

MINUTES of the MEETING of WONSTON PARISH COUNCIL (WPC)
Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th February 2025 in the Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney

Present: Cllr Pauline Maunder (Chairman), Cllr Rob Parker, Cllr Kevin Maunder, Cllr Andrew Porteous, Cllr Georgina Tibbetts.
In attendance: HCCllr Jackie Porter, WCCllr Stephen Godfrey.
Public: Richard Solomons (Gratton Trust), Bob Brewer.
Clerk: Jocelyn Jenkins

2349	1.1	Apologies for Absence Cllr Judith Polak, Cllr David Price, WCCllr Caroline Horrill.	Closed	
2350	1.2	Any Declarations of Interest to be declared/dispensations agreed. No interests were declared in respect of matters on the agenda.	Closed	
2351	1.3	Minutes of the meeting of 15 th January 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.	Closed	
2352	1.4	Co-option A resident has expressed an interest in being co-opted but could not attend this meeting and will attend the March meeting.		
	2	<u>Reports – the meeting adjourned during reports.</u>		
	2.1	The Public: No reports.		
	2.2	Report from HCCllr Jackie Porter: HCCllr Porter provided a written report (Appendix 1). She also noted that Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight have received approval to have a strategic mayor. This will be followed by a reorganisation of local government with a first proposal due by the end of March 2025. Jackie noted that she spoke at the Minerals and Waste review to raise issues around HGVs on rural roads and the need to review licences which were issued many years ago when HGVs were much smaller.		
	2.3	Report from WCCllr Stephen Godfrey: WCCllr Godfrey noted that devolution and local government re-organisation is taking up a lot of time at both the County and City Councils. He commented that parishes may inherit responsibilities as other authorities cease to exist and that the City Council will be drawing up a list of assets, some of which may be transferred to parishes. The proposed unitary authorities would be larger than WCC but there will be nothing between these and parishes. He also remarked that some parishes may be too small to manage their responsibilities and might need to consider combining. The City Councillors have invited parish councillors in their ward to an on-line briefing session on 19 th February. The City Council is proposing to raise Council Tax by 2.7%. A consultation has started on the Local Enforcement Plan and runs until 20 th March. Following the independent review, it is expected that the Local Plan will be accepted by the end of the year. The next plan needs to be started during this year and it is hoped that it will be completed by 2028. WCCllr Godfrey noted the need to maintain the Local Plan regardless of local government reorganisation. The City Councillors visited the waste recycling facility at Three Maids Hill. Energy output is due to commence in March. Local concerns about air quality and potential odour were raised and assurances were received that monitoring will be undertaken.		
		The meeting resumed after reports.		
2353	3	<u>Correspondence received by the Clerk since the last meeting</u>		
		The Council discussed and agreed actions for the following issues:		
2353.1	3.1	Holy Trinity, Wonston – Grass cutting costs have increased (11%) and request made to increase the grant towards grass cutting for 2025/26. It was agreed to increase the grant to £900 (12.5% increase).	Closed	
2353.2	3.2	Community & Pop Up Cafes – Request for a grant to purchase a new outdoor sign to advertise the cafes. It was agreed to make a grant of £80 to replace the sign.	Closed	
2353.3	3.3	Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards 2025 – Details of how to nominate an individual for an award will be circulated to all councillors.	Closed	
2353.4	3.4	Gwen Manners Bench (Bogmoor) - An employee of Clancy (the contractor for Southern Water) has offered to restore the bench. Further details have been sought.	Clerk	
		<u>Matters arising from the minutes of 15th January 2025.</u> The Council discussed updates and agreed actions for the following issues:		
2354	4	<u>General Matters</u>		
2354.1	2343.1	Gratton Trust – <u>Lease and sub-lease</u> It was agreed to accept the draft Deed of Variation. <u>Security of the Gratton</u> A new single height barrier (as at the Victoria Hall car park) is to be installed as this is more cost effective than adding a shroud to the current barrier.		

