

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 18 MARCH 2024 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr Meyrick Williams (Chairman), Cllr Cepta Hamm, Cllr Richard Milnes-James and Cllr Kate Stewart
Cllr Anne Crampton, Hart District Council (HDC)
Litter Pick Co-ordinator
Footpaths Warden
7 Members of the public
Mrs Alison Ball (Clerk)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Louise Hodgetts, Winchfield Parish Council (WPC), Cllr Tim Davies, Hampshire County Council (HCC), Cllrs Tim Southern and Spencer Farmer, (HDC) and members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS UNDER S33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

Cllr Cepta Hamm declared an interest in item 6.2, Charrington Farm, as a close neighbour to the site.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29 January 2024 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

On item 24, Any other business, the Chairman confirmed that WPC had submitted a response to the consultation by HCC on how to make savings of £132M from April 2025 raising concerns about some of the suggested savings including the closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Hartley Wintney.

5 FOOTPATHS REPORT

The Footpaths Warden confirmed that the ground was very wet making it difficult to negotiate many of the footpaths.

In response to a question from the Footpaths Warden the Chairman advised that no information had been received from HCC regarding cutting back along footpaths for three seasons and it was, therefore, assumed that if any cutting back needed to be done this would fall to WPC. Some money had been budgeted for this.

The Chairman reported that:

- Footpath 4: still flooded and consideration was being given as to what could be done to alleviate this;
- Footpath 2: would be closed to allow for work to be undertaken on the motorway bridge;

- Footpath 1: discussions were ongoing with the landowner to replace the old metal style with two kissing gates;
- Footpath 6: interim works had taken place, with more work to be carried out;
- Footpath 15: there were ongoing issues with the neighbouring property owner and HDC and HCC were involved.

6 HIGHWAYS REPORT

6.1 Pale Lane/ A323 Junction

Plans for the changes to the Pale Lane/ A323 junction had been drafted by HCC and shared with HCC and WPC councillors. Cllr Davies had responded to the proposals requesting that some additional changes be made.

The Chairman confirmed that councillors were not happy with the proposed changes as they did not go far enough and a letter had been written to the Assistant Director of Highways, Engineering and Transport at HCC expressing this. The letter advised that there were significant safety concerns regarding this junction and that the proposed minor alterations would not fundamentally reduce the risk of serious accident on this junction. A response to this letter was awaited and would be chased up.

6.2 Charrington Farm

There was no update on the highways issues relating to Charrington Farm.

6.3 Updates from HCC Highways

The Chairman advised that he had spoken to Cllr Davies prior to the meeting and he had provided the following information:

- The hump-back bridge over the River Hart on Pale Lane: The branches from the oak that had fallen down in a recent storm, taking out the railings of the west side of the bridge, had been removed but the main trunk was still in place. Cllr Davies had been pushing the Environment Agency to clear this and repair the railings and suggested that WPC now also raise this as an issue.
- Investigations into the water collecting on the B3016 close to Winchfield House were ongoing.
- The temporary traffic lights on Odiham Road were not working and Cllr Davies would follow up but it was anticipated that these works would be completed within the next couple of days meaning the lights would be removed.
- The mud and detritus on the corner of Station Road under the railway line, blocking drainage and making the flooding at this location worse had not been removed. Cllr Davies suggested that WPC contact the HCC Highways Manager about this to encourage him to arrange works at this location.

It was agreed to contact the HCC regarding the fallen oak on Pale Lane to request that the tree be removed completely and that the railings be repaired and regarding the flooding on Station Road.

6.4 Winchfield Sewage Pumping Station, The Hurst

Cllr Stewart advised that she had been in regular contact with various people at Thames Water regarding the blockage effecting the sewage pumping station at The Hurst. This had not been resolved and still required regular visits by tankers to empty the sewage and take it away. It was noted that, particularly when it rained, the tankers were providing insufficient removal and sewage had been leaking around the pumping station, into the field and then into the stream that fed into the River Hart. Cllr Stewart had reported this to Thames Water and sand bags had been put around the pumping station to try to prevent

leakage into the surrounding area but this was not a satisfactory resolution. This was particularly concerning as, at the current time, Thames Water did not appear to have a plan to resolve the main issue of the blockage, partly because they were yet to determine the location of the blockage. Cllr Stewart would continue to liaise with Thames Water on this to ensure a proper resolution.

Cllr Stewart had also raised concerns with Thames Water regarding the damage being done to the road surface and verges around the pumping station by the tankers. It was acknowledged that nothing could be done about this until the sewage problem had been resolved and Thames Water had committed to making good the area.

Cllr Stewart was in contact with a councillor at Elvetham Heath as there were also sewage issues there and they had been sharing experiences and contacts and considering whether the problems could be linked. It was understood that all the local pumping stations fed into a pumping station at Hitches Lane and it was felt that the issue might be that this was insufficient for the amount of sewage being processed. Cllr Stewart had also noticed overflowing sewage close to the school in Dogmersfield and she would contact the parish council to see if they had any information about this.

