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c/o Mrs D Heppell: Email: [clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk](mailto:clerk.westmeon@parish.hants.gov.uk)

**MINUTES OF THE WEST MEON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019 AT 7.30PM IN WEST MEON VILLAGE HALL**

**THOSE PRESENT:** Cllrs C Waller (Chairman), J Nicholson (Vice Chair), Trenchard and C Adams, and G Silk.

**BY INVITATION:** City Cllr L Ruffell, County Cllr R Huxstep and City Cllr L Lumby (until 7:55pm).

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs P Brannon, T Over and N Wortley

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs D Heppell (Clerk).

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 0 members of the public.

Wmpc 1670 **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 1671 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were **approved**.

Wmpc 1672 **MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC**

The Chairman opened the meeting to the public but there were no issues arising. Cllr Waller advised that Cllr Brannon had resigned from the Parish Council and he thanked him for the work he had done over his time at the Parish Council and his input into the VDS.

Wmpc 1673 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR HUXSTEP**

Cllr Huxstep's report had been previously emailed and was received and noted. Cllr Huxstep advised that HCC council tax figures had been agreed with an 2.99% increase, which represents a 70p increase per week in Band D Council tax. There has be an increase in the population of those aged 80 years and this has led to an increase in social care.

HCC advised that they are aiming to retain all bus routes, with some services having a reduced frequency. The Chairman advised that he had received comments that West Meon buses were not running last Tuesday and Thurs and Cllr Huxstep advised he would look into this.

Cllr Huxstep advised that 90% of children had been offered their first choice for secondary school.

HCC are looking for feedback on pothole filling in the village.

Cllr Huxstep advised he would be attending the next Communities Against Noise meeting.

Wmpc 1674 **CITY COUNCILLOR LUMBY**

Cllr Lumby's report which had been previously emailed was received and noted. Cllr Lumby reported that Winchester City Council's Gypsy and Travellers' local plan had been agreed.

Cllr Humby advised that WCC are looking to adopt a new Constitution in May 2019 following the elections.

Cllr Lumby advised that there is a new Handyperson Service offering small repairs and adaptations at a subsidised rate to those who qualify in the Winchester District.

WCC is proposing Council Tax rates for 2019/2020, freezing the tax at this year's level.

The Chairman thanked WCC for resolving the problems with the dormouse tunnel and the re-surfacing works at Heddon View .He also advised that there were problems with condensation/damp at the 7 garages at Long Priors which are owned by WCC. Cllr Lumby agreed he would look into this matter.

Cllr Waller advised that the Lengthsman scheme is working well and that the Parish Council appreciate the work carried out.

Wmpc 1675 **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report had previously been circulated and was noted by the Parish Council.

It was **agreed** that the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) will be on Wed 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 7.00pm in the West Meon Sports Club. It was agreed to ask Mr C Patterson from SDNP to be guest speaker at the meeting.

The Clerk circulated timetables and application forms for the upcoming Parish elections.

Details of the Wicksteed playgrounds quote for wet pour repairs by the swings and around the table tennis table of £2,383.40 were circulated. This was compared to quote of £2,972.00 from Playdale for around the swings. It was **agreed** to proceed with the Wicksteed quote.

**TO RECEIVE WORKING GROUPS**

Wmpc 1676 **PLANNING**

i) It was **agreed** to raise **OBJECTIONS** to the planning application at Halcyon East End West Meon Petersfield Hampshire GU32 1LS. Demolition of existing timber framed garage and erection of new annex and internal alterations for holiday accommodation. SDNP/19/00885/HOUS on the following grounds:

The proposal represents an overdevelopment of the site, in particular it would reduce overall parking spaces for both the current occupiers of the dwelling and the proposed occupiers of the holiday accommodation, resulting in a cramped form of development.

ii) It was **agreed** that the previous comments submitted for the planning application at Lion Hill House, West Meon, would be re-submitted for the appeal lodged at the site.

iii) The Village Design Statement is being edited following comments received from SDNP.

Wmpc 1677 **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

It was agreed that the Listening Post would be held after the election.

