

Kings Worthy Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18 April 2016
at the Kings Worthy Community Centre, Fraser Road, Kings Worthy**

Present:	Chair of the meeting:	Martin Taylor
	Councillors:	Bob Barnes, Ian Gordon, Mandy Hallisey, Les Haswell, Karen McCleery, Noel McCleery, Judith Steventon Baker and Denis Welstead.
	Hampshire County Council (HCC):	Cllr Jackie Porter
	Clerk:	Christopher Read
	Public:	1
	Police	None

Action

PC/16/52 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Stewart Newell, Dorry Hudson, Sarah White, Jane Rutter (WCC) and PCSO Kerry Croutear.

PC/16/53 Police Report

No report had been received.

Cllr Gordon noted that there currently some email scams going around and it was agreed to include these in the next comms.

Cllr Gordon also noted a break in on 03 April in Kings Worthy, where jewellery was taken.

5 drug dealers, all from London were arrested in Winchester on suspicion of dealing drugs, at the start of April.

PC/16/54 Public Question Time

See PC/16/59.

PC/16/55 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 March 2016

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 14 March 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Steventon Baker requested the following statement with relation to Friarsgate surgery, be included in the April minutes:

- o 'It is very unlikely the plans to close the local Surgery will be changed, so would it not be more useful to work with the Friarsgate Practice to find the best way forward. Cllr Porter agreed with this statement.'

PC/16/56 Development at Top Field – update

Cllr Gordon noted at Planning & Highways (12th April), Leanne Smith presented development options from Drew Smith, with a reduction in the number of houses that are the subject of their appeal. After discussions the committee felt the Parish Council could not accept any amended plans. (See P/16/30 – 12th April Planning & Highways Minutes)

The Parish Council unanimously agreed not to continue further discussions with Drew Smith with regards to any compromise on the site and will await the decision of the planning appeal.

Recreation & Amenities are writing to Winchester City Council to ascertain why the transfer of the footpath on Top Field has not taken place.

PC/16/57 Development off Lovedon Lane – update

It was noted that some of the houses have already been sold.

PC/16/58 Reports from the County Councillor, City Councillors, School Governor and Parish Councillors following external meetings

o **County Councillor**

Cllr Porter’s report highlighted the issues in her report (see attached below).

- Cart & Horses Junction – The completion date of 11th April has now been missed due to the road space booking form not being processed with Highways England in time. A new completion date of the 3rd May has been set with advance notice boards being erected shortly.

o **City Councillor**

See Cllr Rutter’s report attached below. This report is also to be circulated.

o **School Governor**

No governors meeting has been held since the last Parish Council meeting.

o **Parish Councillors following external meetings**

Cllr Taylor attended the Winchester Action of Climate Change (WinACC) SAVE project event at St Marys Hall.

Cllr Porter noted that she also attended the same event in Tubbs Hall and the project is an idea by SSE to get people involved in a community project. The proposed projects are:

1. All Weather Football Pitch
2. Installation of Solar Panels on all public buildings in the Parish
3. Improving physical connectivity around the village

This project will be used to develop coherence among those involved to then move on and tackle the issue with regards to lack of electricity supply in 2020 (between 4 – 8pm) due to lack of generating capacity. SSE will contribute to the project selected from the list above.

PC/16/59 Matters arising from the Meeting of the 14 March 2016

○ **PC/16/43 Flooding**

Lisa Rake (HCC) has emailed the office stating that Sarah Reghif (Senior Engineer – HCC) has compiled an interim report for Littleton and will now be moving onto Kings Worthy and Headbourne Worthy and will be looking at both collectively.

○ **PC/16/43 Friarsgate Surgery - Update**

A member of public gave a summary with regards to the possibility of a surgery at St Marys Chapel Hall. The rector contacted Friarsgate and proposed the hall for said usage but the Project Manager is still of the opinion that a 3 doctor surgery is the only viable solution and thus will not consider St Marys Chapel Hall.

However, the Friarsgate Practice partners told the member of the public that they still wanted to keep a surgery in Kings Worthy and any feedback has been passed onto Clinical Commissioning Group for consideration when they make their decision.

Cllr Porter noted both herself and the ward councillor for Friarsgate, have asked that the proposed closure be passed onto HASC (Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee).

○ **PC/16/43 Tubbs Hall Fire Inspection Report**

The roller shutter has been installed and is now working.

