



c/o Mrs D Heppell Email: clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WEST MEON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN WEST MEON VILLAGE HALL AND ONLINE ON 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM (DUE TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC)**

**THOSE PARTICIPATING:** Cllrs A Trenchard (Chair), J Nicholson (Vice Chair), C Adams, C Waller, N Wortley, M Edwards, G Silk and R Gedye

**BY INVITATION:** County Cllr R Huxstep until 7:45pm

**APOLOGIES:** City Cllrs L Ruffell and H Lumby

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 6 members of the public

### Wmpc 1847 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda. Cllr G Silk declared a personal interest at item Wmpc 1852a Metis Homes planning application.

### Wmpc 1848 **MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC**

The Chair opened the meeting to the public, and 4 members of the public raised comments on:

- 1) The recent planning application SDNP/20/01263/FUL Whitewool Farm Whitewool Lane East Meon Petersfield GU32 1HW Proposal: Nitrate removal and net biodiversity gain scheme through ecological enhancement. The environmental issues and impact were put forward by 2 members of the public and the item was discussed. The Parish Council had already submitted their comments to SDNP and it was **agreed** that the planning application conditions and emerging environmental issues should be dealt with by South Downs National Park Planning Authority. Any further representations should be made to the determining Authority and Members of the Planning Committee.
- 2) Representations were received for and against the planning application at The Old Bank House High Street, West Meon SDNP/ 19/05172/FUL and the Parish Councils comments are recorded at item Wmpc 1852ii.

### Wmpc 1849 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Online Conference Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were **agreed**, signed and **approved**.

### Wmpc 1850 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR HUXSTEP**

Hampshire County Cllr Huxstep presented his report, see Appendix A.

Cllr Huxstep advised that he will report damage to the street sign on Church Lane to HCC.

### Wmpc 1851 CLERK'S REPORT

1. The damage to the flint wall has reported to Zurich Insurance and HCC, and to WCC Conservation Officer who advises that it is in a conservation area and needs careful restoration. It was agreed that Cllr Edwards would get 3 quotes for the insurance claim.
2. Grant Requests received :  
WM Village Hall £500.00  
Citizens Advice £200.00.
3. Reminder that Parish Councillor attendance is required at WCC Parish Council Meeting on changes to the planning system - 21.09.20 email sent to all councilors for online meeting.
4. An email was received regarding the A272 west of Meon Hut. Request for reduced speed limit or concealed entrance signage by J Brimley. It was agreed to forward information on CANS.

### TO RECEIVE WORKING GROUPS

### Wmpc 1852 PLANNING

- a) i) SDNP/20/03432/FUL Metis Homes for 10 dwellings on land at the end of Long Priors.  
Cllr Silk vacated the village hall at 8.55pm until 9:10pm while this item was discussed.

It was **agreed** that **NO OBJECTIONS** would be raised subject to the following comments by WMPC.

WMPC has agreed in principle to support the development of land at the end of Long Priors for homes. This is a very significant development for a small parish like West Meon, especially given the nature of the site and its sensitive location. WMPC is pleased that more recently Metis Homes has engaged with the Parish and its Council after a flawed start during the height of the Covid 19 lockdown.

Following the short consultation period on the two previous drafts of plans for the dwellings, Metis Homes have now submitted a full planning application and these comments relate to this planning application, SDNP/20/03432/FUL

#### 1. Justification for the housing mix.

WMPC previously asked that a housing needs survey underscore the justification for the housing mix. We have not seen this forthcoming. However, during the period of consultation the housing mix has changed and that proposed in the full plans does include more affordable units that may not be for direct sale.

However, WMPC has particular concerns about Plots 9 and 10. Their scale and size within the development seem out of context. The dwellings themselves are very large and therefore very expensive. Whilst Plot 8 offers a similar number of bedrooms, the size of the dwelling is more moderate. WMPC would be in favour of reducing the size of the dwellings proposed for Plots 9 and 10 and making them more in keeping with Plot 8. This would also reduce the visual impact of construction at the most visible part of the development site.

