



MINUTES OF MEETING OF EAST WOODHAY PARISH COUNCIL
27 November 2023
19:00 Woolton Hill Church Hall

Chairman: Cllr Hurst (Chair)

Present: Cllrs G Dick, M Rand, K Titcomb, M Hainge, S Cooper, S Bowden

Clerk: Amy White

In attendance: Three parishioners

Item 1: 83/23 Apologies

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Roots. Cllr Watson has decided to resign- his resignation was accepted by the Chair- all of EWPC wishes him well.

Item 2: 84/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

Item 3: 85/23 To approve Minutes of Meeting held 16 October 2023

The Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Hurst.

Item 4: 86/23 Actions arising from Full Council Meeting held on 16 October 2023

Item	Action	Owner
72/23	Clerk to add approved policies to website. Actioned	Clerk
73/23	Clerk to send out reminder of the Neighbourhood Plan on Facebook/website. Actioned	Clerk
74/23	Cllr Roots will send out a date for council volunteers to sow seeds in a small area. Actioned	Cllr Roots
76/23	Clerk to confirm the new quote for SID movement with Premier Grounds. Actioned	Clerk
81/23	Clerk and Cllr Titcomb to continue to advertise for more volunteers. Actioned	Clerk/Cllr Titcomb

Item 5: 87/23 Public Participation

No one wished to speak.

Item 6: 88/23 Co-option of Councillor

A vacancy had arisen at EWPC for one councillor. Having met Ms Donoghue at the previous meeting, all councillors were in agreement to co-opt her, there being no other candidate to require a vote. Cllr Donoghue signed the declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk and was formally made a councillor of EWPC.

Action: Clerk to update information for Cllr Donoghue and remove Cllr Watson.

Item 7: 89/23 Planning Update

Planning Committee Minutes are on the EWPC website.

- **Update on 21/03394/OUT Watermill Bridge Appeal**
Cllr Titcomb confirmed that EWPC will be using the services of Steve Lees, planning consultant for the Appeal for the Watermill Bridge application (starting 06 December 2023). The cost is expected to be approximately £1000-£1500. Council all agreed this was an acceptable cost. A budget line for using Steve Lees for the next financial year has been added to the budget for future planning support.
- **Ditches:** Cllr Titcomb informed the council of the recent pumping of water from a building site on Hollington Lane- the water travelled as far as Trade St, assisted by the overgrown ditches. The Clerk has received a template letter from HCC to send to residents whose ditches need maintenance- it was decided to send some out to residents along Church Road and Hollington Lane where they are in a particularly bad state, ahead of the winter season.

Action: Clerk to send ditch maintenance reminder letter to some residents in East Woodhay.

Action: Planning Committee to send a letter to BDBC about the recent incident.

Item 8: 90/23 Amenities Update

Amenities Committee Minutes are on the EWPC website.

The new self-closing gate equipment has been installed at Brownies Corner, and will be completed at the Drs Surgery end this week.

S106: Funds have been assigned to East Woodhay from development in Highclere (it is not assigned to Highclere Parish due to there being no play amenities). The designation of funds is specific and relates to a new piece of playground equipment (£1924.25) and repairs to the goal mouths in the recreation ground (£5467.30). This is noted in the budget for 24/25.

Meadowbrook: Amenities Committee will now take over the management of the hedges on the Meadowbrook land. The scope of what the Annual Maintenance contract will cover has now increased during 23/24 and the cost for this going forward is reflected in the 24/25 budget.

Item 9: 91/23 Highways

The Highways report can be found on the EWPC website.

Cllr Dick is continuing to pursue HCC for the replacement of the sign at East End triangle.

Cllr Dick mentioned the continual water leak along Church Lane by Malverleys- the source of the leak is unknown.

Action: Cllr Dick to ask Malverleys whether they know of the problem of the water leak.

