



West Meon Parish Council

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MINUTES OF WEST MEON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th APRIL 2016 AT 7.30PM AT WEST MEON SPORTS PAVILION

THOSE PRESENT: Residents including Cllrs C Waller, R Morrish, C Johnson and J Nicholson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs D Heppell (Minutes)

BY INVITATION: County Councillor R Huxstep, City Councillor N Bodtger, Winchester Action on Climate Change (Win ACC): Jeremy Carter and Chris Holloway.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Adams, T Over and D Spencer-Healey.

1. Welcome from Chairman

Cllr Waller (Chairman of the Parish Council) welcomed residents and guests to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Village Hall AGM

Chris Town (Chairman) welcomed members introduced Village Hall Management Committee members and thanked Mike Davies for his assistance. The Chairman circulated the AGM minutes, annual reports and accounts. The present Village Hall Management Committee stood down and with no other volunteers they were re-elected for the coming year. The newly elected members took the roles of: Chris Town Chair, Mary Dawson Deputy Chair, Vanessa Wills Treasurer, Sally Williams Secretary and Hazel Town Booking Secretary.

The Chairman circulated financial accounts advising expenditure this year was £30,428 which included refurbishment of the ladies' toilets and replacing the small hall floor. The balance at the end of the year is £29,455. It has been decided one third of this is invested back into the hall and facilities. Hall fees were not increased in January this year.

Hall usage was high with regular users being the Before and After school club, pre-school, beavers, cubs, scouts, ballet, tap, keep fit, choir and musical theatre group, WI and Garden Club. There have been no reports of structural problems in the building, improvements include the refurbishment of toilets accessible baby changing facilities, and replacement kitchen cooker and utensils. Thanks to West Meon Theatre group and Parish Council for funding pulleys for stage curtains.

Thanks to Claire Fullock the cleaner who has maintained high standards of cleanliness. Necessary Fire, Health and Safety and electrical testing checks have been completed during the year.

The hall insurance has been renewed as was the Performing Rights, A Management Health Check was introduced on the ACRE model. Using statutory powers of amendment, they have

agreed to change the clauses of the Trust Deed that relate to some of the governance and internal administration of the charity, and the committee is working to amend the constitution. Professional advice is being sought.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st April 2015

Cllr Waller circulated 21st April 2015 minutes and these minutes were accepted and approved.

4. Report from Cllr Waller, Chairman West Meon Parish Council

The Chairman advised that the last twelve months have been a most productive time for WMPC. He thanked his fellow Councillors and Clerk for their commitment and hard work, also the maintenance team of Mac Edwards and Dayle Westwood, Martin Cowell for footpaths and Utrick Casebourne for public transport. He thanked parishioners who volunteer in the West Meon community in so many different ways, and the City and County Councillors and the Lengthsman scheme.

A reasonable and responsible precept was set again this year. The Parish Council are continuing to try and improve communications through the website, the Parish News, the Council meetings and the Listening Post held in the West Meon café. The new noticeboard has space for WMPC and village enterprise notices.

In the last twelve months the Parish Council have:

- Had a full Parish Council of nine members
- Continued to liaise with the Police and PCC over motor biking and the A32/A272
- Strongly supported the community shop and its management committee
- Made grants to and supported a whole range of village institutions and enterprises
- Promoted the re-development of West Meon station at the head of the Meon Valley Trail
- Together with the Clerk, improved the management of finances at WMPC
- Investigated the impact of the new SDNP on West Meon, including that of planning consent and future development of West Meon
- Completed the installation of the defibrillator in the high street phone box

The Chairman advised that more mundane and everyday issues and matters have also occupied the Council over the past year. The Parish Council have concerns with car parking and flooded street drains and worry about the sustainability of the village shops and clubs and how to recruit younger parishioners into parish institutions. However, the involvement of a small number of parishioners regarding advice on refurbishing and upgrading play equipment on the recreation ground show that the work of the Parish Council can be successfully supported. This year the Village Design Statement needs updating with a landscape assessment, and a briefing note has been circulated on this matter.

At present there are two vacancies on the Parish Council and the Chairman encouraged any parishioner to consider co-option by contacting the Clerk. The Chairman advised there are many concerns ahead, especially now we are in the SDNP- a gateway community. Councillors believe that having a strong Parish Council is a sign of a strong and successful community and the Parish Council want to ensure that they continue to have both.

5. County Councillor R Huxstep

Cllr Huxstep advised that Hampshire Railways are involved in meetings to improve long-term investment in Hampshire's railways. Rail bosses, Hampshire MPs, Leaders of Local Authorities

and representatives of Local Enterprise Partnerships met amid concerns that rail infrastructure serving Hampshire is unable to cope with continued growth in passengers and freight. It was explained that any improvements to rail links between Portsmouth and Southampton depended on work at Salisbury, Basingstoke, Woking and Waterloo i.e. improvements in the south of the county are dependent on other parts of the county and further afield.

