



DRAFT MINUTES

West Meon Parish Council
14 Feb 2023; 7.30pm; West Meon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair); Cllr Waller; Cllr Edwards; Cllr Gedye & Cllr Silk (left 8.49pm; returned 8.50pm)

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Bolton (WCC; left at 8.10pm) & three members of the public.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2238	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of Mike Stribling, Phillis Wall-Palmer, Sue Wilson and all other villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2239	Apologies	Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Nicholson & Lumby, and PCSO Owen Reeves.	
2240	Disclosable pecuniary interests	Cllr Trenchard declared an interest in item 2254 as the owner of the property associated with planning app SDNP/23/00412/TCA. Cllr Trenchard will refrain from taking part in any discussion or vote associated with this planning application. Cllr Edwards declared an interest in item 2253 (payment of accounts), as one of the payees, and will refrain in taking part in any discussion or vote associated with the approval of this payment.	
2241	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2242	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. Members of the public commented on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic speed update – over 200 surveys have been issued, including to the Primary School & GP surgery. Deadline is 28/02/23. To put thanks for completing surveys into Parish News (deadline 15/02/23). How best to proceed? [As far as PC is concerned, no jurisdiction on highways, responsibility of HH. PC needs to consider how best to take it forward.] Flooding issues – MoP expressed concern over river flooding & associated sewage issues. Asked to be kept in the loop. [Cllr commented that there are two main areas of concern: higher level – river diverting onto road and back again; lower level – culvert under Lynch Lane not big 	

		<p>enough. Need to be careful that solving the issues at the higher level doesn't impact adversely on lower levels.] [Cllr Bolton confirmed that Ellen Simpson (Strategic Support; WCC) has been in contact to confirm what is happening. Advised that they do not normally deal with non-emergencies, but will hopefully be able to liaise with HCC and EA.] [Need to wait until Cllr Edwards' meeting with Darren Lewis 20/02/23.]</p>	
2243	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	
2244	District councillor's report & questions arising	<p>Report received (Appendix A). Additional points as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Septic tanks – interesting how many people are unaware of the type of septic tank they have. More needed to educate & promote maintenance etc. <p>Cllr question to Cllr Bolton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What % of constituents won't vote in May due to not having correct form of ID? [Lots of people vote by post. Legislation could have been done without as may put people off voting.] Very few voting fraud incidences. Discriminates against many people, rural and urban. [Can use old passports so long as still a good likeness. Older members of the public – who in the past have been more likely to vote - are also more likely to forget to take proof of ID as never had to do so before.] 	
2245	County councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (Appendix B).	
2246	Police/PCSO report	Report received via e-mail and forwarded to cllrs in advance of the meeting (Appendix C).	
2247	Mins of previous meetings (10/01/23)	Agreed as a true record.	
2248	Clerk's progress report	<p>Parish Lengthsman Agreement Final visit of the financial year 14/02/22. Cllrs to confirm in due course whether work was completed satisfactorily. [Cllrs confirmed that all work was completed satisfactorily - plus one extra job.] No indication yet as to whether the scheme will be continuing.</p> <p>Planning Applications Lippenwood Farm – trees that border Lippen Lane need cutting back. Cllr Edwards has spoken to landowner; work started 04/01/23. [Cllr Edwards confirmed that work has been completed.]</p> <p>Community, Housing & Recreation WG Road sign on Marlands Lane – tilting; needs work on it. Clerk reported 09/12/22 to HH. [Cllr Waller confirmed that work has been completed.]</p> <p>Finance & Administration WG WMPC-WMVH lease – VH advised that it has appointed a legal representative & is anticipating feedback by the end of Feb 2023.</p>	All cllrs
2249	Bank account	Bank balance - £117,132.76 @ 31/01/23 (Cllrs have been provided with bank statement 148, 02 Jan 2023 to 31 Jan 2023.)	Clerk

