



# West Meon Parish Council

c/o Mrs D Heppell Email: [clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk](mailto:clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk)

## **MINUTES OF WEST MEON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019 AT 7.30PM AT WEST MEON SPORTS PAVILLION**

**THOSE PRESENT:** Residents including Cllrs C Waller, C Adams, A Trenchard, N Wortley and J Nicholson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs D Heppell (Minutes)

**BY INVITATION:** County Councillor R Huxstep and WCC Councillors L Ruffell and L Humby and PC OWEN

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr G Silk.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 42

### **1. Welcome from Chairman**

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

### **2. Village Hall AGM**

Mr Chris Town (Chairman) welcomed Members, and introduced the Village Hall Management Committee and circulated the AGM minutes, annual reports and accounts, (Appendix A). The Chairman advised that income was £13,375 and expenditure was £12,850 which gave a net surplus of £525.00. The Chairman advised of grants received from HCC, the National Lottery and West Meon Parish Council.

The Chairman advised that the village hall continues to be well used with dance and tap clubs, keep fit, Beavers, the WI, table tennis, Theatre and the Garden Club, but there are no fees from the nursery and alternative uses are sought. No issues have been raised on the accounts and they have been audited by John Claisse.

The current 8 Trustee Members are not required to resign from Committee this year due to their term of office, and there are two vacancies. Thanks were given to Mary Dawson, Vanessa Wills Sally Williams, Hazel Town and, Neil Falconer, Ingrid Sparshott, and Rosemary Morrish.

### **3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

Minutes were circulated the **17<sup>th</sup> May 2018** minutes and these minutes were accepted and **approved**.

#### **4. Report from Cllr Waller, Chairman of West Meon Parish Council (WMPC)**

The Chairman's report was circulated and received (see Appendix B). The Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors and their Clerk for their commitment and hard work, also the work of the maintenance team of Mac Edwards and Dayle Westwood and Martin Cowell for footpaths. He gave thanks to both Roger Huxstep Hampshire County Councillor and Laurence Ruffell, Winchester City Councillor for their support this year and the Lengthsman scheme. He also thanked those who had stepped down from the Parish Council Tina Over, Phil Brannon and Tony Prowse and advised that the Parish Council requires a further 3 Councillors.

The Chairman provided information on the grants awarded to groups in the community over the past year and thanked the Clerk and Cllr Nicholson for their support on finance.

The Chairman reported on the progress of the VDS and displayed copies of the illustrations and maps of the village centre to be used in the document. The Chairman gave an update on projects/issues the Parish Council had considered over the past year.

. The Parish Council also regularly and thoughtfully post on 'We Are West Meon' Facebook site. Cllr Waller reminded parishioners that the noticeboard is available for village enterprise notices too, as does the website. In the last twelve months the Parish Council has:

- Strongly supported the community shop and its management committee
- Made substantial grants in the community and supported a whole range of village institutions and enterprises
- Continued to improve the finances at WMPC
- Completed the draft of the revised VDS and Landscape Character assessment and held the first consultation, including developing a new parish illustration
- Continued to improve the amenities in the community with repairs to the bus shelter and sign boards, the benches at the recreation ground and the pathway down to the church and installed a new bench at the Cross
- Mapped the fire hydrants in West Meon to improve community safety
- Requested a study into creating a new pavement from Sheepbridge to West Meon along the A32
- Continued to promote the re-development of West Meon old station as the MVT trail head and the establishment of a nature reserve within station yard.

#### **5. County Councillor R Huxstep (Hampshire County Council)**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Huxstep for his support and assistance over the past year. Cllr Huxstep's report following the meeting was circulated (see Appendix C).

Cllr Huxstep advised of the impact of Brexit on Hampshire County Council, also an increase of 2.99% on Council Tax. This translates to the County Council's band D council tax for the next financial year will be £1,236.87, an increase of 2.99% or about 70p per week. For other Bands they are: £ Band A 824.58 Band B 962.01 Band C 1,099.44 Band D 1,236.87 Band E 1,511.73 Band F 1,786.59 Band G 2,061.45 Band H 2,473.74

Cllr Huxstep reported on the many Remembrance events across the county to mark the centenary of the end of World War I that were attended by many Members of the Council including events in Members' own Divisions.

