



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2024, 7.30pm Village Hall

Parish Councillors Simon Richards (Chairman), Ian Bowman, Dianne Kirk, Rick Scholes
Clerk Susan Turner. Guest County Cllr Tim Davies

2024.

44

WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Apologies James Ashmore, Brenda Hunt, Ward Cllr Anne Crampton.

45

PUBLIC SESSION No members of the public present.

46

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING of 16 July agreed and signed.

47

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in items on the Agenda, none.

48

REPORTS TO MEETING *County Cllr Tim Davies' report*

.1

Highways issues raised at last meeting Map detailing regular flooding points on the roads forwarded to Highways Engineer. (Causeway corner of Heckfield roundabout; Causeway at junction with A33; B3349 north of Heckfield roundabout; Laundry Lane into B3359.) Trees on HCC land between School Lane and B3349 owned by County – feedback received that these thought not to be problem.

.2

HCC finances Next financial year 2025/26 is ok; beyond that looking at potential for a Section 114 ('bankruptcy') notice. 'If Government hadn't capped Council Tax rises, wouldn't have the problem.' See **APPENDIX I** notes on S114 Notices.

Issuing a S114 Notice doesn't provide a magic wand – and local authorities can't go 'bankrupt' as such – still need to solve the problems. Possibilities are to cut back services as County is doing, look at assets, or an influx of funds from Government which unlikely as so many in the same boat. Sooner or later will look at Council Tax.

.3

Police

i

Yateley Police Station is due to re-open to the public in November. A note on Hart North FB page (02 Sept) that refurbishment has begun on the front counter area. (Not known what the opening hours will be.)

ii

PACT meetings and request for these to be re-started, included in email to Donna Jones. Attending a meeting tomorrow (11 September) with Yateley Town Council. This is 'town' not 'rural' but the same police. PCC advice was to speak to District Commander, will find out who this is.

.4

A30 Breach in the sewer pipe beyond the Crooked Billet towards Hartley Wintney. Thames Water fixed, put camera down and found more breaches. Message from Thames Water, will be fixed in a week's time – will put in a temporary overland sewer.

.5

School buses to Robert Mays – question from Cllr Davies. Noted that County plans the route based on where students live – if notify them, they will sort out.

49

VILLAGE HALL AND COTTAGES

.1

Summer volunteer days – Twelve people the first day – half a dozen from hotel, three from Village Hall, three from Heckfield. Stripping window frames, re-laying the patio, gutters cleared, garden strimmed, a skip to remove rubbish. All windows primed all need gloss coat. Front door painted, new window mirror in reception area.

TO RECORD Thanks to Highfield House and volunteers. Further volunteer days organised.

TO NOTE Village Hall Committee's *HMH Enhancement Programme 2024-25*, ST to circulate.

.2

Village Hall broadband – Waiting on accountants to present the Village Hall accounts and update the Charity website.

.3

Website – Village Hall Committee looking to host its own website (costs in the region of £20 per year to host domain, c £120 for website). The Village Hall presently has a page on the Parish Council website which could be expanded.

ACTION

To supply Parish Council website login for Village Hall users (ST).

For signature (p1 of 4)

.4 Energy efficiency and grants

1. Application to VCSE fund submitted on behalf of Village Hall (as advised by HCC) for HVAC system including air sourced heat pump.
2. Parish Council application submitted to HCC Parish & Town Council investment fund. For LED lighting, destratification fans, secondary glazing. Decision due October.
3. HCC application requires additional funding source, to apply to ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) for 20% of the funding.

ACTION To look for further grant funding and costings for Ground Sourced Heat pumps – ST.

.5 Governance To review Village Hall Trust Deed of 1931 with a view to updating. To investigate registering Village Hall land with Land Registry. RS, IB.