The following Parish projects were agreed by the Parish Council,

- a) Outdoor Gym/Keep Fit equipment at the recreation ground.
- b) Re-seeding the recreation ground
- c) Re-grading the hump in the Village Hall car park.
- d) The hedge by the entrance to the car park is to be trimmed.

The Clerk advised that approval is being awaited for the grit bin by the village hall.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would take over the Bob Russell Trust and would award book/media prizes. There are three trustees from the Parish Council and representatives from the Church and School.

News items were **agreed** for the Parish News.

A grant request of £100 was **agreed** to be awarded to Victims Support.

**Schedule of Payments**

**Date 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Ch 300509 WCC Dog Bins	£130.00
Ch 300510 D Heppell salary	
Ch 300511 Reimbursement/ Expenses Clerk	£40.22
Ch 300512 Victims Support	£100.00

Wmpc 1678 **COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND RECREATION**

Details of the Wicksteed playgrounds quote for wet pour repairs by the swings and around the Table Tennis table of £2,383.40 were circulated. This was compared to quote of £2,2972.00 from Playdale for around the swings. It was **agreed** to proceed with the Wicksteed quote.

The Chairman circulated the village shop update.

Wmpc 1679 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING**

Listening post, APM, AGM dates, Grants, Outdoor gym, Village Design Statement, Parish projects, Parish Elections.

Wmpc 1680 **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019, all in the Village Hall.

Meeting finished at 9.14 pm

Chair .....

## Hampshire County Council Divisional Report for West Meon Parish Council

### Hampshire County Council's Council Tax 2019/20.

The council tax requirement for the County Council for the year beginning 1st April 2019, is £634,450,710. This translates to the County Council's band D council tax for the next financial year will be £1,236.87, an increase of 2.99% or about 70p per week. For other Bands they are:

£ Band A 824.58 Band B 962.01 Band C 1,099.44 Band D 1,236.87 Band E 1,511.73 Band F 1,786.59 Band G 2,061.45 Band H 2,473.74

The councils budget setting for 2019/20 has been a big issue for officers and members to grapple with; as it was last year. There is no pleasure to be derived in proposing tax increases, which is why for 5 years from 2010 at the start of the coalition Government we froze the County precept. We are now obliged to adopt increases because we are under a legal requirement to provide our statutory services while keeping a balanced budget.

Above all we have demographic pressures with more children and more elderly people in particular. Much as we love our children and respect and cherish our senior citizens, they are the 2 sections of the community who understandably take more from the economy than they put in. The elderly have paid their taxes so have earned their rights and the children we hope will grow up to make a positive contribution to the economy having been well educated in Hampshire. Last year I reported that there were 1000 extra people attaining the age of 80 every year in Hampshire - that figure now is 2000 extra over the age of 85 and a proportion of them will inevitably turn to the council for assistance with their care needs. Many will not need help, but many will. Added to that there are more young people with complex needs living into adulthood who will need expensive social care but not necessarily medical care. There is also school transport costs at some £30m.

The County Council, like many other Councils, is therefore experiencing huge fiscal pressures and the Leader has made representations to the Prime Minister, corresponded with Treasury ministers and had face to face meetings with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) including the Secretary of State. "The rising pressures on services mean that our planned savings programme needs to deliver £140 million by April this year. Nationally, the number of vulnerable children and adults continues to rise, and Hampshire is no exception. The population of over 75-year olds is set to increase by 30 per cent over the next seven years - an extra 5,500 people a year who may well need social care support, to varying degrees. The number of children in care has increased by 372 (28 per cent) in the last three and a half years alone. While we have robust action plans in place to help contain this increase, especially to avoid the need for a child to come into care, there is no doubt this rise in the number of people needing our help is the biggest pressure the County Council faces."

