



## Minutes of the Highclere Parish Council Meeting

### Westridge Studio

Tuesday 14 November 2023 at 7.30pm

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

**Clerk:** Amy White

**Present:** Cllr Falconer

The Chairman, Brad Norton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. 57/23 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Thacker sent his apologies which were accepted.

**2. 58/23 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. 59/23 To agree Minutes of Meeting held on 10 October 2023**

The Minutes of 10 October 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. 60/23 Matters arising from Meeting held on 12 September 2023**

Number	Action	Person
65/23	<b>Action:</b> Clerk to inform Premier Grounds of HPC's request to continue to move the SID at the new rate of £70 per move, for review in December. <i>Actioned.</i>	Clerk
67/23	Clerk to ringfence CIL funds for improvement of entrance to Westridge Studio, Star Lane based on satisfactory quote received. <i>Actioned.</i>	Clerk

**5. 62/23 Reports from County and Borough Councillors**

Cllr Thacker's County report is attached at the end of the Minutes.

Cllr Falconer reminded the council that the Wash Water/Watermill Bridge appeal will be heard on 12 December and is expected to last 6 days.

**6. 63/23 Recent Planning Applications (comments in bold):**

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

- 23/01599/FUL Land At OS Ref 443405 159682 Andover Road Highclere (*Objection*)

- 23/02607/HSE at Ashvine Westridge (*Objection*)
- 23/02504/HSE at The Coach House Andover Road Highclere Hampshire RG20 9PF (*No Objection*)
- T/00507/23/TPO at Westridge Oaks Star Lane Highclere (*No objection*)
- Appeal Notification: for Land At Oakley Farm Penwood Road Wash Water (*Objection letter lodged*)

## 7. 64/23 Neighbourhood Plan update

Please see Colin Wall's report:

### *Progress to date*

*In our last report we had indicated that we might run our Site choice by the Planning Officer at the North Wessex Downs AONB. She is overwhelmed by work and advice from PlanET was to not wait, so we didn't and announced on Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, as you know.*

### *Current*

*The team (mostly David) is working hard to get the Views and Green Spaces agreed, and a meeting to finalise should happen in November. This will hopefully allow PlanET to collate all the input and submit a screening draft of the Plan to Basingstoke. Difficult to know what will happen then as we don't know what Basingstoke will say (this is in practice an informal review by them). It is compounded by our NP liaison at Basingstoke having left a little while ago and B&D failed to inform us and have yet to appoint us a permanent replacement !!*

### *Finance*

*The surprisingly technical task of actually accepting the Grant was finished within the deadline. Jim has been liaising with The Clerk in some detail and a figure for 2024-25 has been suggested.*

*PlanET are happy working to the clearer authorisation process.*

## 8. 69/23 Finance update

The Clerk presented the following items for payment for November:

### Date

Invoiced	Budget Line	Explanation		
10-Oct-23	Hall Hire	Westridge Studio hire for Local Plan meeting Inv 399	£	20.00
7-Nov-23	Hall Hire	Westridge Studio hire for HPC meeting Inv 415	£	20.00
20-Oct-23	Planning	Steve Lees Watermill Bridge planning support	£	1,150.00
27-Oct-23	Payroll	Red76 Payroll Inv 7354	£	16.00
27-Oct-23	VAT	Red76 Payroll Inv 7354	£	3.20
27-Oct-23	Speed Indicator Placement	Placement on 31/05, 17/06, 28/08, 26/07, 09/08, 24/08, 06/09, 20/09, 04/10, 18/10	£	350.00
27-Oct-23	VAT	Placement on 31/05, 17/06, 28/08, 26/07, 09/08, 24/08, 06/09, 20/09, 04/10, 18/10	£	70.00
28-Oct-23	IT/Website Admin incl Ionos	Ionos invoice 203038791383 (Direct Debit)	£	6.00
28-Oct-23	VAT	Ionos invoice 203038791383 (Direct Debit)	£	1.20
29-Sep-23	Neighbourhood Plan	Planet Invoice 1004	£	835.00