**6. Cllr Jane Nicholson Communities Against Noise (CANS)**

Cllr Nicholson circulated and gave a report on work carried out by CANS over the past 12 months and their pro-active approach to reduce noise and speed in the area (see Appendix D). She advised CANS have written a 'position paper' explaining the problem and suggesting solutions, which has been sent to all relevant stakeholder including local MPs.

In December 2018, CANS chaired an initial meeting with members of the Police, representatives of our local MPs, the County Council and Winchester City Council where Jonathan Moore made a presentation outlining the problem and the potential solutions using the positioning paper as a foundation.

Cllr Nicholson advised of a survey of local residents which showed that there is a problem in the minds of the local population and that the use of average speed cameras is 'accepted'. CANS have contacted other residents' organisations and national bodies and continue to pursue alternative options and receive updates from the Police who support the proposals. CANS continue with their quest for a quieter and safer community.

**7. Winchester City Councillor Report April Cllr H Lumby/ Ruffell**

Cllr L Humby's report was circulated and presented giving information on rubbish collection and new monthly kerbside glass collection and litter picking. Cllr Lumby also provided an update on the new leisure centre.(see Appendix E) .

8. **Written reports** were circulated and received from Cllr Mr R Huxstep, Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council Cllr H Lumby and Communities Against Noise (CANS). Also the West Meon Village Design Statement and Landscape Character Assessment illustrations were displayed.

**9. Public session**

Questions from the Public. A parishioner asked about the increase in crime in West Meon. PC Owen gave an update on crime in West Meon which remain low. However there were incidents of attempted burglary, 2 commercial thefts, and vehicle and oil thefts.

A parishioner asked about controls on noise of motorbikes and how this could be controlled. Items discussed were the introduction of white gates entering into the village and the police targeting times when the noise is causing the most nuisance to villagers.

Discussions were made about blocked drains on East Meon Road were discussed and the proposed new housing at Long Priors, for 11-15 Houses. The Chairman advised that there is no planning permission at the moment and some are likely to be affordable housing.

Cllr Waller thanked Cllr Huxstep, Cllr Ruffell, Cllr Lumby, CANS and PC Owen for their reports and parishioners for attending.

There being no further matters for discussion, Cllr Waller thanked everyone and the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

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Chairman

## **Appendix A**

### **Summary of Trustees' Annual Report for West Meon Village Hall for the period 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018**

Reference and administration details

Charity name West Meon Village Hall

Registered charity number 274661

Names of the charity trustees who managed the charity during the year

Trustee name Office (if any) Notes

Mary Dawson Vice-Chair

Neil Falconer Treasurer

Rosemary Morrish

Tallulah Silburn Resigned 6th November 2018

Ingrid Sparshott

Hazel Town Bookings Clerk

Chris Town Chair

Sally Williams Secretary

Note

Description of the charity's trusts, governance and management

The Charity was established by a Conveyance/Trust Deed in 1952.

All Trustees are elected (for a 3 year term) at an AGM or are co-opted.

Management policies and procedures

All new Trustees are given guidance of their responsibilities through Charity Commission publications.

The Trustees annually use a Legal Requirements / Management Checklist based on a model from the Action for

Communities in Rural England Village Hall Information Service.

Professional support and advice is taken from Action Hampshire and/or other experts where relevant.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document, and of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects.

We provide a venue to facilitate a range of social, recreational and educational activities, together with community functions and events for the residents of West Meon and surrounding villages.

The building contains a hall with stage, a small hall / meeting room with outside patio, a kitchen, multi-purpose

corridor/useable space/storage area and toilets. These are all maintained in good condition suitable for various

uses. Storage facilities are also provided for many of the groups which are frequent users.

Tables, chairs, crockery and cutlery are also hired out to local organisations and individuals.

#### Financial Summary

Total ordinary income of £13,375 and total ordinary expenditure of £12,850 gave a net surplus of £525 for the

year.

