). **Licence for WM School's Use of the Recreation Ground** - Clerk has e-mailed revision requests to Geraldine Lawrence (HCC). Awaiting response. **Letter to resident regarding request for a new fence** between their property and the Recreation Ground has been written by Clerk & printed/delivered by Cllr Trenchard.	
2836	Bank account	Bank account balance as of 25 Sept 2024 - **£99,292.49** (**£47,725.38** current account; **£51,567.11**savings account). (Cllrs will be provided with bank statements nos 174 and 13**,** 01 Sept 2024 to 30 Sept 2024 as soon as they become available.)	Clerk

2837	Payment of accounts	Mrs J C Tester **Clerk's salary & mileage claim (Sept 2024) £609.35** NEST **Clerk's pension (Sept 2024) £60.32** Mrs J C Tester **Clerk's expenses - travel to/from WM for meeting 18/09/24 £7.11** Mrs J C Tester **Reimbursement for Amazon purchase of table tennis bats & balls for Rec Ground (Open Spaces) £54.00** HugoFox **Monthly website charge - Sept 2024. £11.99** HALC **Councillor Development - Knowledge & Core Skills - Parts 1 & 2 £117.60** West Meon Village Hall**Grant towards water boiler £500.00** West Meon Village Hall**Contribution (1/4) to Biffa waste collection Q1-2 2024/25 £143.67** West Meon Village Hall**Hall hire Sept 2024 £18.00** Citizens Advice Winchester District **Grant 2024/25 £200.00** **<u>The following payments are in addition to those listed on the agenda:</u>** Will Hillier **Strimming @ The Cross & Rec Ground £480.00** (approved on proviso doesn't include strimming around the tennis courts as this should be charged to the Sports Club). Tim Underwood **PDS work April 2024 £80.00** HCC **CFI application fee (Woodlands' signs) £270.00**	Clerk
2838	Planning applications	• SDNP/24/03699/HOUS - 7 Meonwara Crescent, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1LY. Single and two storey rear extension, incorporating existing out building and internal alterations. [NO OBJECTION, but the PC respectfully requests that a robust traffic management plan is put in place to mitigate potential issues caused by the narrow roads surrounding the property.]	Clerk
2839	Planning apps received after 25/09/24	SDNP/24/03902/TCA - North Lodge, Alton Road, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1LQT1&2 Remove two elder trees to ground level due to visual signs of there effects on the wall. G1 Reduce remaining group of trees (Hazel stands) to a finished height of around 12ft or gutter height and trim sides appropriately. T3 Remove to ground level the field maple within this group as the area is overground. [NO COMMENTS.]	
2840	Planning decisions	• SDNP/24/02817/TCA - 1 The Cross, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1LG. (Amended) T1 large spruce tree - raise crown. T2 lime tree with metal or otherwise restricting/damaging main stem to be removed to ground level to all adjacent lime tree to thrive. RAISE NO OBJECTION.	

2841	Planning WG	No written report. The following point was raised: • Work on Holm Oak at The Cross - Arbour Venture instructed to assess, quote & apply for planning consent (£50 fee; reimbursed if quote accepted). • No update on pre-app for Rec Ground car park. Clerk to chase. • Parish Design Statement - timetable for 2nd consultation has been received from SDNPA. Cllr Waller to meet with SDNP to go through changes. Consultation will then take place.	Clerk

2842	Community, Housing & Recreation WG	No written report. The following updates were noted:
		• Electricity supply for Christmas trees. Electrics for butcher's shop are the main issue/concern (electrical points there but don't work). Cllr Waller to write letter for Clerk to send to Tim Wood (property owner) to ask for permission for PC to look into options for sorting.
		• Parish News topics:
		  • New community bus.
		  • Bus service being saved subject to approval at HCC level.
		  • Refuse collection changes.
		  • New Rec Ground Use Policy.
			Cllr Waller/Clerk

2843	Christmas trees	**Resolved**: that the PC agrees upon the order for Christmas trees for Dec 2024 (x6 at £20 + VAT per 3/4ft tree; J West Christmas Tree Supplier).	Clerk
2844	Woodlands Fingerpost Sign	**Resolved**: that the PC agrees to pay £600.00 towards the cost to HCC of the Woodlands fingerpost sign to enable it to be manufactured in cast metal which will give a traditional, ornate, heritage style, rather than the modern alternative of a galvanised tubular post (foc).	Clerk
2845	Projects Working Group	**Resolved**: that the PC establishes a Projects Working Group to identify potential projects for the PC to fund, lead on community consultation, and assist the PC in taking forward approved projects. Cllrs Waller, Silk, Trenchard & Burke have volunteered to become members.	Cllrs Waller/ Silk/Trenchard/Burke
2846	Reports & Issues	None noted.	
2847	Date/time of next meeting	• Tues 05 Nov 2024 at West Meon VH; 7.30pm.	Clerk
2848	Confidential matters	A confidential matter was raised and discussed.	

The meeting closed at 8.34pm

Signed: **Signed:**

Cllr Trenchard (Chair) **Joanna Tester (Clerk)**

Dated: **Dated:**

APPENDIX A **WCC Councillors' Oct 2024 Report**

County council by-election

Hampshire County Council has announced that a by-election will be held on Thursday 31st October 2024 in the Bishop's Waltham electoral division, following the retirement of the local authority's former Leader, Councillor Rob Humby. The full list of the candidates nominated to stand for election will be published on 7th October 2024. Currently, we know that Jonathan Williams will stand for the Liberal Democratic party, Alex Ellis for The Green party and Neil Bolton will stand for The Conservative party. Residents who have not registered to vote will need to do so by Tuesday 15 October. You can register online, at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote Winchester City Council is running the by-election on behalf of Carolyn Williamson, the County Council's Chief Executive and Returning Officer. New applications for a postal vote must be made by 5pm on Wednesday 16th October, at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote. Applications to vote by proxy must be made by 5pm on Wednesday 23rd October. Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm on 31st October 2024. Photo identification is now needed to vote at a polling station. If you are planning to vote in person at a polling station, you will need to take photo identification with you. Information about registering to vote and what ID is accepted can be found at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id

Future services review

The County Council undertook a future services review, that many of us contributed to online to express which of 13 service areas offered by the county we valued the most and would wish to save if financial savings were required to balance the budget from 2025 onwards. Although based on many assumptions regarding the Medium Term Financial Strategy, one very large assumption being the settlement the county receives from central government, the MTFS currently projects a £85m budget shortfall across revenues of £2.6bn for 25/26. Officers of the County were tasked with looking where savings can be made by stripping back services to statutory minimum levels. During September officers have presented proposals at 4 universal services scrutiny committee meetings in advance of the Cabinet decision day on the 14th October 2024.The two areas most discussed at parish councils have been the potential cut to bus services and the closure of tier 3 and 4 waste recycling centres. In both cases the recommendations to cut bus services and to close Bishop's Waltham and Alresford tips were effectively rejected by the cross party select committee. This is a very good result and in the case of the potential cuts to passenger transport there has been a request that the cabinet look again "holistically" at the passenger transport proposal before making any decision. In the case of the potential tip closures, the committee went even further with their amendment to the officers recommendations and flat rejected the recommendations and asked Cabinet to consider alternative arrangements keeping Tier 3 and Tier 4 HWRC's open. We won't know for certain the fate of either of these services until the Cabinet decision day on 14th October but our efforts to lobby the county may well have been heard. However, the big question that remains to be answered is, where will the money or savings come from to plug the gap?