2250	Asset register	Resolved: that this item to approve the asset register is deferred until the Mar PC meeting when the value of fences/gates and value/ownership of the war memorials will hopefully have been clarified.	Clerk
2251	Grant application – Fireworkfest Oct 23	Resolved: that the PC approves a grant of £500.00 to James Ulph to pay for the deposit on fireworks for the Oct 2023 WM Fireworkfest event. Cllrs agreed unanimously. Clerk to request proof of payment before funds are paid.	Clerk
2252	Virus protection software	Resolved: that the PC subscribes to McAfee Total Protection Basic – 1 device; 2yr, at a cost of £39.98 for two years (auto-renewing to £64.99/yr thereafter).	Clerk
2253	Payment of accounts	<p>Mrs J C Tester Clerk’s salary & mileage (Jan 2023) £704.01</p> <p>NEST Clerk’s pension (Jan 2023) £56.16</p> <p>Mrs J C Tester Reimbursement – external hard drive £134.00</p> <p>West Meon Village Hall Hall hire 10 Jan 2023 £15.00</p> <p>WCC Dog bin emptying Q3 2022/23 £130.00</p> <p>M.R. Edwards Recreation ground maintenance 2022 £3,793.44</p>	Clerk
2254	Planning applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/23/00222/FUL- Recreation Ground, Headon View, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1LH. Provision of a Boules Court. [OBJECTION – THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS TOO LARGE FOR THE SITE, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE PLANTED AREA WITH PICKET FENCE, AND THE GRAVEL SPECTATOR AREA.] Cllr Waller to confirm exact wording with Clerk. • SDNP/23/00410/TCA - Culverkeys, Church Lane, West Meon, GU32 1LF [THIS HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN APPROVED.] • SDNP/23/00412/TCA - 4 Wolverton Gardens, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1LP [NO COMMENTS.] <p>The Clerk advised that the Case Officer for SDNP/23/00222/FUL is content to extend the deadline for comments until after the PC can organize an opportunity for the public to view the plans. The Small Hall at the VH is available Sat 4th Mar; time 10am-12pm; one or two councillors to be available to supervise. Action required as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Trenchard to send info to Parish News. • Cllr Nicholson to advise re. printing large copies of plans for display. • Clerk to inform Sports Club. • Cllr Trenchard to publish info on We Are West Meon once Clerk has informed Sports Club. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Waller</p> <p>Cllr Trenchard Cllr Nicholson Clerk Cllr Trenchard</p>
2255	Planning apps received after 08/02/23	None	
2256	Planning decisions	<p>All decisions were noted, with the addition of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDNP/23/00410/TCA - Culverkeys , Church Lane, West Meon, GU32 1LF – RAISE NO OBJECTION • SDNP/23/00516/TCA - Yew Hedges, Church Lane, West Meon, Hampshire, GU32 1LF – RAISE NO OBJECTION 	