○ **PC/16/43 Cart & Horses Junction**

See PC/16/58.

○ **PC/16/43 Footpaths**

- **Old Kings Worthy House Site (SHLAA 2508)** – Cllr White has written to James Iles (Planning Agent) to ask why the “No Trespassing” signs have appeared. James Iles has passed this onto the owners for clarification.

Cllr Porter stated that the footpath claim is progressing. A village green application (VGA) will not be pursued as the inclusion of the site in the Local Plan Part 2 process is a trigger event, which precludes a VGA being made.

Any enquires relating the footpath claim are to be directed to Cllr Porter and she will pass them on.

○ **PC/16/23 New Councillors – Committee appointment**

Cllr Haswell was appointed onto the Planning & Highways committee.

PC/16/60 To receive Minutes of the Committees:

Planning and Highways Committee

The minutes of the meeting on 12 April had been previously circulated.

- Snows Volvo – The Volvo dealership have put in an application to expand on their current site, to include a new workshop. (See P/16/33 – 12th April Planning & Highways Minutes)

- o Wooden Posts at Tesco – A quotation had been received from HCC, for the supply and installation of wooden 'Dragon's Teeth' posts in the grass by Tesco's. It was agreed to obtain further quotations for this work, at least one of which from professional fencing contractor.
- o Enforcement Cases – WCC have updated their list of enforcement cases and attention was drawn to the issue at Tesco and the incorrect thatch in Church Lane.

Recreation & Amenities Committee

The minutes of the meeting on 7th April had been previously circulated.

- o Hinton Fields Tree – It was agreed to remove the trees entirely and to obtain two further quotations due to the cost involved. It was also agreed to recommend that finance review our tree inspection consultant.
- o Burial Ground – Sparsholt College are returning on the 21st April to complete the remaining works.
Refurbishment of the Gates – The gates are to be refurbished by M.R.S Services.
- o Fryers Close Play Ground– The installation works have now overrun by nearly 4 weeks and there have been multiple communication issues with the contractors involved.
- o Cycle Event – R&A have refused the usage of the Green outside Tubbs Hall due to multiple complaints with regards to the same event last year.
- o Youths in Fraser Road Play Area– Cllr Hallisey noted that a parishioner has reported feeling intimidated by youths that were over the age limit for the Fraser Road play area. On this occasion when asked to leave, they did so with no issues. However, during the litter pick a different set of youths, accompanied by an adult were abusive towards Cllr Hallisey when asked to leave. Andrew Murphy (WCC-Neighbourhood Services Officer) is to be contacted on this for advice.
- o Litter Pick – About 25 people turned up and we have over 2 dozen bags of waste collected.

**Clerks
R&A**

Finance, Administration & Remuneration

It was noted that the meeting on the 9 March 2016 was inquorate, thus had to be closed.

- o Finance are writing to Slimming World to point out the risks of having a tea urn in the hall, particularly when a constant hot water facility is available.
- o Smart Meters – SSE have offered to give a talk to the Parish Council explaining smart meters. Finance agreed to take them up on this offer.

(Cllr Porter left at this point)

- o Accounts – A copy of the bank reconciliation was distributed to Councillors.

PC/16/61 Internal Audit 2015-16 & Annual Return 2015 -16

The Annual Governance Statement was considered and the responses unanimously agreed by all councillors, this was then signed by Cllr Taylor as chairman of the meeting.

PC/16/62 Communications [incl. Website / Facebook / Newsletter / Monthly Comms etc.]

It was agreed to include the following in the next monthly communications.

- o Email scams

- Fryers Close play area
- Age limits in play areas
- Wildflowers
- Footpaths
- Loss of mobile library
- Bench refurbishment

PC/16/63 Parish Plan / Neighbourhood Plan

Cllrs Newell, Gordon & White are meeting with Steve Lincoln (WCC) on 24th May to discuss this.

PC/16/64 Arrangements of the Annual Parish Meeting

Due to a clash with bookings in Tubbs Hall, the Annual Parish Meeting cannot take place on 9th May. Therefore, it was agreed to ascertain whether St Marys Chapel Hall is available on the 9th May. If not, then the meeting is to be held at 8pm in Tubbs Hall on the 11th May.

The format is to remain unchanged and local groups are to be invited, as per last year.

