

MINUTES of the MEETING of WONSTON PARISH COUNCIL (WPC)
Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st February 2023 in the Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney

Present: Cllr Pauline Maunders, Cllr Judith Polak, Cllr Kevin Maunders, Cllr David Price.
 In attendance: None.
 Public 3
 Clerk Jocelyn Jenkins

		Minutes		R
2107	1.1	Apologies for Absence Cllr Rob Parker, HCCllr Jackie Porter, WCCllr Caroline Horrill, WCCllr Stephen Godfrey, WCCllr Patrick Cunningham.	Closed	
2108	1.2	Any Declarations of Interest to be declared/dispensations agreed. No declarations were made in respect of matters on the agenda.	Closed	
2109	1.3	Minutes of the meeting of 11th January 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.	Closed	
	2	<u>Reports – the meeting adjourned during reports.</u>		
	2.1	The Public: Chris Brunskill of the Watercress Way charity attended to discuss quotes and funding to tidy up the area around the railway bridge in Sutton Scotney. See 2111.4 below.		
	2.2	Report from HCCllr Jackie Porter: HCCllr Porter was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report (Appendix 1) which noted that Citizens Advice have linked with Trading Standards and that consumer queries can be reported via a 'consumer' tab on the CAB website. HCCllr Porter also provided details of a briefing she received from the HCC Public Health team on the Drug and Alcohol Strategy to reduce dependence and harm. The HCC Revenue Budget is to be finalised on 23 rd February. A 4.99% increase to Council Tax is proposed but a significant budget deficit for 2023/24 is still anticipated.		
	2.3	Report from WCCllr Stephen Godfrey: WCCllr Godfrey was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report which noted the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local plan - the analysis of comments made during the recent public consultation has been started and we should be told about the volumes of responses in the next few weeks. The council's response to the consultation will not become clear until the summer. Budget for next year will be decided this month. It is expected to lead to an increase of around 3% in council tax and higher fees and charges. Unexpected government grants of c£2m is being put into reserves awaiting spending proposals. Various grants and other funding sources for community projects are available through the city council. Contact one of us for details. Flooding risk in the parish was moderate in January and has reduced over the last couple of dry weeks. Groundwater levels are around average for this time of year. 		
		The meeting resumed after reports.		
2110	3	<u>Correspondence received by the Clerk since the last meeting.</u>		
		The Council discussed and agreed actions for the following issues:		
2110.1	3.1	WCC re Parish Council Elections 2023 – The term of the current Parish Council ends in May and an election will be held on 4 th May if there are more than eight candidates.	Closed	
2110.2	3.2	Food Waste Action Week 6th-12th March 2023 – Cllr Kevin Maunders will liaise with Sarah Hobhouse to see if promoting this event could benefit the Church Pantry.	Closed	
2110.3	3.3	Mayor's Community Awards – nominations are invited by 24 th February. Noted.	Closed	
2110.4	3.4	WCC Project Grant Scheme – Grants of up to £5000 for projects which help deliver cohesive, sustainable and resilient communities. The Clerk will forward details to the Watercress Way and Gratton Trust.	Closed	
2110.5	3.5	HCC Countryside Service – A new local Community Engagement Ranger, Corinne Davis-Cooke has been appointed. Contact details to be passed to Cllr Kevin Maunders.	Closed	
2110.6	3.6	HALC EGM Thursday 23rd February – Details noted.	Closed	
2110.7	3.7	King's Coronation - Details published of the events over the Coronation weekend. Noted.	Closed	

