

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025, 7.30pm Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors – Simon Richards (Chairman), James Ashmore, Dianne Kirk Rick Scholes. Guest County Cllr Tim Davies, Members of the public: 1

2025.

13 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Apologies: Brenda Hunt, Ian Bowman; District Cllr Anne Crampton (attending Hart councillors briefing on Local Government Reorganisation).

14 PUBLIC SESSION

Question re possible demand for reinstating a local bus service for Heckfield. (See *item 18 below re Community Transport.*)

- **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** of 07 January, agreed and signed.
- **16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** in items on the Agenda, none.

17 REPORTS TO MEETING

- Local Government Reorganisation Unitary proposals All Councils in Hants are not yet in agreement re Unitary arrangements and so for Government's deadline for initial proposals by Friday 21st March, they have drafted a joint statement 'interim plan' to this effect, with agreed 'guiding principles'. Except everyone is in agreement that the Isle of Wight should remain an independent single Unitary. APPENDIX I Timescales
 - 21st March 2025 deadline for submission of initial proposals to Government.
 - 26th September 2025 for full detailed proposals to Government (requested extension to 28th November 2025)
 - May 2027 Shadow elections for new Unitary Councils.
 - May 2028 New Unitary Councils take over.

.2 | County Councillor update

Re Local Government Reorganisation, County and District meetings are scheduled for the coming week, to agree position as outlined above.

Cllr Davies outlined a potential four-mainland-unitary solution with Northern Hants comprising BDBC, Hart & Rushmoor, the three others centred on Portsmouth, Southampton and Mid-hants with Winchester. [As advocated by BDBC. HCC it seems has a preference for three mainland unitaries.]

Also noting likely reduction in overall number of councillors.

- ii Traffic & Highways Cllr Davies made a 'tour' of his district on 24 February with Highways Cabinet member Lulu Bowerman.
 - Tim particularly promoted Heckfield's request for 40mph to continue on B3349 from Mattingley through Heckfield to the Causeway roundabout – his report to Cllr Bowerman included:

'As one drives North along the B3349 from Hook the entire route is speed restricted either to 40mph or 50mph, until one gets to the New Inn in Heckfield (GR SU726600). Just beyond this point it becomes derestricted but it is precisely at this point that school children will be waiting for the bus which takes them to school.'

ACTION To send a follow-up letter on speed limits to Cllr Bowerman (SR) APPENDIX II.

- Also for cabinet member's attention recent update forwarded from Dianne Kirk on Drifting at the Wellington Roundabout, Thurs/Fri/Sun (20/21/23 Feb). Cllr Bowerman felt this to be a Police concern rather than Highways'.
- Bramshill Road closure (re burst water main and road flooding the other side the Whitewater bridge in Bramshill). Cllr Davies noted HGVs were taking Ford Lane and nowhere to turn. Then taking Plough Lane, resulting in churned up verges. Highways have committed to cleaning the road in Plough Lane but not to repairing the verges.

For signature (p1 of 4)

18 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Request received from member of the public to investigate the possibility of reinstating a Heckfield bus service. To consider what might be achievable, what actions the Parish Council could take.

Discussion

- To seek local feedback via Survey Monkey
- Service needs to be more than once a day to be viable.
- Need find out how many people would use a service
- Reading service previously run by Stagecoach; not quite accurate to say only one passenger, but close to that; services discontinued because not viable
- Hartley Wintney community bus service have declined to come out to Heckfield
- School transport is costly; potential savings if could use a local bus service
- A linking service for College transport is needed to Hook –and so onwards to Farnborough, Peter Simmonds, Alton, Basingstoke all accessible by bus/train from Hook
- Current service from Reading goes as far as the Bull in Riseley
- Current 406 Stagecoach bus from Eversley to Farnborough could this be extended?
 www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/buses-and-other-transport/bus-timetables/timetable?id=294505

AGREED To compile a survey seeking views on Community Transport and how much it might be supported. To circulate via local groups – Heckfield/Dukes Meadow Mattingley /Rotherwick, Hook, Riseley/Swallowfield; potentially local businesses / pubs / hotel. Encourage as many people as possible to respond. Action SR, DK **APPENDIX III**.

19 DEFIBRILLATOR / CPR TRAINING

Update: Trainer Iain Tunstall has provided potential dates; to book the Village Hall – main hall; Agreed for evening of Tuesday 06 May. Suggestion to limit to one attendee per household if over-subscribed; potential to book two dates if popular.

