

Worldham Annual Parish Assembly

Draft Minutes of Meeting

held on Wednesday 26th April 2023 7.00pm

East Worldham Village Hall

Present: Cllr W Brock (Chair)
Cllr B Bagnell
Cllr R Twining
Cllr S Butler
Cllr T Godbert

Also present: 28 members of the public
County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee
District Councillor David Ashcroft
Doug Jones ,Member of the National Park Authority
Pamela Hibbins, Parish Clerk

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 **Welcome and Introduction**

Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr W Brock welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 **Apologies of absence –**

Cllr C Sole
Meyrick and Deborah Aylward

3 **Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 18th May 2022.
There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Proposed: Cllr R Twining, Seconded: Cllr B Bagnell

Action: Clerk

4 **County Councillor's Report**

County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee attended and gave the following report.

Hampshire County Council (HCC) budget for 2023-2024 is now £1.1 billion with a council tax rise of 5%. Two fifths of the budget is allocated to Adult Social Care and Children's Services (approximately £700 million). HCC want and need to care for our elderly and children, some of who are refugees/orphans, however this means that the amount of money for other services has significantly reduced such as roads etc. HCC maintain the County's Highways with a £180 million budget. Alton rural roads covers some 500 miles which makes up 10% of Hampshire's total road network. The interconnected rural road network in the rural area has been heavily impacted and not designed for our modern way of living. Residents were urged to continue to report issues and Cllr Kemp-Gee applauded the local efforts towards traffic calming.

In regards to planning, the great community effort surrounding the Veolia Incinerator helped to result in this application being refused. Veolia were given six months to launch an appeal and no appeal was made. There are current plans for an anaerobic digestion system on site and the county, district and parish will continue to keep abreast of this.

It was noted that communities have experienced disruption from the Esso pipeline this year and that current work from SSEN will also impact the parish over the next year. County attended the local roadshows to find out more about the works and will share information with the clerk.

Mark continues to support the requirement for planning and enforcement issues to be managed with the appropriate authority, and he continues to highlight relevant issues when it is within his power.

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Cllr Kemp-Gee finished by thanking the parish councillors and the clerk at Worldham Parish Council, as well as the district councillors, as they come to the end of their four year terms of office.

5 District Councillor's Report

District Councillor David Ashcroft was in attendance and asked to say a few words. Cllr Ashcroft thanked the councillors and the clerk of Worldham Parish Council for all their hard work over the year.

It was noted we are currently in purdah ahead of the elections on the 4th May 2023 but a quick overview of East Hampshire County Councils (EHDC) work was given. EHDC Alton train station forecourt has been improved as part of a project to make it safer and easier for people to get to and from the station, using inclusive design and in turn improving people's experience and engagement with the town. Work has taken place on the core site of the community centre in Alton and it is hoped that services will increase from the centre.

Work continues on the District Plan and will be out for consultation in Spring with a deadline to submit in the Autumn.

It was also reported that East Hampshire District Council formally agreed to end its partnership with Havant Borough Council so it can focus on its local priorities at a faster pace. EHDC now has a direct agreement with waste management company NORSE for refuse, rather than the previous joint contract with Havant Borough Council. It was noted that there has been disruption to the service due to a staff shortage which has now been rectified and the breakdown of lorries. There is now a direct contract in place with Norse and an assigned EHDC officer. District Councillor urged residents to report any issues of uncollected bins on the website so that the team can rearrange collection.

The Planning and Enforcement teams are currently very busy and are working hard on tightening up known issues and breaches in the area. District Councillor David Ashcroft thanked the councillors and clerk of Worldham Parish Council for all their help, input and support over the past four years.

6 Chairman's Report

A warm welcome to you all, to our Annual Parish Assembly at the village hall.

This year we continue as a full council of six, supported by the Parish Clerk, and as the election this year is uncontested we can announce that the current line-up will continue in 2023-2024. I would like to thank all the council and the clerk for their contribution over the last year.

As well as the council we have a very loyal group of volunteers who help manage the village infrastructure. Our thanks to Kish and Jill who look after the village hall and our regular users and bookings. We sadly lost a key member last summer. Mike Walker was a big contributor to the village at large and we are particularly grateful for his service over the past 15 years as the custodian of the village hall and helping with numerous village events, most recently and fittingly for the Jubilee celebrations. Mike is very much dearly missed by his friends at Worldham Parish Council and the village as a whole.