HCC advised that Key Stage 2 education has improved on average 1% to 2%. HCC are carrying out a 10 week consultation on running the county's household waste. For more information, and to respond to the consultation, visit www.hants.gov.uk/hwrc2016. Paper copies of the consultation can be obtained by calling 0300 555 1389 or emailing hwrc.consultation@hants.gov.uk. The deadline for responses is noon on 25th May 2016.

Cllr Huxstep advised that the Commonwealth Flag was raised in Hampshire on Monday 9 March 2015, to mark Commonwealth Day, along with over 650 Commonwealth Flags across 38 Commonwealth countries, the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary celebrations were hosted by HCC and Her Majesty the Queen on 9th September became Britain's longest serving Monarch.

Hampshire County Council's Telecare Initiative has won a national award. Telecare is a 24-hour personal emergency monitoring service which helps people to continue to live independently in their own home.

On the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Cllr Huxstep advised that the electorate for Hampshire's divisions in the district of Winchester is projected to be 101,315 by 2021, of which 14,512 are in the revised Meon Valley division, up from just under 12,000. Accordingly, the recommendation for the Meon Valley division is to retain the parishes of Corhampton & Meonstoke, Exton, Hambledon, Shedfield, Swanmore, Warnford, West Meon and part of Soberton with newcomers of Curbridge, Curdrige and the more highly populated Whiteley. Sutton, Bramdean & Hinton Ampner, Cheriton and part of Soberton. Bramdean & Hinton Ampner will be drawn into the Bishops Waltham Division comprising the parishes of Beauworth, Bishops Sutton, Bishops Waltham, Bramdean & Hinton Ampner, Cheriton, Colden Common, Durley, Kilmeston, Owslebury, Tichborne, Twyford and Upham.

On Devolution the counter bid has not been ratified and all local authorities have to agree. HCC Council Tax next year will be one of the lowest of any County in England and Wales. HCC library consultation will close at the end of June.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Huxstep for his report and assistance and particularly help with support grants.

6. Report from Cllr Mrs N. Bodtger, Winchester City Council (WCC)

Cllr Bodtger advised this will be her last report as she is stepping down this year. In the elections this year in May there are two Councilors to vote for within the Upper Meon Valley.

The new park-and-ride at Pitt in Winchester is now open for business situated on Romsey Road near Pitt roundabout adding another 199 spaces to the overall, 1650 park and ride parking spaces now available in Winchester City. Parking Team has been shortlisted for the 'Partnerships' award category at the 2016 British Parking Awards.

Winchester City Council's (WCC) free advisory service for arts practitioners based in the Winchester area has been extended. Surgery sessions will take place in the city's Art café in Jewry Street on Thursdays from 9am to 1pm: last session - 31 March.

WCC have agreed on a budget of £30,000 to purchase mobile CCTV cameras to deal with ad hoc anti-social behaviour issues or problems such as fly-tipping. WCC and partners announced that

the 2016 Winchester Criterion will include British Cycling's South Regional Circuit Race Championships.

Cllr Bodtger thanked the Parish Council and parishioners for their support over the years.

7. Police Report

Cllr Waller advised there is no police attendance at the APM this year but advised that the Parish Council has been working closely with the police and adjoining Parish Councils to seek to reduce motorbike speeds on the A32/ A27, and that there will be installation of average speed cameras. Noise issues are a matter for environmental health, but spot checks have been carried out by police on motorbikes resulting in two bikes being taken to the police station.

8. Winchester Action on Climate Change (Win ACC)

Chris Holloway from Win ACC gave a presentation on action on climate change, explaining that changes over the years had led to a world transformation in climate change. She advised that other countries outside the UK use less energy and goods than we do. She asked people to consider how they could change things on a day to day basis and how to influence people in political positions to make a difference. She also encouraged people to set up community panels and develop small groups. On a local level things could be done within the community and she advised people to read the 'Cool Community booklet' and look on the website.

9. Public session

Mr Jenkins asked a question on the increasing problems of parking in the High Street. Cllr Waller advised that the Parish Council have asked people to think about where they park and said that often there is a problem with parking from different users on the High Street. There are different parking needs in the village which are associated with the village shops, pub and for walking. However, Cllr Waller pointed out there is a notice on the map-board advising there is free parking at the Village Hall and railway area.

Mrs P Collins thanked the Parish Council for their grants this year for the Community Village Shop.

Mrs V Primrose asked what improvements could be made to crossing the A32. Cllr Morrish advised the Parish Council had arranged speed checks with HCC to assess vehicle speeds on this section of road in the village and that the average speeds did not warrant a crossing point. HCC have little budget for road crossings on this type of road.

The Chairman reminded residents that the Parish Council had circulated information on the Village Design Statement and was seeking volunteers to help with the improvement of it.

Cllr Waller thanked Cllr Huxstep and Bodtger for their reports and parishioners for attending.

There being no further matters for discussion, Cllr Waller thanked everyone and the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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Chairman