50 VILLAGE UPKEEP**.1 Rights of way maintenance**

i FP Cutting report 2024

- 1 FP 8 from Laundry Lane south to Kiln Farm (Cut by Coldpiece Farm (June/July?))
- 2 FP 4 from Laundry Lane east to B3011 (Cut LM 06 July)
- 3 Coldpiece Wood permissive path (Cut LM 06 July)
- 4 FP 502 from Wellington Country Park to stables (Cut LM 05 Aug)
- 5 FP 2 from church to A33 – each end as middle is okay (Cut LM 05 Aug)
- 6 Track 503 from Devils Highway south to Mill Lane. (Cut LM 05 Aug)
- 7 Roadside footway to New Inn (Cut LM 05 Aug).

ii Fallen trees / branches Coldpiece Wood / path to New Inn (Cut LM 15 July).

iii Coldpiece Wood path – LM did a good job of clearing. Brambles beginning to encroach again. Action RS and IB will cut back.

iv Alabama rot warning sign – on FP2 leading to A33 from Church.

Sign placed by Parish Council last winter, whether to remove? Potential for the disease everywhere, in every county. (More prevalent in wet weather.)

AGREED To leave the signs in place.

v FP 501 north side of Dukes Meadow, regularly maintained by – Management Company (?)

.2 Gate on FP4 Broken metal kissing gate from FP4 leading onto B3011. Logged on HCCCS map. Email received from HCC Countryside Services (18 July) confirming:

- Gates are landowner responsibility.
- Gates that are marked on the Definitive Map (which this is) have to be there unless the landowner choses to remove.
- It is for the landowner to remove/ fix/ replace, or to give permission for same.
- The landowner has a duty to maintain gates so not an obstruction to walkers.
- HCCCS offer to contact landowner.
- HCCCS offer to subsequently form a Volunteer working party.

ACTION Contact Coldpiece Farm re gate, and also ask if it can be moved in from the road, SR.

.3 Church Lane South – scalplings LM scheduled Thursday 03 October.

51 HIGHWAYS**.1 Highways and maintenance**

i Flooding and tree issues reported via Cllr Davies, see item 48.1.

ii Road maintenance – There has been progress. On School Lane, the cones have gone, new white paint with arrows and marking around the potholes. Potholes on the Causeway have been fixed.

iii Road signs – where broken or obscured, to record and log on HCC website. Lengthsman can clear and clear roads signs providing not in dangerous location.

.2 Highways and traffic

i Drifting on the Wellington roundabout – Three men a Thursday morning all going around together; two instances last month. New contact at Hart, keep reporting to Hart. Note to also report to Police website.

For signature (p2 of 4)

- ii Racing on A33 generally Friday and Saturday; needs a police speed van to visit, just the once. The bike issue is generally at weekend when good weather, bank holiday. Not so much when the weather is bad. Noisy, modified exhausts, not road legal. Constantly report to Police website.

52 FINANCE

.1 **Confirmation of external audit** 2023/24 with invoice – awaited from BDO LLP.

.2 **Accounts to date** **APPENDIX II** Reconciliation at 30 August = £17,825.84.

Payments since last meeting

9	Clerk Salay – July	£300.00
10	ICO – Data Protection Register	£35.00
11	Clerk Salay – August	£300.00

Payments pending

GoFundMe – for Action for Kids	£250.00
BDO LLP – external audit	£252.00

.3 **Budget review – APPENDIX III.** No recent change; allows for £8K towards Village Hall/Cottages, £2K towards 'Village upkeep', £500 towards a Community event.

53 PLANNING

.1 **Parish Planning Applications** Update on recent applications **APPENDIX IV**.

New application for discussion

[24/01723/FUL](#) (Validated 10 Sept 2024) Dukes Field Cottage, Norton Road, Riseley. Erection of a three bedroom dwellinghouse with associated car and cycle parking, access, refuse storage and landscaping following demolition of the existing Old School House.

AGREED 'The Old School House' is not a former dwelling. The Parish Council is opposed to ongoing attempts to further develop this line of green space, the Devils Highway land, which divides the built form of Heckfield and Riseley; the proposal involves loss of mature native trees abutting a TPO woodland. ST to respond accordingly.