Item 10: 92/23 Finance Update

The Finance Committee Minutes are on the EWPC website.

a. Accounts for payment:

The Clerk presented the following amounts for payment:

Date invoiced	Explanation	Amount	
27-Nov-23	Clerk's salary	Includes agreed 23/24 salary, backpay from 01/04/23	£ 1,006.00
27-Nov-23	Litter Warden Salary		£ 451.53
27-Nov-23	Litter Warden Exps		£ 35.00
27-Nov-23	PAYE	HMRC Month 8	£ 344.93
27-Nov-23	Pension Contribution	Nest Direct Debit	£ 75.13
25-Oct-23	Administration	Budget and precept training @HALC, Cllr Rand	£ 48.00
25-Oct-23	VAT	Budget and precept training @HALC, Cllr Rand	£ 9.60
27-Oct-23	Payroll Admin	Red76 Payroll for Oct 23 Inv 7353	£ 16.00
27-Oct-23	VAT	Red76 Payroll for Oct 23 Inv 7353	£ 3.20
27-Oct-23	Highways	SID Movement by Premier Grounds x 10 Inv 2321	£ 350.00
27-Oct-23	VAT	SID Movement by Premier Grounds x 10 Inv 2321	£ 70.00
31-Oct-23	Annual Maint Agmnt	Scofell Maintenance and grass cuts 31974	£ 615.91
31-Oct-23	VAT	Scofell Maintenance and grass cuts 31974	£ 123.18
1-Nov-23	Administration	WHCH bookings for October 2023 Inv 3056	£ 36.00
2-Nov-23	Administration	HugoFox Bronze website subscription (Direct Debit)	£ 9.99
2-Nov-23	Administration	HugoFox Bronze website subscription (Direct Debit)	£ 2.00
1-Nov-23	Administration	WHCH bookings for October 2023 Inv 3063	£ 12.00
9-Nov-23	Planning	Foot Anstey Deed of Easement paid disbursements	£ 12.00
9-Nov-23	VAT	Foot Anstey Deed of Easement paid disbursements	£ 2.40
23-Nov-23	Misc Maintenance	Ian Pearce Landscape contractor- construction of concrete base for bench at East End triangle	£ 510.00
23-Nov-23	VAT	Ian Pearce Landscape contractor- construction of concrete base for bench at East End triangle	£ 102.00
23-Nov-23	Chairmans Allowance	Drinks and nibbles for meeting 27/11/23 (paid by Clerk)	£ 183.03
Total:			£ 4,017.90

Natwest Current Account Balance as at 31/10/2023: £14197.80

Redwood Savings Account Balance as at 31/10/2023: £41814.75

Budget and precept for 2024/25

Cllr Hurst led the council through the budget proposal for 24/25 and the current precept proposal. The council agreed with the current proposal; this will be reviewed in the January meeting and the precept decision made (deadline 31 January 2024). The presentation for the proposal is an attachment to the Minutes.

Item 11: 93/23 Councillor Code of Conduct Training

The Clerk is organising a face to face training for councillors for the Code of Conduct, approved at the Annual Meeting, to be delivered by BDBC legal team. Both Highclere and Burghclere parishes will be invited.

Action: Clerk to organise dates for Code of Conduct training.

Item 12: 94/23 Retirement of Rev Christine Dalton and end of Charity Trustee position

Cllr Cooper's position as a trustee with East Woodhay Charities expired in October. Due to Rev. Christine's retirement, EWPC will wait to hear from the person who takes over the position whether they want EWPC to provide another trustee.

EWVH: please see Cllr Titcomb's report on EWVH at the end of the Minutes.

Cllr Titcomb updated the council on the financial status of EWVH. Despite new committee members, the future of the hall is challenging and EWPC as a Trustee is attending the meetings to find a way forward.

Item 13: Dates for 2024 meetings

The Clerk has sent the councillors the proposed dates for 2024, including a date in December (to increase meetings from 10 to 11 each year).

Item 17: /23 Items to carry forward to next meeting

Policing engagement proposal (Cllr Bowden), Emergency plan for approval, budget second draft and precept decision. SID costs. Local plan.