		Matters arising from the minutes of 11th January 2023. The Council discussed updates and agreed actions for the following issues:				
2111	4	General Matters				
2111.1	2101.1	Gratton Trust – The Trust have noted that the lid of one of the bins near the play area is badly damaged. See also 2104.4 below.				
2111.2	2101.2	Emergency & Flood Plans – See 2.3 above. The Clerk will look for a copy of the plan showing the drainage system through Sutton Scotney for Cllr Kevin Maunder.			Clerk	
2111.3	2101.3	Village Greening Campaign/WeCan/Declaration of a Climate Emergency – See 2110.2 above re possible participation in the Food Waste Action Week.				
2111.4	2101.6	Watercress Way Grant Request – The charity were asked to seek other sources of funding for their project to improve the appearance and security of the area in front of the railway bridge in Sutton Scotney and Chris noted that they have raised £1300 through crowdfunding and £500 from the Railway Rambler. Three quotes for the proposed work have been considered and the preference is for the middle quote of £2000 plus an additional £200 for extra groundwork. A quote of £1500 has also been received for an information board but other quotes will be sought and Chris will contact HCC Countryside Services in case they can assist. It was agreed that the £816 already held by the Parish Council would be used towards paying the invoice for the work at the bridge. Chris would seek to claim a Project Grant from WCC (see 2110.4 above) but that a further grant from the Parish Council would be considered towards the information board if needed.				
2112	5	PLAY AREAS Council discussed and agreed actions for the following:				
2112.1	2102.1	Stoke Charity/Hunton Play Area (STCH&H) – Monthly/Annual Inspection Minor issues have been identified with the fence and one of the stepping stones. These continue to be monitored. The annual play area inspection has been booked through WCC.			Clerk	
2112.2	2102.2	Pigeonhouse Yard (PHY) Play Area – Monthly/Annual Inspection AVA have confirmed that the refurbishment of the multiplay unit will commence shortly and that they will carry out repairs to the gate without charge. The annual play area inspection has been booked through WCC. Soakaway – The agent responded shortly before the meeting with images taken today showing that the pathway and parking area were mostly dry. Cllr Kevin Maunder will forward photographs taken when the water flowing onto the footway and parking area froze and the Clerk will contact WCC Environmental Health again.			Clerk	
2113	6	HIGHWAYS ISSUES - FOOTPATHS, GRIT BINS etc Council discussed updates and agreed actions for the following:				
2113.1	2103.1	Footpath 7 Access – Only one quote to supply and install the accessible gate was received in time for the meeting despite reminders having been issued. This quote was from AVA Recreation Ltd and is for £1644.29 (net). In the absence of other quotes, it was agreed to accept the quote from AVA which is in line with the figure that the HCC Countryside Ranger had suggested when the gate was first considered.				
2113.2	2103.2	Footpaths & Bridleways – No new issues reported.				
2113.3	2103.3	Noticeboards – No new issues identified.				
2113.4	2103.4	SLR – The January SID data was discussed and will be commented upon in the West Dever News. The device is now in Wonston.				
2113.5	2103.5	Bins – The Clerk has contacted WCC and the Contracts Manager about the over-charging for dog bins in the Parish.				
2114	7	PLANNING New applications detailed below were considered and agreed as follows:				
2114.1	684	1 New Cottages, Hunton Lane, Sutton Scotney.	Sycamore to crown lift 25% and prune. Apple tree to reduce volume by 50%.	23/00155/TPC No comment		
2114.2	685	Egg Day Nursery, Stockbridge Road, Sutton Scotney.	New signage for Busy Bees Nursery.	23/00057/AVC No comment		
2114.3	686	Canberra, Oxford Road, Sutton Scotney.	Prunus to pollard to avoid interference with electricity supply.	23/00289/TPC No comment		
2114.4	687	Wonston Grange, Wonston Road, Wonston.	Erection of front porch.	23/00009/HOU No comment		
2114.5	2104.2	Winchester Local Plan – A request from Fred Schiff to attend a Parish Council meeting and explain plans for the land south of Wonston Road in Sutton Scotney was discussed. It was agreed to respond as follows: ‘At the 8 th February Wonston Parish Council meeting the councillors considered your email of 30 th January and subsequent communications. The Parish Council dispute your assertion that there is a ‘housing need’ in the Parish. Whilst there is a recognised need for more affordable/social housing, residents were clear in their responses to the 2022 Local Plan proposal that they did not support further				

		development whilst the sewerage systems, doctor’s surgery and local school were already seen to be overwhelmed by demand from current residents. Winchester City Council have not identified a ‘housing need’ in Sutton Scotney, they had sought to use Sutton Scotney to assist in their need to allocate the housing target set for them by Government. In view of the above, with no end to the appalling sewerage situation in sight and whilst no housing allocation is being forced upon the Parish, the councillors feel that it would be premature to engage with you about your proposals.’																	
2114.6	2104.3	Village Design Statement – Some volunteers have now come forward to assist with the VDS and a few other residents will be approached directly. Cllr Polak will contact the WCC Planning Officer again over the additional reference material which was promised. A meeting will be planned for late March to meet with volunteers and those considering volunteering.																	
2114.7	2104.4	Southern Water Pipeline – Neither Southern Water or Carter Jonas wishes to attend the meeting. The Clerk has written to Carter Jonas noting the lack of direct engagement with the Parish Council and a reply is awaited.																	
2115	8	ACCOUNTS/AUDIT																	
2115.1	2105.1	Balances: As at 31/01/23 General Reserves are £81,774.03 but after Earmarked Reserves are £10,537.03. Payments for February (detailed below) totalling £1256.86 were agreed by the Council.	Closed																
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2116	9	Other Council Matters																	
2116.1	2106.1	Publicity & Communications – It was agreed to accept the Social Media Policy. <u>West Dever News item</u> – SID figures for January, Watercress Way Dawn to Dusk, Parish Assembly.																	
2116.2	2106.2	Risk Management – No new issues were identified.																	
2116.3	2106.3	Bottle Bank – HCCllr Porter will attempt to draw attention to this request.																	
9.00pm		Next meeting – Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7.30pm in the meeting room of the Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney.																	
Signed: Chairman dated.....																			