.2 **NPPF consultation and new Standard Method housing figures**

MHLG's NPPF Consultation to 11.45pm on 24 September 2024.

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system

Headline is the new Standard Method calculation. Previous Government's Standard Housing Assessment Method was based on demographics and an 'affordability ratio'.

The New Government's Standard Method is based on current housing stock and a stronger affordability uplift; this (on one calculation) gives Hart a proposed allocation of 734 (homes per annum).

Proposed SM figure (per 1,000)	17
Proposed SM figure	734
Current SM figure	279
Current Local Plan figure	432
Average delivery (3-year average)	580

Hart's current Local Plan was adopted 30 April 2020, thus the Five-year review is due Spring next year and will need to account for new Standard Method housing figures as per the outcome of the Consultation.

Parish Council response to the consultation to include some positive comment but, in particular, opposition to:

(Q6) Strengthening the presumption in favour of development

(Q7) reintroducing a mandatory five year housing land supply

(Q9) reintroducing the 5% buffer

(Q16-19) the concept and application of an affordability uplift

(Q82) removing the footnote text:

'The availability of agricultural land used for food production should be considered, alongside other policies in this Framework, when deciding what sites are most appropriate for development'

(Q103) transitional arrangements preventing Regulation 18 and most Regulation 19 Plans proceeding to examination under the current (Dec 2023) NPPF and housing numbers.

For signature (p3 of 4)

54 FURTHER REPORTS / UPDATES**.1 Remembrance day wreath**

i Options to lay wreath

- 1 Church has requested the Parish Council wreath be laid in the Church.
- 2 Village Hall memorial well (as per *HMH Enhancement Programme 2024/25*)
- 3 Cemetery as laid the previous few years.

AGREED To lay wreath in Church as requested.

ii Reference the single use plastic disc in the traditional RBL 'Poppy Appeal' wreath.

AGREED To order two small locally-made wreaths at £40 each. Action SR.
Also to match the usual donation of £25 for the RBL wreath.

.2 Community event *IB Report – Mythicals*, band in Village Hall Nov 16th; bring own food and drink; previously played in Leather Bottle, Covers 90s, 80s, 70s; indications will be very successful; if case not, Parish Council agreed to underwrite up to £500. Actions – all to advertise – Noticeboards, local businesses, FB etc. Tickets £20, £15 before 16 October.

www.tickettailor.com/events/heckfieldmemorialhall/1375081

.3 Defibrillator

i Noted the New Inn defibrillator needs to be better advertised and signed.

ii Defibrillator for Village Hall. Cllr Davies agreed in principle for a grant request to his devolved budget.

AGREED To apply to Cllr Davies County Councillor grants budget. Action ST.

55 NEXT MEETING October date TBC, Village Hall

Meeting close 9.10pm with thanks to all

For signature (p4 of 4) Date

APPENDIX I IMPLICATIONS OF A SECTION 114 NOTICE

www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainer/local-authority-section-114-notices

A S114 notice is a local authority equivalent of 'bankruptcy' – but Local Authorities can't go 'bankrupt' as such. A S114 notice from the Finance Officer indicates that expenditure is to become 'unlawful' as per the Local Government Finance Act 1988 – most likely because expenditure is expected to exceed available income for a particular financial year. Once a section 114 notice is issued, the authority may not incur new spending unless the Finance Officer permits it – and must find a way to balance the budget while maintaining statutory services and honouring existing contracts.

Options are cuts to non-statutory services – as per the recent 'Future Services Provision' consultation; also reallocating budgets. Capital and resource budgets are supposed to remain separate – but Government can grant a 'capitalisation direction' to allow a local authority to use its existing capital budgets to cover day-to-day spending. This is often the response to a section 114 notice.

'Capitalisation directions' also allow councils to use assets sales, usually to be returned to their capital budgets, or borrow more to fund day-to-day costs. Neither of these are sustainable approaches to funding local authority services. Neither approach solves the underlying problems of insufficient funding and rising demand for councils' services.