We will hear from local groups later in the agenda but schemes such as SpeedWatch and Neighbourhood Watch are valuable assets to help to continue the safety of our Community and we are grateful for their efforts. Worldham Parish Council have supported the 20's Plenty in Hampshire campaign. This is currently under-review as part of a national programme and we hope to report more once we have updates. We are also in talks with a Hampshire Highways about a second phase of traffic calming measures in the parish and we hope to hear more on this this summer. I know you all will feel the state of our roads locally is getting worse but we are constantly reviewing and liaising with the County to try and improve them. A recent development is the SSN works on upgrading the cables between Alton and Bordon. Although we welcome the rationale for doing this it will cause considerable disruption to the B3004 and surrounding roads so we will be monitoring this carefully.

We are very lucky to have a very supportive team of County and District Councillors who work with us to push our local parish priorities at district and county level, in particular with highways and planning issues and we are very lucky to have them here with us tonight. Some of our grant projects have also received funds from the County and District Councillor Grant schemes and we are extremely grateful in them helping us to support these projects.

Paul Grace continues to help keep the village hall and playground looking neat and tidy. We also had some tree works conducted this year as part of our tree management works. This included a quite considerable cut of the oak outside this hall. This was based on the recommendation of the tree survey and the heavy pruning of the tree was due to a safety issue and this work whilst appearing drastic initially, was to help strengthen the tree and keep it and residents safe. It has since gone from strength to strength and thank you to Hampshire Tree and Garden for carrying out this vital work.

On the planning front we continue to work hard on comments that represent local planning priorities and the council have recently hosted a planning training session for us and neighbouring councils with a planning consultant so that we can further understand the process and strengthen our comments. One of the biggest planning applications this year was the Veolia Incinerator in the Wey Valley which was turned down by the members of Hampshire County Council's regulatory committee on in February 2022. Veolia were given six months to launch an appeal and no appeal was made by the September 2023 deadline.

We have been working hard behind the scenes on applying for grants to improve the village hall. Not only is it part of our heritage, dating back to 1893, it has supported the local community through 2 world wars, housed baby groups, adventurous scouting groups, the WI and has been filled with laughter and music from local bands and choirs to pantomime dames but it's part of our future aspirations to create a hub in the village. A thriving community needs a meeting place in which to gather and run activities. Not only to run village meetings but to enable the strong community that we have in the villages to grow by providing a usable community space. The ability to host events in the hall after the harsh Covid-19 restrictions of 2020/2021 and during the current cost of living crisis is now more important than ever. It not only gives residents opportunities to meet and socialise but also creates stronger community ties to help combat the blight of rural loneliness and isolation.

Are stronger community ties important to you? Are you worries about the shortage of housing and how these will be allocated? As part of the South Downs Local Plan Review we will be feeding in our own priorities for the parish. We are lucky to have Doug Jones from the SDNPA to talk to us about this later on the agenda and this will be a main focus for us as a council over the summer and early Autumn.

Lastly we cannot run our Council without a Clerk and we have a very good one, so thank you Pam for another year of keeping the ship afloat.

7 Financial Statement of the Accounts for the year 2022/2023 – The Clerk

The Clerk provided a review of the end of year accounts.

	31 March 2023 £
1- Balances brought forward	45993
2 (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	14476

3 (+) Total other receipts	13841
4 (-) Staff costs	6751
5 (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	NIL
6 (-) All other payments	15988
7 (=) Balances carried forward	51571
8 Total value of cash and short term investments	51571
9 Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	379783
10 - Total borrowings	NIL

The Parish Clerk presented the financial overview above and further explanation below. Worldham Parish Council started the year with a balance of £45,993.

In terms of income received, the precept for the year 2022/2023 was increased to £14,476. This is the money that comes directly from residents as part of the council tax. It is only spent within the Worldhams and Hartley Mauditt and does not fund anything outside this area. Total other income was up from last year and came to £13,841. Approximately £5,000 of this is from the Worldham Community Benefit Fund that the Parish Council entered into an agreement with Wilsom Solar Farms and is funding available to our local community. The rest is largely made up of other revenue streams that the parish council actively pursue for the parish and these are usually grants to fund specific projects such as contributions to local celebrations such as the Platinum Jubilee and the upcoming Coronation. We also received funding for a marquee to help host local events, this is also available for hire to residents. Hiring of equipment and our lovely village hall also provides us with a small income. We are delighted that the hall is being used again for local community groups and various yoga, pilates classes are also using the hall.

Staff costs totaled £6,751 and covers a part time clerk who acts as the clerk, finance officer, book keeper, projector manager and governance officer. To note all councillors are volunteers and give up their time for free.

