

MINUTES of the MEETING of WONSTON PARISH COUNCIL (WPC)
Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th March 2026 in the Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney

Present: Cllr Pauline Maunder (Chairman), Cllr Kevin Maunder, Cllr Matthew Bessant-Gore.
 In attendance: HCCllr Jackie Porter, WCCllr Caroline Horrill.
 Public 2
 Clerk Jocelyn Jenkins

2471	1.1	Apologies for Absence Cllr Rob Parker, Cllr Judith Polak, WCCllr Stephen Godfrey, Cllr Andrew Porteous.	Closed	
2472	1.2	Any Declarations of Interest to be declared/dispensations agreed. Cllr Bessant-Gore – Gratton Trust (NPI).	Closed	
2473	1.3	Minutes of the meeting of 11th February 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.	Closed	
	2	<u>Reports – the meeting adjourned during reports.</u>		
	2.1	The Public: Richard Solomons. Gratton Trust Clancy's undertook restoration work on the car park last year but the very wet weather this year has left it in a poor state again. Alternative options to achieve a longer lasting, but still porous, surface were discussed. Richard will research the alternative options and costs and report back on these. A resident of Wonston attended the meeting to discuss grant funding to restore the historic fingerpost in the village. The current estimate, assuming the fingerpost can be restored in situ, is £700-£900. HCCllr Jackie Porter has made a grant of £500 and it was agreed to make a Parish Council grant of £200. This grant will be reconsidered if the sign needs to be sent away for refurbishment.		
	2.2	Report from HCCllr Jackie Porter: HCCllr Porter provided a written report (Appendix 1) which noted the HCC 2026/27 budget and the likely shortfall in funds for 2027/28 now that reserves are running out. HCCllr Porter also noted Bus Service Improvement Funding (BSIP). The possibility of grants for the improvement of services and bus shelters, particularly in Sutton Scotney where the morning buses are very well used, was discussed. HCCllr Porter will provide more information on the process to apply for funding.		
	2.3	Report from WCCllr Stephen Godfrey: WCCllr Godfrey was unable to attend the meeting but advised that he has been selected to be the Deputy Mayor of Winchester from May 2026, with the expectation that he will be the Mayor from May 2027. He noted that he is looking forward to this great honour and to attending lots of community events as Mayor.		
	2.4	Report from WCCllr Caroline Horrill: WCCllr Horrill noted that the City Council budget was agreed at the end of February. A twinning ceremony has taken place with a city in Ukraine. The Community Governance review looking at the establishment of a parish council for Winchester has concluded and it has been agreed that Winchester will become a parish, with a second new parish for Kings Barton. A new Community Buildings Forum is offering advice and access to grants. WCC are asking parishes and residents to suggest small pieces of land which could be used to build affordable homes or council houses. The Planning Inspector has now completed and published their report on the WCC Local Plan and the Plan will be finalised this month. Work has already started on the next plan, with the first 'call for sites' already completed.		
		The meeting resumed after reports.		
2474	3	<u>Correspondence received by the Clerk since the last meeting</u>		
		The Council discussed and agreed actions for the following issues:		
2474.1	3.1	WCC – What does it mean to be a 21st Century parish councillor? Details of free workshops circulated to all councillors.	Closed	
		<u>Matters arising from the minutes of 14th February 2026.</u> The Council discussed updates and agreed actions for the following issues:		
2475	4	<u>General Matters</u>		
2475.1	2465.1	Gratton Trust – See 2.1 above re the surface of the car park.		
2475.2	2465.2	Emergency & Flood Plans – HCC contractors arrived to jet the Bogmoor pipes last week but found small fish and possibly frog or toad spawn and the EA will now have to visit to carry out an assessment. HCCllr Porter has advised HCC that the work must be scheduled earlier in the year to avoid this situation arising.		
2475.3	2465.3	Village Greening Campaign/WeCan/Declaration of a Climate Emergency – No further contact has been made by South Wonston Parish Council. Off agenda.		