Actions from Meeting of 27 November 2023

Item	Action	Owner
88/23	Clerk to update information for Cllr Donoghue and remove Cllr Watson.	Clerk
89/23	Clerk to send ditch maintenance reminder letter to some residents in East Woodhay. Planning Committee to send a letter to BDBC about the recent incident.	Clerk Cllr Cooper
91/23	Cllr Dick to ask Malverleys whether they know of the problem of the water leak.	Cllr Dick
93/23	Clerk to organise dates for Code of Conduct training.	Clerk

Hampshire County Councillor Update**County Councillor update****November 2023****I. Budget Matters**

The County Council is considering how it can balance its budget in the face of central government's reduced and reducing funding of local government. HCC is awaiting the annual

settlement announcement from central government, expected mid-December. Meanwhile, Council still has to approve its Medium-Term Funding Strategy for 2024 to 2026, to be decided at Full Council on 9 November. The papers before council show that that between 2024 and 2026, the Council needs to find £90.4 million in savings over the two years, potentially affecting up to around 278 full time equivalent staff. Furthermore, these savings will leave gaps; in the three years from 2023 to 2026, the Council expects to use an average of about £59 million a year from reserves to plug the gaps.

2. Update to Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan latest

Over the next two months, an update of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan is set to be considered by each of the five authorities that contribute to the plan (Hampshire County Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and South Downs National Park Authority) to determine whether each authority agrees that further consultation can take place prior to the Plan being submitted to the Government's Planning Inspectorate for examination. HCC's decision will be made on 12 December. Once approved by all authorities, an eight week consultation will be launched in January 2024. The responses to the consultation are then submitted together with the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for scrutiny. The local policies contained within the Plan guide the decisions that each of the five minerals and waste planning authorities make when determining planning applications for minerals extraction or waste infrastructure and operations.

3. Consultation on proposed changes to school and post-16 transport

Proposed changes to Hampshire County Council's School and Post-16 Transport Policies are the subject of two public consultations which run until Wednesday 6 December.

The proposals have been made to provide more flexible transport arrangements that better respond to children's needs, whilst bringing services into line with the latest statutory guidance from the DfE. The proposals are not part of a savings programme, and do not include any proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for School and Post-16 Transport.

Details of the proposed changes and links to the consultation can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/Post-16-Transport-Policy-for-2024-25> and <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/schooltransport>

4. Useful links for power cuts and flooding

In the aftermath of Storm Ciaran, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks have provided some useful links in the event of future power cuts.

Any loss of supply or damage to the electricity network can report by dialling 105. You can also obtain details of power cuts and restoration times on SSEN's [Power Track Website](#). Their [website](#) also contains advice and information on how to deal with a power cut and there is also a webchat service.

You can read advice online about how to [prepare for flooding](#) and check The Environment Agency web pages for updates relating to [flood alerts](#) for the area.

For assistance in the event of flooding call 0345 988 1188 or text 0345 602 6340.

5. Reporting Highway Problems

A reminder of some useful links

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

Tom Thacker
Hampshire County Councillor
Whitchurch and the Cleres Division

Karen Titcomb, current Chair of East Woodhay Village Hall- report on ECVH status

Karen Titcomb has advertised and recruited a team of new helpers- all professionals and highly qualified to assess the viability of the hall going forward. Unfortunately they are uncovering a number of issues with the previous accounts which suggest that the hall is making a bigger loss year on year than previously understood. This is not what the team was expecting to deal with. This is exacerbated by the PlayCafe coming to an end after Christmas this year - due to lack of public support / footfall being the key issue. Without a regular user of this type, the hall does not generate enough income to cover its costs.

Way forward: the team are putting much focus and energy into consideration of how to manage the hall differently / encourage new users / maybe higher value users less frequently eg. wedding receptions. They are also seeking grants where possible. Their time for this consideration is limited by available funds.