#### 2. Access to the site

WMPC previously raised concerns about this. The development would need traffic flow through Long Priors, a congested narrow estate road made of concrete that is already breaking up at various points. This road would need remedial repairs following any construction work, especially where surface drains are vulnerable. The cost of this must be

taken into account. There is no reference to this in the planning application, neither is there a detailed traffic management plan. WMPC would like to see evidence of both.

Any access that reduces car parking in any part of Long Priors, including Radian/Swaythling housing, must be compensated for. WMPC has already drawn attention to this and Metis Homes indicated they would address this matter. However, the planning application does not seem to mention this at all. This is a key concern for residents of Long Priors, especially those living adjacent to the site access entrance. WMPC do note that there is careful provision for visitor parking in the planning application.

Discussion on page 34 of the planning application, Landscape Led Evidence Base and Design Strategy, refers to adoption of the access road through the site. There is a lack of clarity about who the road will belong to and who will take responsibility for its surface. WMPC would ask for clarity on this.

Discussion on page 28 of the planning application, Landscape Led Evidence Base and Design Strategy, SDNP Comment 10 refers to the road that terminates between Plots 4 and 5 as possible access for a phase two development. The site was originally outside the settlement boundary in open countryside. WMPC has accepted and supported the site being included in the new boundary. WMPC would require assurances on behalf of the wider community that the settlement boundary would be respected and no phase two would be considered.

### 3. Sustainability

There is reference in the Sustainability statement on page 34 of the Landscape Led Evidence Base and Design Strategy to heat pumps and PV cells in the roofs of the dwellings. Neither of these is shown on the plot outlines nor the detailed plans for the dwellings. WMPC would like these to be confirmed as within the planning proposal, for them to be located on the application documents, and that all dwellings would benefit from these sustainability and climate crisis strategies.

No street lighting provision is shown on the application plot outline. WMPC would like this matter addressed as part of the planning application. In keeping with the Dark Skies policy of SDNP, the street lighting should be low level and light sensitive and not impose on dwellings in Knapps Hard, Long Priors or the open countryside. Responsibility for street lighting should be agreed, in discussion with WMPC, Highways and Winchester City Council.

### 4. Consultation approaches

WMPC is conscious that this development, though supported by WMPC, is a highly sensitive matter and the subject of controversy within the community. It is imperative that Metis Homes ensure continued high quality consultation and engagement with the local community, especially those in Long Priors and Knapps Hard most affected by the development during the whole of the planning process and construction phase. This should include actions that are beyond postal letter and involve face to face meetings, including the use of innovative solutions during the Covid 19 pandemic. The restrictions placed by the current pandemic must not become an excuse for lack of engagement with the community or inadequate consultation procedures.

ii) SDNP/19/05173/FUL AMENDED PLANS received 31/07/2020) The Old Bank High Street West Meon Hampshire GU32 1L Erection of single detached dwelling.

It was agreed that **NO OBJECTIONS** would be raised subject to:

- i) Roof materials being amended as it is considered that the proposed zinc roof is not in keeping with the conservation area or the adjacent properties.
- ii) Traffic management plan.
- iii) Access provision for construction vehicles and deliveries.

iii) Proposals at Westbury House, West Meon Road (GU32 1HY) Planning ref: SDNP/19/05026/FUL It was **agreed** to: raise **NO OBJECTIONS** subject to:

- Traffic management of construction vehicles.

iv) SDNP/20/03630/HOUS Sherwood Grove Riversdown Road West Meon GU32 1JS Garden room. It was **agreed** to: **raise NO OBJECTIONS**

#### Wmpc 1853 **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

- i) It was agreed to defer proposed projects until the next meeting.
- ii) Grant request from WM Village Hall for £500 towards improvement of windows for the village hall. It was agreed to **defer** this grant until the end of the financial year.
- iii) Grant request of £200 received from Citizens Advice. It was **agreed** to award a grant of £150.