Cllr Crampton advised she would obtain the details of the officer at HDC who could be involved with this.

It was agreed to add details of what was happening with the pumping station to the WPC website.

7 RURAL EXCEPTION SITE

The Chairman advised that there was nothing to report at this time as English Rural were continuing to re-examine the commercial modelling of both proposed Rural Exception Sites (RES) to help inform the financial viability of each site. The working group were also waiting for the outcome of any planning enforcement on the land next to Winchfield Court and what influence that may have on taking the proposed site further down Pale Lane forward as a viable location.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 Climate Change Projects

Cllr Hamm advised that she had been working with members of the local climate change group on a Biodiversity Policy for Winchfield. This set out a strategic plan containing a vision for what projects could be completed and where help would be needed to do this. The policy would be presented at the next meeting.

The thermal imaging camera, on loan from HDC, had been received but there had only been very basic instructions with it relating to looking after the camera and Cllr Hamm had hoped there would be more detailed guidance on how to use the camera and how to engage with residents to get the best out of the project. It had been decided to return the camera to HDC and ask for it again in the autumn/winter, once the weather was colder, to allow extra time to put in place a plan for how to use the camera.

Cllr Crampton agreed to report to officers at HDC that it would be useful to have a set of detailed instructions with the thermal imaging camera setting out not only how to use it but also steps to be taken to get the most useful results.

Cllr Hamm advised that work would be undertaken with the Greening Campaign to look at suitable projects for Winchfield. The Greening Campaign provided five pillars of support

to local communities:

- Space for nature;
- Health and wellbeing in light of climate change;
- Energy efficient warmer homes;
- Waste prevention;
- Cycle of the seed.

It was hoped that there would be several projects that would fit under some of these headings and that the Greening Campaign would provide support as they had lots of relevant experience.

Work would also be done with neighbouring parish councils to share experiences and possibly work together on projects.

It was agreed that time be set aside at the Annual Parish Assembly for Climate Change and to inform residents of the projects and how they could be involved.

8.2 Tree and Hedgerow Planting Scheme

A member of the local Climate Change Group advised that he had hoped that HDC would have funding available for helping with local woodland projects and was disappointed that the majority of the HDC climate change budget would be spent on insulating the leisure centre. It was felt that HDC needed to lead on this, helping parishes to work together. Cllr Crampton agreed to take this back to HDC.

8.3 Hedgehog Project

Cllr Hamm advised that she had received the hedgehog highways (a surround to create a gap in boundary fencing or wall) and had distributed as many as possible but there were still some left if anyone wanted one. She had visited the hedgehog rescue centre in Hook and staff there had given some really good advice on encouraging hedgehogs. She intended to look at providing hedgehog houses in the future.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Hamm for all her work on the climate change projects.

9 BEAUCLERK GREEN

Cllr Stewart advised that there was nothing to report at the current time as she had been chasing HCC but she had not received a response with any details. She would like to keep this as an agenda item to discuss any progress once she had heard from HCC.

10 LITTER PICK

The Litter Pick Co-ordinator advised that the litter pick took place on 17 March with more than 30 volunteers collecting over 36 bags of litter plus other large items. She was disappointed to report that some of the volunteers had noted that there had been more litter than at previous litter picks. Some of the volunteers had also reported experiencing some negative reactions including litter being deliberately dropped after the area had been cleared and being splashed by passing vehicles driving through puddles.

She thanked all those who had volunteered. The next litter pick would be in the autumn/winter.

11 UPDATE ON THE SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES

Prior to the meeting Cllr Hodgetts had advised that unfortunately, due to impending surgery, one of the main volunteers for moving the SID was out of action and therefore the SID had stayed at the Railway Bridge for quite a bit longer than it should. She had

requested that if anyone was able to support her in moving/looking after the SID over the next two months that would be greatly appreciated. Cllr Hamm confirmed that some volunteers had come forward following the last request and she would contact these people to see if they were able to help.

Cllr Hodgetts had also confirmed that she was continuing to work with Hampshire Police to progress a Winchfield Community SpeedWatch programme. The key next step would be to confirm volunteers to ensure viability.

12 UPDATE ON THE DEFIBRILLATORS

Prior to the meeting Cllr Hodgetts had advised that all the defibrillators located across Winchfield were now formally recorded on the national database. Winchfield now had six public access devices available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It was noted that there were two further devices that were available during business operating hours at Dignity Pet Crematorium, and Quadratek (unit 6) within the Hurst Farm business park.

Cllr Hodgetts had requested that thanks be expressed to Cllr Stewart's brother for producing labels for all the new cabinets. These labels provided the location details for each device (what3words and postcode), which would help anyone needing to access a defibrillator in providing the emergency services with the right location information quickly - which was so important in a semi-rural area such as Winchfield.

Cllr Hodgetts hoped to confirm a further training event shortly.

