



Minutes of the Highclere Parish Council Meeting

Westridge Studio

Tuesday 14 March 2023 at 7.30pm

Members Present: Cllr Norton (Chairman), Cllr York, Cllr Stoker

In attendance: Cllr Falconer

Present: Two developers of planning application 23/00455/PIP (until 7:50pm)
Corinne Davis-Cooke (Hampshire Ranger, from 8pm), two parishioners,
Colin Wall (on behalf of Neighbourhood Plan team)

Clerk: Amy White

The Chairman, Brad Norton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. 103/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Thacker and Cllr Leeson.

2. 104/22 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

3. 105/22 To agree Minutes of meeting held on 07 February 2023

The Minutes of 07 February 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

4. 106/22 Update on actions from 07 February 2023

Number	Action	Person
96/22	Cllr Norton to speak to landowner of stream running alongside path 734 off Pantings Lane to discuss clearing the stream to improve water flow. Actioned - see item 10 Clerk to contact other landowner to discuss. Actioned - field no longer belongs to this landowner.	Cllr Norton, Clerk
98/22	Cllr Norton to send a reply to Penwood resident asking for ideas/support on how to better engage Penwood. Actioned but no response received.	Cllr Norton

5. 107/22 Co-option of Councillor

Currently there are 3 vacancies for HPC. Ms Julia Easton attended the meeting to be co-opted. Cllr York proposed Ms Easton to join the Council. Cllr Stoker seconded.

Full Council agreed and Cllr Easton was duly co-opted.

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome back Cllr Easton to HPC.

This leaves 2 vacancies to fill.

Action: Clerk to send Cllr Easton's Register of Interests form to BDBC.

6. 108/22 Reports from County and Borough Councillors

Cllr Falconer made the PC aware of the Borough Councillor grant funds opening in the next financial year.

7. 109/22 Recent Planning Applications (comments in bold):

Please see [the Basingstoke and Deane portal](#) for full responses from HPC.

- 23/00455/PIP Land To The West Of Tubbs Lane Pantings Lane (Deadline 16/03/23):

The developers gave further information about the application. Once they had left, the PC discussed the application. It is most likely the application will go to Development Control Committee.

Decision to be sent to BDBC (Deadline 16/03/2023): **Object**

- 21/03394/OUT Watermill Bridge amended application:

The PC agreed to employ the services of Steve Lees who assisted in the initial application (Deadline 28 March 2023)

- 23/00358/ROC Wendover Mount Road Highclere

Decision: No objection

8. 110/22 Neighbourhood Plan update

Colin Wall gave an update. A consultation with the Parish on the proposed sites is in progress. Royal Mail will do a mail drop to whole parish.

Drop in dates for Parishioners will likely be in the second and third weeks of May 2023.

9. 111/22 Roads and Transport

Latest SID Data

Update from Cllr Thacker

Cllr Thacker provided the latest update (14 March 2023) regarding the A343 road surface issue (extracted from update at end of Minutes):

The team have come back to me to say that the A343 between Wash Water and Penwood is allocated against the 23/24 program and they have a note against it saying that it is a priority site so they would hope to deliver this early in their program.

The area manager has said that, if it is noted that the site deteriorates further, then he is happy to have the site re-inspected and temporary repairs carried out to defects which meet our safety criteria.

Drains: Cllr Stoker has noted surface water running down the Ashmansworth. The drain on the road by Highclere Church is blocked.

Action: Clerk to ask HCC to jetwash the drains.

10. 112/22 Footpaths

Corinne Davis-Cooke from Hampshire Countryside Service joined the meeting. She covers the NW of Hampshire Rights of Way. The information provided was very useful and will be added to the website.

Update on path 737 flooding and gate issue: The landowner is in contact with Hampshire Rangers regarding responsibilities and options to improve flooding issue.

11. 113/22 Westridge project proposal

Cllr York updated the PC on the current situation on the Westridge project. A tree in the grounds has been cut; Cllr York will ask Highclere Tree Works to invoice the PC (to be paid as part of the ringfenced budget for 23/24).