#### iv) **Schedule of Payments**

##### **Payments 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

DD Internet Ltd	£11.99
BACS D Heppell Expenses	£50.46
HMRC	£29.32
BACS WJ Hillier strimming playground	£120.00
BACS Alpha Graphics signs	£108.00
BACS Will Hillier re-surfacing of village steps	£580.00

It was unanimously **agreed** to approve the schedule of payments.

#### Wmpc 1854 **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

- i) SDNP advise that a Section 106 contribution of £4,028.14 is available for repairs to the car park. It was agreed that Cllrs Silk and Edwards would source quotes.
- ii) Damage to the flint wall on Church Lane has been reported to Zurich Insurance and HCC, and to WCC Conservation officer, who advises that because it is in a conservation area it needs careful restoration. It was agreed that Cllr Edwards would get 3 quotes for insurance purposes.

#### Wmpc 1855 **COMMUNITY, RECREATION AND TRANSPORTATION**

##### **1. Walk around the Parish Assets**

Cllr Edwards reported that:

- Cleaning of the cross is required.
- The holm oak at Church Lane requires pruning and the Clerk to contact WCC tree officer.
- There has been damage to 2 seats on the recreation ground that require repairs.
- The swings at the recreation ground require new shocks.
- The bus shelter in the High Street requires a new window.
- The play area surface is cracked.
- Repairs are required to the railings by West Meon House and the Clerk is to write to the owners.
- Rooks have damaged the recreation area which needs spraying and repairs

Any further items for the Parish News to be submitted to Cllr Adams.

Wmpc 1856 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING**

WM Asset repairs proposed projects, cleaning of cross and war memorial, groundworks, Parish News.

Wmpc 1857 **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020, online meetings.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Chair .....

**Appendix A Cllr Roger Huxstep      Member for Meon Valley Division**

**Hampshire County Council Divisional Report for West Meon Parish Council**

**Heartfelt thanks to Hampshire’s volunteers**

Hampshire County Council’s Cabinet Member for Communities, Partnerships and External Affairs, Councillor Andrew Joy has expressed thanks on behalf of the Authority, for the tremendous work of the county’s army of volunteers who have been responding to the needs of communities during the coronavirus outbreak.

“In Hampshire volunteering has always played a crucial role but, during the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been particularly heartening and humbling to see this strong community spirit really flourish across the county. Numerous groups and thousands of volunteers have given and continue to give generously of their time and energy, providing immense support to those in need, through caring and selfless acts of humanity. Whether collecting medicine for shielding residents, delivering food and household supplies, or checking in on elderly or vulnerable neighbours – every act of kindness and solidarity has made a marked difference. Looking ahead, while we may be making good strides in returning to a healthy ‘normal’, there are many in our communities who still rely on the help and support of the volunteers who stepped forward at the height of the pandemic to support the vulnerable. As we head into the autumn, and with the coronavirus still with us, we anticipate demand for support will start to grow again. Therefore, we need to say:

- To those who continue to volunteer – we thank you. Your support is invaluable, and please do stay with us.
- To those who may have recently stopped volunteering – we would like you to consider coming back, even if it is only for a couple of hours a week.
- To those who have never volunteered – now could be a great time to start.”

Tim Houghton, Chief Executive of Community First, on behalf of the Hampshire CVS Network said: “The generosity and willingness of Hampshire’s residents to help each other during the crisis has been simply amazing and on behalf of Hampshire’s CVS network we also say ‘thank you’. Local volunteer groups, charities and wider voluntary sector have

never been more needed, and we now have a great opportunity to change for the better and maintain the commitment and enthusiasm shown by volunteers and a sense of local community belonging that makes lives better for all. Many charities and voluntary groups are still operating and are now busy reshaping and restarting services to prevent isolation, reduce loneliness and tackle the long-term mental health, social and economic consequences of the pandemic. There are a wide range of organisations on the frontline, including those providing children's services, working with homeless people, delivering social care, or tackling domestic abuse who need your help now and into the future.

