



# WINCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2022 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**PRESENT:** Cllr Andrew Renshaw (Chairman), Cllr Meyrick Williams (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Louise Hodgetts, Cllr Richard Milnes-James and Cllr Kate Stewart  
Cllr Tim Davies, Hampshire County Council (HCC)  
Cllr Tim Southern, Hart District Council (HDC)  
Litter Pick Co-Ordinator. Footpaths Warden.  
6 Members of the Public  
Mrs Alison Ball (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anne Crampton and Spencer Farmer (HDC) and members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

### 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS UNDER S33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011**

Cllr Kate Stewart declared an interest in item 14, Land adjacent to Winchfield Court, as she lives opposite the site.

### 3 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 January 2022 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### 4 **MATTERS ARISING**

The Vice-Chairman advised that he wished to say a few words as it had been 40 years since Andrew Renshaw had been elected to Winchfield Parish Council. He went on to say:

“Andrew was elected to Winchfield Parish Council 40 years ago, at the age of 34, in a by-election on March 11, 1982. To put it in perspective – WPC was formed on 4 December 1894, 128 years ago, and Andrew has served on the Council for almost a third of that time.

He campaigned on a number of issues, including resisting development. As his election address said, ‘Remember that Basingstoke, Yateley and Hook once had green fields like ours’. This rather set the template for the next 40 years.

Andrew became chairman of Winchfield Parish Council in January 1998. It is a role he

continues to fulfil with passion and commitment on behalf of the whole community. In 2015 he was elected as a Hart District Councillor and went on to serve four years, wanting to be as close as possible to the decision-making processes of the planning authority at a time when Winchfield was being actively targeted as the site of a new town.

Over the past 40 years he has been a stalwart campaigner against wholesale development in the village which would have destroyed its history and charm and in so doing has resisted any opportunity to monetise his own assets. While the so-called Shapley Heath ‘garden settlement’ threat remains – it is on hold but has not yet gone away, we can be assured that Andrew will continue to declare his interest as a land-owner – of land which is not for sale.

However, he has welcomed and encouraged development where appropriate, including the development of Beauclerk Green on a brownfield site, formerly the station goods yard, where a huge industrial stone-crushing plant had been initially proposed and would have been very detrimental to the village. In the end, this battle was won and 48 homes were built in the mid 1990s including 15 for Haig Housing Trust who provide affordable homes for ex-servicemen. More recently he encouraged the community to accept the siting of two solar farms in the parish which will provide the parish council with £60,000 over 15 years, monies which will be used to enhance the footpath network and other projects that will benefit the whole community. His commitment to the production of the inaugural Winchfield neighbourhood development plan resulted in an overwhelming vote of confidence with 96% voting in favour of the plan on a turnout of 62%, one of the highest in the country.

His leadership of the Parish Council enables the public to engage openly and his even-handedness, compassion and innovation have made a significant difference to the village.

Winchfield is a small semi rural village of around 650 residents and Andrew knows most people by name, supports all local events and a strong community spirit thrives.

A lifelong passion for cricket is Andrew’s recreation and for a number of years he was a Vice-President of Hampshire County Cricket Club and President of Eversley Cricket Club. Andrew has written or contributed to several highly respected books about cricket, including the acclaimed Wisden on the Great War: The Lives of Cricket’s Fallen.

As a farmer – although now largely retired – he is a committed conservationist and supports organic farming methods. These and many other examples mean that Andrew is highly respected for his integrity, discretion, leadership and engagement across the whole community.

On behalf of all the residents of Winchfield, we owe you a debt of gratitude for your untiring dedication and service to our community – thank you Andrew.”

The Chairman thanked the Vice-Chairman for his kind words and confirmed that he would continue to do his best for the community.

## **5 COVID-19 RESPONSE**

Cllr Williams advised that the regular updates from HDC with the Covid statistics was no longer being produced and the local co-ordinators had been told to stand down. Thanks were expressed for all that these co-ordinators had done during the pandemic in helping to support the community. It was noted that Covid-19 had definitely not gone away, with

the press reporting that all hospital beds in Hampshire were currently occupied. It was agreed that this item be removed from future agendas unless a national need for action arose.

## **6 SOUTH EAST WATER: NEW MAIN THROUGH WINCHFIELD**

It was noted that the work at Bagwell Lane was due to be completed this week, Station Lane was due to close on Monday and remain closed until 15 July and Pale Lane would be closed from 18 July to 31 October. Work in Fleet Road and the Hurst had been completed and the road closures lifted.