12. 114/22 Finance update

The Clerk presented the following items for payment for March:

27-Mar-23	Clerk's salary		£ 773.88
	PAYE	HMRC Month 12	£ 240.77
27-Mar-23	Pension contribution	Nest Employee Pension Contribution DD	£ 72.96
27-Mar-23	Litter Warden salary		£ 487.75
3-Apr-23	Member Subscriptions	HALC Affiliation Fees for 2023/24	£ 401.89
28-Feb-23	IT incl payroll, Microsoft	Red76 Feb invoice 5470	£ 14.00
27-Feb-23	VAT	Red76 Feb invoice 5470	£ 2.80
28-Feb-23	Clerk's expenses	lonos 203035073937	£ 5.00
28-Feb-23	VAT	lonos 203035073937	£ 1.00
27-Feb-23	Speed Indicator Placement	Premier Grounds SID move x11, waste removal from Westridge (Lengthsman service)	£ 505.00
27-Feb-23	VAT	Premier Grounds SID move x11, waste removal from Westridge (Lengthsman service)	£ 101.00
24-Feb-23	Hall Hire	Westridge Studio HPC Meeting 14/3/23	£ 15.00
20-Feb-23	Neighbourhood Plan	Westridge Studio Meeting 24/2/23	£ 15.00

Total: £ 2,636.05

Bank Balance as at 13 March 2023:

Community: £1287.90

Business: £38782.66

The Clerk presented the end of year accounts (see spreadsheets at end of Minutes) and the proposed budget for 2023/24 (also see end of Minutes for full budget).

Ringfenced Projects 23/24	
Neighbourhood Plan	8000
Defib for Penwood	2000
Community Infrastructure Levy	2388
Westridge Project	5000
TOTAL:	17388

The Council has underspent by approximately £18K due to a combination of factors including a reduced amount of Councillors (down to 4 out of a recommended 7) which restricted project leads.

13. **115/22 Items to take forward to subsequent meeting**
Ideas for APM, Councillor roles and responsibilities
14. **116/22 Date of next Meeting Tuesday 11th April, Westridge Studio 7:30pm.**

Signed _____ Position _____ Date _____

Actions from 14 March 2023 Meeting

Number	Action	Person
107/22	Clerk to send Cllr Easton's Register of Interests form to BDBC.	Clerk
111/22	Clerk to ask HCC to jetwash the drains.	Clerk

County Councillor Update March 2023 **Tom Thacker**

Budget and Council Tax

At the meeting of the full County Council, budget plans for the upcoming financial year were agreed.

Leader of the County Council, Councillor Rob Humby, said: "Each year, the County Council is tested to the limits in continuing to deliver a balanced budget, which is required by law. Planning for this upcoming financial year has been no different, and we have had to navigate further intense pressures resulting from the cost-of-living crisis, inflation and workforce pressures and growing demand in key areas such as social care for the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities – which far outweighs available Government funding.

"We are also acutely aware of the very difficult decisions Hampshire residents face in their own household budgets to make ends meet, but reluctantly, in order to help deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24, we have no other choice but to increase the council tax precept. This is a decision we have not taken lightly. But even after this increase, we are still left with a £50.8 million shortfall in our revenue budget which we will have to fill using our reserves – built to buffer this and next year's anticipated budget shortfalls."

Hampshire County Council's council tax precept for the financial year beginning 1 April 2023, will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care, in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,460.25 for a Band D property – an increase of £69.45 per year or approximately £1.34 a week.

The increase still means that Hampshire has one of the lowest council tax precepts of any county in England.

Alongside revenue budget plans, the County Council has approved new capital spending of £645.3 million over the next three years. This provision for Hampshire's infrastructure brings the County Council's four-year total investment in the fabric of Hampshire, to £927.3 million.

It is worth noting that all opposition parties did not put forward any alternative budget, yet some still voted against setting a budget that we are legally bound to do.

Coronation

My 2023/2024 member grants stream opens in early May this year. I am advised that any applications for helping with events to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III can be submitted earlier. I have today advised the clerk, under one of her four 'hats', the process for applying for a Coronation grants.

Highclere

I have chased Hampshire Highways on the poor condition of the A343 between Wash Water and Seven Stones Bridge. The area engineer updated me in January that it has been highlighted as a priority with HCC's central team. It was to be assessed within the next 7-14 days and I was to be updated. I have asked for that update, as I have not had one yet. In the short term, the area engineers have been asked to re-inspect and carry out temporary repairs, as necessary.