Capital expenditure of £22,879, primarily on the electrical distribution board replacement (£3,170) and the kitchen

upgrade (£19,659), was offset by grants of £9,146 received from Hampshire County Council and West Meon

Parish Council in 2018 (and £10,500 from the National Lottery and West Meon Parish Council in 2017, recorded

in our 2017 accounts).

The principal source of income is from hiring fees. These are reviewed annually with a view to covering running

costs from normal income whilst keeping them fair and competitive with other similar facilities. Without the regular income from the Pre-school which closed in summer 2018, it is difficult to see how the books will be

balanced in 2019 without a hirer requiring equivalent use. The committee is looking at alternative uses for the

small hall and is keen to invite community participation to achieve this. Without such a hirer it will be necessary to

find ways to reduce operating costs to balance income and expenditure.

Monies not expected to be needed at short notice are held on deposit with CCLA.

Although not at the income threshold that requires independent examination of our accounts, they are nonetheless independently checked, for this year by John Claisse, a resident of the village not otherwise associated with the management of the charity.

The charity has decided to keep a minimum reserve of £15,000 to protect against income loss and to take advantage of new opportunities. Although equivalent to more than one full year of running costs, this acknowledges the age and construction of the building and potential problems associated with this.

#### Activities and Achievements during the year and other information

The facilities have been well used again during the year, with high occupancy levels on a regular basis (mainly

during school term times). Users/activities offered regularly include the School, Beavers, Scouts, Ballet and Tap

Dancing, Adult Keep-Fit and Gentle Fit, Ladies' Choir, Musical Theatre Club, Drama lessons, Boxercise, Table

Tennis, WI, the Garden Club and West Meon Theatre. There have also been one-off events and parties.

The Pre-school closed during the year due to a lack of children attending, a rather sad loss for the village as there had been some provision for this group in the hall for at least 30 years. The small hall has some occasional use but we are looking for other users for it. The large storeroom previously used by the pre-school

now stores the table tennis tables, other tables and most of the chairs, which frees up space in the main corridor/foyer.

The kitchen was completely refitted during the year with new flooring, cupboards, worksurfaces and sinks etc. A

large fridge/freezer is now provided, as is an industrial-style dishwasher which has a wash cycle of under 2 minutes, so is ideal for large events.

Among various other smaller projects and works, the night security lighting in the car park was changed from

being on permanently during the dark to being on a movement sensor – helping to support the South Downs National Park International Dark Sky Reserve and cutting electricity usage.

This report is not a statutory document and is provided for information only.

## **Appendix B**

West Meon Parish Council Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting, April 24th 2019

The last twelve months have been a most productive time for the WMPC. I should like to thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for their commitment and hard work, also our maintenance team of Mac Edwards and Dayle Westwood and Martin Cowell for footpaths. I would also like to thank those many parishioners who volunteer in our community in so many different ways. We have also been supported by our City and County Councillors and the Lengthsman scheme. We set a reasonable and responsible precept again this year. We are continuing to improve our communications through considering revisions to the website, ensuring detail in our reports in the parish news and will revive the Listening Post held in the West Meon café. We also post regularly and thoughtfully on We Are West Meon Facebook site. Our noticeboard has space for WMPC and village enterprise notices as does the website so please do make use of these. In the last twelve months we have:

- Strongly supported the community shop and its management committee
- Made substantial grants in the community and supported a whole range of village institutions and enterprises
- Continued to improve the finances at WMPC
- Completed the draft of the revised VDS and Landscape Character assessment and held the first consultation, including developing a new parish illustration
- Continued to improve the amenities in the community with repairs to the bus shelter and sign boards, the benches at the recreation ground and the pathway down to the church and installed a new bench at the Cross

- Mapped the fire hydrants in West Meon to improve community safety
- Requested a study into creating a new pavement from Sheepbridge to West Meon along the A32
- Continued to promote the re-development of West Meon old station as the MVT trail head and the establishment of a nature reserve within station yard.

Many more mundane and everyday issues and matters have also occupied the Council over the past year. We still struggle with car parking in the High Street and on Church Lane. We monitor the sustainability of our village shops and clubs. We try to support parishioners when they face challenges.

