

MINUTES of the MEETING of WONSTON PARISH COUNCIL (WPC)
Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th February 2026 in the Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney

Present: Cllr Pauline Maunder (Chairman), Cllr Rob Parker, Cllr Kevin Maunder, Cllr Judith Polak.
 Cllr Andrew Porteous, Cllr Matthew Bessant-Gore, Cllr Georgina Tibbets (from 7.35pm).
 In attendance: HCCllr Jackie Porter, WCCllr Stephen Godfrey, WCCllr Caroline Horrill.
 Public 1
 Clerk Jocelyn Jenkins

2461	1.1	Apologies for Absence Cllr David Price.	Closed	
2462	1.2	Any Declarations of Interest to be declared/dispensations agreed. Cllr Rob Parker – Victoria Hall (NPI), land at Brightlands (PI), Cllr Bessant-Gore – Gratton Trust (NPI).	Closed	
2463	1.3	Minutes of the meeting of 14th January 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.	Closed	
	2	<u>Reports – the meeting adjourned during reports.</u>		
	2.1	The Public: No reports.		
	2.2	Report from HCCllr Jackie Porter: HCCllr Porter provided a written report (Appendix 1) which draws attention to £3 million Holidays Activity Fund monies awarded to HCC by Government, potholes, flooding, ash die back and tree danger. She also noted that February 26 th is the County budget date.		
	2.3	Report from WCCllr Caroline Horrill: WCCllr Horrill noted that May elections have been confirmed for the County Council and one third of the City Council seats. Purdah commences on 25 th March. The alignment of Parish Council elections is being reviewed. The M3 is to be closed again this weekend. Full Council on 26 th February will set the City budget and agree precepts. The National Planning Policy Framework consultation and consultation on the River Park site continue and WCCllr Horrill will forward the details. The City Council are opening a Healthy and Thriving Community grant fund.		
	2.4	Report from WCCllr Stephen Godfrey: WCCllr Godfrey noted that the City Council budget may be subject to change due to changes to the draft settlement from Government. Council tax is to be raised by just under 3%. Food waste collections start this month and bins are being delivered. WCCllr Godfrey joined staff from South Wonston school, and residents, at the launch of the school's Climate Action Plan. The Flood Action Group (FLAG) have been active with messaging and updates. Water levels are high but the Bogmoor pipes are flowing correctly at present. The overgrowth will, however, require clearing when the levels fall. The meeting resumed after reports.		
2464	3	<u>Correspondence received by the Clerk since the last meeting</u>		
		The Council discussed and agreed actions for the following issues:		
2464.1	3.1	Action Hampshire, 'Roots & Roofs' on-line event re affordable housing. Wednesday 25 th February 2026, 11am-12.30pm. Cllr Pauline Maunder will seek to attend.	Closed	
2464.2	3.2	Hampshire Alert Police have carried out speed enforcement in Sutton Scotney.	Closed	
		<u>Matters arising from the minutes of 14th January 2026.</u> The Council discussed updates and agreed actions for the following issues:		
2465	4	<u>General Matters</u>		
2465.1	2455.1	Gratton Trust – The Trust have been asked to continue to make regular safety checks of the trees on the Gratton.		
2465.2	2455.2	Emergency & Flood Plans – An item will be included in the March edition of the West Dever News about flooding and the equipment held by the Parish Council. A policy for the handing out of parish flooding supplies was discussed and it was agreed that at present, this would be at the discretion of Councillors Parker and Kevin Maunder but would remain under review. <u>Rupture to Southern Water sewage pipeline</u> The Hydra Snakes used have been replaced by Clancy's.		
2465.3	2455.3	Village Greening Campaign/WeCan/Declaration of a Climate Emergency – Air Quality Monitoring A date for the meeting at South Wonston is awaited.		
2465.4	2455.4	Devolution & Local Government Re-organisation The Government consultation has now closed and a decision is awaited.		
2465.5	2455.5	War Memorial Refurbishment – Two stone masons were invited to visit the War Memorial, advise on the work they considered to be necessary and provide quotes.		