29-Sep-23	VAT	Planet Invoice 1004	£	167.00
27-Nov-23	Clerk's salary	Includes NALC agreed payscale 23/24 and back pay	£	1,067.80
27-Nov-23	Litter Warden Salary	HMRC Month 8	£	536.80
27-Nov-23	PAYE		£	515.78
27-Nov-23	Pension Contribution	Nest (Direct Debit)	£	80.50

**Total: £ 4,839.28**

**Bank Balance at 31 October 2023:**

**Community Acc: £ 2623.05**

**Business Acc: £60858.15 Amy**

The Clerk salary scale point for 23/24 has now been confirmed by NALC and backdated to 01 April 2023. This is reflected in the accounts for payment.

**Budget**

The Clerk had circulated the first draft budget in advance. Currently the Clerk's advice is to raise the precept by 4%. Councillors were advised to consider projects for 24/25 to ensure funds can be ringfenced. Deadline for 2024 precept is January.

**9. 70/23 Items to take forward to subsequent meeting**

Budget 2<sup>nd</sup> draft.

**10. 71/23 Date of next Meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, Westridge Studio 7:30pm.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Actions from 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Meeting**

Number	Action	Person
	None.	

## County Councillor update

November 2023

### 1. Budget Matters

The County Council is considering how it can balance its budget in the face of central government's reduced and reducing funding of local government. HCC is awaiting the annual settlement announcement from central government, expected mid-December. Meanwhile, Council still has to approve its Medium-Term Funding Strategy for 2024 to 2026, to be decided at Full Council on 9 November. The papers before council show that that between 2024 and 2026, the Council needs to find £90.4 million in savings over the two years, potentially affecting up to around 278 full time equivalent staff. Furthermore, these savings will leave gaps; in the three years from 2023 to 2026, the Council expects to use an average of about £59 million a year from reserves to plug the gaps.

### 2. Update to Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan latest

Over the next two months, an update of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan is set to be considered by each of the five authorities that contribute to the plan (Hampshire County Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and South Downs National Park Authority) to determine whether each authority agrees that further consultation can take place prior to the Plan being submitted to the Government's Planning Inspectorate for examination. HCC's decision will be made on 12 December. Once approved by all authorities, an eight week consultation will be launched in January 2024. The responses to the consultation are then submitted together with the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for scrutiny. The local policies contained within the Plan guide the decisions that each of the five minerals and waste planning authorities make when determining planning applications for minerals extraction or waste infrastructure and operations.

### 3. Consultation on proposed changes to school and post-16 transport

Proposed changes to Hampshire County Council's School and Post-16 Transport Policies are the subject of two public consultations which run until Wednesday 6 December.

The proposals have been made to provide more flexible transport arrangements that better respond to children's needs, whilst bringing services into line with the latest statutory guidance from the DfE. The proposals are not part of a savings programme, and do not include any proposed changes to the eligibility criteria for School and Post-16 Transport.

Details of the proposed changes and links to the consultation can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/Post-16-Transport-Policy-for-2024-25> and <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/schooltransport>

### 4. Useful links for power cuts and flooding

In the aftermath of Storm Ciaran, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks have provided some useful links in the event of future power cuts.

Any loss of supply or damage to the electricity network can report by dialling 105. You can also obtain details of power cuts and restoration times on SSEN's [Power Track Website](#). Their [website](#) also contains advice and information on how to deal with a power cut and there is also a webchat service.

You can read advice online about how to [prepare for flooding](#) and check The Environment Agency web pages for updates relating to [flood alerts](#) for the area.

For assistance in the event of flooding call 0345 988 1188 or text 0345 602 6340.

## 5. Reporting Highway Problems

A reminder of some useful links

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

**Tom Thacker**  
**Hampshire County Councillor**  
**Whitchurch and the Cleres Division**