PC/16/65 Clerk's Notices

- Mayor's Sunday morning service – It was agreed for Cllrs Newell & Taylor to attend.
- Public dinner in honour of the retiring mayor – It was agreed that the Parish Council will not be sending a representative to this dinner.

PC/16/66 Chairman's Notices

Thanks were expressed to the Assistant Clerk for his hard work during the last 3 weeks.

PC/16/67 Items for discussion at the Next Meeting

None.

PC/16/68 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 16th April 2016 (Annual General Meeting).

The meeting closed at 22:05.

Signed..... Date.....

County Councillor Report for Parishes April 2016

Current consultations

Title/proposal	Link	deadline
Review of operating recycling centres- HWRC's	www.hants.gov.uk/hwrc2016	Noon on 25 th May 2016
Children's Services Provision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Centre • Breastfeeding services • Youth Services 	Go to ... www3.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services-consultation Alternatively contact Hampshire County Council on 0300 555 1384 or email info@hants.gov.uk for a post copy. If you are unable to provide all of your views using the online questionnaire, please provide additional views either by email to info@hants.gov.uk or in writing to: Opinion Research Services, FREEPOST SS1018, PO BOX 530, Swansea, SA1 1ZL.	3 rd May 2016

Devolution

The two bids: one for the Solent Partnership and one for Hampshire are poles apart. Solent happened 'behind the Hampshire bid's back'. Simply put:

- Solent happy to have a Mayor, Hants is not.
- Solent cuts out half of Hampshire, Hants does not
- Solent likely to have more needs to address- therefore likely to be linked with more money.

This has caused considerable consternation between senior members at the County.

Two councillors have resigned their posts- Séan Woodward is no longer the Exec member for Environment Transport and the Economy (ETE). Ferris Cowper has resigned his post completely (by election on May 5th)

This is important because Cllr Rob Humby has taken over ETE instead: this seems to have put the planned decisions back on the table for reconsideration... so watch this space.

Watercress Way

Website is now live www.thewatercressway.org.uk 9 Trustees are in the process of being appointed and we will be holding our first AGM in September- all Parish councillors are welcome. Submission to the Charity Commission made, confirmed received, awaiting comments. Bank account in place, with a balance!

Academies

I have placed a fact sheet on my website, but as you can imagine, with an HCC £400m building programme to 2020 (using our council tax); to hand land and buildings over to the Government /academy chains is not a popular move for the County Council. Schools, especially primary schools are not happy about this, and the County is investigating whether they can become a Multi Academy Trust. I have heard the process likened to the dissolution of the monasteries- quite appropriate really! There's a national consultation too. Go to www.gov.uk and search 'educational excellence everywhere'.

Locally:

- Footpath Nations Hill to school- officer has had a look, ecology study done, more funding found, awaiting design
- Cart and Horses- County missed deadline for road closures but they promise to get the work finished by the end of May!!
- Barton Farm School put back again to Sept 2017 at the earliest.
- Lighting letter has gone out to Ramsay Road residents. If all OK, then we have to find the money.

Cllr Jackie Porter 01962 791054, www.jackieporter.co.uk , text 07973 696 085, Jackie@jackieporter.co.uk

Dear KWPC,

I wanted to copy this letter which was sent to all City Councillors from the Council leader over the weekend. It explains the latest situation with devolution, which Cllr Porter has summed up in her report, with a little added detail!

It looks like Winchester's leading Conservative group and the County Council are moving towards acceptance of an elected Mayor for some sort of cobbled together 'Heart of Hampshire' devolved group – what the implications are for Winchester District are very difficult to work out, especially as the Government keeps changing the goal posts. Please do let me know what you think about this latest set of proposals.

Best wishes,

Jane Rutter

Dear Colleague

Since my last devolution update to you, Simon Eden and I have had many meetings with colleagues from across Hampshire to discuss the best way to move forward. There remains significant uncertainty over the proposals for devolution in the Solent area, although I am hoping to have a better understanding of these after I attend a meeting of the Solent Group next Thursday.

The greatest area of concern has been around the future role of the County Council in the event that part(s) of Hampshire receive devolved powers but not for the whole of Hampshire. There has been clarification from Government over the legal status of such an outcome – the County Council could be a member of more than one Combined Authority – although not how this would work in relation to certain powers currently exercised by the County Council and normally exercised by an elected Mayor in a Combined Authority, such as transport and highways.