All other expenditure for the year came in at £15,988 and covers the council's main expenditure. This covers:-

- site management of the playground and the village hall, landscaping, maintenance and upkeep of these areas, including the annual inspection and any repairs to the play equipment, vegetation, grass cuttings of both areas and tree management (it is NOW a condition for all trees for all parishes to have a management plan which includes regular surveys and maintenance tree works to ensure safety of trees and residents).
- Governance. The Parish Council's bills, insurance, IT subscriptions, website costs, electricity bills etc are regularly reviewed to make sure prices are competitive.
- Grants. On top of the Worldham Community Benefit Fund (Solar Fund) we also give a donation to the local PCCs for upkeep to the churchyard maintenance. Worldham Parish Council made donations to East Worldham, West Worldham and Hartley Mauditt churchyards for the upkeep

of the respective burial grounds and wanted to thank all those involved who continue to manage and look after these sites.

- All projects have been funded separately from the precept which includes defibrillators, both purchasing and annual running costs, Speed Awareness Device and events

Worldham Parish Council ended the year with a healthy balance of £51,571. A large proportion of this is non-precept monies which has restricted usage e.g. £17,831.43 is the Worldham Community Benefit Fund which can only be used on *projects that will* benefit the communities of the Parish Council *and not Parish Council running costs*. £8,934 is the earmarked Covid Small Business Grant that the parish council plan to reinvest on improvements into the village hall. Approximately £2,300 comes from the donations towards the local Coronation event.

This leaves a total of £21,329.01 of expenditure and as part of the national governance parish councils need to have between 6-12 months expenditure in the account at all times to cover eventualities/emergency repairs/delayed payments from district councils etc.

8 Reports from Officials

a) Neighbourhood Watch - report by Kate Denyer, Worldham Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

The neighbourhood watch official provided the following report.

We currently have 66 households on the list to receive Neighbourhood Watch emails. We occasionally get crime reports for East Hampshire, but not as often as before the pandemic due to restricted volunteer access to police records.

I have now achieved approved access to the further Neighbourhood Watch system that I have previously mentioned, termed 'Neighbourhood Alert'. That requires setting up a full email address list for me to do so. I am now exploring using my current Google Group Neighbourhood Watch address list to send out their other alerts. I still use some of these periodically via Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police, so I am still considering if this is worth pursuing.

I rarely get requests to join our Watch group via the invitation included in the welcome pack that new residents receive. I have tried encouraging others to join via WhatsApp, but no success. Together with the Parish Council we will design an occasional poster for the Worldham noticeboards.

b) SpeedWatch - report by Nicki Twining, Worldham SpeedWatch Co-ordinator

Worldham Community SpeedWatch has 16 volunteers which run in Spring, Summer and Autumn. We are managed by Maria Jolliffe and Ian Middleton. Citizens in Policing Coordinators, Inspector Darren Murphy of the East Hampshire Neighbourhood Teams – Alton, Longmoor and Petersfield is also very supportive and started in the Autumn.

Last year we spent 20.5 hours at the roadside. A few shifts had to be cancelled due to the weather although our keen volunteers can be found out in the searing heat and drizzle. Hampshire Constabulary also requested that we cancel the shifts in the weeks following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

We were passed by 1433 cars during the six hours spent monitoring traffic towards Kingsley. 98 of these were speeding, giving us a total of 6.8%.

We were passed by 3125 cars during the 14.5 hours spent monitoring traffic going towards Alton and 311 of these were speeding, a total of 10%.

The rate of speeding varies between 3-19 % depending on where we are sited and time of day, Of those speeding 205 were doing 35-39 mph ,165 were doing 40-46mph and 35 were doing more than 46 mph.

Through our roadside efforts we generated 316 first letters from the police and 40 second escalation letters. Five cars were caught speeding by Worldham SpeedWatch twice.

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE DATA WEEK COMMENCING JUNE 20th 2022

42.4% obeying the Speed Limit

47.3% going between 30 -40 mph

6.6% going between 40-45 mph

3.7% going over 45 mph

In total over five weekdays 28 going above 55 mph

We were offered the chance to ask the Parish Council to fund a radar gun to use together with our present equipment to monitor the speed of cars travelling in the opposite direction. However the majority of our volunteers felt that this would be too confrontational which is unsurprising as we are often subjected to verbal abuse.