Government has allowed some local authorities that have issued section 114 notices the power to raise council tax above the 5% limit. In 2023/24, the government allowed Croydon to raise its rates to 15%, and Thurrock and Slough to 10%.

If Government chose to, it could provide local authorities with funding to cover their in-year deficits or to repay some of their loans. But this is rare. Government can also intervene in the local authority management. (This can happen without a section 114, but is a common outcome of a notice.)

APPENDIX IV PLANNING UPDATE – HECKFIELD – 10 SEPT 2024**NEW APPLICATIONS NEW SINCE LAST MEETING** of 16 July

24/01723/FUL (Validated 10 Sep 2024) Dukes Field Cottage, Norton Road Riseley. Erection of a three bedroom dwellinghouse with associated car and cycle parking, access, refuse storage and landscaping following demolition of the existing Old School House

24/01714/LBC (Validated 21 Aug 2024) Heckfield House, Church Lane. Creation of a new opening within an existing wall for French doors. *No objection*

24/01673/HOU (Validated 22 Aug 2024) Heckfield, Church Lane. Erection of a tennis court within existing walled garden. *No objection*

24/01558/CA (Approve 02 Sept, Validated 02 Aug 2024) 26 Church Lane T1 - Pear -Fell

APPLICATIONS PENDING, RECENTLY DECIDED

24/01354/FUL (Pending Validated 03 Jul 2024) Burlington, Bramshill Road. Erection of a replacement dwelling and a triple bay garage, following the demolition of six buildings, including the existing dwelling, two barns and three stable blocks. The application site, which covers the area of PDL, mixed use residential and equestrian, is to be residential in use. *Comment re lack of green energy provision*

APPEALS

APPEAL IN PROGRESS APP/N1730/W/24/3347208 (Start date 13 August 2024) Hart ref 24/00033/REFUSE (08 July 2024) Burlington Bramshill Road. Erection of a replacement dwelling and detached triple garage, following the demolition of six buildings, including the existing dwelling, two barns and three stables.

APPEAL DISMISSED (07 August) APP/N1730/W/23/3331263 Hart ref 23/00062/REFUSE (13 Oct 2023) Coldpiece Farm. Erection of 10 floodlights, each 6m high, around the existing manège.

[illegible][illegible]

APPENDIX III – BUDGET UPDATE

HPC YEAR END COMPARISON			2024/25 TO DATE 29 AUG	2023/24 LATEST ESTIMATE 29 AUG
Item	22/23 Year End	23/24 Year End		
INCOME				
Precept	£16,000.00	£16,000.00	£16,000.00	£16,000.00
Grant funding	£1,000.00	£2,750.00		
Returned funds-VH	£9,850.00			
VillageHall-PTCI-grant		£1,495.00		
Bank interest	£44.14	£72.14	£89.21	£150.00
VAT reclaim	£1,848.80	£3,544.63		£394.60
Total Income	£28,742.94	£23,861.77	£16,089.21	£16,544.60
EXPENDITURE				
Salary	£2,700.00	£3,600.00	£1,500.00	£3,600.00
Finance/Governance	£600.97	£994.26	£604.96	£1,000.00
Community	£103.00	£494.00	£195.00	£500.00
Expenses				£500.00
Training				£300.00
Churchyard	£325.00			
Village-access/upkeep	£435.00	£1,335.00		£2,000.00
Devil's Highway				
VH - maintenance	£114.42			
VH-Energy-efficiency		£1,495.00		
VH & COTTAGE-1	£37,017.27	£17,835.15		
VH & COTTAGE-2				£8,000.00
Defib		£1,444.00		
VAT	£2,031.74	£1,835.49	£39.00	£39.00
Total Expenditure	£43,327.40	£29,032.90	£2,338.96	£15,939.00
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£14,584.46	£5,171.13	£13,750.25	£605.60
BALANCE	£9,246.72	£4,075.59	£17,825.84	£4,681.19