2257	Planning WG	No written report. The following updates were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VDS - Cllr Waller commented that first consultation likely to be late spring/early summer. Publicise & invite organisations & parishioners of WM. SDNP will then conduct a further consultation. PC not prepared to make multiple changes if requested by SDNP. 	
2258	Community, Housing & Recreation WG	No written report. The following updates were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boules – covered in item 2254. • Metis Homes – no update. Cllr Silk to chase re footpath near Metis development. ‘Northfields’ sign has been added, as has salt bin. No footpath sign – Cllr Silk to request if Metis confirms that fp is official. • Lengthsman – Clerk has started looking into land ownership of steps between Marlands Lane and Storeys Meadows. Cllr Waller asked to take photos so that Clerk can send map and photos to HCC Community Engagement Ranger and leave it with them to track down the landowner. • Parish News – Items to be included in the next PC report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items already discussed above. • Northfields (official name confirmed). • Boules court consultation 	Clerk/Cllr Waller
2259	Coronation tree planting	Resolved: that the PC purchases an oak tree to plant in celebration of King Charles III coronation. Cllr Trenchard to seek advice re obtaining a suitable tree & advise Clerk.	Cllr Trenchard/ Clerk
2260	Snow shovels	Resolved: that the PC purchases three snow shovels to be loaned to residents in strategic residential areas in the village for use in maintaining safe access to communal areas. Cllr Edwards to check if he has spares before Clerk purchases new ones.	Clerk
2261	Finance & Administration WG	No written report received. The following updates were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMPC draft leases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rifle Club – to be discussed in item 2262. • VH – has appointed its own legal representation & anticipates an update by the end of Feb 2023. 	
2262	West Meon Rifle Club (WMRC) Lease	Resolved: that the approval of the lease is deferred until Mar 23 PC meeting, to allow time for final minor amendments to be made.	Cllr Edwards
2263	Community event	Resolved: that discussion on and planning for a late summer community event is deferred to the Mar 23 PC meeting.	Clerk
2264	Defib Signage	Background: Cllrs have been advised by Debbie Westley (Meon Valley First Responders) that the following could be options for improving the signage, but are by no means necessary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut back the hedge near the telephone box (with relevant permissions etc.). • Defibrillator sign for the front of the phone box (£80+ VAT for 4 from Direct365.co.uk). • Arrow sign to compliment the sign on the PC noticeboard. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional sign/s on existing road signs (Cllrs were shown a photo of an example in Privett). <p>Resolved: that the PC does not alter/add to the signage for the telephone box defib, but does ensure that the adjacent hedge is trimmed back on a regular basis.</p>	
2265	Reports & Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going issues with flooding – HH attended 23/01/23 to open up more grips on the West Meon-East Meon road (East End area). This allowed drainage of a majority of the flood water into the ditch & river. Clerk reported to EA 25/01/23. Response received but no commitment to a site visit etc. Clerk responded to a generic e-mail from WCC’s Policy & Performance Manager 06/02/23, who has subsequently escalated it and tasked the Engineering Dept with conducting a site visit w/c 20/02/23, attending the Mar 2023 PC meeting, and liaising with HCC and the EA. PC Noticeboard – damaged by an RTA in 2022. Clerk contacted individual responsible and requested repair. Unfortunately, repair is unsatisfactory, hence Clerk has asked for a complete replacement of the noticeboard leg. Awaiting confirmation as to whether they will arrange this themselves or cover the costs of the work being carried out by a contractor chosen by the PC. PC elections – May 4th 2023. Tues 4th April latest day for nomination papers to be submitted to WCC. South Downs Hampshire Parish workshop will be held on Tuesday 21 March from 6:00pm @ Meonstoke VH. Max two representatives from each council. 	Clerk
2266	Annual Meeting of the Parish	<p>Resolved: that the Annual Meeting of the Parish should be held on Thurs 27th April at WM Sports Club at 7pm for 7.30pm. Details as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be incorporated with VH AGM (Cllr Trenchard to check with VH). 	
2267	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council & Ordinary May PC Meeting	<p>Resolved: that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council & Ordinary May PC Meeting (combined) are held on Tues 16th May 2023 at 7.30pm in Small Hall of WMVH.</p> <p>Clerk to ensure VH is available. Website to be updated.</p>	Clerk Cllr Nicholson
2268	Date/time of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tues 7th Mar 2023 at West Meon VH (Main Hall); 7.30pm. To discuss next meeting – flooding; traffic survey; annual meeting of the parish; VDS consultation; summer event; WMRC lease; WMVH lease. 	Clerk
2269	Confidential matters	No members of the public/press were present.	

The meeting closed at 9.39pm

Signed:

Cllr Trenchard (Chair)

Signed:

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

Dated:

APPENDIX A

Winchester City Councillors' February Report

Septic Smart project

Watercress and Winterbournes is raising awareness about the problem of improperly managed septic tanks with a new project, Septic Smart. They need help from people on the upper reaches of the Test and Itchen to spread the word. As our ward can proudly boast to be the home to the source of the Itchen, I thought I would share with you a brief summary of a presentation I attended.