Alongside the revenue budget, Cabinet approved the capital budget for the coming financial year, and proposals for significant investment in Hampshire's economy, jobs and the quality of the environment, with projects totalling just under £500million over the next three years. Councillor Perry said: "Over the next three years, the County Council will be delivering one of the largest capital programmes of any county council which will see improvements to roads, bridges, walking and cycling infrastructure and school buildings. If we are to sustain Hampshire's quality of place, it is vitally important there is extra provision for roads and schools as we see more housing development, and we are doing our level best to make sure this happens in Hampshire." The capital programme is a very significant investment in Hampshire's infrastructure, delivering schemes totalling £491.6 million between 2019 and 2022 and providing a big boost for the local economy. It will provide:

- £160 million of investment in new and extended school buildings in Hampshire in the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire
- £122 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years
- £72 million for integrated transport schemes including £9 million specifically focused on walking and cycling

improvements • £94 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings over the next three years.

Brexit.

For those of us who still occasionally use the 'B' word it is worth monitoring what the government is saying about the preparations for Brexit itself see: <https://euexit.campaign.gov.uk/>

Public Transport.

Hampshire County Council has again confirmed, following a meeting of the full Council last week, that it is limiting its proposed savings on passenger transport to just over £1million instead of the £4million originally proposed last year. The Authority has also re-stated its commitment to protecting the £0.9million provided for community transport services such as Dial-a-Ride. The Local Authority supports over 80 bus routes across Hampshire that are not commercially viable, and which would not operate without the County Council subsidy. Under the revised proposals 33 will now see no change and a further 40 will continue to operate on the same day as now but with a slightly reduced frequency - with no community that is currently served by a bus service, losing a service altogether. Leader of the County Council, Councillor Roy Perry said: "I'd like to emphasise how carefully we have looked at each and every bus route to minimise the impact of any changes on communities. For elderly people who may no longer be able to drive, a bus service remains very important. I am pleased to note that Hampshire is one of the few parts of the country where bus usage is increasing with bus use close to a 20-year high, and I applaud the bus companies that operate modern, responsive and forward-looking services. I have been pleased to note, for example in my local Romsey Rural Division, the No 66 Service from Romsey to Winchester which at one time was a service at risk now diverts to include the new Abbotswood development. That is good flexibility on the part of the bus company. Robust passenger numbers are the key to sustainable public transport in the future. To help achieve this, we continue to work with the bus operators on improvements such as contactless payments and on-board wi-fi, encouraging more people to try bus travel. In addition, we also continue to press the case to Government that, as important as the Freedom Bus pass is for elderly residents, it would make sense to allow a small token charge to cover the administration costs so that we have more funds to support bus services. A free bus with no bus service is no use at all."

Preferred secondary school choices met for the overwhelming majority.

Over 98 per cent of parents in Hampshire have been offered a place for their child, at one their preferred choices for a secondary school, by Hampshire County Council. Of those who applied, by the deadline, for a Year 7 place for September 2019, more than 92 per cent have been offered a place at their first-choice school.

Councillor Stephen Reid, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Education and Skills, Human Resources and Performance, said: "I am pleased to see that once again we have been able to offer a very high number of pupils a place at one of their preferred secondary school choices. Given the size of the county and increasing demand for school places, this is a significant achievement. Although pupil numbers continue to rise, we can assure parents that our investment in schools to provide the additional places needed is keeping pace, thanks to our strong track record in planning for the future. I fully appreciate that there will be some disappointment for those parents who did not secure a place at one of their chosen schools, but every child whose parents applied for a place at a Hampshire secondary school, has been offered one. Over 90 per cent of Hampshire schools are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted and there are always individual schools with exceptionally high demand, which is a credit to the high standard of teaching at these schools." The County Council received 14,351 on-time applications this year – an increase of 370 applications compared to the number received for places in September 2018. Pupils who did not secure a place at one of their chosen schools have been allocated a place at a school near to where they live, with available spaces. Parents have the right to appeal in these situations and their child's name will be added to the waiting list for their preferred schools. Places do become available if parents change their mind, or

families move home. The admissions team is now busy processing primary school applications with offers due to go out to parents on 16 April 2019.