		Both considered that it needed to be cleaned, for the stone work to be repaired and for it to be re-pointed. Blackwell & Moody have quoted £2080 (which includes one new plinth stone), Vokes & Beck have quoted £4617 (which utilises 2 stone patches). It is necessary to now liaise with WCC Historic Environment to ensure that planning consent will not be needed. Subject to consent being given, it was agreed to accept the quote from Blackwell & Moody. Councillor Kevin Maunder will clear the wreaths from the Memorial.				
2466	5	PLAY AREAS Council discussed and agreed actions for the following:				
2466.1	2456.1	Stoke Charity/Hunton Play Area (STCH&H) – The play area is currently very waterlogged. A further stepping head is likely to require replacement when the area is dryer. No other new issues reported. <u>Grass cutting 2026</u> The current contractor (Grass & Grounds) have advised a 3.5% increase in prices for 2026. It was agreed to extend the contract for a further year.			Clerk	
2466.2	2456.2	Pigeonhouse Yard (PHY) Play Area – A site meeting was held this week to consider the future of the play area. It was agreed to accept the quote of £738.21 to repair the multiplay unit. It was agreed to consult Marshall (from AVA) on whether it was necessary to have gates at the play area and to only accept the quote for new gates (of £764.29) if these are a safety requirement. It was further agreed to consult close neighbours, via letter, and other residents via the West Dever News and Parish Assembly on their views on the future use of the open space. Cllr Bessant-Gore will draft a consultation letter for approval.			Clerk	
2467	6	HIGHWAYS ISSUES - FOOTPATHS, GRIT BINS etc Council discussed updates and agreed actions for the following:				
2467.1	2457.1	Footpath 7 Access – HCCllr Porter is seeking clarification on the grant refusal for the new accessible gate. A resident has supplied images of the previous gate and stile. HCCllr Porter confirmed that she will make a further approach to HCC.				
2467.2	2457.2	Footpaths & Bridleways – The Lengthsman cleared the fallen tree on the footpath near Buddlesgate. No further issues identified.				
2467.3	2457.3	Noticeboards – Further repair and maintenance work has been deferred until the Spring.				
2467.4	2457.4	SID – The data from Christmas Hill has been sent to Speedwatch.				
2467.5	2457.5	Oxford Road Gateways – The line painting at the Bogmoor Sump roundabout is awaited. The large roundabout sign has been removed but the smaller replacement sign has not yet been installed.				
2467.6	2457.6	Bogmoor Bench and verge Clancy's (the Southern Water contractor) are aware of the issues with verge damage but need better weather to repair and re-seed as necessary.				
2468	7	PLANNING				
2468.1	763	Sutton Scotney Services Southbound A34	Demolition of sales building and forecourt and erection of replacements.	26/00072/FUL NEUTRAL comment but asking for conditions that all construction traffic be from Bullington Cross not via A30 and safe pedestrian access be made.		
2468.2	764	Moldon Farm, Bullington Lane, Sutton Scotney.	Demolition of existing dwelling and extension of mobile home site to accommodate 29 additional homes, associated parking, package sewage treatment plant and reed bed.	25/02566/FUL NEUTRAL comment. Supportive of affordable units but not supportive of development in the countryside.		
2468.3	765	Keepers Cottage, Wonston Road, Wonston.	Various tree works.	26/00216/TPC No comment.		
		Planning (advertising) application 25/02576/AVC for a 59 meter advertising pole near Three Maids Hill was discussed. Although not in Wonston Parish, this would be visible across a wide area and it was agreed that an objection should be made. Councillor Polak will circulate a draft response for consideration prior to it being submitted to WCC.				
2468.4	2458.2	Winchester Local Plan – A decision on the final version of the Local Plan is awaited. Cllr Parker asked HCCllr Porter why the Wates report on the Brightlands site, provided to WCC in 2022, was never mentioned to the Parish Council or shared with them by WCC. The report is clear on the intention to build 120 houses on the site, rather than the WCC allocation of 50-60 homes and Wates are now intending to apply to build 120 homes. HCCllr porter replied that she was not aware of the existence of the report. Cllr Parker responded that this was shocking as HCCllr Porter (in her capacity as a City Councillor) was the Cabinet member leading the Local Plan. Parish Councillors also noted WCCllr Todd's offer to consider the wishes of residents over the choice of sites in Sutton Scotney, which was made in person at the meeting of the WCC Cabinet to approve the draft Local Plan. However, there is no record of the				

		consultation undertaken by the Parish Council, which showed a very significant preference by residents for the alternative Dairy Field site, ever being discussed by WCC or of any account having been taken of its findings. WCCllr Horrill confirmed that she had been present when WCCllr Todd made this offer.																										
2468.5	2458.3	Village Design Statement – Councillor Bessant-Gore was commended for his work on the latest draft of the VDS. He asked that councillors consider making comments on the ‘principles’ section (last five pages) of the draft. A further public consultation on the draft VDS will be undertaken at the Parish Assembly on 14 th May 2026.																										
2468.6	2458.4	CIL and Infrastructure Spend Plan – Carried forward to the March meeting.																										
2469	8	ACCOUNTS/AUDIT																										
2469.1	2459.1	Balances: As at 31/01/26 General Reserves are £52,971.58 but after Earmarked Reserves of £52,856 are £115.58. Payments for February (detailed below) totalling £1705.51 were agreed by the Council.	Closed																									
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2469.2	2459.2	NALC Model Financial Regulations 2024 – The addition of further councillors to the bank mandate is ongoing.																										
2470	9	Other Council Matters																										
2470.1	2460.1	Publicity & Communications – <u>West Dever News item</u> – Parish Assembly, VDS, PHY consultation.																										
2470.2	2460.2	Risk Management – As noted at 2465.1 (above) the Gratton trustees have been asked to ensure that regular tree inspections are undertaken.																										
2470.3	New	Parish Assembly, Thursday 14th May 2026 – VDS and PHY consultations.																										
9.40pm		Next meeting – Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7.30pm in the meeting room of the Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney.																										
Signed: Chairman dated.....																												