



West Meon Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE WEST MEON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2018 AT 7.30PM IN WEST MEON VILLAGE HALL.

THOSE PRESENT: Cllr C Waller (Chairman), Cllrs C Adams, C Johnson (Vice-Chair), T Over, G Silk and J Nicholson.

BY INVITATION: County Cllr R Huxstep, City Cllr L Ruffell (until 7:50pm).

APOLOGIES: Cllr A Trenchard.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs R Greenwood (Locum Clerk)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. 1 member of the public, Mr S Telford.

The Chairman recorded support for The Clerk, who was absent due to family illness, and thanked Mrs Greenwood for acting as Locum Clerk for the evening.

Wmpc 1540 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda. None were declared.

Wmpc 1541 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 6th February 2018 were **approved**.

Wmpc 1542 **MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC**

The Chairman opened the meeting to the public and Mr Telford addressed the Parish Council on Footpath 2. The well-used path from Marlands Lane to Doctors Lane was one of the few within the parish boundary to cross the A32. The steep incline to the main road was often muddy. Mr Telford suggested providing a safety barrier up against the carriageway rather than reinstating the existing stile and circulated supporting photographs. Cllr Waller had already asked the HCC Footpath Warden if the Parish Council could erect a barrier or whether permission was required from the Countryside Service. Cllr Over would research whether responsibility lay with the landowner and Cllr Silk would confirm who owned the land to enable Cllr Waller to take the issue further with HCC.

Wmpc 1543 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR R HUXSTEP**

Cllr R Huxstep confirmed that the HCC element of the Council Tax would increase by 5.99% from 5th April 2018: 75% (HCC) / 25% (District, Police, Fire). Full details would be forwarded to The Clerk. The increase in the ageing population would mean greater demand for older age services: the number of 85 year old residents had increased by 1000 per annum. An additional 18,500 school places were needed by 2020. There would be increased expenditure on schools, highways and

provision for more care homes. Improvements at the Winnall roundabout would take several years to complete. Savings of £145M were required to balance the budget. HCC would continue to seek Government approval to charge £1 per visit to Recycling Centres, which could generate £6M per annum, and £10 to issue a concessionary bus pass. It was noted that Hampshire was allocated £100 per head of population (php) per annum compared to £135 php for Nottinghamshire, which equated to an additional £375M.

Cllr Waller queried the new bollards in West Meon High Street which appeared to have been installed without consultation. Two wooden posts had also been installed and subsequently removed. The bollards were inappropriate in the Conservation Area. Residents had asked why the work had been carried out and how much it had cost. Cllr Huxstep offered to establish if the work had been carried out by Highways and whether it was on a trial basis.

Cllr Waller reported that the broken speed limit signs in Church Lane, west of the Primary School, still had not been replaced. The ditches on the A32 south of West Meon and Warnford were full and needed digging out to prevent surface flooding. The milestone on the A32 at the top of the hill below Betty's field had been missing for about two years. It was not known whether the milestone had been removed by Highways or had been stolen. It was **agreed** that Cllr Waller would provide grid references for Cllr Huxstep to make enquiries.

Wmpc 1544 **CITY COUNCILLOR L RUFFELL**

Cllr L Ruffell advised that his report had been sent to The Clerk for circulation. For a Band D property, the WCC Council Tax for 2018/19 would increase from 134.99 to £138.92 (2.9%) ; £87.10 (Social Care), £177.46 (Police) and £65.74 (Fire & Rescue). To address problems experienced by emergency vehicles on call, Cllr Ruffell had met Cllr C Horrill (Leader WCC) to discuss whether unnamed roads and lanes should be named. A questionnaire would be circulated for parishes to consider whether they wished any unnamed roads and lanes to be named. Cllr Ruffell advised that Cllr Thacker had resigned and that there would be a by-election in the Upper Meon Valley on 3rd May. Cllr Ruffell proposed bringing Hugh Lumby, a prospective candidate, to the next meeting and this was accepted on the understanding that Mr Lumby attended as a member of the public.

Wmpc 1545 **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's Report would be presented at the next meeting.

TO RECEIVE WORKING GROUPS

Wmpc 1546 **PLANNING**

No applications had been listed for consideration.