ACTION: DK to circulate details via Whatsapp groups.

20 FINANCE

.1 Accounts to date - APPENDIX IV - Reconciliation at 16 March = £19,787.12.

Payments since last meeting (incl VAT where applicable)

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23 Hugo Fox – Web hosting 2025 £143.86
24 Clerk – Salary JAN £300.00
25 Barraclough – VH Secondary Glazing £12,864.00
26 PGGM – Digger & Scalpings New Inn footway £252.00
27 Geoxphere – Parish Online £36.00
28 Clerk – Salary FEB £300.00
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<u>Income</u> of note since last meeting – VAT reclaim £2,997.78.

.2 Budget update - APPENDIX V

<u>Village Hall</u> provision in this 2024/25 budget = £8K; £3,450 so far unallocated. Agreed to be used towards restoring six of the 10 window frames if necessary. However noted that purchases for the Village Hall involving VAT are a more cost-effective use of Parish Council funds.

.3 Internal auditor

AGREED to appoint Peter Brown as internal auditor for 2024/25 financial year.

21 VILLAGE HALL & COTTAGES

Electrician site visit of 31 January (with SR, ST, and Brian Baker for the Village Hall Committee) to confirm requirements for the works; start date still tbc.

Plan for works continues to include:

- Installing destratification fans
- Lighting upgrade
- Smart thermostats (HIVE) for both boilers
- Relocate small hall thermostat
- Wiring and installation Defibrillator cabinet (not quoted for).

Question raised re small hall and cost effectiveness of boiler. Would infra red heaters be a good alternative for a meeting room? Action – to raise question with electrician, request quote (ST).

For signature (p2 of 4)

.2 | Schedule for further work

- i Window frames restoration scheduled to start in July.
- ii Re-tarmaccing seeking quotes for in front of Village Hall and parking for cottages (likely for next calander year).

.3 Cottages update

Cottage 1 – no issues; tenant is staying, agreed no rent increase.

Cottage 2 – building survey needed.

ACTION to discuss with Village Hall Committee and Caretaker (RS).

22 HIGHWAYS AND PARISH UPKEEP

.1 Community litterpick Sunday 16 Feb along verges, thanks to all who took part.

TO NOTE – Hart then came to litterpick the next day!

- ACTION To make Hart aware and request better communication. (ST via Cllr Crampton.) Plus the verges not done along B3349 north of Causeway Roundabout.
 - **A33 verges** litter very bad along dual carriageway. Noted HCC need to close a lane to make safe to work.
 - **Lengthsman task completed** Footway to New Inn (03 February) grips cleared, verge strimmed, hedge cut back as needed. Path levelled, widened (digger) at the New Inn end and more scalpings added.

NOTED LM scheme is to continue next year 2025/26.

Ditch by Church Lane South – LM visit 03 February with digger – work not done due to concerns about BT cables.

AGREED to request Openreach plans for cables (Action JA). Up to £150 allocated.

- **Hedge cutting Church Lane** (11 Feb) **and into Riseley** (15 Feb). Apparently this was done by County. Requested Cllr Davies to discover who, why, and when/if they might be done again.
- Laundry Lane *Update:* 'Hedges have been cut, drainage ditches either side have been dug and it seems the waterway is being dug out through the woods which connects to River Whitewater. Finally it looks as if drainage is being addressed.' Presumed the work undertaken by landowner; hedges and ditches (and watercourses on their land) are landowner responsibility.

Noting the verge and drainage grips are the responsibility of HCC.

.7 | Public footpaths

<u>FP4 from Laundry Lane to B3011</u> Hartley Wintney road, south of the Bramshill triangle. The footpath is about a metre wide, wire fenced. The path used by residents in vicinity of B3011 to access Heckfield Village and pub. Comments from all that very uneven and dangerous to walk – from past the property garden on Laundry Lane to the main road.

Noting HCC Countryside Access North has a new Community Engagement officer.

ACTION To seek advice from HCCCS, potential for Countryside Services working party?

- **Tree felling along B3011** Hartley Wintney road, Hazeley Heath. Noted the work undertaken by Euroforest on behalf of RSPB seeking to reclaim the heathland.
- Prifting Wellington roundabout Report of Monday 24 February (See County Cllr report 17.2.ii above.) 'Drifters Thurs, Fri and Sun night! Fri they turned up at 00:15. We called the police again on Fri night but they didn't come (as on Thursday and Sunday) ...we have all reported it to council and police plus sent emails to community officer... One guy with massive exhaust revving... had thought this issue had mostly gone away.'