Work had been due to start shortly at the roundabout linking Elvetham Heath Way and Fleet Road and this was going to be done using temporary traffic lights. However, once the lights had been set up this resulted in high traffic volumes and long queues which were considered unacceptable. It had been decided to delay this section of work and do it under a road closure.

It had been agreed with South East Water that once the works had been completed there would be a site visit to inspect all the roads where work had been carried out for damage that would need to be repaired. This did not include diversion routes, some of which had been badly affected and would need repair work.

## **7 FOOTPATHS REPORT**

The Footpaths Warden reported that whilst he had not been out walking as much as usual in the last few weeks he was aware that a lot of the footpaths were very wet. He had seen a lovely bluebell display along Hook 1.

Cllr Williams advised that the new up-to-date footpaths leaflets had been printed and were being distributed.

Consideration had been given to what could be done to improve Footpath 4 which was regularly flooded. Work had been carried out a number of years ago but further intervention was now needed. Cllr Williams had approached a contractor (the only one approved by the landowner) who had provided a quote to deposit 28 tons of scalplings at either end of the path. The landowner had agreed to top up the hardcore in the centre of the field between the access gates. It was noted that it had been agreed by email to accept this quote and the work would be carried out as soon as the weather permitted.

It was **AGREED** to note that a contractor had been engaged to deposit 28 tons of scalplings on Footpath 4 at a cost of £840.

Cllr Williams advised that a tree had come down on Footpath 6 next to Stacey's Bridge on the canal. A HCC Ranger had attended and cleared the site.

The work to improve Footpaths 5 and 6 would be done once the ground had dried out.

Cllr Southern requested that consideration be given to improving the surface of Footpath 6 at the north end of the copse and to put hardcore in the puddles through the woods. Cllr Williams confirmed that there were plans to level this area out, take the trip hazards away and put hardcore down.

## **8 HIGHWAYS REPORT**

Cllr Hodgetts advised that the liaison meeting with Hampshire Highways and Dogmersfield Parish Council had taken place on 1 March. Hampshire Highways had confirmed they would no longer be able to attend these meetings which would mean that what could be achieved in future would be limited.

It had been requested that 30mph be painted on the road outside the Barley Mow pub and this had been scheduled to be carried out during the 2022/2023 financial year. It had been confirmed that the junction at the Barley Mow did not qualify for any further intervention despite an increase in incidents recently. Cllr Hodgetts would continue to pursue this as there was poor visibility at the junction and it was a very dangerous junction. Cllr Hodgetts encouraged everyone to report all traffic incidents, even the small ones, as if these went unrecorded the evidence for intervention was not being collected.

The speed limit on the B3016 had been provisionally added to the 2022/2023 work programme for review by Hampshire Highways. A request had been made that the criteria for putting in the 50mph limit in its current location be shared. Traffic data for the B3106 had been shared which showed details of traffic counts carried out each year between 2009 and 2017. The usefulness of this data was limited as there was only one count site used but it did show a growth of approximately 23% in all vehicles over the period. Cllr Hodgetts felt an up-to-date manual count with more locations could provide useful evidence.

Cllr Williams advised that efforts had been made to get Hampshire Highways to take action, at least in the short term during the road closures which were causing increased traffic through the village, to address the issues at the junction of Pale Lane with the Hurst and Chatter Ally. Cllr Davies had also raised this with officers at HCC but there had not been any response. The verge erosion was very bad on many of the roads particularly Chatter Ally.

Cllr Davies advised that he had spoken with Cllr Humby, HCC Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment, which he had followed up with an email to him and Cllr Oppenheimer, Executive Member for Highways Operations, about a list of issues in the Hartley Wintney and Yateley West division including the verge problems. He was aware of at least two cars with burst tyres and one vehicle that had ended up in the ditch. He had also noticed two pot holes on Station Road which were very large.

There was a brief discussion about the reporting system on the HCC website not being very user friendly and the 'fix my street' website being better but the HCC link with 'fix my street' was not very good. This was being followed up.

## **9 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN - REVIEW**

Christine Strudwick gave the following update on behalf of the working group:

The third Community Engagement meeting had been held on 20 February and had been attended by 46 residents. At the meeting:

- Information boards had shown the policies which had been drafted and focused on the natural environment, historical environment and built environment;
- Hard copies of the draft Key Views, Local Green Spaces and The Landscape Character Assessment had been available for anyone who wished to look at these. These documents were also available on the WPC website;
- There had been information about the Speed Indicator Device and statistics showing speeds through the village and where the worst danger spots were;

- Reports from recent meetings with local police about rural crime and work with HCC about traffic issues were available.