2475.4	2465.4	Devolution & Local Government Re-organisation The Government consultation has now closed and a decision is expected on 17 th March 2026. If not received by this date it will be delayed until after the elections on 7 th May.			
2475.5	2465.5	War Memorial Refurbishment – WCC Historic Environment have confirmed that Listed Building Consent will not be required and Blackwell and Moody have been advised that the restoration work can now be undertaken. Cllr Kevin Maunder has tidied the area around the Memorial and removed the wreaths.			
2475.6	New	Southern Water Pipeline – Further issues with the pipeline were reported by the Parish Council on 25 th February 2026. Investigations and repairs are underway and have caused significant damage to grassed areas around the points being checked. HCCllr Porter is liaising with Southern Water to arrange a meeting once the checks and repairs are complete.			
2476	5	PLAY AREAS Council discussed and agreed actions for the following:			
2476.1	2466.1	Stoke Charity/Hunton Play Area (STCH&H) – The annual inspection is awaited. The Lengthsman has been asked to clear any overhanging branches and to treat weeds on his visit this month.		Clerk	
2476.2	2466.2	Pigeonhouse Yard (PHY) Play Area – AVA have advised that the gates at the play area are not an essential safety requirement. Whilst the quote to repair the multiplay unit has been accepted, it was agreed not to replace the gates at this time. A consultation letter, drafted by Cllr Besant-Gore, will be delivered to residents living around the play area to seek their views on the preferred future use of the open space. No further contact has been made by the new agents for Pigeon House Yard in respect of the soakaway.		Clerk	
2477	6	HIGHWAYS ISSUES - FOOTPATHS, GRIT BINS etc Council discussed updates and agreed actions for the following:			
2477.1	2467.1	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 confirmed that she will make a further approach to HCC.			
2477.2	2467.2	Footpaths & Bridleways – No new issues were reported.			
2477.3	2467.3	Noticeboards – The boards still need to dry out before any work can be undertaken. Cllr Kevin Maunder noted that the board in the Oxford Road bus shelter is in a poor state of repair and that the wooden shelter also needs some repairs. He will ask the Parish Volunteers to look at this to see if it is something that they could help with. (See also 2.2 above re possible grants for bus shelter improvements).			
2477.4	2467.4	SID – The devices have been in Stoke Charity and Wonston during February. They are now in Egypt and Gratton Close.			
2477.5	2467.5	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.			
2477.6	2467.6	Bogmoor Bench and verge Clancy's (the Southern Water contractor) are aware of the issues with verge damage but need better weather to repair and re-seed as necessary. Further damage caused by the recent pipeline excavations will also be drawn to their attention.			
2478	7	PLANNING			
2478.1	766	The Old House, Wonston Rd.	Various tree works.	26/00313/TPC No comment	
2478.2	767	Sutton Scotney Services, A34 N/bound	New signage for fuel station and shop/kiosk.	26/00267/AVC Neutral comment noting need for illumination controls & requesting nighttime dimming.	
2478.3	768	St Annes, Stockbridge Rd, S/Scotney	To remove yew branches overhanging highway.	26/000378/TPO No comment	
2478.4	2468.4	Winchester Local Plan – The Inspectors report has now been completed and can be viewed on the WCC website: https://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/winchester-district-local-plan-2018-2038-emerging/inspector-s-report The report notes that the site at Brightlands is not favoured by the Parish Council or residents. The allocation in the Plan remains at 50-60 homes and occupation of these is to be phased, dependent on the sewerage capacity.			
2478.5	2468.5	Village Design Statement – Cllr Polak has written a draft of the consultation process. Cllr Besant-Gore will further develop the VDS for the Parish Assembly on 13 th May.			
2478.6	2468.6	CIL and Infrastructure Spend Plan – Carried forward to the April meeting.			
2479	8	ACCOUNTS/AUDIT			
2479.1	2469.1	Balances: As at 28/02/26 General Reserves are £51,206.07 but after Earmarked Reserves of £52,666 are -£1459.93. Payments for March (detailed below) totalling £2007.13 were agreed by the Council.		Closed	