If there's a cause you care about, please reach out and offer whatever time and commitment you can – a little can go a long way.”

To find out more about volunteering opportunities in Hampshire, go to: [www.hampshirecvs.org.uk/volunteering/](http://www.hampshirecvs.org.uk/volunteering/)

## **Hampshire's educators are ready and eager to start the new term**

Pre-schools, primary and secondary schools across Hampshire were eager to welcome children and young people back at the start of the new academic year. Councillor Roz Chadd, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Education and Skills, said: “Hampshire's early years providers and countywide family of schools have worked hard during the school summer holidays to complete the necessary risk assessments to keep Hampshire safe by implementing appropriate measures to ensure all children and young people can return to school safely. I am deeply relieved that the government agreed that all children and young people should go back to school from 1<sup>st</sup> September following the disruption of lockdown. We may never fully appreciate the impact that the fall-out from Coronavirus will have on their education and future achievement but what is in no doubt is that children and young people should be in school, not only for them to learn, but for their mental health and wellbeing – having a more normal routine and being back with their peers and friends is important.”

The County Council's Director for Public Health, Simon Bryant, added: “Parents and carers should feel reassured that children are far less likely to be affected by Coronavirus. A Public Health England Study showed that those aged under 16 account for just 1.1 per cent of 130,000 confirmed Coronavirus cases during the first wave of the virus.”

According to the Office for National Statistics, 90 per cent of school age parents indicated their children would return to school or college in September. Hampshire's educators are fully prepared to have them back, confident they have put in place arrangements to help prevent the spread of coronavirus infection. While those arrangements will vary from school to school, depending on the size and layout of their sites, as well as the ages and number of children attending, the measures include:

- Placing children in distinct 'bubbles' (groups) to be maintained throughout the school day
- Operating a one-way system around the school site
- Staggering the start and end of the school day

- Staggering break times
- Building time for frequent handwashing in the daily timetable
- Additionally, providing hand sanitiser in strategic areas of the building
- Frequent reminders to Catch It, Bin It, Kill It
- Additional cleaning of school buildings.

Wherever possible, and for multiple health benefits, children and young people are encouraged to walk, scoot or cycle to school. The County Council has installed a range of temporary changes across the county to provide more road space for people walking and cycling – keeping a safe social distance as they begin to go back to work and school after the Coronavirus lockdown. Government guidance will apply to home-to-school travel arrangements for children and young people, eligible for school transport funded by the County Council. There is no requirement for social distancing on dedicated services but there will be a set of controls that will apply, such as use of hand sanitiser and where possible sitting in year groups. Face coverings for pupils over 11 are recommended. Enhanced cleaning will apply to vehicles being used on home-to-school journeys. Pupils who travel on public transport will be required to respect the social distancing measures on public bus services and, if they are aged 11 years old or over, must wear a face covering.

If a pre-school child or school pupil displays any symptoms of Coronavirus, education settings will follow the Public Health England guidance that they have been given including what to do in the event of a confirmed case of the virus in an education setting. The closure of any school due to Coronavirus will be a last resort action and only on the advice of the local Public Health England Health Protection Team.

## **Climate change**

Hampshire County Council has announced the first initiatives to help Hampshire residents reduce their carbon footprint. Community projects include advice from energy choice to insulation, establishing a Community Energy Network across Hampshire and a Targeted Residential Solar Group Buying Scheme. Parishes and communities are encouraged to take part in the sustainable community Greening Campaign (<http://www.greening-campaign.org/>). The climate change Action Plan is due to be presented to the HCC Cabinet on 29th September.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/climatechange>

## **Roads & Footpaths**

Hampshire Highways are now re-using recycled material from old roads. Materials are screened, crushed and blended cleanly and quietly ready for re-use. With around 5,500 miles of roads this will make a significant contribution to reducing our carbon footprint.