Feedback from the Community Engagement meeting was very much in favour and support for the Revision of the Winchfield Neighbourhood Development Plan.

In addition to the meeting the NDP Review Working Group had also:

- Delivered an invitation to the next Community Engagement meeting to be held on 10 April between 3pm and 6pm at the village hall;
- Continued to draft text and prepare graphics which would accompany the objectives and policies in the Revised Plan;
- Continued to develop baseline research which would support the policies in the Revised Plan;
- Submitted information to 'Contact' magazine for the April edition inviting residents to the April Community Engagement meeting;
- Arranged the next telecon meeting with HDC regarding progress with the NDP review;
- Maintained regular contact with the NDP consultant at Carter Jonas to ensure compliance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and HDC Local Plan policies.

Christine Strudwick expressed thanks to the members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for their commitment to this revision of the Plan. It was approaching two years since the first meeting to scope the project and it was hoped that the draft plan would be ready for the first stage of consultation in the summer.

On the Local Green Spaces (LGS) Cllr Williams advised that a couple of specific comments had been received which had been considered.

Informal discussions had been held between members and it was recommended that the LGS proposals for all the proposed sites be removed in their entirety from consideration as part of the revised Neighbourhood Plan.

The revision to the Neighbourhood Plan was an ongoing and evolving process, with formal public consultations on the draft Plan scheduled for later in 2022. Not only could the Plan be influenced by the local community but also by environmental data and studies that become available to the Parish Council at any given time. Based on information recently made available, the Parish Council was far more assured that all the land in question would remain undeveloped.

As a fundamental part of members deliberations, the Parish Council had taken into account three key elements:

- Firstly, the understanding that there was no intention to develop the proposed sites;
- Secondly, the feedback and comments received at the public engagement meetings; and
- Thirdly, the content of the detailed technical reports which were recently made public by HDC, which had been commissioned to evaluate all the various planning considerations associated with the Shapley Heath Garden Village project.

It was **AGREED** that the LGS proposals for all the sites be removed in their entirety from consideration as part of the revised Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Williams confirmed that he anticipated that spending would increase slightly over the coming months, in line with the previously approved project plan. He requested approval to spend up to £5,000 over the next few months on the NDP Revision Project.

It was **AGREED** that authority be given to spend up to £5,000 excluding VAT and disbursements on the NDP Review Project.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their continuing hard work on this project.

## **10 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY**

Cllr Williams advised that he and Cllr Hodgetts had been part of the working group, chaired by Action Hampshire, and with two officers from HDC (planning and housing) progressing the project.

Based on templates from Eversley and Odiham parish councils the working group had collectively prepared a questionnaire which was used on 30 March to interview three prospective housing associations. They were Sovereign, Hastoe and English Rural.

Following on from that meeting Cllrs Williams and Hodgetts had been carrying out more detailed due diligence on the three housing associations by looking at annual reports, KPI comparisons and discussions with various parish councils on selected reference sites which belonged to the housing associations.

Cllrs Williams and Hodgetts planned to circulate a full report to members later in the week with a view to an informal meeting early the following week to decide on the preferred supplier.

WPC would then communicate the decision to Action Hampshire and HDC whereupon Action Hampshire would inform the selected housing association.

HDC was carrying out a preliminary planning assessment of the sites that had come forward. The selected housing association would then do a viability and sustainability review of the sites.

It was expected that significant detail would be available at the May Council meeting followed in early summer with a public engagement meeting organised by the selected housing association. This would mark the start of the next phase which would take a further two years to complete.

It was noted that once a housing association had been appointed WPC would be committed to the project.

Cllr Hodgetts confirmed that as much due diligence as possible would be carried out as this was a significant decision which she was very keen to see made correctly and based on the best information. It was really important that the provider delivered a great quality product and service with a good working relationship going forward.

In response to a question from a member of the public it was confirmed that the intention was to provide social rented housing, not affordable housing, with preference given to tenants with a local connection. All requirements would be included in the section 106 agreement.

## 11 **QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

Cllr Stewart advised that she had been made aware of a number of events taking place across the village including a large event at the village hall which would be for between 50 and 80 people and other events at Winchfield Court, Barley Mow Close, the Hurst and Bagwell Lane. In all it was estimated that 210 people would be attending an event in the village. It was understood that all the events were due to take place on Sunday 5 June and would be embracing the national idea of a big lunch.