Also noted – police patrolling the car park at Mereoak on Friday night 7.15 to 7.30pm.

.10 Bramshill Road – February works and road closures due to burst water main – the other side the Whitewater Bridge in Bramshill – see 17.2.iii County Cllr report.

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23 | PLANNING

.1 | Parish Planning and tree applications – update at APPENDIX VI.

No new applications for discussion.

.2 Hart's Local Plan

- NOTED: Although Hart's land supply remains valid up to 30 April, planning applications from now onwards will be considered as if the land supply is out of date as any decisions made now, if appealed, will be considered by Inspector after 30 April.
- Won't see immediate start. Although the official go-ahead given by Cabinet on 02 January, preparation ongoing putting a team in place, investigating/purchasing new software, preparing a project plan document.
- Awaiting publication of new Local Plan Update schedule.

24 FURTHER REPORTS / UPDATES

- .1 PACT (Police & Community Together) Awaiting date for next meeting.
- Model railway set up in Village Hall (13 to 16 March) as layout for the national championships at Swindon railway museum..

25 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting closed 8.50pm with thanks to all

MAY AGM Tues 13th May, 7.30pm, Village Hall meeting room.

For sig	nature	(p4 of	4)	 	 	 	Date	 	

APPENDIX I - LOCAL GOV REORGANISATION UNITARY PROPOSALS

All Councils in Hants are not in agreement re Unitary arrangement and so for Government's deadline for initial proposals of 21st March, they are submitting a joint statement 'interim plan' to this effect. Except everyone is in agreement that the Isle of Wight should remain an independent single Unitary.

FROM AGENDA DOCUMENT FOR CABINET – MEETING 20 MARCH REF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MEETING OF TUES 18 MARCH.

'Interim LGR Submission

11. The Government requires an interim LGR submission within just six weeks (ie by 21 March 2025)... Providing a complete solution backed by data on the Interim Plan within this short timeframe is simply unrealistic.

'12. ...the Council has worked closely with other Council Leaders and Chief Executives from all Hampshire authorities to find ways to collaborate and explore possible solutions. They have asked KPMG to help all 15 councils in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight review options for unitary councils based on the six criteria outlined in the Minister's letter. The results are in the Interim Plan (found in Appendix 2). The Interim Plan sets out several guiding principles, addresses each of the government's questions, and identifies areas where additional clarity and support from the government are required.'

Thus Hart Overview & Scrutiny of 18 March are being asked to discuss and Cabinet of 20 March are being asked:

- to agree this joint interim statement of, as yet, no overall concensus. (The interim proposal also asks for an extention to the final proposal deadline from 26 September 2025 to November.)
- 2. to agree that for the next stage of the process, the Leader and Chief Executive work collaboratively with other Councils to prepare final business cases to come to Full Council for approval later in 2025.

Hart notes that:

'A case can be made to support a North Hampshire unitary council. This new council could mainly focus on the current areas of Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, and Rushmoor. However, this potential option has not been thoroughly evaluated...'

BDBC is being more decisive and BCBC Councillors were asked to confirm their agreement of

'the BDBC prefered option of four mainland unitaries, with 'Northern Hampshire' comprising BDBC. Hart and Rushmoor...

'The four new unitary councils as outlined by BDBC would be:

- 1 Southampton City and Southwest Solent Council
- 2 Portsmouth City and Southeast Solent Council
- 3 Winchester City and Mid Hampshire Council
- 4 Northern Hampshire Council.

'The Isle of Wight Council, as an island unitary authority, would remain separate and unchanged under this arrangement given their unique geography and circumstances. This is supported by all 15 existing councils and so is included in the joint interim plan at Appendix 2.'

Appendix 1 – Letter from Gov & Appendix 2 Joint interim statement from all Hampshire Councils – circulated

APPENDIX II - LETTER TO CLLR BOWERMAN - EMAIL OF 10 APRIL

Dear Lulu

At our recent Parish Council meeting, Tim mentioned that you had both been out in his patch. The B3349 from Hook is a small and, in some places, narrow road which has a combination of 40 and 50 mph limits through Hook, Mattingley and Hound Green villages but when it gets to the village boundary of Heckfield it becomes "National Speed Limit" and then from the roundabout near Heckfield Place it goes back to 40 mph towards Hartley Wintney. (Interesting that Hook managed to get the speed reduced from 40 to 30 towards Sainsburys on the B3349).

