

MINUTES of the MEETING of WONSTON PARISH COUNCIL (WPC)
Held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 13th May 2026 in the Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney

Present: Cllr Matthew Bessant-Gore (elected chairman of the meeting), Cllr Kevin Maunder, Cllr Rob Parker, Cllr Andrew Porteous, Cllr Georgina Tibbits, Cllr David Price (from 7.50pm).
 In attendance: WCCllr Andrew Adams, WCCllr Stephen Godfrey (from 9pm).
 Public: None.
 Clerk: Jocelyn Jenkins

2491	1.1	Apologies for Absence Cllr Pauline Maunder, Cllr Judith Polak, WCCllr Caroline Horrill, HCCllr Jackie Porter.	Closed	
2492	1.2	Any Declarations of Interest to be declared/dispensations agreed. Cllr Bessant-Gore – Gratton Trust (NPI), Cllr Kevin Maunder – Litterpickers (PI) and planning application 774 (below), Cllr Price – planning application 775 (below).	Closed	
2493	1.3	Minutes of the meeting of 8th April 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.	Closed	
	2	<u>Reports</u> – the meeting adjourned during reports.		
	2.1	The Public: No reports.		
	2.2	Report from WCCllr Andrew Adams: WCCllr Adams was elected to the City Council last week and attended the meeting to introduce himself to the parish councillors. He noted that he is available to assist with any issues in the Parish.		
	2.4	Report from WCCllr Stephen Godfrey: WCCllr Godfrey noted that he was late to the Parish Council meeting as he had been at a meeting in Popham to discuss the planning application for the Popham Logistics Park. Following last week's elections, the City Council remains under Liberal Democrat control. Local Government Reorganisation will take up a lot of time over the next two years and is likely to reduce other service provision at both the City and County councils. The meeting resumed after reports.		
2494	3	<u>Correspondence received by the Clerk since the last meeting</u>		
		The Council discussed and agreed actions for the following issues:		
2494.1	3.1	Mayor's Sunday Service, 24th May 2026 – Details noted but no councillors available to attend.	Closed	
2494.2	3.2	HCC Crisis & Resilience Fund – Help is available to residents struggling to pay for heating oil. Details will be added to the website.	Closed	
2494.3	3.3	WCC Parish Liaison Meeting, 25th June 2026 – The agenda for the meeting will be circulated to councillors once received.	Closed	
2494.4	3.4	Winchester Home Educators Community – Grant request towards costs of an end of term disco for home schooled children in this and surrounding parishes. It was agreed to pay for the hire of the Victoria Hall for the event (estimated at £70).	Closed	
2494.5	3.5	HCC Tree Planting Opportunities – Hampshire Forest Partnership are inviting expressions of interest for tree planting projects and may be able to supply free trees, hedgerow whips, orchard trees and disease resistant elms. Details noted.	Closed	
		<u>Matters arising from the minutes of 8th April 2026.</u> The Council discussed updates and agreed actions for the following issues:		
2495	4	<u>General Matters</u>		
2495.1	2485.1	Gratton Trust – The Gratton trustees have queried the reduced annual grant paid in April. £3000 (rather than the usual £6000) was paid as £2205 was paid directly to Dutton Gregory on behalf of the Trust and the balance of £795 is being held pending a further invoice from Dutton Gregory (likely to be £600 net). Dutton Gregory could issue this invoice up to 6 years after the charge accrued and, if they or their auditor review the time balances held on this client account, it may lead to an invoice being issued. It was therefore agreed to continue to hold the balance.		
2495.2	2485.2	Emergency & Flood Plans – The sump and pipe clearance has not yet taken place at the Bogmoor Sump.		
2495.3	2485.4	Devolution & Local Government Re-organisation See 2.4 above.		
2495.4	2485.5	War Memorial Refurbishment – The Memorial has been cleaned but the masons are currently encountering difficulties in removing the damaged stone which is to be replaced.		
2495.5	2485.6	Southern Water Pipeline – A date is awaited for a meeting with Southern Water to discuss the most recent issues with the pipeline. It was agreed that a site meeting with Clancy might be an easier way to point out issues with damaged verges etc and the Clerk will seek to arrange this.		
2495.6	New	Coach & Horses PH – Both WCC and Stonegate (the building's owners) have been contacted over concerns about the deteriorating condition of the building.		