		<u>Request to spread ashes at the Gratton</u> It was agreed to grant permission for this request. <u>Sub-lease re signage</u> It was agreed that the Gratton Trust should be able to approve a wider range of signage than allowed in the current draft sub-lease. The Trust will approach their solicitor to discuss a relaxation in the signage clauses. <u>Wall at the pavilion</u> Quotes have been obtained to repair the damaged area of the wall. It was agreed that payment could be made through the Parish Council.																						
2354.2	2343.2	Emergency & Flood Plans – No further flood warning has been issued by the Environment Agency but the water table remains high.			KM/ Clerk																			
2354.3	2343.3	Village Greening Campaign/WeCan/Declaration of a Climate Emergency – Air Quality Monitoring A date for the meeting at South Wonston is awaited.																						
2355	5	PLAY AREAS Council discussed and agreed actions for the following:																						
2355.1	2344.1	Stoke Charity/Hunton Play Area (STCH&H) – Monthly Inspection Two quotes to replace the gates were considered. To replace the two large gates and small pedestrian gate, AVA quoted £2155 whilst CDC quoted £2255. It was agreed to replace only the large entrance gate and pedestrian gate and to accept the quote of £1375 from AVA. In addition AVA will be asked to quote for re-instatement of the fence behind the slide and the removal of 2 or 3 of the rotten wooden steps. The Lengthsman will be asked to remove the tree leaning over the Sky Flier.			Clerk																			
2355.2	2344.2	Pigeonhouse Yard (PHY) Play Area – No new issues have been identified. <u>Soakaway</u> – No further communications have been received from the agent.			Clerk																			
2356	6	HIGHWAYS ISSUES - FOOTPATHS, GRIT BINS etc Council discussed updates and agreed actions for the following:																						
2356.1	2345.1	Footpath 7 Access – HCCllr Porter is seeking clarification on the grant refusal for the new accessible gate. A resident has supplied images of the previous gate and stile.																						
2356.2	2345.2	Footpaths & Bridleways – Councillor Polak is to attend a Micheldever ROW volunteer day. Following this plans will be considered for a similar day in Wonston Parish. Notification has been received of a temporary closure extension for Footpath 24 to enable bridge repair works to take place.																						
2356.3	2345.3	Noticeboards – Dryer weather will be needed in order to undertake repairs on the noticeboards.																						
2356.4	2345.4	SID – The devices have been in Egypt and at Gratton Close during January and will be on Old Stoke Road and opposite Holy Trinity, Wonston, in February.																						
2356.5	2345.5	Oxford Road Gateways – An update on when the scheduled work will be undertaken is awaited from HCC.																						
2357	7	PLANNING																						
		New applications detailed below were considered and agreed as follows:																						
2357.1	732	Sutton Manor, Stockbridge Road, Sutton Scotney.	Common beech with fungal fruiting body to be felled.	25/00276/TPC No comment																				
2357.2	733	Sutton Manor, Stockbridge Road, Sutton Scotney.	Common beech with fungal fruiting bodies and significant die back to be removed.	25/00269/TPC No comment																				
2357.3	2346.2	Winchester Local Plan – The independent inspection of the Plan is awaited. See also 2.3 above.																						
2357.4	2346.3	Village Design Statement – The draft VDS is currently being written up.																						
2358	8	ACCOUNTS/AUDIT																						
2358.1	2347.1	Balances: As at 31/01/25 General Reserves are £64,655.73 but after Earmarked Reserves of £61,177.58 are £3478.15. Payments for February (detailed below) totalling £3544.06 were agreed by the Council.			Closed																			
		<table><tr><td>Richard Gough Gardens & Landscapes</td><td>Installation of bollards at Gratton</td><td>230.40</td></tr><tr><td>CDC Buildings Ltd</td><td>Access and height barriers</td><td>2016.63</td></tr><tr><td>Hants Pension Fund</td><td>January pension contributions</td><td>290.32</td></tr><tr><td>Jocelyn Jenkins</td><td>January expenses</td><td>109.91</td></tr><tr><td>Jocelyn Jenkins</td><td>February salary</td><td>896.80</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td><u>3544.06</u></td></tr></table>			Richard Gough Gardens & Landscapes	Installation of bollards at Gratton	230.40	CDC Buildings Ltd	Access and height barriers	2016.63	Hants Pension Fund	January pension contributions	290.32	Jocelyn Jenkins	January expenses	109.91	Jocelyn Jenkins	February salary	896.80			<u>3544.06</u>		
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2358.2	2347.2	NALC Model Financial Regulations 2024 A draft of the updated regulations will be circulated before the March meeting. Options to improve the security of BACs payment will be included for discussion.																						
2359	9	Other Council Matters																						
2359.1	2348.1	Publicity & Communications – <u>West Dever News item</u> – ROW day and Parish Assembly. <u>Website</u> – It was agreed to subscribe to the planning tracker (at £10/month) when the current free trial ends.																						
2359.2	2348.2	Risk Management – See 2355.1 above re issues at Stoke Charity play area.																						

		The Clerk is attending a virtual training session on 'Risk Management for Parish Councils'.		
9.05pm		Next meeting – Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7.30pm in the meeting room of the Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney.		
Signed: Chairman dated.....				