Cllr Stewart asked whether WPC would be able to support these events in some way particularly given that £2,000 had been included in the 2022/2023 budget for Jubilee Events. It was agreed that community groups could apply for a grant from WPC if they were a properly constituted group with a bank account. For the smaller, less formal groups Cllr Stewart agreed to liaise with organisers and purchase items for the events paid for by WPC. A maximum amount was discussed for each event and it was agreed that this should equal approximately £6 a head.

It was **AGREED** that support be expressed for local events taking place in the village for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by helping with the purchase of items for the events up to a maximum budget of approximately £6 per head of expected attendees and that this be monitored and approved by Cllr Stewart.

Cllr Southern confirmed that there was still £1,000 available from HDC for events in the Hartley Wintney ward for Jubilee events. Cllr Stewart confirmed that she had passed details of this on to the Village Hall Committee.

## 12 **TREE AND HEDGEROW PLANTING SCHEME**

Since the last meeting Cllr Stewart had put together a proposal for using money from the Community Benefit fund to support a programme of tree and hedgerow planting in the Parish which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The proposal requested that a commitment be made to spending the equivalent of £25 per residence in the Parish to meet an ambitious target for tree planting of the equivalent of five trees per household. As WPC did not own any land all the planting would need to be done on private land and it was hoped that landowners/homeowners would plant and care for the trees. The project would be likely to run over two years but would tie in with the Queen's Green canopy – a tree planting initiative to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

Members had informally agreed to the project prior to the meeting so as not to unnecessarily delay progress and Cllr Stewart had designed and distributed a leaflet to all households in the Parish setting out the proposals and asking residents to confirm what trees/hedging they would like. She had also included some information on the types of planting available. These leaflets had been distributed over the weekend of 2/3 April and there had already been 10 replies received, many of which praised the idea. It had been requested that all orders be returned by the end of May with initial planting in autumn.

Cllr Stewart requested that reports of any hedging in the Parish that needed infills or upgrading be reported to her for consideration and suggested locations for trees would be welcomed. So far no one had said that they would need help with planting but Cllr Stewart asked for volunteers to come forward should this be needed.

It was noted that Network Rail had committed to planting 1000's of trees and Cllr Stewart would look into whether there could be any link-up with her project.

It was **AGREED** (1) that £7,500 of the Community Benefit fund be set aside to fund a

tree and hedgerow planting scheme; and (2) to note that printing costs of £270 had already been incurred to print leaflets that had been distributed to every house in the Parish.

**13 BEAUCLERK GREEN ADOPTION**

It was noted that Beauclerk Green had been adopted in August 2021 and this item could now be removed from future agendas.

**14 LAND ADJACENT TO WINCHFIELD COURT**

Cllr Williams confirmed that there was still no update on the hearing to consider the appeals against the Enforcement Notices, and the Enforcement Team at HDC was continuing to monitor the site.

**15 LITTER PICK PLANS**

The Litter Pick Co-ordinator advised that the litter pick went ahead on 13 March with 27 volunteers. She expressed her thanks to all who had helped, including those who provided the refreshments. Over 30 bin bags of rubbish had been collected and items that had been dumped/fly tipped had been reported. It was noted that the next litter pick would take place in the autumn.

**16 UPDATE ON THE SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES**

Cllr Hodgetts advised that the SID reports on the Parish Council website were all up to date and the data continued to show that the SID was having an impact, with speeds leaving the SID reduced compared to speeds entering the SID. Traffic through the Village had been at a very high level due to all the local road closures, but this was starting to tail off and it was hoped levels would soon be back to normal particularly with the opening of Fleet Road.

As agreed at the last meeting the SID had been left at Barley Mow Close for a period of three weeks rather than the usual two weeks. This did not appear to have affected the impact of the SID and it would be left in each location for three weeks for one cycle to allow comparisons to be made. Evidence suggested that across the three weeks that the SID was at Barley Mow Close the speed reduction either stayed the same or peaked in week three.

The hot spot for speeding was still near the railway bridge, with it seeing the biggest reduction in speed when exiting the SID compared to entering it and this location also saw the highest speeds with a top speed of 63mph – in a 30mph limit.

An application had been made to HCC for two new locations for the SID – these would mean the SID could face both directions at the railway bridge and on Station Hill rather than just one direction.

Consideration was being given to what Community Funded Initiatives could be proposed for the village.

**17 UPDATE ON THE DEFIBRILLATORS**

Cllr Hodgetts advised that there was nothing new to report, as thankfully the defibs had not been used. The pads on the defib at the Barley Mow had been replaced as these had reached their expiry date. It was hoped that a training session could be organised for the end of the summer.