		WCC Historic Environment have noted that they visited, in respect of the outbuilding in 2025 and have asked whether there are now further concerns. It was agreed to request that a further visit takes place due to the delay in dealing with the damage to the outbuilding and to view the accommodation in the main building.				
2496	5	PLAY AREAS Council discussed and agreed actions for the following:				
2496.1	2486.1	Stoke Charity/Hunton Play Area (STCH&H) – The annual inspection report is awaited but the Inspector has advised of urgent issues relating to the flat seated swing and sweeping see-saw. It was agreed to request that AVA Recreation visit to replace the missing fixings and review the fence at a quoted price of £295 net. Two trees on the boundary of the football field have been damaged. This has been reported to the Police but the landowner will be advised to also report this to the WCC Tree Officer as the field is within the conservation area.			Clerk	
2496.2	2486.2	Pigeonhouse Yard (PHY) Play Area – The annual inspection is awaited. Further responses to the consultation on the future of the play area will be sought at the Parish Assembly. No further response has been received from the PHY agent in respect of the soakaway.			Clerk	
2497	6	HIGHWAYS ISSUES - FOOTPATHS, GRIT BINS etc Council discussed updates and agreed actions for the following:				
2497.1	2487.1	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 has previously confirmed that she will make a further approach to HCC.				
2497.2	2487.2	Footpaths & Bridleways – The Lengthsman will be asked to cut Footpath 8 (Buddlesgate to Harding Close) on his May visit to the Parish.				
2497.3	2487.3	Noticeboards – Work on the noticeboards will resume with Cllr Kevin Maunder coordinating the Parish Volunteers.				
2497.4	2487.4	SID – One of the devices is being repaired under warranty by the supplier.				
2497.5	2487.5	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.				
2497.6	2487.6	Bogmoor Bench and verge See 2495.5 above re site meeting request.				
2497.7	2487.7	Litterpickers The risk assessment letters have been issued and only two responses remain outstanding. Off agenda.				
2497.8	2487.8	Bus shelters The grant scheme is due to re-open and June and it was agreed that the Clerk should seek quotes for repairs which could be used in a grant application.				
2498	7	PLANNING				
2498.1	772	3 Orchard Thatch, Stockbridge Road, S/S	Two new external air conditioning condensers to rear.	26/00747/HOU No comment		
2498.2	773	2 May Cottage, Oxford Road, S/Scotney	Remove group of conifers at rear boundary.	26/00772/TPC No comment		
2498.3	774	Land at Buddlesgate, Sutton Scotney	Amend S106 agreement to remove the 80% restriction on staircasing for 2, 8 and 23 Buddlesgate (93/01253/OLD)	25/02593/MLA OBJECT – as previously due to reduction in affordable housing.		
2498.4	775	Summer House, Stockbridge Road East, S/Scotney	Replacement outbuilding and associated works.	26/00657/HOU No comment		
2498.5	2488.3	Winchester Local Plan & Housing Growth – Although in Basingstoke & Deane and not the Winchester District, the planning application for the proposed 'Popham Infrastructure Park' was discussed and the implications for the Parish considered. It was agreed to object based on the huge number of additional vehicles that would use the A33 and the risk to watercourses.				
2498.6	2488.4	Village Design Statement – Cllr Bessant-Gore explained that from June, under the Levelling-Up Bill, Village Design Statements will become obsolete and a Neighbourhood Plan would be needed. The various options using the data already collected were discussed together with the timeframe, and some of the requirements, to write a Neighbourhood Plan. The matter will be further considered at the June meeting.				
2498.7	2488.5	CIL and Infrastructure Spend Plan – Carried forward to the June meeting.				
2499	8	ACCOUNTS/AUDIT				
2499.1	2489.1	Balances: As at 30/04/26 General Reserves are £61,084.98 but after Earmarked Reserves of £55,587 are £5497.98. Payments for May (detailed below) totalling £2808.64 were agreed by the Council.			Closed	
		HALC	Affiliation fees & NALC Levy	551.00		
		HALC	LCPD Membership	216.00		
		Lightatouch	Internal Audit fee	450.00		
		Kevin Maunder	Parish Assembly catering	26.45		
		Kevin Maunder	Litterpicker vouchers	200.00		
		Hants Pension Fund	April pension contributions	277.20		

		Jocelyn Jenkins	April expenses	123.03			
		Jocelyn Jenkins	May salary	919.98			
		Hugo Fox	Website	23.99			
		Hugo Fox	Domain emails	<u>20.99</u>			
				<u>2808.64</u>			
2499.2	2489.2	NALC Model Financial Regulations 2024 – The addition of further councillors to the bank mandate is ongoing.					
2499.3	New	Annual Return 2025/26 – Section 1 Annual Governance Statement It was agreed to approve the Annual Governance Statement and this was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.					
2499.4	New	Annual Return 2025/26 – Section 2 Accounting Statements It was agreed to approve the Accounting Statements and these were signed by the Chairman.					
2499.5	New	Internal Audit 2025/26 – The Internal Auditor’s letter, which was circulated prior to the meeting, was considered and it was agreed to accept the points made. It was noted that a data audit is required in 2026/27 and that data compliance training is recommended for staff and councillors.					
2499.6	New	Exercise of Public Rights 2025/26 – It was agreed to approve the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights. (3 rd June – 14 th July 2026).					
2500	9	Other Council Matters					
2500.1	2490.1	Publicity & Communications – <u>West Dever News item</u> – July item to include a report on the Parish Assembly.					
2500.2	2490.2	Risk Management – No new issues were reported.					
2500.3	2490.3	Parish Assembly, Thursday 14th May 2026 –					
9.30pm		Next meeting – Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 7.30pm in the meeting room of the Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney.					
Signed: Chairman dated.....							