MINUTES

West Meon Parish Council
5th November 2024; 7.30pm; West Meon Village Hall

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

In Attendance:
Cllr Bolton (WCC; left 8pm); Cllr Pett (WCC; left 8pm); & Cllr Wallace (HCC; left 8pm)

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2849	Elect a chairman	Cllr Davies was elected as Chair to replace Cllr Trenchard for year 2024/25.	
2850	Acceptance of Office forms	Cllr Davies signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, signed before Cllr Gedye.	
2851	Elect a vice-chairman	Cllr Burke was proposed and seconded by Cllr Silk.	
2852	Acknowledgements	Resignation of Cllrs Trenchard, Edwards, Waller and Thompson; and of the Clerk, Joanna Tester - acknowledged and thanked for their service.	
2853	Apologies for absence	None declared.	
2854	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None declared.	
2855	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2856	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. No members of the public in attendance. This time was used for updates from Cllr Pett, Cllr Wallace & Cllr Bolton: Noted Licensing sub-committee to hear review of Boomtown licensing. Handlebar café won design award. Update on fly-tipping from Cllrs Pett and Bolton. Noted that it was often taking too long from reporting to removal,	

		particularly in the Bramdean, Corehampton areas which can be up to to four weeks. Noted that fly-tipping can be reported to Winchester council online. Cllr Bolton asked the council to pursue the grant application concerning flooding alleviation schemes. Will be actioned when the outgoing clerk's emails and contacts are fully accessible. Noted that concerns about bus routes can be addressed to the Meon Valley Community Bus Association who are coordinating attempts to organise a community bus if the main routes close Salted road routes to be updated.	
2857	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	
2858	Mins of previous meetings (01/10/24)	Agreed as a true record.	
2859	Bank account signatories	Bank account signatories removed for Angela Trenchard, Malcolm Edwards, Allan Thompson and Joanna Tester - agreed. Cllr Burke proposed that Cllr Silk be replaced as 'view account & authorise as Cllr Burke already has access – seconded by Cllr Silk - agreed. Signatories approved for Robin Gedye (view account and authorise) and Hannah Davies (view account and submit payments) – agreed. Primary business contact changed to Hannah Davies – agreed.	
2860	Appointment of Clerk	Proposed and agreed that the PC considers options for the appointment of a locum Clerk and confirms the process for recruitment of a replacement Clerk via and advert on HALC website.	Cllr Davies
2861	Asset register	Proposed and agreed that the asset register has been updated accordingly with the new picnic bench. Confirms the arrangements for the completion of the pre-renewal questionnaire to be returned to Ghallagher insurance broker before 20/11/2024	Cllr Davies

2862	Payment of accounts	Mrs J C Tester Clerk's salary & mileage claim (Oct 2024) £609.35 Paid by SO NEST Clerk's pension (Oct 2024) £60.32 Paid by DD HugoFox Monthly website charge - Oct 2024 £11.99 Paid by DD West Meon Village Hall Hall hire Oct 2024 - to include meetings 01/10/24 (invoice 1092) and 14/10/24 (invoice 1107) £38.25 To be paid by BACS Cloud Next Ltd Hosting 2024/25 £59.98 To be paid by BACS	Cllr Burke / Cllr Davies
2863	Date/time of next meeting	• Tues 03 Dec 2024 at West Meon VH; 7.30pm.	Cllr Davies
2864	Confidential matters	As this standard agenda item was not included in this meeting, we noted the sad passing of David Jay and Roy Cooper in this section.	

The meeting closed at 8pm

Signed: **Signed:**

Cllr Davies (Chair) **Cllr Burke (Vice Chair)**

Dated: **Dated:**

APPENDIX A
HCC November 2024 update.

Hampshire Future Services – Tips & School Crossing Patrols saved, but cuts elsewhere There has been lots in the press about the budget challenges being faced by Local Authorities across the country. In Hampshire, 2025/26 is a tipping point for the County Council as financial forecasts indicate it will be unable to balance the budget through the implementation of savings. Since the period of austerity began following the financial crisis in 2008, the Council has faced regular Government funding cuts, whilst at the same time dealing with rapidly increasing demand for social care (adults and children), school transport and special educational needs provision. The challenge of delivering more services with less funding has been further compounded by upward pressure on costs, in part from higher inflation. Earlier this year a public consultation was held which invited people's views on 13 proposals to reduce and change some local services to help the County Council deliver savings towards the £175 million recurring budget gap that the County Council faces from 2025/26 onwards. The final decision on changes to Hampshire Services were made at October's Cabinet

