



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2025, Mulberry House, Church Lane
Parish Councillors Simon Richards (Chairman) James Ashmore, Ian Bowman,
Dianne Kirk, Rick Scholes; Clerk Susan Turner; Guest County Cllr Tim Davies.

2025.

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WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: Brenda Hunt; District Councillor Anne Crampton.

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PUBLIC SESSION No members of public present.

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MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING of 18 August, agreed and signed.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in items on the Agenda, none.

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REPORTS TO MEETING

.1

Village Hall An issue raised on behalf of Village Hall neighbours

The Village Hall is becoming increasingly successful and attracting more bookings. An unintended consequence is cause for neighbour concerns re increased frequency of events. Noise can be an issue whenever a party with a band or disco, particularly when the back doors are open; can be during daytime as well as evening.

Discussion

- Mitigating against noise difficult, particularly in summer with doors and windows open.
- Hall is booked to 11.30pm with music to 11pm latest.
- No bookings for teenage events.
- No longer let the hall for weddings now the Cottage is let.
- Suggestion to include on booking form a request to be mindful a residential area and be considerate of neighbours.
- The Village Hall is here to serve the community, wish to accommodate residents' bookings for celebration events.
- Neighbours moved in next to the Hall; aware a community facility; aware will need to accept some noise.
- Potentially limit number of celebration events per year.
- Advise neighbours of hall booking schedule, what is coming up and when.
- Monitor from now on.
- Request residents in future to advise immediately when noise an issue so aware which booking is connected with.

AGREED To discuss with Village Hall Committee; to mitigate where possible. Action SR.

.2 **County Councillor Tim Davies** report

- i County and District elections will go ahead next May, along with Mayoral elections for the Combined County Authority. The Police & Crime Commissioner role will be brought within Mayoral authority. For County and newly-elected District Councillors, the term will be only be for two years.
- ii HCC has a statutory duty to provided children's services and adult social care with escalating cost. Local Government Reorganisation does not address the funding issues. □
- iii Local Government Reorganisation Everyone is aware that County, along with East Hants, submitted their own proposals – for Government's deadline of 26 September – for three mainland unitaries, based on a Greater Portsmouth, a Greater Southampton and the rest of Hants based in Winchester.

Speaking for Cllr Crampton in her absence, it's also well known that Hart and other Districts favour four mainland unitaries – with various configurations for the southern councils but always including a North Hampshire Unitary comprising Hart, BDBC and Rushmoor. Majority proposal to Government at **APPENDIX I**. Noting that this proposed Northern Unitary has no current centre for 'County' responsibilities.

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LGR is very much about control; will only get money if do what Government wants – No matter what is submitted, will go ahead as Government wishes – But the money not there and this process not fully costed – Government will publish an official public consultation later this year.

- iv County Councillor devolved budget for 2025/26 Some good news that this approved by the last Full Council meeting despite it not being a statutory requirement. The budget, previously cut from £10K to £8 has been cut further to 5K.

55 HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC / TRANSPORT

- .1 **AutoSpeedwatch roadside unit** with solar booster installed; police have advised they have no time to assess the data, but may consider where it shows up repeat offenders.

.2 **Drifting and road racing Wellington roundabout**

Discussion

- Wokingham BC has a PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) in place with regards to 'car cruising' **APPENDIX II.**

www.wokingham.gov.uk/community/community-and-safety/community-safety-partnership/public-spaces-protection-order

'We have made a Car Cruising Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO.) This applies to all council land and publicly accessible private land.

'The order aims to prevent anti-social behaviour in and around vehicles such as creating noise through excessive engine revving and driving in a dangerous manner. Anyone behaving in this way or organising, promoting or attending such events is committing an offence and will be subject to a fine or fixed penalty notice.'

- 'Local authorities can make Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.' Whether this could come from Hart or County? Cllr Davies will investigate and approach Wokingham for more information.
- To be successful will need to be enforced. How successful will enforcement be?
- Neighbouring security cameras don't cover the Highway; trying to video is a risk and headlight glare makes difficult. A gamechanger to capture these people on camera.
- Parish Councillors engaging with the Estate (IB); also local police (DK). The police workload appreciated. Also contacted Alex Brewer MP who is in touch with County Council Universal Services – to chase up with HCC and copy to PCC Donna Jones. Email from County Cllr Tim Davies to PCC of 31 Aug, copied to Parish Council, District Councillors, Highways officers and local police. Response from PCC 01 Sept, she will take up with District Commander and Chief Inspector requesting an action plan.
- Drifting, road racing has been every Friday since August when wet.
- Groups gather with spectators as if at a football match. Police recently attended – don't get out of their cars but if sit with blue flashing lights the groups disperse. All part of the game to them to see how long can keep going.
- They come into the development, people worried about repercussions if seen to be opposing, will be followed, feel intimidated. Police advice is not to go out.
- Last two Fridays have been the worst, definitely organised, 30 or 40 cars with a couple of cars to block each road entrance to the roundabout. Also twice on Saturday 11.30pm and 1am; rubber left on roundabout.