We have been successful in getting 2 crossing areas on the 60-mph section but it is still dangerous and the motorbike screamers on a weekend doing 80-90 mph plus is going to end in another fatality. (Last summer's fatality outside Heckfield Place has reduced one of the worst offenders of this circular race track; Hook to Hartley Wintney, to Heckfield and back to Hook).

So please can the speed limit of 50 between Hound Green and Heckfield be extended through our village to the roundabout? I know the local police will NOT object and Donna Jones has visited Heckfield before about car based anti-social behaviour. If it costs money to get an amendment I am sure the community would be willing to contribute.

Regards and thanks

Simon Heckfield Parish Council

APPENDIX III – SURVEY MONKEY BUS SERVICE FROM HECKFIELD TO HOOK www.surveymonkey.com/r/RK8WM2F

Currently Heckfield has no public transport links to Hook with its train station and amenities. This is a survey to ask if people in Heckfield would be in favour of having a bus route to Hook and its onward travel links.

1. Do you think Heckfiel	d needs a bus route to Hook?
O Yes	
O No	
○ Maybe	
O Don't know	
Other (please specify	0
2. If a bus route was ma use it?	de available, how often do you think you and/or your family members might
Once or twice a day	
Once or twice a week	
Once or twice a mont	th
O Don't know	
O Never	
Other (please specify	n
Morning (e.g.8am) Afternoon (e.g.12pm) Evening (e.g.6pm)	
O None	
Other (please specify	0
4. What purpose would	a bus service to Hook help you or your family members with?
Getting to the train s	tation
Getting to the shops	/amenities
O Seeing friends/leisur	e time
Getting to college	
O Getting to work	
Other (please specify	0

APPENDIX IV – ACCOUNTS TO DATE

Date received	Payee	Description	Precept	Grant	VAT reclaim	Bank Interest	Total		
11/04/24	Hart DC	Parish Precept	£16,000.00				£16,000.00		
12/11/24	HCC PTI fund	Grant VH EnergyE		£15,576.00			£15,576.00		
19/11/24	HCC County Cllr	Grant VH Defib		£1,000.00			£1,000.00		
17/03/25	HMRC	VAT reclaim 23/24			£361.60		£361.60		
17/03/25	HMRC	VAT reclaim 24/25			£2,636.18		£2,636.18		
2024-25	Metrobank Bus Inst	Bank interest				£189.77	£189.77		
		Total	£16,000.00	£16,576.00	£2,997.78	£189.77	£35,763.55		
							£35,763.55		
	RECEIPTS & PAYMI	ENTS SUMMARY		M	My ac	counts			
	Bal brought forward 1s	st April 2024	£4,075.59	insaction approvals	> From he	re you canaccess all yo	our accounts. Use the navigat		
	Plus income		£35,763.55	CKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL	- 1	HECKTIELD PARISH COUNCIL Business Community Current Account 4124837 23-05-80			
	Minus expenditure		£20,052.02	CKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL					
	Balance		£19,787.12	ounts	-				
	BANK RECONCILIA	TION		ees		£29.05	£29.05		
	Metro Current		£29.05	ings					
	METRO Business in	stant access	£19,758.07		-		RISH COUNCIL t Access Account 4124838:		
	TOTAL ACCOUNTS		£19,787.12	05-80 05-80 E19,75			_		