Some of you may have read in EHDC's In Touch that came through our post boxes recently that EHDC is offering 10 parishes an AutoSpeedWatch camera. This records number plates as well as speed My excitement was dimmed on investigating this as the article was slightly misleading, The camera cannot be used for Community SpeedWatch and the data retrieved cannot be used for education of Speeders (ie SpeedWatch letters) or enforcement at present. However, it may be a useful extra armoury in our campaign against speeders in that we could see what time any serial offenders are passing and schedule SpeedWatch sessions accordingly. Our Parish Clerk has registered an interest as the camera may be useful to us and Hampshire Constabulary may change their policy in the future.

On a positive note Worldham has been chosen as one of a few communities to enter a trial, sharing the data from our Speed Indicator Device, Sid, with Hampshire Constabulary. This together with our SpeedWatch Data will help inform the police when to position their camera vans so that the speed limits can be enforced.

Thank you to all the SpeedWatch volunteers who give up their time to help. New volunteers are always needed.

C) Footpath - report by Nicki Twining, Worldham Footpath Officer

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly!

The Good

Worldham Footpaths were honoured by being featured on Clare Balding's Ramblings on Radio 4. Alison and her team at the Three Horseshoes received lots of praise The pub now has leaflets together with Walk Alton detailing the walk taken by Clare Balding and another showing 3 other walks.

I made less reports to Hampshire Countryside Access on problems on footpaths and bridleways this year. Thanks to the landowners for keeping the paths accessible for those on foot. I think also the dry warm weather had an effect and maybe parishioners are reporting problems themselves. I'm delighted to say that all the problems I reported have been resolved.

Thanks go to the volunteers at Alton Ramblers who have repaired the School House steps and have done a splendid job. They are being asked to help carry out repairs and cut back vegetation etc by Hampshire Countryside Access. Alton Ramblers are happy to do the work but they would like the Parish Council to consider applying for grants for materials if necessary and felt appropriate by the Parish Council.

The Bad

Dog poo continues to be a problem on some footpaths particularly the most popular ones near the village.

Footpath 27 was blocked in the build up and during the Jalsa Salana. Although this is expected every year there appeared to be no escort when I was there to guide you through the site on an alternative route.

There have been further recent reports of anti-social behaviour in Binswood and footpath finger posts on paths leading into Binswood have been knocked down.

The Ugly

The Esso Pipeline has been responsible for ongoing ugly scars across our beautiful countryside together with closed, blocked and poorly surfaced footpaths. Hopefully all will be reinstated now that Spring is on the way.

Please enjoy our beautiful footpaths and remember that anyone can report footpath problems themselves on the web site but I am happy to assist if necessary.

9 THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

Nicky Twining from the working party provided the following report.

The committee Pauline Flude, Margaret Whidborne, Jane Poulton and Nicky Twining have chosen two events.

On Saturday May 6th 2023 there will be a free evening event starting at 7.30pm at Smiths Farm by kind permission of the Whidborne family. We are grateful to the sponsors, Loos for Dos and grants from our District Councillor, Cllr Ken Carter and from the Worldham Community Benefit Fund (Solar Fund).

There will be free drinks and a snack. Ice creams will be on sale, cash required. The loyal toast is at 8.45 pm followed by fireworks.

There will be a marquee for shelter but please bring chairs, torches and umbrellas and perhaps a picnic.

If you are planning to be there and haven't already please let us know as we need to know numbers for catering.

The second event is on Monday Bank Holiday May 8th 2023 at the Village Hall 10.00-12.00 .as part of the Coronation weekend everyone is being encouraged to volunteer or help out on Bank Holiday Monday. Worldham is holding a Big Help Out in aid of Alton's Foodbank. Please bring donations of food/household goods and stay to enjoy the coffee and cake on sale.

10 Hampshire Police – PC from Local Neighbourhood group on their work and current campaigns

Apologies were sent who were unable to send a representative on the night.

11 Key note speaker – Doug Jones, Member of the South Downs National Park Authority presented on SDNPA work and introduced the new Parish Priority Statements.

The South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) is responsible for keeping the South Downs a special place. The SDNPA is also the planning authority for the National Park. The Authority is a public body, funded by government, and run by a Board of 27 members.

Doug Jones is Chair of Buriton Parish Council but will be retiring from the Parish Council and therefore stepping down as Parish Council Representative for the National Park,

The South Downs is still the newest national park at only 13 years old. The Map of the South Downs was shared, showing that it is largely made up of chalk grass lane and heathland, farmland

and a high proportion of Woodland. National Parks have two priorities, 1) - conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and 2) promote understanding and enjoyment by the public.