meeting, and whilst school crossing patrols and Household Waste Recycling Centres (including Bishop's Waltham tip) are saved, cuts have been made to passenger transport along with cuts in 10 other areas. Even after making all these cuts, the Council is reporting the need to drawdown on reserves in 2025/26 and every year thereafter until a funding solution is found. A summary of the decisions is below, and more detail can be found online: Cabinet decides on County Council services for the future • Highways maintenance budget cut by £7.5M (anticipated to be offset by increases in funding from other sources) • Highways winter service treatment routes to be reviewed & updated; anticipated savings of £1M • Passenger transport funding cut by £587,000 (subject to a final review) • Cuts to school crossing patrol deferred • Charging introduced at rural countryside parking sites with 20 or more spaces • Street lighting nighttime (switched off) hours extended • No closures of Household Waste Recycling Centres • Hampshire County Council grant schemes withdrawn • Hampshire Cultural Trust grant reduced by £600,000 from April 2027 • Homelessness Support Services funding to end in March 2026 • Non-statutory adult social care grants withdrawn • Non-statutory reduction in adult social care charges withdrawn • Library stock budget reduced by £250,000 per year I have already spoken with some of the residents and organisations in our area who are directly affected by these cuts, but please feel free to contact me with any queries. New Hampshire County Councillor elected for Bishops Waltham Jonathan Williams has been elected as the new County Councillor for the Bishops Waltham division following the retirement of the local authority's former Leader, Councillor Rob Humby. Formal Consultation on Proposed Relocation of Henry Cort Community College in Fareham to a new site in North Whiteley Hampshire County Council will launch a formal consultation on Friday, 8 November 2024 on a proposal to relocate The Henry Cort Community College in Fareham, to a new site in North Whiteley from September 2027. The consultation will be published on Hampshire County Council's website and run until Friday, 13 December 2024. Forecasts show that the ongoing development of the Whiteley area will result in demand for between 900 and 1,200 secondary school places. A new secondary school in North Whiteley is planned to meet the anticipated need for school places across the whole of the Whiteley area, once the development is complete. While clearly needed to meet future demand, the delivery of the new school in North Whiteley would also have a significant impact on The Henry Cort Community College in Fareham, which currently takes pupils from across the Whiteley area. As more families in Whiteley are anticipated to move their children to the new school in North Whiteley from September 2027, it is anticipated that Henry Cort would see a corresponding reduction in its pupil numbers, and consequently in its funding from Government, which is allocated on a per-pupil basis. This in turn would lead to a reduced curriculum, staffing recruitment and retention difficulties, an impact on children's educational outcomes, significant financial challenges - and ultimately, an untenable future. Earlier this year, the County Council informally consulted with the public on potential options to reduce the impact of the new school on Henry Cort. Following careful consideration of the feedback received, and the various implications for the wider education offer in Whiteley and Fareham, the County Council will now open a formal consultation proposing that Henry Cort is moved to the new North Whiteley secondary school site from September 2027. If finally agreed, this would not mean that Henry Cort would close but that it would be moved, in its entirety, to the new site. Should the relocation of Henry Cort ultimately be agreed, this would entail various changes to local catchment areas and admissions arrangements. These would be subject to separate consultations thereafter, in line with standard process. Green Light for Development of M27 All-Way Junction at Wickham Hampshire County Council has announced that the M27 Junction 10 development is full steam ahead following the completion of formal funding agreements with Buckland Group, the developer of Welborne Garden Village, and Homes England. The County Council is delivering the scheme, working closely with National Highways, and has appointed VolkerFitzpatrick as the contractor. The estimated completion date is late 2026. The construction of the £100m+ upgrade will support the development of Welborne delivering a new motorway underpass and three new slip roads to the west of the existing M27 Junction 10, creating an 'all moves' junction for the first time since the M27 was built. A new dual carriageway will also be built to link the new slip roads to the existing road network. Most of the construction work for the scheme will be on land away from the existing public highway to minimise disruption. However, to ensure that key elements of the work can be carried out safely, there will be some temporary impacts for road users. There is currently reduced capacity on the A32 north of the M27 and south of the Knowle roundabout, with one lane open in each direction. This arrangement is expected to stay in place until early 2026. Over the Christmas period in 2025, a new underpass will be installed under the M27 just west of the existing A32 overbridge. The underpass will be pre-constructed as a concrete box on land next to the M27 and then slid into position using an innovative 'boxslide' engineering approach, significantly shortening the construction time and reducing disruption to motorway users. This will require a full closure of the M27 between Junction 9 and 11 over the 2025 Christmas week next year when traffic levels are lower. Closure dates and travel advice will be

provided in advance of this important phase of the scheme once the work plans are finalised. Grants Available to Local Organisations to help Hampshire go Smokefree by 2030 As part of Hampshire County Council's drive to reduce the harm caused by smoking in local communities, a series of grants are to be awarded to the county's district and borough councils, as well as to voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations, to help people quit smoking for good. With around 4,500 Hampshire residents dying each year, and a further 8,600 admitted to hospital due to smoking related problems, the County Council's Smokefree programme includes collaborations with local GPs, hospitals, social housing and adult social care providers to boost referrals into the county's free, expert-led quit smoking service - Smokefree Hampshire. The programme also includes outreach efforts, to engage with people who traditionally do not seek help from formal quit-with-support services. The grant programme, with a total of up to £550,000 for district and borough councils and £300,000 for community groups, will be funded from the Local Authority's ringfenced Public Health grant. This now includes new designated funding from the Government announced in October 2023 to create a smokefree generation and make smoking obsolete. The grant application process and timelines will be published shortly. Any local council or community organisation who wishes to register early interest is asked to email PublicHealthHampshire@hants.gov.uk in the first instance. Home Energy Efficiency Opportunities The following offers advice and support. But please carefully check eligibility for grants as they will depend on the type of home and your circumstances. • Energy Saving Trust – Guidance for the type of insulation for properties • Great British Insulation Scheme – Eligible if the property has an energy performance certificate (EPC) of D to G and is in Council Tax bands A-D in England • Warmer Homes – Warmer Homes provides fully funded insulation, solar panels and other energy efficiency measures for owner-occupiers and private renters living in low-income, off-gas households. The scheme is is available until March 2025. County Councillor Grants Groups and organisations can apply for funding for both revenue (one-off) and minor capital projects. Revenue grants should generally be used to support short term project related costs. It is expected that the grants will benefit a wide range of groups/activities: for example, vulnerable children or adults, young people, facilities for older people, community facilities, parish councils (but only for specific projects), schools' minor traffic or safety works, local environment projects, and community safety. More details are available on the County Council website. The 2023/24 County Councillor grant scheme is open until 29 February 2024