HE	HECKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL - EXPENDITURE 2024/2025 -@ 017 MARCH											
	Date invoice	Date Paid	Supplier	Description	Salary	Finance / Governance	Community	Village Upkeep / Access	Defib	Village Hall	VAT	Total
1	08/04/24	26/04/24	HALC/NALC	Subscription 2024/25		£276.00						£276.00
2	April	26/04/24	Clerk	Salary - April 2024	£300.00							£300.00
3	01/05/24	08/05/24	Larkstel	Bins Apri-Sept 2024x13				£195.00			£39.00	£234.00
4	27/04/24	01/06/24	Zurich Insurance	PC Insurance 2024-25		£218.96						£218.96
5	April	01/06/24	Clerk	Salary - May 2024	£300.00							£300.00
6	June	30/06/24	Clerk	Salary - June	£120.00							
7	June	30/06/24	HMRC	PAYE-Tax-Apri-May-Jun	£180.00							£300.00
8	27/06/24	15/07/24	Peter Brown	Internal audit		£75.00						£75.00
9	July	27/07/24	Clerk	Salary - July	£300.00							£300.00
10	16/08/24	16/08/24	ICO	Data Protection Reg		£35.00						£35.00
11	Aug	29/08/24	Clerk	Salay - Aug	£300.00							£300.00
12	16/08/24	21/09/24	ST-GoFund-Me	Skydive-Action for Kids			£250.00					£250.00
13	13/09/23	21/09/24	BDO-LLP	External audit		£210.00					£42.00	£252.00
14	Sept	01/10/24	Clerk	Salary -Sept	£120.00							
15	Sept	01/10/24	HMRC	PAYE-Tax-Jul-Aug-Sept	£180.00							£300.00
16	18/10/24	18/10/24	PGGM	Scalpings-ChuchLaneS				£46.00			£9.20	£55.20
17	21/11/24	21/11/24	Larkstel	Bin emptying Oct-Mar				£180.00			£36.00	£216.00
18	21/11/24	21/11/24	Clerk	Salary -Oct/Nov	£600.00							£600.00
19	15/11/24	21/11/24	Blossom&Wild	Wreaths x2 Remembr			£80.00					£80.00
20	06/12/24	10/12/24	DefibStore24639	Defib,Cabinet,Childpad					£1,470.00		£294.00	£1,764.00
21	Dec	28/12/24	Clerk	Salary -Dec	£120.00							
22	Dec	28/12/24	HMRC	PAYE-Tax-Oct-Nov-Dec	£180.00							£300.00
23	09/01/25	09/01/25	Hugo Fox	Web hosting 2025		£119.88					£23.98	£143.86
24	JAN	09/01/25	Clerk	Salary -JAN	£300.00							£300.00
25	17/01/25	23/01/25	Barraclough	VH Secondary Glazing						£10,720.00	£2,144.00	£12,864.00
26	07/01/25	08/01/25	PGGM	Digger&Scalpings-footway				£210.00			£42.00	£252.00
27	21/01/24	10/02/25	Geoxphere	Parish Online 2024/45		£30.00					£6.00	£36.00
28	FEB	28/02/25	Clerk	Salary -FEB	£300.00							£300.00

APPENDIX V – BUDGET UPDATE

HPC YEAR END COMPARISON			2024/25	2024/25			25/26 DRAFT			
<u>ltem</u>	22/23 Year End	23/24 Year End		TO DATE 17 MARCH	LATEST ESTIMATE 17 MAR	TO DATE v LATEST EST	2024/25 budget (@ Jan 2024)		BUDGET 17 MAR	
INCOME										
Precept	£16,000.00	£16,000.00		£16,000.00	£16,000.00		£16,000.00		£16,000.00	
Grant funding	£1,000.00			£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00				
Returned funds-VH	£9,850.00									
VillageHall-PTCI-gran		£1,495.00			£15,576.00	£15,576.00				
Bank interest	£44.14			£189.77	£200.00		£100.00		£100.00	
VAT reclaim	£1,848.80	£3,544.63		£361.60						
VAT reclaim 2024/25				£2,636.18	£2,636.18					
Total Income	£28,742.94	£23,861.77		£35,763.55	£35,773.78		£16,100.00		£16,100.00	
EXPENDITURE										
Salary	£2,700.00	£3,600.00		£3,300.00	£3,600.00		£3,600.00		£3,600.00	
Finance/Governance	£600.97	£988.26		£964.84		£35.16	, , , , , , , , ,		£1,025.00	
Community	£103.00	£494.00		£330.00	£330.00	£170.00	£500.00		£1,000.00	
Expenses						£500.00				
Training						£300.00	£300.00		£300.00	
Churchyard	£325.00									
Village-access/upkeep	£435.00	£1,335.00		£631.00	£631.00	£1,369.00	£2,000.00		£2,000.00	
Devil's Highway										
Village Hall	£114.42									
VH-Energy-efficiency		£1,495.00		£10,720.00	£19,470.00	£15,578.00	£3,892.00		£7,500.00	
VH-Window-frames					£3,638.00		£3,638.00	£8,000.00	27,500.00	
VH & COTTAGE-1	£37,017.27	£17,835.15								
Defib		£1,444.00		£1,470.00		£1,000.00	£470.00			
VAT	£2,031.74	£1,841.49		£2,636.18	£2,636.18					
Total Expenditure	£43,327.40	£29,032.90		£20,052.02	£32,740.02		£15,900.00		£15,425.00	
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£14,584.46	£5,171.13		£15,711.53	£3,033.76		£200.00		£675.00	
BALANCE	£9,246.72	£4,075.59		£19,787.12	£7,109.35		£4,275.59		£7,784.35	

