

**MINUTES of the MEETING of WONSTON PARISH COUNCIL (WPC)**  
**Held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in the Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney**

Present: Cllr Pauline Maunder (Chairman), Cllr Rob Parker, Cllr Kevin Maunder, Cllr Georgina Tibbets,  
Cllr David Price, Cllr Andrew Porteous.  
In attendance: HCCllr Jackie Porter, WCCllr Stephen Godfrey.  
Public: Benn Hitchen (Chair of the Gratton Trust) and two others.  
Clerk: Jocelyn Jenkins

2316	1.1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Cllr Judy Polak, WCCllr Caroline Horrill.	Closed	
2317	1.2	<b>Any Declarations of Interest to be declared/dispensations agreed.</b> Cllr Porteous declared an interest in the Gratton (Trustee), Cllr Tibbets declared an interest in planning application 729 (tree).	Closed	
2318	1.3	<b>Minutes of the</b> meeting of 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 were <b>agreed</b> and signed by the Chairman.	Closed	
2319	1.4	<b>Co-option</b> No candidates for co-option attended the meeting.		
	2	<b><u>Reports – the meeting adjourned during reports.</u></b>		
	2.1	<b>The Public:</b> <u>Ben Hitchen, Chair of the Gratton Trust</u> Ben advised that the Gratton insurance does not cover the removal of the green waste left by the travellers. Hiring a chipper is not considered practical and further quotes will therefore be sought to have the waste chipped professionally. Following the traveller incursion, security has been reviewed and the wooden five bar gate is to be replaced with a steel gate which will have a covered lock. A cover will also be installed over the lock on the height barrier. See 2321.1 below re the Gratton sub-lease.		
	2.2	<b>Report from HCCllr Jackie Porter:</b> HCCllr Porter provided a written report (appendix 1) which noted consultations on the NHS 10 Year Plan and Barriers to Walking and Cycling <a href="http://www.hants.gov.uk/barriers-walking-cycling">www.hants.gov.uk/barriers-walking-cycling</a> . HCCllr Porter also drew attention to the HCC budget deficit and noted that she anticipates that the M3 Junction 9 works will lead to issues on local roads.		
	2.3	<b>Report from WCCllr Stephen Godfrey:</b> WCCllr Godfrey noted that the Local Plan Regulation 22 starts this week with the submission of the Plan for independent inspection. Although the budget deferred reductions in funding for another year there is continued uncertainty over funding for local government and planning for savings continues. An English Devolution white paper is to be published this month and will mention local government reorganisation by reducing the tiers of local government. There are significant financial challenges for all tiers of government. Dry weather has meant that ground water levels have not increased but they remain higher than in an average year. HCC are applying to extend the age range for South Wonston School to include 2,3 and 4 year olds.		
		The meeting resumed after reports.		
2320	3	<b><u>Correspondence received by the Clerk since the last meeting</u></b>		
		The Council discussed and agreed actions for the following issues:		
2320.1	3.1	<b>War Memorial</b> The RBL Women's Section have requested permission to arrange a cascade of poppies from the War Memorial for VE Day 2025. It was <b>agreed</b> to give permission subject to an appropriate risk assessment being undertaken and there being no permanent change made to the War Memorial which is a listed monument.	Closed	
2320.2	3.2	<b>National Highways, A34 diversion</b> A response has been received from National Highways following the failure of vehicles to follow the diversion in place at the end of October. Details on how residents can contact National Highways have included in the West Dever News item for December.	Closed	
2320.3	3.3	<b>WCC Parish Liaison Briefing 21<sup>st</sup> November</b> Agenda to include budget and playing field strategy. Noted.	Closed	
2320.4	3.4	<b>National consultation on remote attendance and proxy voting at council meetings</b> Details to be circulated to all councillors.	Closed	
2320.5	3.5	<b>Hampshire ALC County Forum, 28<sup>th</sup> November</b> To include speakers on 'Communicating risk to the public' and 'Flood & Water Management Toolkit'. Cllr Kevin Maunder to seek to attend if possible.	Closed	