We still have to complete the revised VDS and Landscape Character Assessment. This is vital to having a West Meon voice in wider planning and development decisions. Communities must respond to changing demands but have a say in what happens in the parish and around it. This does not guarantee that our voice is dominant or that we always get what we want, but it does ensure we are heard and that what we say reflects positively on the community of West Meon.

WMPC is however in need of new members and new voices. A parish will only be as strong and vibrant as its Parish Council. We should have 9 members but are currently under strength by one third. It is important that we improve this. A community should not rely on the same voices to represent it year after year. New ideas and thoughts are always welcome, especially from those keen to be part of a team that works hard but cares about the future of West Meon. If you have missed your chance to stand in the elections in May then please consider being co opted to join the Parish Council. Give the Clerk your name and consider finding that small amount of time each month

to help take West Meon forward. Though there are many challenges ahead, we believe that having a strong PC is a sign of a strong and successful community. Our ambition is to ensure that we continue to have both.

Chris Waller, Chairman, West Meon Parish Council, April 24th 2019

## **Appendix C**

### **Hampshire County Council's Meon Valley Division:**

#### **County Councillor Roger Huxstep's Annual Report 2018-19 for West Meon Parish Council's Annual Parish Assembly on 24th April 2019 held at West Meon & Warnford Sports Pavilion.**

Last May, the council welcomed Councillor Elaine Still as our incoming chairman and Councillor Charles Choudary as vice-chairman; he will take over as chairman this May, after the local elections. By May the current Conservative administration will be half-way through its term. The make-up of the council is unchanged at 56 Conservative members, 19 Liberal Democrats, 2 Labour and 1 Independent. Councillor Roy Perry was re-elected as Leader of the Council. However, he announced recently that he will stand down as Leader at HCC's AGM on 15th May.

Brexit

Last year at this time I reported turbulence after the snap election; that remains with us through the Brexit bouleversement. (upheaval) With the extension of Brexit, potentially up to and even possibly beyond 31st October. It remains prominent in government business. Roy Perry with other local authority leaders has been meeting regularly to consider what contingencies might have to be in place once we leave. Locally therefore, devolution has slipped down the agenda but not forgotten. The county council is still intent on keeping Hampshire together and the current Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, James Brokenshire (and we hope he does not live up to his name), is clear that all local authorities in Hampshire have to agree on any local government changes.

## Council Tax

The council tax requirement for the County Council for the year beginning 1st April 2019, is £634,450,710. This translates to the County Council's band D council tax for the next financial year will be £1,236.87, an increase of 2.99% or about 70p per week. For other Bands they are:

£ Band A 824.58 Band B 962.01 Band C 1,099.44 Band D 1,236.87 Band E 1,511.73 Band F 1,786.59 Band G 2,061.45 Band H 2,473.74

The councils budget setting for 2019/20 has been a big issue for officers and members to grapple with; as it was last year. As I said last year, no pleasure is derived for Tory administrations by proposing tax increases, which is why for 5 years from 2010 at the start of the coalition Government we froze the County precept. We are now obliged to adopt increases because we are under a legal requirement to provide our statutory services while keeping a balanced budget. The good news is that our HCC precept is still the second lowest in the country.

Above all we have demographic pressures with more children and more elderly people in particular. Much as we love our children and respect and cherish our senior citizens they are the 2 sections of the community who, on the whole, understandably take more from the economy than they put in. The elderly have paid their taxes so have earned their rights and the children we hope will grow up to make a positive contribution to the economy having been well educated in Hampshire. Last year I reported that there were 1000 extra people attaining the age of 80 every year in Hampshire - that figure now is 2000 extra over the age of 85 and a proportion of them will inevitably turn to the council for assistance with their care needs. Many will not need help, but many will. Added to that there are more young people with complex needs living into adulthood who will need expensive social care but not necessarily medical care. There is also school transport costs standing at some £30m.