Many residents in our area, me included, are not connected to the main sewer network and have to rely on private off mains sewage systems such as septic tanks and cesspits. While they store, treat and discharge waste in different ways all need to be emptied and maintained by specialist companies. When correctly sized, located and managed, these systems can work well for rural communities. When things go wrong, however, the consequences can include property damage, legal penalties and harm to our precious chalk streams. Faulty systems can slowly poison these rare habitats destroying their biodiversity. Off mains users have a key role in preventing this and the Septic Smart project is supporting them as part of the watercress and Winterbournes scheme.

There is a 10 point best practice guide but the key takeaways are

- Check your system regularly - particularly that your soakaway isn't waterlogged
- Fix faults - get gurgling pipes, discoloured discharge and foaming swampy soakaways checked out
- Empty the tank regularly - depends on level of use and size but at least once a year
- Don't upset the balance - use products that don't upset the good bacteria that help to breakdown the sewage, avoid bleach and caustic soda etc. Also, use phosphate free products as these are not removed and are discharged into the ground and streams. The worst offender being dishwasher tablets
- Bin your waste - no oils, fats, wipes, etc as these block the system
- Don't over water - don't run washing machines, dishwashers and empty baths all at the same time and don't allow rainwater into the system as it will overwhelm it and wash sewage out into the environment

For more information on this please visit the following link www.hiiwwt.org.uk/septicmart

Election Act 2022 and voter ID

More information on this is starting to filter through and I understand there has now been a district wide briefing for all parish clerks. There is also more information on the Winchester website now and can be accessed via this link. www.winchester.gov.uk/elections/voter-id

Cost of Living Grants Update

The new cost of living grant scheme has awarded £16,000 in funding to five organisations to date, to support their work in helping residents in the Winchester district who are experiencing difficulties due to the rising cost of living. Activities supported include the provision of warm spaces, access to hot meals, provision of transport and support in accessing further help and information. It is estimated that approximately 350 people will benefit from the additional help facilitated by these grants.

We would like to encourage more organisations to come forward with applications for funding. The scheme is currently open until 28 February 2023 and any organisation wishing to apply can refer to the Winchester website for further details (Cost of Living Grant Scheme - Winchester City Council) and contact Anstey Brierley (abrierley@winchester.gov.uk) or Jane Chuhan (jchuhan@winchester.gov.uk) for help and advice on making an application.

A32 & M27 J10 improvements - overnight road closures

The M27 Junction 10 Improvements are moving closer towards the delivery phase, currently planned to commence later this year. To help complete the design, a number of site investigations are required which will need to be completed during over-night road closures. The closures will be required on the A32 just north of the M27 and on the M27 between Junction 9 and 11.

The works are planned as follows:

- On Monday 27 February 2023 to Friday 3 March 2023 between 21.00-06.00- the A32 will be closed north of the M27 Junction 10, including access to and from the M27 east-bound on slip and west-bound off slip. There will be no general access to the A32 during the closure periods, including no access to Pook Lane from the A32. Alternative access to Pook Lane can be made from the east via Nine Elms Lane or Spurlings Lane during the closure periods.
- On Monday 6, Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 March between 21.00-06.00 - the M27 will be closed in a west-bound direction between Junctions 11 to 9. No access will be permitted to the M27 west-bound during these closures.
- On Thursday 9 and Friday 10 March the M27 will be closed in an east-bound direction between junctions 9 and 11. No access will be permitted to the M27 east-bound during these closures.