Cllr Roger Huxstep

Member for Meon Valley Division 5th March 2019

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West Meon Parish Council Winchester City Councillor Report March 2019

1. Planning update  
Two workshop sessions with parish councils are proposed for 12th / 13th March. This is to discuss local plan and development management issues. This will include an opportunity to discuss whether settlement boundaries need updating. Let Kate Evans know if you would like to attend. The Call for Sites consultation will close on 8 March. This call for sites has no minimum site size threshold. If you have any sites to submit you can do this by following this link. Please note: even if you have previously submitted a site then you will need to resubmit this year for it to be included. The Council will not be carrying forward any sites from previous years, and all sites need to be submitted to be assessed for the 2019 Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment. The Gypsy and Traveller DPD has now been adopted following Winchester City Council's meeting on 28th February. There are no identified sites within the Parish.

2. New Leisure Centre approved  
Further hurdles for the proposed new leisure centre at Bar End have been cleared with the full base case approved by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Planning permission has now been obtained, Willmott Dixon appointed as building contractor and Everyone Active selected as operator. Everyone Active have been named Swim England's Operator of the Year for the last two years and run 150 facilities nationally. Funding was approved at the council meeting on 28th February. The new facility will be developed with financial support from Hampshire County Council, the Pinder Trust, and the University of Winchester. The new leisure centre, with eight courts and a 50m pool as well as extensive other facilities, is designed to serve the entire district. With the new location at Bar End, access will be much easier from the Upper Meon Valley ward. It is due to open in 2021. In addition, a new four court sports centre is separately being proposed to serve the Southern Parishes. The new centre will take the place of the existing River Park Leisure Centre. The council is now considering new uses for that site. A public engagement event to discuss this is being held on Friday 22nd March from 3pm to 7pm and on Saturday 23rd March from 10am to 4pm; this will be held in a marquee on North Walls Recreation Ground.

3. District litter clean up  
The city council has pledged its support for this year's Great British Spring Clean, run by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. The Great British Spring Clean brings together individuals, community organisations, businesses and councils to make a difference to the environment on our doorstep. The campaign runs from March 22 to April 23, and the council is urging groups to get out in the district and help clean up roads and community green spaces. The council, along with its street care contractors, will be assisting local parishes and litter picking groups by providing free high-visibility jackets, litter picks and black bags which they will collect after the event. To find out more about how to get involved call 01962 672 442 or email Corinne Harris at idverde before March 8 2019.

4. Winchester City Council - Code of Conduct  
The Localism Act 2011 requires all local authorities to adopt a code of conduct setting out the standards of behaviour expected from local councillors. The Council is looking to adopt a new Constitution in May 2019 and as part of this work, it is also currently reviewing its Member Code of Conduct. Each Parish Council must also adopt a code of conduct. It may not be exactly the same as the Winchester City Council code (as the principal Council), but once completed, Parish Clerks will be advised of the new Winchester City Council Code and local councils invited to adopt this as a model for its own Code.

5. Handyperson Scheme  
The Handyperson Service offers small repairs and adaptations at a subsidised rate to those who qualify in the Winchester District. It offers small repairs and adaptations at a subsidised rate to those who qualify in the Winchester District. In order to qualify to use the service clients need to be either over 60 years of age, living with a disability or both. The scheme is open to Winchester City Council tenants, housing association tenants, homeowners and private tenants. The Parish Council may wish to draw this to the attention of qualifying residents. The hourly rate charged is :•£9.60 + VAT for clients in receipt of means tested benefits •£18.00 + VAT for other clients. If you have any questions regarding the service please contact Rhiannon Riley on 01962 848 455.

6. Tenants satisfaction survey 2019  
Winchester City Council is carrying out its biennial tenant's satisfaction survey in March and April. The council will use this survey to find out what service

improvements are important to tenants. The survey will be carried out by an independent company. All information supplied will be strictly confidential and used in a statistical format only.

7. Council tax freeze approved Winchester City Council is proposing no increase in its share of the Council Tax for 2019/2020, freezing the tax at this year's level. This was approved at the council meeting on 28th February. The Council Tax also includes elements for Hampshire County Council, the Police and the parish precept, all of which may be subject to separate increase.