The County Council, like many other Councils, is therefore experiencing huge fiscal pressures and the Leader has made representations to the Prime Minister, corresponded with Treasury ministers and had face to face meetings with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) including the Secretary of State. The Leader sits on the Local Government Association (LGA) Task and Finish Group on Fair Funding and Business Rate Review. At those meetings he seeks to push for more transparency and clarity in local government finance as well as a fair deal for shire counties. The present system is anything but clear and simple. There was a telling letter in the FT a few weeks ago referring to the recent purchase of a house in London for £40million on which the council tax paid would be less than on a one bedroomed flat in Dorset. The letter finished with the phrase, "just saying". Of course, that is the problem – it is easy to identify the problem, the difficulty is the solution. Scotland is considering a tourist tax. In the USA there are local state taxes. It is easy to find flaws in all alternatives but it is clear that the present system cannot continue as is. The Parliamentary Under Secretary at the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Rishi Sunak spoke recently to the County Councils Network (CCN), he is alert to the issues faced by County Councils with huge pressures coming from adults' social care and children's social care. Rishi Sunak is a Yorkshire MP but his family live in Hampshire. He gives the impression that he is open to two suggestions: A, that it is better to have a small charge for issuing bus passes e.g. £2 a year to help retain a bus service - pointless having a free pass if there is no bus, and B, a small charge at a Household Waste Recycling Centre so that we can retain all centres, rather than no charge and have only half the centres. However, that remains work in progress. Criticism is easy; finding solutions are somewhat harder.

There were many Remembrance events across the county to mark the centenary of the end of World War I that were attended by many Members of the Council including events in Members' own Divisions. The County Youth Orchestra also repeated their performance of Mozart's Requiem in Winchester's twin town of Giessen and they were joined there by a German choir.

The work of the Hampshire Commission 2050 continues. I attended the recent session on 'rural Hampshire'. The IBM European Research Laboratory at Hursley is to host the final session. The Commission is due to conclude its work in June this year and a report of its findings will be prepared.

Cllr Roger Huxstep

Member for Meon Valley Division, Hampshire County Council 24th April 2019

## **Appendix D**

### **Communities Against Noise and Speed (CANS) Report May 2019**

**Committee Update for WMPC(April 2019)** Over the last 12 months members of CANS have been very proactive in pushing forwards with the noise and speed issue in our local area from a minority of motorcyclists who abuse the law. An update on the activities can be viewed below:

•We have written a 'position paper' explaining the problem and suggesting solutions, which has been sent to all relevant stakeholder including local MPs

.•In December 2018, CANS chaired an initial meeting with members of the Police, representatives of our local MPs, the County Council and Winchester City Council where Jonathan Moore made a presentation outlined the problem and the potential solutions using the positioning paper as a foundation

.•The County Council position was unhelpful because their 'metric' for taking any action is 'KSI per kilometre' and based on this single metric they believe there is not an issue!•We have extensively researched with average speed cameras to understand what is possible with regards locations and costs

•We have conducted a survey of local residents which shows that there is a problem in the minds of the local population and that the use of average speed cameras is 'accepted'

•We have encouraged an ongoing low level of evidence gathering campaign including video evidence and logging of times and severity of bad behaviour and active reporting to 101

•We have contacted other residents' organisations and national bodies regarding similar problems in their areas and collected good evidence about what has worked for them to solve similar problems •And finally, we had a second meeting with the Police, representatives of our local MPs, the County Council and Winchester City Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 with the following results:

○ Discussions on various types of cameras are ongoing but because of the high cost of both installation and operations immediate progression is currently prohibitive. However, a number of alternative options are being investigated both by the authorities and CANS.

○ An update from the Police on their upcoming plans for the start of the motorcycle season, which due to operational reasons we cannot promote

.○ The County Council are investigating additional traffic calming initiatives and will be producing a list of affordable options which villages and parishes can consider acquiring for their areas though local funding.

○ Current legislation on vehicle noise is inadequate and we shared ideas on how this may be amended for the future but other national events are currently dominating the political agenda!