Cllr Waller advised that there would be an update on the Village Design Statement (VDS) at the Annual Parish Meeting (APM).

Wmpc 1547 **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION.**

Finance Budget and Wish List

It was **agreed** to allocate £2000 to the booklet on the Great War.

It was **agreed** to allocate £500 to the green initiative, a specific metal bank for aluminum cans.

It was **agreed** to allocate £250 to additional shelving, flyers etc for West Meon Tourist Information Centre (old phone box).

It was **agreed** to allocate £1000 to a contingency for the Lengthsman in case it became necessary for the Parish Council to make a contribution to ensure the continuation of the scheme.

It was noted that the works to replace fencing and rubber chip surfacing at the Recreation Ground would be completed on 26th March.

Cllr Johnson raised the planting of trees to soften the barrier by the meadow on the approach to West Meon from Warnford. It was suggested that the proposal was included in the VDS work as there might be other areas to consider.

Schedule of Payments agreed.

Date 6th March 2018

Ch 300422	Mr T Hickmore refurbish phone box(included grant of £500 from Cllr R Huxstep)	£1088
Ch 300423	D Heppell salary	

Cllr Waller reported that Mr C Fisher would paint and repair the bus shelter during three month's leave from the Navy. Mr Fisher had also given the Sports Club some heavy duty redundant naval rope. The Parish Council greatly appreciated the voluntary help from Mr Fisher.

Cllr Over had attended a Data Protection Seminar. The Parish Council must appoint a Data Protection Officer and a Data Control Officer. Cllr Over would meet Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Adams to discuss the amendments required and report back to the Parish Council.

Cllr Waller proposed that, as many of the community organisations held separate AGMs which were often poorly attended, their written reports be presented at the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting. This could result in a wider village audience. No verbal reports could be given. Cllr Waller would gauge opinion with an article for the Parish Magazine. There would be five presentations on the VDS in place of a speaker at the APM on Thursday 17th May.

Wmpc 1548 **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION**

Cllr Waller said it was important to ensure that the salt bins were replenished. The need for additional salt bins was discussed. It was **agreed** that Cllr Silk would verify whether a bin had already been provided for Doctors Lane: if not Cllr Waller would request HCC to install a salt bin.

Cllr Waller had reported the incident whereby two schoolchildren passengers for the number 67 bus were stranded by the driver to Stagecoach. One child was injured attempting to board the bus, the other was asthmatic.

Wmpc 1549 **COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND RECREATION**

It was **agreed** that a grant £1500 should be awarded to the Village Shop to increase the cafe seating outside by 50% and to install CCTV, and this would include £300 (one-third) for the proposed Village Entry Sign. The Thomas Lord and Meon Valley Butchers are contributed £600 (two-thirds), the total cost being £900.

It was noted that 60 loaves were stolen during the recent burglary at 3.30 am coinciding with the bread delivery.

It was **agreed** that a grant of £340 should be awarded to West Meon Cricket Club to replace the metal stanchions on the practice net following the recent gales. The facility was well-used by both West Meon and Warnford, especially by young people.

It was noted that the Tennis Club was considering making an application to spray the courts and that Mrs M Dawson was considering making a grant application for the Youth Theatre in 2018/19.

Communities Against Noise and Speed (CANS) was now organised by Mr J Moore. The next meeting on Monday 12th March and would be advertised on the website and "We are West Meon".

Cllr Nicholson invited further contributions to the April issue of Parish News. The following topics were suggested: condition of parish footpaths; grit bins and jobs for the Lengthsman.

Wmpc 1550 **TO RATIFY PAYMENTS MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN SINCE THE DATE OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Chairman suggested that reimbursement of £10 for paint (phone box) be deferred to the next meeting.

Wmpc 1551 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT NEXT MEETING**

Village Design Statement, Grants and Wish List, Annual Parish Meeting. Additional items should be sent to The Clerk.

Wmpc 1552 **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Tuesday 17th April, Tuesday 1st May, Tuesday 5th June, Tuesday 3rd July 2018 and the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 17th May, 2018 all in the Village Hall.

Meeting finished at 8.43 pm

Chairman