While further understanding is gained on these matters, we have been given a very clear steer from DCLG about their expectations for devolution. The Secretary of State has told all LEP chairmen that the next round of Local Growth Deals – the major source of funding for investment in LEP businesses and infrastructure – will be awarded in a more competitive manner, with those areas with mayoral Combined Authorities having an advantage and calling on LEPs to help strengthen local governance in this way.

I firmly believe that the best interests of Winchester are served by keeping as many options for devolution open as possible. To ensure that we are in a position to receive the best available deal, Winchester should be in the next wave of deals to be announced, as it increasingly appears likely that funding for subsequent deals will be far more limited. To enable this, proposals for a much simpler set of devolution proposals than we proposed for the Hampshire and IOW deal are emerging. Although this will not be as beneficial for either Winchester or the Government, it should get our foot in the door. Government have indicated that further changes might then be agreed at a later date to improve those benefits.

The basic elements for the emerging deal should include the following:

- An annual additional grant of £15m-£30m
- Devolution of responsibilities and funding for business support, trade and innovation
- Devolution of responsibilities and funding for skills and employment, including adult training and education
- Modest acceleration of delivery of housing targets contained in Local Plans, on condition that infrastructure funding is provided to enable the major developments (No additional housing is now proposed)

- Devolution of responsibilities and funding for transport and infrastructure, including delivery of integrated public transport networks across the region.
- Additional funding to complete the commercial rollout of access to fast broadband for all homes and businesses not already

The emerging deal does not include any localised Business Rate Retention or the related loss of grant funding. Nor does this proposal seek devolution of any powers that are not already – at least in part – influenced locally.

The main benefits for Winchester of this deal might include:

- Safeguards Winchester City Council from the worst impact of any further funding reductions that are likely to fall on areas without Combined Authorities
- Ensures that Enterprise M3 LEP bids for Local Growth Deals have a better chance of being successful
- Significantly reduces the risk of Winchester being used as an area for delivering unmet housing need in the Solent area. Without our own deal, Solent authorities might find ways to meet their housing needs (and their promised housing delivery targets under their devolution deal) by building in Winchester, which we would find hard to resist
- Additional control over business and skills funding that will allow the economy of this area to grow even stronger
- Give Winchester and its neighbours the platform to demonstrate to Government that we are able to be more prosperous when we have control of more powers in the future and should allow more responsibility to be devolved down to the most appropriate level.
- Reduce the significant risk that Winchester City Council will be pressured in to forming a new unitary authority with other districts or that our area will be split up between neighbouring authorities following a Boundary Commission Review

The emerging Combined Authority for the non-Solent part of Hampshire will be responsible for very little and will have no hierarchical powers over existing local authorities. Only those few responsibilities devolved from Government (apart from the transport and highways currently held by the County Council) will fall to the Combined Authority. It is now a Government requirement that the chairman of this authority will be an elected mayor. The chairman of the authority will have the same voting rights as each constituent authority. I am much more comfortable with this proposal than I was with the convoluted arrangements for the Hampshire and IOW solution with its weighting towards the unitary authorities.

Until we know what is being offered by Government, I share the caution of many of my fellow leaders in making no firm commitments, but I think we are moving closer to something that we could agree to. The current districts involved are New Forest, Test Valley, Basingstoke, Hart, Rushmoor and Winchester along with Hampshire County Council and Enterprise M3 LEP. The National Park Authorities remain supportive of the approach. Some did not like the group name of the North Hampshire and New Forest. There was support for Rural and North Hampshire, but civil servants indicated that Ministers are less likely to support a rural grouping, so we are working with the title of the Heart of Hampshire group. Any other ideas would be welcome.

Unless you come back to me with a strong negative response to these proposals in the next 2 weeks, I plan to keep Winchester City Council at this table so that the new administration will have the choice to commit more firmly (or not). I have asked officers to prepare briefings on the devolution proposals for all members prior to Mayor making (on 18th May), so that Cabinet can decide to proceed promptly with more public briefings, discussions and consultation at its meeting on 19th May. If Cabinet does make such a decision, the results of that consultation will be considered at a formal decision-making Council before 4th July – the Government deadline for this wave of deals. If we agree to a deal then, there will then be formal public consultation before the final agreement is signed and sealed sometime in the Autumn.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, do let me know before the end of this month

Best regards

Stephen Godfrey