**18 S106 MONEY**

The Chairman advised that there was approximately £50,000 of s106 money available,

held by HDC, for expenditure on new community projects in Winchfield. He was aware that the Village Hall committee were proposing to install acoustic panels in the main room at the Hall and he suggested that this be put forward for funding. It was also suggested that the tree/hedgerow planting project and the repairs to footpaths be put forward for funding. Cllr Milnes-James agreed to put all suggestions forward to HDC for consideration.

## **19 PLANNING**

**19.1** Application received since the last meeting:

**22/00092/HOU 4 King William Court, London Road, Hartley Wintney** Conversion of garage into habitable accommodation to include the replacement of the garage door with a window and change French doors to bifold doors on the rear elevation. WPC Response: Winchfield Parish Council objects to the proposal as it appears to fail to meet the requirements set out in the Winchfield NDP for parking provision, unless evidence can be provided to the contrary. In the officers delegated report for the original planning application (15/02201/REM) it was noted that “the two, three bedroomed dwellings have a single garage, but a wider driveway, such that three cars can be (just) accommodated”. The decision notice went on to say “the approved parking facilities for vehicles on Plots 2, 3 and 4 shall not be used for any purpose other than the parking of motorised vehicles and access shall be maintained at all times to allow them to be used as such”. This demonstrates that the loss of the garage means the property will fall below the minimum standards required for parking provision and the loss of the garage parking should not be replaced by providing parking spaces on the access road which falls outside the curtilage of the property. It was noted that prior to the meeting this application had been withdrawn.

**22/000571/HOU 4 King William Court, London Road, Hartley Wintney** Conversion of garage into habitable accommodation to include the replacement of the garage door with a window and change French doors to bifold doors on the rear elevation. WPC Response: The Parish Council does not object to the application but would note that the application does not fully comply with the Winchfield Neighbourhood Development Plan parking requirements.

### **19.2 Oak Farm Nursery**

WPC had written to Planning Enforcement at HDC requesting that they have a look at the property known as Oak Farm Nursery, next to the Village Hall. WPC was aware that there had been significant activity at the property with many changes and additional buildings erected. WPC was not aware that any planning permissions had been granted in relation to this site. A full report was awaited.

### **19.3 Charrington Farm**

WPC had written to Planning Enforcement at HDC requesting that they have a look at the property known as Charrington Farm at Station Road as it had been reported that the site was being used as a storage and distribution depot which was causing increased traffic volumes of large articulated and medium sized commercial vehicles using Station Road. There were particular concerns about the entrance to the site which was on a blind corner by the railway bridge. Planning Enforcement had responded to say that the current use of the site was lawful as planning permission for change of use of the former farm building was granted in 1997. HDC had refused permission but a Planning Inspector overturned the decision following an appeal.

## **20 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

### **20.1 Grants for Approval**

There were no grants for approval at this time.

### **20.2 Payments for Approval**

The following payments were approved:

Clerk - AB	March Salary (includes payment of holiday owed)	£409.04*
Clerk - AB	April Salary	£328.03
Clerk – AB	May Salary	£328.03
Clerk – AB	Expenses (Working from Home Allowance February & March + reimbursement for ink)	£59.00*
Clerk – AB	Reimbursement for new laptop	£518.40*
Christine Strudwick	Reimbursement of NDP Expenses	£81.82*
Charterlith	NDP printing costs	£78.54*
Brandtastic Ltd	Footpaths Leaflet – redesign and printing	£573.60*
Andrew Deptford	New Pads for Defib	£60.96*
Carter Jonas	NDP Work to 21 February 2022	£3,326.40*
Kerry Wedlock	Litter Pick Expenses	£46.88*
R. J Summerfield	NDP Exepnses	£16.41*
Carter Jonas	NDP Work to 25 March 2022	£1,293.60
HALC/NALC	Affiliation Fees 2022/2023	£302.06
Christine Strudwick	NDP Expenses	£219.17
Charterlith	Printing – trees leaflet	£270.00
Charterlith	Printing – NDP flyer	£74.53
*Payment already made; expenditure agreed by email and within previously agreed budgets		

**21 CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence had been received other than that already forwarded and none that needed addressing that had not appeared elsewhere on the agenda.

**22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS *Report Only***

Cllr Williams presented the Chairman with a gift to mark his 40 years of service.

**23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The dates of future meetings in 2022 were noted: 19 May, 21 July, 22 September, 24 November, all starting at 7.15pm.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.23pm**