○ There are a number of other areas we are going to investigate around antisocial behaviour and other current legislation. The general consensus at the forum meetings is one of complete agreement there is an issue in the area but we were all very clear it does only relate to a small group of individuals. Discussions with the Police identified one great difficulty we face is these individuals are very experienced in operating outside of the law and manipulating legislation such that it becomes almost valueless. However, the Police are extremely supportive and were very clear they will continue to try and implement the law within the constraints they face. We will continue with our quest for a quieter and safer community

## **Appendix E**

### **West Meon Parish Meeting Winchester City Councillor Report April 2019**

**1. Rubbish collection** The current contract for refuse collection comes to an end in October this year. That contract is currently carried out jointly with East Hampshire District Council. Winchester City Council have decided to extend the existing contract on its own for a further year (East Hants are entering into separate arrangements with Havant). The key feature of the new arrangement will be the introduction of monthly kerbside glass collection from October 2019 - everyone will be issued with a free box and details of their collection day over the coming months. The introduction of the kerbside collection will mean that there is less need for bottle banks in the area. Some of these will therefore be removed, depending on usage. Heavily used bottle banks are therefore likely to be retained. There have been some reliability issues with some of the existing refuse collection lorries which has meant that on occasion collections have been late or delayed. A number of new lorries are to be acquired to address this. Two new lorries have arrived in the last few weeks and two have finished repairs, so there is an expectation for return to schedule in the weeks ahead. As collection will now be solely in the Winchester City Council district, there will be some changes to schedules and collection days. Again, details of this will be circulated in the coming months. WCC are also running a full bin collection procurement exercise, for an 8 year contract starting with the successful bidder from October 2020. As part of this exercise and in line with the latest Government consultation on reducing waste, we will also consider a doorstep food collection service as well as other options including textiles.

**2. New Leisure Centre under way** Work has now started on the proposed new leisure centre at Bar End. Planning permission has been obtained, Willmott Dixon appointed as building contractor and Everyone Active selected as operator. Everyone Active have been named Swim England's Operator of the Year for the last two years and run 150 facilities nationally. Funding was approved at the council meeting on 28th February. The new facility will be developed with financial support from Hampshire County Council, the Pinder Trust, and the University of Winchester. Work commenced last week. The new leisure centre, with eight courts and a 50m pool as well as extensive other facilities, is designed to serve the entire district. With the new location at Bar End, access will be much easier from the Upper Meon Valley ward. It is due to open in 2021. In addition, a new four court sports centre is separately being proposed to serve the Southern Parishes.

**3. District litter clean up** The city council pledged its support for this year's Great British Spring Clean, run by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. The Great British Spring Clean brought together individuals, community organisations, businesses and councils to make a difference to the environment on our doorstep. The campaign ran from March 22 to April 23, with residents urged to get out in the district and help clean up roads and community green spaces. The council, along with its street care contractors, assisted local parishes and litter picking groups (including from West Meon) by providing free high-visibility jackets, litter picks and black bags which they collected after the event. Similar initiatives are encouraged and will be supported where possible.

**4. Anti-social noise** The second meeting of the forum set up to seek to address the issues of anti-social motorbike noise in the area met this month, at the offices of the Police & Crime Commissioner. Chaired by CANS (Communities Against Noise & Speed), it brings together the different layers of government (at national, county and district level) as well as the Police to discuss and implement solutions to the problem. The meeting heard from the Police on its plans for the months ahead, including the trialling of two different pieces of technology. A menu of options for traffic calming measures is also being prepared for parishes, enabling them to choose lower cost measures that will assist in their locality. Although the focus by CANS to date has been on the major roads, it is acknowledged that the problem cannot be shifted onto the smaller lanes and so an entire area solution is required. The Matterley Estate planning application was considered by the SDNPA recently. Full details of the decision are awaited, although the committee approved

a second period of temporary consent expiring in December 2024, rejecting a request for permanent consent.

**5. District council tax freeze approved** Winchester City Council is proposing no increase in its share of the Council Tax for 2019/2020, freezing the tax at this year's level. This was approved at the council meeting on 28th February. The Council Tax also includes elements for Hampshire County Council, the Police and the parish precept. Both the HCC and Police elements are being increased. Laurence Ruffell Hugh Lumby