Government grant has been declining in real terms for 4 – 5 years. An independent trust has been set up which can help raise monies to deliver schemes and grants.

The Partnership Management Plan is to work with partnerships with other organisations and the four key areas for this are :-

- Nature recovery
- Climate Change
- Health and Inclusion
- Rural economy.

Work with farmers and other partners to:

- Increase understanding of farm carbon budgets and how soil management can influence carbon emission and sequestration
- Identify a suite of practical management options that farmers can use to reduce carbon emissions
- Help farmers prepare for new funding regimes

Work with communities

- Ouse Valley Climate Action project:
- Funded by the National Lottery Climate Action Fund
- Reduce the carbon footprint of communities
- Ouse valley: Barcombe to Peacehaven, Newhaven and Seaford
- Facing shared threats from climate change
- Create green corridors
- Reduce emissions, sustainable energy and transport
- Working with many partners

South Downs Youth Action

- For young people: 16 - 25
- Flexible volunteering
- A range of fun, practical day and residential experiences
- Young people learn practical skills, work as a team and take positive action

Families Outreach Project

Working with local organisations to provide taster sessions to families: engaging a diverse range of people, many of whom have not engaged with the national park before:

- Nature based creative workshops with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Families from the charity Forward Facing thrilled to discover the new wheelchair accessible path and gardens in Stanmer Park
- Rural Refugee Network family picnic in Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

Our South Downs: business community initiative

- Developing a network of like-minded small businesses sharing the same sustainability values
- Connecting local businesses with one another
- For SDNP businesses, by SDNP businesses
- Thinking locally, acting locally
- Members benefit from topical and relevant resources, business support, discussion forums, information about how to engage with other initiatives
- Membership still free

Farming in Protected Landscapes

A programme to help farmers through the transition out of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy:

Preparations for a new agricultural support system. This is Defra funding, administered locally, for the period: July 2021 to March 2025. Farm clusters have been formed.

There are 6 farm clusters, 168 farms. Making up Two-thirds of National Park. Selborne landscape cluster is the local one for the Worldhams and Hartley Mauditt.

Open to all farmers and land managers within the National Park for projects that:

- Mitigate the impacts of climate change
- Support nature recovery
- Provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and cultural heritage
- Support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses

A new 'Nature Recovery' campaign

- Joint initiative between SDNPA and the South Downs Trust
- To increase the area managed for nature from 25% to 33% (13,000ha) over 10 years
- Obtain investment of £100m through public, private and charitable finance
- Mobilise and inspire landowners, communities and the public

Looking for farm owners/landowner and communities to get involved.

More information can be found at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/renature/>

There is all also an active new 'Nature Recovery' campaign

- Restoring pollinator habitat
- Free advice on a management plan provided by Plantlife
- Grants of around £5,000 provided for works
- Commenced 2022
- Tree planting – particularly around Ash die back. Under Trees for the Downs

More information can be found at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/renature/>

Sustainable Communities Fund have small grants, up to £2,000 and large Grants of up to £10,000.

Contact for any of this funding: miriam.swan@southdowns.gov.uk

International Dark Skies Reserve

In May 2016 the South Downs National Park became the world's newest International Dark Sky Reserve International Dark Skies Reserve. The star-studded skies overhead are as valuable as our beautiful rolling landscapes and, with properly dark skies in the South East of England under threat, this is a statement that the skies of the South Downs are worth protecting.

What does International Dark Sky Reserve status mean?

The South Downs National Park is the second IDSR in England and the 12th in the world. With two million people living within five km of the National Park our new reserve will be one of the most accessible in the world.

There are approximately 2,700 streetlights in the National Park. Local lighting authorities have been replacing these over time to comply with Dark Sky standards.

More than 25,000 individual measurements had to be taken to map the night skies quality across the South Downs. 66 per cent of the National Park has Bronze Level Skies.

In the future the South Downs National Park Authority will use its role as a planning authority to protect the dark skies above the National Park as well as the landscape on the ground. Draft policies for the South Downs National Park's Local Plan include specific lighting requirements that developers will need to meet.