13 S106 MONEY

Cllr Milnes-James confirmed that he had met with officers from HDC to discuss potential uses of the £22,000 in s106 funds being held by HDC for Winchfield. At this meeting it had been advised that s106 funded projects should be able to demonstrate that in some way they mitigated the loss of access to the open space used for the new development. Projects that had received s106 support had been those that had allowed existing facilities to be used more intensively by the community, or provide additional capacity or more active use.

Cllr Milnes-James was looking into possible projects including solar panels or a heat pump at the village hall.

It was noted that the developer could request a refund of unspent s106 funds after a period of 10 years. The 10 year period was due to end in June 2026 and it was important to allocate the money to projects as soon as possible.

Consideration had been given to whether St.Mary's church could apply for s106 funds to help with replacing the roof but it was thought that this would not meet the necessary requirements to be deemed a suitable project and any application would fail. Councillors were looking at other options for how to financially help with the cost of the new roof.

14 PLANNING

14.1 Applications received since the last meeting: 24/000273/HOU Hurst Farm Cottage, The Hurst

Erection of a two storey side extension. WPC response: "Winchfield Parish Council has no comments and is satisfied that the proposals are in accordance with the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2037."

24/00289/FUL Rosehip Cottage, The Hurst

Demolition of existing garage, side porch and covered terrace and erection of a two bed attached property, with associated parking and relocated driveway entrance. Comments submitted.

24/00372/HOU Holme Oaks Cottage, Bagwell Lane

Erection of rear timber orangery, replacement windows and doors and a new garden wall. Comments submitted.

It was noted that the WPC response to Holme Oaks Cottage stated that the planning application did not reference the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan and WPC expected all planning applications to reference this Plan.

14.2 Land North of Winchfield Court

The Chairman advised that he expected the revised enforcement notice for plots 2, 3 and 4 to be issued shortly. He thanked the Winchfield Court Residents Association for remaining engaged with this process.

Chapel Bungalow, Potbridge Road

It was noted that there were ongoing issues at this site and officers from Planning Enforcement and Environmental Health at HDC were aware of the issues along with Countryside Officers from HCC for the impact on the footpath.

Charrington Farm, Station Road

It was noted that the decision period for the planning application for floodlights at Charrington Farm had passed and HDC had confirmed that it had been delayed whilst they waited for additional information from the applicant. It had been requested that WPC be consulted on any additional information and be allowed to comment before the decision was made.

It was noted that the main point of contact within Planning Enforcement at HDC was about to leave to take up a new role and it was hoped that there would be a replacement appointed very soon to ensure continuity of service.

15 WEBSITE

Following the agreement at the last meeting to set up a new website with Parish Online, work had been undertaken to create and populate the new site. Parish Online had transferred most of the content from the existing site and the Clerk had spent time checking and tweaking pages. The new site was now with councillors for comments and amendment. It was hoped to go fully live with the new site shortly and once this was done the existing site would be removed.

16 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE**16.1 Grants for Approval**

None.

16.2 Payments for Approval

The following payments were approved:

| | | |
|------------|---|---------|
| Clerk – AB | March Salary (to include overtime payment) | £697.86 |
| Clerk – AB | April Salary | £372.01 |
| Clerk – AB | May Salary | £372.01 |
| Clerk – AB | Expenses (WFH Allowance February and March) + £7.99 for cable | £33.99 |

| | | |
|---|---|----------|
| 123 Reg (Paypal) | Domain name registration | £14.39** |
| Chagos Consulting Ltd | Parish Online Training | £15.00* |
| Winchfield Village Hall | Meeting Room Hire | £25.00 |
| Parish Online | New website | £240.00 |
| Parish Online | Mapping Subscription | £57.60 |
| Women of Winchfield | Grant for Winchfield Choir | £505.00* |
| M Williams | Reimbursement for signage for footpaths | £15.51 |
| *Payment already made; expenditure agreed by email and within previously agreed budgets | | |
| ** To note that payment was made via Paypal | | |

17 **CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence had been received other than that already forwarded and none that needed addressing that had not appeared elsewhere on the agenda.

18 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** *Report Only*

Cllr Hamm advised that she had been approached again by some residents wanting to set up a parent and toddler group in the village. She would meet with them to see what involvement would be needed from the Parish Council.

It was noted that a newsletter would be put together and circulated, in hard copy, to all households in the village in April/May. The newsletter would contain information about the new Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan alongside other information relating to projects completed, in progress and planned by the Parish Council. It was suggested that a newsletter be produced twice a year informing residents of the work of the Parish Council.

It was noted that the Hartley Wintney Twinning Association was going ahead with a weekend of events on 18 and 19 May with guests from the twinned towns of Saint-Savin in France and Malle in Belgium. A resident from Winchfield had offered to help with the catering at one of the events. Anyone else who wanted to be involved was encouraged to contact the Parish Council or the Twinning Association directly.

It was noted that Cllr Stewart had added details of the Villages Oppose Warehouses public meeting on 28 March to the noticeboards. The information was also on the WPC website.

19 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Dates of future meetings were noted: 20 May 2024, 15 July 2024, 16 September 2024, 18 November 2024 starting at 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.33pm