HPC BUDGET NOTES 24/25	2024/25 TO DATE 17 MARCH	2024/25 LATEST ESTIMATE 17 MAR	TO DATE v LATEST EST	2024/25 b (@ Jan 20	0	NOTES @17 MARCH
INCOME						
Precept	£16,000.00	£16,000.00		£16,000.00		
Grant funding	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00			
Returned funds-VH						
VillageHall-PTCI-grant	£15,576.00	£15,576.00	£15,576.00			
Bank interest	£189.77	£200.00		£100.00		
VAT reclaim	£361.60	£361.60				
VAT reclaim 2024/25		£2,636.16				
Total Income	£35,763.53	£35,773.76		£16,100.00		
EXPENDITURE						I've updated the 'Latest Estimate' figure to only show committed expenditure.
Salary	£3,300.00	£3,600.00		£3,600.00		
Finance/Governance	£964.84	£964.84	£35.16	£1,000.00		
Community	£330.00	£330.00	£170.00			£250 skydive; £80 wreaths; £170 remaining
Expenses			£500.00			Expenses budget not used
Training			£300.00	£300.00		Training budget not used
Churchyard						
Village-access/upkeep	£631.00	£631.00	£1,369.00	£2,000.00		£375 bin empting; £256 scalpings & digger hire; £1369 remaining
Devil's Highway						
Village Hall						
VH-Energy-efficiency	£10,720.00	£19,470.00	£15,578.00	,		Energy efficiency work paid for by £15,578 grant, and £3,892 from budget for VH.
VH-Window-frames		£3,638.00		£3,638.00	£8,000.00	
VH & COTTAGE-1						
Defib	£1,470.00		£1,000.00	£470.00		Defib paid for with £1k from Tim and £470 from budget for VH.
VAT	£2,636.18	£2,636.18				
				0.1=0.00		
Total Expenditure	£20,052.02	£32,740.02		£15,900.00		
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£15,711.51	£3,033.74		£200.00		
BALANCE	£19,787.12	£7,109.35		£4,275.59		Note the Budget balance subject to change in 2023/24 projection, Jan onwards

APPENDIX VI HECKFIELD PLANNING UPDATE - 16 MARCH

NEW APPLICATIONS NEW SINCE LAST MEETING of 04 JANUARY

No new applications

APPLICATIONS PENDING / RECENTLY DECIDED

24/02139/LBC (Grant 06 Jan 2025, Validated 13 Nov 2024) The Old School, Odiham Road. Repair of existing chimney in roof gully: repair brickwork, repoint, cap chimney. Repoint gable end and repair/replace gully leadwork.

<u>24/01714/LBC</u> (Pending Validated 21 Aug 2024) Heckfield House, Church Lane. Creation of a new opening within an existing wall for French doors. Parish Council no objection, no comment

HART LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

- Hart's Local Plan will be five years' old on 30 April at which point its '5-year Review' is due.
- Hart Cabinet of 02 Jan 2025 gave formal approval to start the Local Plan Update process. This must be a full update because of the required increase in housing numbers.
- Up to 30 April (ref NPPF paragraph 78), the adopted Local Plan housing figure of 432 per annum up to 2032 (based on old Standard Method figures) still applies. Oversupply to date has reduced that figure giving a present 8.7 year land supply.
- As from 01 May the Local Plan will be subject to Government's Dec 2024 NPPF and new standard method for calculating housing 'need', and so lose its land supply. The new housing figure as originally published when the latest NPPF consulted on = 734 per year. There is no 'transitional period' allowed by Government for Hart to prepare an updated Local Plan.
- TO NOTE: Although Hart's land supply remains valid up to 30 April, planning applications from now onwards will be considered as if the land supply is out of date as any decisions made now, if appealed, will be considered by Inspector after 30 April.
- Though the official go-ahead given by Cabinet on 02 January, the Local Plan Update itself won't start immediately. There will be three to six month's Plan preparation first putting a team in place, investigating/purchasing new software, preparing a project plan document.
- Still awaiting publication of new Local Plan Update schedule to supercede the outdated 'Local Development Scheme: ninth revision'.