

## **MINUTES OF THE WARNFORD PARISH MEETING AGM held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.35pm in the Warnford Village Hall**

**Chair:** Toby Drought

**Clerk/RFO:** Lucy Hutchinson

In addition to the Chair and the Clerk, there were 23 present, plus Warnford's HCC Councillor, Anne Small and two WCC Councillors, Jerry Pett and David Ablitt.

The papers referred to had been posted on the website in advance, a small number of hard copies were available at the meeting.

**1.Apologies:** 5 were received.

**2.Minutes of meeting held on 20 Nov 2025:** approved and signed.

**3. Chair's report:** The watercress beds: Vitacress' approach continues to be hands off, it is aware of the shabby state of the watercress beds nearest the Hall but has not said when this will be addressed. There appears to be no long term plan for the beds as yet.

He encouraged all to join the Warnford Community Whatsapp group.

Following questions raised at the last meeting, the Parish News had said it had received £500 from West Meon (ie more than the previously stated £250), the format of the Parish News is being reviewed so no campaign to get locals to contribute is being undertaken. Stephen Short said he was on the committee considering the future of the Parish News, he was asked to report back at the next meeting.

The Chair welcomed the new Councillors and hoped that Warnford would have the strong relationship with them that it had had with the previous ones.

He thanked the following:

Billy Bennett and the Village Hall team, the recent pop-up café had been a great success;

Stephen Short and Rob Athawes - the Playground, and will try and find some help for them in fundraising:

Andrew Baynes and Harriet Henry-the website;

David Corbett and Pauline Swan-the defibrillator, Pauline is stepping down so a volunteer is needed to replace her;

Rob Athawes- Parish Lenghtsman; and

The Clerk.

**4. Financial: the Accounts for the year to 31/03/26:** proposed by Clare Swinstead and seconded by Stephen Short, these were approved.

**AGAR 2025-26:** the Clerk took the meeting through these papers.

**Internal Audit Report:** proposed by Clare Swinstead and seconded by Rupert Privett, this was received and noted. Jane Crawshaw was thanked for her work on this;

**Annual Governance Statement:** proposed by Sarah Medd and seconded by Stephen Short, this was approved;

**Accounting Statements:** proposed by Rob Athawes and seconded by Sarah Medd, these were approved;

**Certificate of Exemption:** proposed by Clare Swinstead and seconded by David Downie, this was approved.

**The commencement date for the exercise of public rights is 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**

## **5. Elections:**

Chair: Toby Drought re-elected unopposed.

Clerk/RFO: Lucy Hutchinson re-elected unopposed.

WPM's rep on the Village Hall committee: Karen Cornelius re-elected unopposed

**6. Village Hall:** Its Chair, Billy Bennett, reported on its fundraising (the pop-up café - approx £250 , they hope to do more, and Easyfundraising - approx. £150 he encouraged people to join), plus it had received an HCC grant for £475.

Sally Matthews asked people to support the Makers' Market, the Chair suggested it be advertised on the Whatsapp group and website.

**7. Playground:** Stephen Short said there were major expenses coming up (removal of ash trees and replacement of the climbing frames). There are currently only three trustees and they would like another one, plus people willing to help with fundraising eg a bonfire or BBQ.

**8. Planning:** the only pending application on which WPM has yet to comment relates to Beech Tree Farm. Beverly Simmonds spoke about this and asked anyone with concerns to contact her, she will give the Chair her email address so he can circulate it round the village.

**9.HCC and WCC Councillors:** the new ones, Anne Small (HCC) and David Ablitt (WCC) were welcomed. Jerry Pett (WCC) gave an update since the November meeting, including on food waste collections (he will send the slides on a recent talk on recycling given by the waste disposal team); Buses, there is a survey to collect data on what bus services the villages would like so this information can be collated and given to HCC , he will send the link to this

and asked people to complete it, and he also spoke about the local government reorganisation.

#### **10. A O B**

**a )** Sally Matthews raised the problem of dog mess, including along Winterbarrow and in the front gardens there, she has provided poo bags at the entrance to the field, and dogs running through fields in the nesting season;

**b)** Percy O'Dell had concerns about the date of the Church Fete: this is a matter for the PCC, members of the PCC at the meeting were asked to deal with the concerns;

**c)** Gerry Corden raised the problem of potholes. Jerry Fitt said the existing pothole contract needs addressing, the 'fixmystreet' website is an easier way to report potholes etc than the Hampshire Highways website;

**d)** David Corbett raised concerns about the move to digital and the attendant inability to communicate at all if the masts fail in a powercut. David Ablitt will look into this; and

**e)** Beverley Simmonds said a parish representative had failed to attend a meeting with her and WCC at 10am on 25 March 2026, causing much inconvenience and she asked for an explanation. The Chair noted this.

**11. Date of next Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2026.**

**The meeting closed at 8.40pm.**