Protecting water supplies

- . The NPA has launched a new 'Learning Zone' on its website to help all the schools in and around the National Park. The 'Our South Downs' initiative provides an on-line portal for teachers and pupils. Designed to offer resources and ideas for many parts of the curriculum, the project is founded on the belief that if care for the landscape can begin at an early age it will probably last a lifetime.
 - . The Learning Zone is fully searchable depending on key stage and subjects areas. There are interactive games, videos and jargon busters as well as facts, figures and 'did you know' information.
 - . Full details of all the resources available can be found at: <https://learning.southdowns.gov.uk/> with a map showing potential sites for visits at <http://learningmap.southdowns.gov.uk/> Over 60 outdoor learning providers and school staff across the National Park are already contributing to the development of a South Downs Curriculum and associated learning resources which will be hosted on these new pages. More content will be added in the months ahead and ideas from local communities are always welcomed. Simply send a message to: learning@southdowns.gov.uk
- Feedback from recent schools surveys has identified that one of the key barriers to accessing outdoor learning opportunities within the National Park is the cost of travel to sites. To address this issue the NPA has recently launched a new Travel Grant Scheme aimed at schools within more deprived communities. The scheme aims to reduce this barrier and to encourage more young people to have access to the fantastic opportunities for outdoor learning provided within the South Downs National Park. For more information visit <https://learning.southdowns.gov.uk/learning/travel-grant/>

Planning

- . The National Park is probably best known for it's planning. Planning Policy and Development Management are major tools for delivering the statutory Purposes and Duty
- . about 5,000 planning applications each year, plus appeals and enforcement (one of the largest planning authorities in Britain) delegated arrangements and partnerships with District Councils
- . some relatively big schemes (Midhurst's King Edward VII Hospital; Shoreham Cement Works; Syngenta site at Fernhurst; North Street Quarter in Lewes) overlaps with 15 local authorities (inherited over 1,500 policies!) finalised first ever National Park-Wide Local Plan in 2019: based on landscape and ecosystem services

Review of Local Plan: focused and collaborative

Parish Priority Statements

- Not mandatory: an opportunity to engage in the LP Review
- Summarise principal needs and prevailing views
- Will inform Plan preparation: allocations e.g. new housing , designations such as green spaces, policies
- Evidence to support the LP Review and also funding bids (CIL etc)
- Do not form part of the Development Plan

Parish Priority Statements to consider some of the following;-

- A vision: key changes you would like to see over the next 15 years
- Development: type, level, location
- Homes: types, sizes etc
- Designs: local characteristics
- Natural Environment: opportunities for bigger, better, more joined up
- Jobs: businesses to be protected; opportunities to be provided
- Public Spaces: important places; opportunities for nature recovery
- Infrastructure: community buildings; active travel, roads & parking; energy, broadband, waste and water infrastructure etc

. To do this properly it is important to engage and involve all parts of the community and be ready to submit to SDNPA in October 2023. If interested in volunteering, please contact: vrs@southdowns.gov.uk or 01730 819327

12 **Open Forum and Public Questions**

A member of the public asked how the park was defined, including why some areas are half in and half out of the park. Locally the area around was defined to incorporate Alice Holt.

Water streams such as the River Meon have been worked on from the very start of the SDNPA being established with the successful reintroduction of water voles and consequently the return of otters, a key species indicator of improved water quality.

Several members thanked the SpeedWatch team for their efforts and highlighted that pre 8 am the traffic is very fast and prevents residents from being able to cross. The Parish Council highlighted that a staggered speed limit 60-40-30mph had been discussed with Highways but was not eligible as don't have the business outlets that Kingsley has to use this method. Speeding is a concern throughout the district and the parish council is actively supporting the 20 is Plenty campaign. Data collected by SpeedWatch is crucial when asking and applying for traffic calming measures.

Concerns were also raised around the SSEN works due to take place over the next 15- 18 months and the implications. NO initial contact had been made by SSEN with the Parish Council, councillors at both District and County levels or residents. County Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee attended the roadshow meeting last week for us. It was now hoped that all parties will work together to keep monitoring the progress of the project, and it was AGREED to keep all parish councillors updated. For the initial closure of Oakhanger Road the road will become closed to through traffic, however, local access will be maintained. Construction works are generally constrained to approx. 100-200m in length, so residents and local traffic will have access to either side of where they are currently working. A member of the public suggested that after work had finished for the day that they could open half of the road. SSEN had not been invited to this meeting as the Parish Council had not had prior notification of the work but SSEN will be invited to a future council meeting. The clerk will also share links to any SSEN updates including the interactive map.

A request was made for clearer signage on the roads and to update Google alerts with closed roads. Residents urged that any traffic calming measures in the pipeline be made before January when the scheduled SSEN works are likely to increase the traffic problem.

13 **The meeting closed at 9.20pm**

Signed:

Date: