

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 16 MARCH 2026 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr Meyrick Williams (Chairman), Cllr Cepta Hamm, Cllr Richard Milnes-James
and Cllr Kate Stewart (Winchfield Parish Council – WPC)

16 Members of the public

Litter Pick Co-ordinator

Cllr Tim Davies, Hampshire County Council (HCC) (until 7.35pm)

Mrs Alison Ball (Clerk)

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Louise Hodgetts (WPC), Cllrs Anne Crampton, Tim Southern and Spencer Farmer, Hart District Council (HDC); members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Footpaths Warden.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS
UNDER S33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011**

Cllr Stewart declared an interest in Agenda Item 18.2, Land North of Winchfield Court, as a close neighbour to the site.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26 January 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.

5 MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman confirmed that a new application to list the Barley Mow and adjacent ‘cricket’ field as assets of community value had been submitted to HDC. A response was awaited.

6 HART DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The Chairman advised that he had moved this item up the agenda as he understood many of those in attendance were particularly interested in this item and they were free to leave, should they wish, on the conclusion of this item.

The Chairman gave a presentation advising the following:

HDC Local Plan Update March 2026

- The HDC Cabinet had made the decision to delay the commencement of the project to update the Local Plan;
- The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government had not yet set out the new procedures for Local Plans;
- HDC had appointed AECOM as the consultants to manage and support the project;

- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation was due to end in March and this was not just a refresh but a radical restructure.

HDC Call for Sites

- HDC needed to find sites for 15,000 houses over 20 years;
- The 'call for sites' closed formally on 4 January but not enough sites were offered so this remained open;
- There was a question whether the likes of 'Shapley Heath' would return;
- WPC would be looking to get clarity on what sites had been put forward as soon as possible, this was expected to be in the March to May timeframe;
- All were encouraged to keep an eye on the HDC Local Plan webpage for updates and the most recent information.

NPPF Key Issues

- The Strategic Planning Authorities would be responsible for the Spatial Development Strategy;
- There would be a permanent presumption in favour of suitably located development;
- Building homes around stations – a 'default yes' for proposals that developed land around rail stations within existing settlements at a minimum density of 40 dwellings per hectare;
- Driving urban and suburban densification;
- Support for rural social and affordable housing;
- Support for small and medium sites;
- Payments into a nature restoration levy as an alternative to appropriate assessment;
- Concept of Valued Landscapes - absent;
- A more positive approach to heritage assets.

The Chairman advised that bullet points two, three, seven and eight could prove to cause particular issues for Winchfield.

At the meeting a map was displayed showing all areas within 800 metres of the railway station in Winchfield where development might be supported under the new rules.

WPC Update

- Consultants had been appointed and initial meetings held, with site visits planned for late March;
- Troy Planning had been appointed to assist the Parish Council with planning policy and drafting representations and Stone and Meadow had been appointed to assist with landscape and heritage issues.

WPC Objectives re HDC Local Plan

- To ensure that the revised Local Plan was based on a thorough and balanced assessment of all sustainable options;
- To focus and prioritise on a strategy of brownfield first and the intensification of settlements;
- To ensure preservation of the heritage, key landscape, biodiversity, SSSI sites and ancient woodlands in Winchfield;
- To ensure that dwellings proposed for Winchfield met the design criteria specified in the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan;
- To ensure that appropriate levels of infrastructure and services (such as schools and doctor surgeries) were defined in advance of any significant settlement and delivered early;
- That full consideration be given to the physical constraints and limitations in and around Winchfield;

- That WPC would be engaged with HDC and any developer in an early dialogue regarding Section 106 contributions;
- To engage and partner with neighbouring villages to formulate a coordinated responses to proposals.

Pegasus Group Consultation on behalf of Lightwood Land

- Letters had been distributed in Winchfield but not all villagers had received one directly;
- A proposal for a new village of 2200 homes at Murrell Green, about one third of the site would be in Winchfield;
- Public consultation being undertaken on 24 March at Hook Community Centre;
- Comments by 9 April with full details on the webpage www.murrellgreenconsultation.co.uk
- A planning application to HDC would follow.

At the meeting plans were displayed that had been taken from the website above which showed the layout of the proposed development, the landscape constraints and the traffic plan.

Letter from Alex Brewer MP to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning

- Alex Brewer MP had sent a letter to the Minister of State for Housing and Planning pointing out that starting the new local plan process triggered the new housing numbers to take effect immediately and, therefore, tip the balance of approval in favour of development before a new local plan could be implemented. This left the Council with at least two years of unprotected time during which many inappropriate developments could be pushed through on appeal. The legal changes required for councils to progress their local plans had not been made, thereby holding up the process for councils which were keen to finalise this quickly;
- The letter set out questions that the MP was seeking answers to.

WPC Response to the Murrell Green Proposal

- Discussions in hand with Hook PC, Hartley Wintney PC and Odiham PC;
- WPC to meet with Lightwood in late March to gather facts only;
- WPC meeting with consultants during site visit on 27 March;
- WPC website would be kept up to date;
- Public were encouraged to attend the public consultation in Hook on 24 March and to respond putting forward views;
- WPC to decide whether to respond to the consultation or to wait until a formal planning application had been submitted to HDC.

The Chairman opened the meeting to questions and comments from the public. Issues raised included many residents not receiving the consultation letter from Pegasus Group directly, ownership of the land involved, the ability of the railway station to cope with increased numbers and whether the Murrell Green proposals would be the start of further large scale development. The Chairman responded by advising that there were still lots of unknowns at the current time and he would work to get answers. The Parish Council website would be kept up-to-date with all information.

(NOTE: On the conclusion of this item three members of the public left the meeting.)

- 7 HAMPSHIRE DEVOLUTION & LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**
 Cllr Davies addressed the meeting advising that the future structure of local government in Hampshire would be announced during the current week. There were two main

proposals. The first combined Basingstoke, Rushmoor and Hart and the second combined those same authorities with the addition of East Hampshire and Winchester. The first option was preferred by HDC and the second by HCC.

As Cllr Davies needed to leave the meeting to attend a meeting at another parish council the Chairman allowed him to give the following additional updates:

- Engineers would be returning to Station Road to carry out works to help alleviate the flooding; and
- There was a recent briefing about buses in the local area and Cllr Davies had requested a current service incorporate a stop at Winchfield railway station. He felt it unlikely that this would happen but he had asked on the off chance it could be achieved.

In response to a member of the public raising concerns about the quality of pot hole repairs, the Chairman advised that he would raise this with Hampshire Highways.

(NOTE: Cllr Davies left the meeting on the conclusion of this item.)

8 HIGHWAYS REPORT

8.1 Updates from HCC Highways:

The Chairman advised that the Assistant Highways Manager had met with Cllr Hamm to look at the flooding on Station Road. He had advised that installing a new road side gully and piping it into the ditch opposite Milford Cottage would not be possible due to the ground levels. A level survey undertaken in early January had confirmed that there was only a 300mm difference in level between the road surface and the base of the ditch opposite which made it not suitable to accommodate a new gully. He had however identified a pipe in the verge outside Milford Cottage which had previously fed the ditch in front of Four Seasons but was now broken and not functioning. He would raise an order for the coming financial year to find the pipe and reinstate it in the hope that this would mitigate future flooding on the highway.

8.2 Flooding on the Highway

Prior to the meeting Cllr Hodgetts had advised that she had seen numerous drainage vehicles on the B3016 but this had been having little impact on the flooding under the motorway bridge or by Old Potbridge Road.

The Chairman asked members of the public to take pictures of flooding and send them to the Parish Council as this information was being gathered as evidence of the extensive and ongoing flooding issues across the parish.

8.3 Update on the Barley Mow Junction

Prior to the meeting Cllr Hodgetts had confirmed that there was nothing new to update on this but she had been in touch with the HCC officer that had been assigned to the project and he had confirmed that it was on his to-do list.

8.4 B3016/ Accidents

Prior to the meeting Cllr Hodgetts advised that another accident had taken place on the B3016 which had been reported to HCC. On 19 February a van had left the carriageway outside the pet crematorium and overturned, it was thought the likely cause was driver error or speed related.

An update had been received from HCC on the speed reduction project which had advised

that following the initial speed surveys along the route and internal agreement on the proposals, the Police had confirmed their support for introducing the new speed limit. The team at HCC were preparing the legal documents needed for consultation with the county councillors. Assuming the councillors were satisfied with the proposals, the team would then begin the public consultation stage and share the details with the Parish Council for comments. At the current time, the details of the proposal were unknown. A request had been made for a reduction to 40mph across the whole stretch of the B3016 within Winchfield, but it was unclear at this stage if this was being considered or if it was a different proposal.

9 FOOTPATHS REPORT

The Chairman advised that the Footpaths Warden had confirmed that there was nothing of note happening on the footpaths. Prior to the meeting Cllr Hodgetts had reported that the fingerpost on the B3016 for footpath 2 needed replacing and the Chairman noted that there were further fingerposts on footpaths 1 and 14 that needed attention.

A member of the public advised that the Baseleys bridge on footpath 10 had been fenced off as it was very dangerous and she suggested that children needed to be kept away from this area. The Chairman agreed to try to find out what was happening with regard to repairs.

10 NEWSLETTER

Planning for the next newsletter was in the early stages and submissions from members of the public were welcomed. It was hoped that the next edition would be distributed in early May.

11 NEW BENCHES AND INFORMATION BOARDS

Cllr Stewart advised that the remaining s106 funds were enough to purchase two new benches. She was looking at possible locations for these benches.

12 LITTER PICK

The Litter Pick Co-ordinator confirmed that the autumn litter pick had taken place on 8 March with 26 volunteers in attendance. They had collected 42 bags of litter and some instances of fly tipping had been identified and reported to HDC. The next event would be in the autumn. She thanked all the volunteers.

The Chairman thanked the Litter Pick Co-ordinator and her team of volunteers.

13 UPDATE ON THE SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

Prior to the meeting Cllr Hodgetts had put together some slides, which were displayed at the meeting. These slides set out a summary of the statistics downloaded from the SID at the Barley Mow including that the average speed of vehicles passing this SID was 26.76 mph, the 85th percentile was 32.1 mph, with the highest speed recorded at 9.45pm on Friday 13th February as 50mph.

At the last Parish Council meeting a member of the public had suggested that a comparison be made of the traffic volumes over the years to see how much traffic had increased within the village. Cllr Hodgetts had gathered this information and it was displayed at the meeting. The data set was limited but it clearly showed that volume of traffic had significantly increased since 2022. Overall traffic volumes had increased from 17,100 in 2022/23 to 20,006 in 2025/26.

With regard to speeds the news was more positive with average speeds having dropped about 4–5 mph from 2022/23 to 2025/26. The 85th percentile speed (the speed most drivers

feel comfortable traveling under) was also dropping with drivers generally traveling 3–4 mph slower.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Hodgetts had confirmed that there had been some technical difficulties downloading the data from the new SID on Station Road as the Bluetooth would not connect. This was being followed up with the manufacturer and in the meantime the SID would continue to capture the data so nothing would be lost. In addition the new SID had been capturing speeds of upwards of 76/78mph as it was managing to catch the fast trains going past the station. The SID had been turned slightly to see if that would stop it capturing the trains but if not a small blinker device to limit the peripheral view of the SID would be tested.

14 UPDATE ON THE DEFIBRILLATORS

The Chairman thanked the guardians for continuing to check all the defibrillators on a regular basis. He was happy to report that none of the defibs had been used since the last meeting.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Hodgetts had advised that CPR and Defib training had been scheduled for Monday 23rd March at 6pm in the village hall. Anyone who wished to attend was advised to get in touch with the Clerk and it was noted that this training was fully funded by the Parish Council and therefore free for residents. Despite posters being put up around the area only six places out of 20 available had been booked so all were encouraged to advertise the event to friends and neighbours.

15 S106 MONEY

Cllr Milnes-James reminded those present that at the last meeting the Parish Council had supported an application by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for funding for the installation of a composting loo at St Mary's Church. This application had been approved by HDC and the funds would be released once approval for the project had been received from the Diocese of Winchester and planning permission had been granted by HDC.

This approval meant that there was approximately £900 of unallocated funds remaining in the s106 pot. This was fantastic news because if not spent by the summer the money may have been returned to the developer. This remaining fund was enough for two more benches and Cllr Stewart was looking for suitable locations for these benches.

16 EVENTS

Cllr Hamm reported that there would be two Easter Events in the village, one run by the Ark Sunday School and the other at the Winchfield Inn. Requests for small grants to help with the costs of these events had been received and appeared later on the agenda for consideration.

Plans were ongoing for a Winchfield Village Fete, being run as part of the Winchfield Festival, on 20 June. It would be a family event with lots of games and activities for all ages and abilities to take part in. Volunteers to help with this were welcomed.

The Winchfield Community Choir had been busy singing at lots of events and was so popular there was now a waiting list to join.

RESOLVED: To allocate £500 for costs associated with the Winchfield Village Fete with delegated authority to Cllrs Hamm and Stewart, in consultation with the Clerk, to spend within this budget.

17 PLANTING

Cllr Hamm advised that the planters that had been built as part of the Greening Campaign were sitting empty and plants were needed.

RESOLVED: To allocate £150 for plants and other materials needed to be used in the planters at the Village Hall.

18 PLANNING

18.1 Applications received since the last meeting:

26/00150/HOU 26 Beauclerk Green

Erection of a single storey rear extension. WPC response submitted by the deadline of 24 February: WPC supports the application which conforms with WNP 2022-2037.

26/000253/LBC and 26/00252/HOU Winchfield House, Odiham Road

Alterations to the entrance. WPC response submitted by the deadline of 11 March: No comments.

18.2 Land North of Winchfield Court

It was noted that no date had been set for the enforcement case for plots 2, 3 and 4.

18.3 Chapel Bungalow, Potbridge Road

The Enforcement Team at HDC were continuing to monitor this and it was understood that a planning application for the site would soon be submitted.

19 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

19.1 Review of Financial Regulations

The Financial Regulations had been reviewed and no amendments were being recommended at this time. The Parish Council had adopted the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) latest template in March 2025 and this remained the most up-to-date version.

RESOLVED: To confirm the Financial Regulations in their current form.

19.2 Interim Internal Audit Report

It was noted that the Internal Auditor had recently carried out an interim audit and his report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report contained one recommendation relating to Assertion 10 which was dealt with under the next item.

RESOLVED: To note the interim report of the Internal Auditor.

19.3 Assertion 10

During the internal audit interim inspection the Internal Auditor had recommended that the requirements of Assertion 10 be set out in a report to councillors for consideration. Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated a report setting out the requirements of Assertion 10, what the council was doing or had done to meet these requirements and what was still needed. The outstanding actions would be addressed in the items below.

It was **AGREED** to note the content of the report.

19.4 Model Publication Scheme

The Council considered the adoption of the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Model Publication Scheme in order to ensure compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and to improve transparency in the Council's operations. The

Scheme set out the types of information that a public authority, such as a parish council, should routinely make available to the public.

RESOLVED: That the ICO Model Publication Scheme be adopted.

19.5 Winchfield Publication Scheme

The Council considered the adoption of a Winchfield specific Publication Scheme which set out the specific data held by the Parish Council and where members of the public would be able to find the information.

RESOLVED: To approve the Winchfield Publication Scheme.

19.6 Data Audit

The Clerk advised that a data audit had been conducted. This had last been done in 2018 and it was a process to consider all the data held by the Parish Council and check that it was needed and being processed correctly. The document had been circulated before the meeting setting out the full details of the data audit.

It was **AGREED** to note that the data audit had been conducted.

19.7 Winchfield Privacy Notice

The Parish Council was required to have a privacy notice. One had been approved in July 2018 and this had been reviewed to check it was still relevant. The notice set out what is personal data, why it is being collected and what the council needed it for. The review had shown that the document was still relevant and fit for purpose.

It was **AGREED** to note that the Privacy Notice had been reviewed and was still relevant and fit for purpose.

19.8 Subject Access Request Policy

The Council considered a Subject Access Request Policy which set out how the Council would deal with any application from a member of the public asking about information held by the Council about them.

RESOLVED: To approve the Subject Access Request Policy.

19.9 Requests for Grants

Requests for grants had been received from the Winchfield Parochial Church Council (WPCC) and the Winchfield Inn for £50 each to be used towards the costs involved in hosting Easter egg hunts.

RESOLVED: To approve a grant of £50 to the WPCC for an Easter egg hunt; and to approve a grant of £50 to the Winchfield Inn for an Easter egg hunt.

19.10 Payments for Approval

The Clerk requested permission to set up a direct debit allowing HMRC to automatically take funds owed.

RESOLVED: (1) That a direct debit be set up with HMRC; and (2) That the following payments be approved:

			POWER TO SPEND
Clerk - AB	February Salary including overtime hours	£576.34*	LGA 1972 s112
Clerk - AB	March Salary including overtime hours	£494.44	LGA 1972 s112
Clerk - AB	April Salary	£410.50	LGA 1972 s112
Clerk – AB	Expenses (WFH Allowance February and March)	£26.00	LGA 1972 s111
Lloyds Bank	Monthly charge for bank account – automatically debited each month	£4.25	LGA 1972 s111
April Skies	Interim Audit Fee	£177.50*	LGA 1972 s111
Severnside	First Aid Training	£402.00*	LGA 1972 s137
Winchfield Village Hall	Room Hire March Meeting	£32.00	LGA 1972 s111
Louise Hodgetts	Reimbursement for padlocks for SID	£39.98	LGA 1972 s111
Parish Online	Website	£378.00	LGA 1972 S142
Parish Online	Mapping	£57.60	LGA 1972 s111
Stocksigns	Backplate for SID	£136.74	LGA 1972 s111
WPCC	Grant for Easter Egg Hunt	£50.00	LGA 1972 s145
Winchfield Inn	Grant for Easter Egg Hunt	£50.00	LGA 1972 s145
Kerry Wedlock	Litter Pick Expenses	£60.71	Environmental Protection Act 1990 s89

*Payment already made; expenditure agreed by email and within previously agreed budgets

20 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received other than that already forwarded and none that needed addressing that had not appeared elsewhere on the agenda.

21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS *Report Only*

None.

22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Dates of future meetings were noted: 18 May 2026, 20 July 2026, 21 September 2026 and 16 November 2026 all starting at 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.08pm