Over 40 new temporary footpaths and cycleways have been installed across Hampshire. HCC have bid for £3.45 million from Government to build more highways schemes to support social distancing, encourage walking and cycling and assist economic recovery. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/21082020TransportPopUps>

**Cllr Roger Huxstep**  
**Member for Meon Valley Division**  
**Hampshire County Council**

**8<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Appendix B**

**Winchester City Councillor Report September 2020**

1. Pandemic response The graphic below illustrates Winchester City Council’s response to the pandemic, including the scale of Government grants distributed by the Council to businesses.



2.

Revised Council Budget Winchester City Council is proposing to consider a revised budget for the current financial year to reflect the impact of the pandemic on its finances and in particular the loss of income from car parking and commercial leasing. Details have not yet been published.

3. Opening of Council leisure centres Winchester City Council currently has two leisure centres, River Park in Winchester and Meadowside in Whiteley, both of which were closed during the lockdown. Both have until recently been operated by Places for People. The River Park centre is to be closed permanently once the new leisure centre opens in Bar End (currently targeted for spring 2021), with the new centre being operated by Everyone Active. Both existing centres were re-opened on 1st September. However, in order to assist the transition to the new centre, Places for People have been replaced as operator by Everyone Active. In the case of River Park, this appointment will last until the new centre opens. In the meantime, the Council proposes to retender the operation of Meadowside once conditions allow. A separate new sports hall to serve the Southern Parishes was cancelled earlier in the year.

4. Flash floods in Winchester Winchester city centre suffered from flash flooding on the early evening of August 28th. The flooding was from a high level of rainfall in a short time overwhelming

the drainage system. There was no early warning. The worst appears to have been localised to the city centre. No significant issues were reported elsewhere in the District. Hampshire County Council responded quickly to the immediate issues. Winchester City Council led on the clean up which mostly occurred within a 24 period. Ten businesses were initially closed in the affected area with a need to remove debris and rubbish from outside their premises.

**5.New planning rules - meeting on 21 September** On 6 August the Government published two important consultation documents regarding proposed major reforms to the way the planning system works in England. The first paper asks for views on amendments to the current system whilst the second discusses wide reaching changes which will cover plan making, development management and delivery of infrastructure.

1.Proposed changes to the current planning system. Initial analysis regarding the changes outlined to the current planning system suggest that these proposals will be particularly important for the Council in relation to the amount of development it will need to accommodate. The paper also covers affordable housing, help for SMEs in the development sector and other technical changes. This consultation period ends on the 1st October 2020. In light of the scale of changes planned, not least in terms of the quantity of new homes that could be needed under a revised formula, the Council has effectively delayed bringing forward its proposals for its new Local Plan (this does not affect areas within the South Downs National Park, which has its own Local Plan.

2.White Paper 'Planning for the Future'. The White Paper 'Planning for the Future' proposes significant reforms to many aspects of the planning system, including a change in the way in which land is allocated for development, the type of policies which can be included in Local Plans and how controls over that development are implemented through development management. The means of delivering infrastructure via new development (s106 agreements – planning obligations) and Community Infrastructure Levy would also be changed. The new style of plan will look and feel very different to the current style as it will have digital and interactive format and the identification of land for development will follow a zoning approach based on three designations; growth, renewal and protected areas. This consultation period ends on the 29th October 2020.Parishes are to be invited by Winchester City Council to a virtual meeting on the evening of Monday 21 September where the Council will provide an update on the consultation documents and the implications for the District's Local Plan. Although much of the Upper Meon Valley ward is covered by the separate South Downs National Park local plan, it may in any event be interesting to hear more about the proposed changes.