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 February Report

1. £2.6bn spending programme for 2023/24

Hampshire County Council's spending plans for 2023/24 are to be considered this month by the cabinet and then by full council. The plans total £2.6bn and cover the hundreds of services delivered by the council to its 1.4 million residents, including supporting its most vulnerable children and adults. The capital budget proposals will also be considered, with building and infrastructure projects totalling £645.3m over the next three years to be approved. The proposed three year programme includes:- £175m investment in new and extended school buildings to provide school places for children in Hampshire, delivering a further 4,393 school places and giving a total of 18,874 new school places by September 2025.- £142m for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges.- £103m of Integrated Transport Plan schemes including £58m of schemes focused around walking and/or cycling improvements- £100m to address condition-based enhancements to schools.- An additional £0.3m funding towards the County Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Programme as part of HCC's response to the challenge of climate change. There are two particular related points for us. First, there is commitment to pushing ahead with the Botley bypass, which

should provide much needed relief, especially around Curdridge. Secondly, it is expected that the site for the new secondary school in Whiteley will be made available this summer. The new school, with 900 places, is expected to be ready for the start of the 2027 academic year. There are also proposals for a possible new SEND school on the site of the old Cornerstone School in Whiteley.

2. 20 mph review

The review of the criteria for 20 mph speed limits within Hampshire has progressed to the next stage following last year's consultation and the work of a County Council Task and Finish Group. A report has been produced recommending a series of changes which will make it easier for communities who want reduced speed limits to promote speed reduction schemes and seek the introduction of lower limits. The proposals will now be considered further before progressing to full Cabinet for approval in June. The proposals will be of interest to many parishes and I look forward to discussing potential local impacts with parishes and interested residents over the next few months, as the new policy becomes clearer.

3. Roads

The bad weather we have all experienced this month has provided many challenges to Hampshire Highways, especially from blocked drains, flooding and potholes. Even though the weather has improved recently with the water tables falling, the overnight freezing temperatures have exacerbated the pothole situation with many more now appearing, and particularly in the rural areas. Service demand across the highways service remains extremely high with demand far exceeds capacity at the present time and consequently all work is having to be prioritised so that the highest risk issues are repaired first. This includes the use of temporary 'infill' repairs to remove major potholes, these can then be addressed on a longer lasting basis later. Some parishes have commented that some pothole filling appears to be sub-standard and this is the reason. The outlook for this month is also unfavourable, with the Met Office suggesting that the weather is likely to be unsettled, with the potential for more periods of stormy conditions - potentially similar to those we experienced in February 2022 - and some further colder/wintry spells. One of the priorities now is therefore ditch and grip clearance to help alleviate surface water flooding and ice problems in at risk areas; Hambledon is one of the priority areas here. Please do continue to report highways issues online. A reminder that the number to call in emergency is 0300 555 1388 (0830-1700) Monday to Friday, or outside officer hours, 101.

4. Drain cover thefts

Road users across Hampshire are being urged to be vigilant after a recent spate of drain cover thefts - leaving deep openings in the road surface which could cause a potential hazard to drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, and also result in significant expense to council taxpayers. To report a missing cover, please call the number given above or report it to the police online at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

5. Increased police numbers announced

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Donna Jones, has presented her budget plan for the years 2023-24. She had previously pledged to increase police numbers by 600 and is on track to recruit these by the end of March this year. Her new budget has added an additional 50 officers to these numbers, to be funded through the police precept of council tax.

6. County councillor grants

The deadline for applications for my County Councillor grant budget is 28th February. I have provided support this year to various projects, from jubilee celebrations in West Meon, Meonstoke and Whiteley to playground improvements in Hambledon, support for community groups in Waltham Chase and a grant for the new pavilion in Shedfield. Do let me know if there any schemes locally you would like me to support, I do have some money left.

Councillor Hugh Lumby
Meon Valley Division
Hampshire County Council

APPENDIX C

Report from PCSO Owen Reeves – Feb 2023

I have had a look at reports for West Meon from 01/01/2023 up to 11/02/2023. Recent reports don't look too bad since the start of the year we have just had one drug offence which was a cannabis warning, a missing person, one assault that was domestic related and one criminal damage that was a broken window.

I have been holding a beat surgery every four weeks at the post office at the side of the West Meon shop. The next one is due to be between 10 and 12 on Thursday 2nd March.

PCSO Owen Reeves