		<b>Matters arising from the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024.</b>																						
		The Council discussed updates and agreed actions for the following issues:																						
2321	4	<b><u>General Matters</u></b>																						
2321.1	2310.1	<b>Gratton Trust</b> – The proposed sub-lease, between the Gratton Trust and a commercial tenant, was discussed. This included a discussion of the finances of the Trust and assurances that this would not lead to a reduction in community events at the Gratton. It was noted that the current lease between the Parish Council and the Gratton Trust does not allow for use by a dog groomer and would require amendment. It was <b>agreed</b> that the Parish Council would proceed with amending the lease subject to the Gratton Trust having an appropriate sub-lease drawn up which would include the Trust retaining all responsibility for their sub-tenant, the Parish Council being able to hold the Trust responsible for any breaches and the sub lease to become void in the event of the Trust ceasing to be viable.																						
2321.2	2310.2	<b>Emergency &amp; Flood Plans</b> – HCCllr Porter advised that she had received notice that the Bogmoor sump would be cleared in March but has queried this as it needs doing now.			KM/ Clerk																			
2321.3	2310.3	<b>Village Greening Campaign/WeCan/Declaration of a Climate Emergency</b> – No new matters were identified for consideration this month.																						
2322	5	<b><u>PLAY AREAS</u></b>																						
		Council discussed and agreed actions for the following:																						
2322.1	2311.1	<b>Stoke Charity/Hunton Play Area (STCH&amp;H) – Monthly Inspection</b> AVA Recreation have supplied quotes to change the wooden gates, which no longer close properly, for metal ones. The preferred option is for metal gates to replace the vehicle and pedestrian gates at the access. It was not considered necessary to replace the gate to the football field at this time. In view of the cost involved, a second quote will be sought.			Clerk																			
2322.2	2311.2	<b>Pigeonhouse Yard (PHY) Play Area</b> – No new issues have been identified. Soakaway – No further communications have been received from the agent.			Clerk																			
2323	6	<b><u>HIGHWAYS ISSUES - FOOTPATHS, GRIT BINS etc</u></b>																						
		Council discussed updates and agreed actions for the following:																						
2323.1	2312.1	<b>Footpath 7 Access</b> – 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.																						
2323.2	2312.2	<b>Footpaths &amp; Bridleways</b> – Cllr Polak attended a meeting with HCC Countryside Services about starting a Rights of Way Volunteer Group in the Parish. It was <b>agreed</b> that the Parish Council would seek to assist in establishing the group by checking if they could be covered by the Parish Council insurance and providing grant support for initial expenses.																						
2323.3	2312.3	<b>Noticeboards</b> – Drier weather will be needed in order to undertake repairs on the noticeboards.																						
2323.4	2312.4	<b>SID</b> – Both devices are now operating in the Parish.																						
2323.5	2312.5	<b>Oxford Road Gateways</b> – It was <b>agreed</b> that HCC should be asked to move forward with the gateway project.																						
2324	7	<b><u>PLANNING</u></b>																						
		New applications detailed below were considered and agreed as follows:																						
2324.1	729	The Old Rectory, Weston Down Road, Stoke Charity.	Chinese bee tree to fell (dead from honey fungus).	<b>24/02398/TPC</b> <b>No comment</b>																				
2324.2	2313.2	<b>Winchester Local Plan</b> – The independent inspection of the plan is awaited.																						
2324.3	2313.3	<b>Village Design Statement</b> – The draft VDS is currently being written up.																						
2325	8	<b><u>ACCOUNTS/AUDIT</u></b>																						
2325.1	2314.1	<b>Balances:</b> As at 31/10/24 General Reserves are £70,723.17 but after Earmarked Reserves of £63,940.75 are £6782.42. Payments for November (detailed below) totalling £2216.83 were agreed by the Council.			Closed																			
		<table><tr><td>Grass &amp; Grounds Ltd</td><td>September grass cutting</td><td>339.82</td></tr><tr><td>Victoria Hall</td><td>Rental (PC £149.50, grants £491)</td><td>640.50</td></tr><tr><td>Hants Pension Fund</td><td>October pension contributions</td><td>280.03</td></tr><tr><td>Jocelyn Jenkins</td><td>October expenses</td><td>85.89</td></tr><tr><td>Jocelyn Jenkins</td><td>November salary</td><td>870.59</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td><u>2216.83</u></td></tr></table>			Grass & Grounds Ltd	September grass cutting	339.82	Victoria Hall	Rental (PC £149.50, grants £491)	640.50	Hants Pension Fund	October pension contributions	280.03	Jocelyn Jenkins	October expenses	85.89	Jocelyn Jenkins	November salary	870.59			<u>2216.83</u>		
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2325.2	2314.2	<b>NALC Model Financial Regulations 2024</b> Carried forward to the December meeting.																						
2325.3	New	<b>Local Government Pay Agreement</b> It was <b>agreed</b> to accept the pay agreement which is backdated to April 2024. Arrears to be paid with December salary.																						
2325.4	New	<b>2025/2026 Budget and Precept</b> The budget was considered and it was <b>agreed</b> to increase the precept by 5% to £40,000 per annum to cover increased costs.																						
2326	9	<b><u>Other Council Matters</u></b>																						
2326.1	2315.1	<b>Publicity &amp; Communications</b> – <u>West Dever News item</u> – ROW group. <u>Website</u> New domain to be applied for.																						

2326.2	2315.2	<b>Risk Management</b> – It was noted that some councils use a PO box address rather than the Clerk's home as their correspondence address. The personal security of staff and councillors will be further considered at the December meeting.		
9.30pm		<b>Next meeting – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.30pm in the meeting room of the Victoria Hall, Sutton Scotney.</b>		
Signed: Chairman ..... dated.....				