AGREED Unanimously to investigate re security camera(s) for purchase, data protection issues considered, data will not be used in legal proceedings (action IB).

- .3 **Roundabout advertising** – A sign from Hart at the Wellington roundabout inviting sponsorship. To consider taking up – action (SR) to investigate cost. Though noting high chance of sign being damaged.

- .4 **Village gateway** project update. Initially considered in 2022/23 but not pursued due to high cost and other priorities. Raised again due to new residents' concerns that no indication from B3349 that driving through a village.

Noted – The main consideration was looking to reduce traffic speed. Questionable whether gateway signage would have any impact. Continue to have other priorities.

AGREED to not proceed with Village gateways.

- .5 Bus service request** – No further update; the Parish Council supported the survey and promoted to residents and neighbouring Parishes.

AGREED: No further action unless new information or responses from Stagecoach.

56 HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE

- .1 Ditch by Church Lane south** – Parish Lengthsman no longer undertaking digger work directly; using services of a full time digger driver / company. Will be a higher cost but will have cable scanners and more expertise. Action ST to contact and site visit. Noting Lengthsman has insufficient hours to try to dig the ditch by hand.
- .2 Lengthsman tasks pending**
- i Footway to New Inn – Grips to be cleared; vegetation cut back / trimmed as needed.
 - ii Heckfield FP 4 Laundry Lane to B3011 – path end at B3011. Action SR to walk the path and report. Subsequent action – Lengthsman to cut back vegetation from path approaching gateway and by access onto road (see photos **APPENDIX III**).
- .3 Coldpiece Farm**
- .3A FP4 gateway to B3011** (ref 56.2ii above) Dangerous access onto road; kissing gate beside the road last year broken by HGV. Actions (SR) to request landowner replace gate and for replacement to be recessed away from the cars. (Noting gates are landowner responsibility.) To also again report on HCC Countryside Services interactive map (action ST).
- .3B Coldpiece Wood** – To clear small silver birch fallen across the path in the top wood near Heckfield Place. Action Parish Council; landowner to be advised (SR).

57 REMEMBRANCE

AGREED: To purchase two locally-made floral wreaths, total cost c£90.

58 VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

- .1 Solar project** (IB report)
- i Panels on the SSW-facing roof of the small hall would meet requirements (accommodate 14 panels); no need to put more on the main hall roof (ESE-facing).
 - ii Listed building consent application needed due to curtilage for main hall (action IB).
 - iii Grant application submitted for battery storage only.
- .2 Defibrillator registration** – To confirm Circuit registration and regular checks. (The unit will self check every day providing batteries in working order.)
- i Village Hall defibrillator – Clerk is registered guardian. Checked every Parish Council meeting (minimum). Confirmed checked and green tick in box, Wed 15 October.
 - ii New Inn defibrillator – To confirm registration and checking process (action SR).

59 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

- .1 Accounts to date **APPENDIX IV**.** Bank reconciliation @ 13 October = £20,823.09
Payments since last meeting (inc VAT where appropriate)
- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 14 | AutoSpeedWatch – Roadside unit plus one year data | £934.80 |
| 15 | Clerk – Salary - AUGUST 2025 | £340.00 |
| 16 | BDO – External Audit fee 2024/25 | £252.00 |
| 17 | AutoSpeedWatch – Roadside unit solar boost | £146.16 |
| 18 | Clerk – Salary - Sept 2025 | £136.00 |
| 19 | HMRC – PAYE-Tax-July Aug Sept | £204.00 |
- Agreed payments of note (pending):
- | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| | Village Hall floor | £5,137.00 |
| | Security camera(s) | c£300 each. |
- .2 Budget update **APPENDIX V**.**
- .3 External audit complete **APPENDIX VI**.**

60 PLANNING**.1 Parish Planning Applications** – Planning update **APPENDIX VII.**

- i. New application for discussion
[25/01871/CA](#) (Validated 26 September) The School House. G1 - Group of Whitebeam - Remove. T1 - Beech tree - Crown reduce by 2m. Re group of Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria* – native tree, part of Rowan family). Action (SR) to consult with BH.
 - ii. Recent applications / appeals of note
[25/01569/HOU](#) (Withdrawn 02 October, Validated 26 August) School Farm, Laundry Lane. Installation of 39 ground mounted solar panels.
[APP/N1730/W/25/3365018](#) (APPEAL DISMISSED 15 September 2025) Old School House, Dukes Field Cottage, Norton Road, Riseley. Construction of a three bedroom dwellinghouse with associated car and cycle parking, access, refuse storage and landscaping (following demolition of the existing Old School House – outbuilding).
- .2 Hart Local Plan** Call for Sites issued (29 August), the statutory time period ended on 10 October. The Process overall is delayed much to do with lack of resources, more planners are being recruited.
 Cabinet of 16 September agreed the 'Project Initiation Document', budget and timetable **APPENDIX VIII.** The proposed timetable (Local Development Scheme) says submission by March 2028 just before the end of the life of Hart Council. Examination will go beyond that, adoption shown as October 2028.

61 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday 10th December, 7.30pm

Meeting close 9.15pm with thanks to all.

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