



Kings Worthy Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 24 April 2023 at 19:30 held in Kings Worthy Community Centre, Fraser Road

Attendees

Councillors Julia Archer, Signe Biddle, Colin Cossburn, Emily Fish, Ian Gordon, Mandy Hallisey, Phillip Horne, Matthew Miller-Hall (Chairman) & Charlotte Smith.

Clerk(s)

Parish Clerk (Christopher Read)

Apologies

Cllr Dorry Lawlor (the council resolved to approve Cllr Lawlor's reason for absence)

Cllr Tom Stannard (the council resolved to approve Cllr Stannard's reason for absence)

Cllr Steve Waters (the council resolved to approve Cllr Water's reason for absence)

County & City Councillor(s)

Cllr Jackie Porter (Winchester City Council [WCC]/Hampshire City Council [HCC])

Members of the public

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PC/23/073 – Public Question Time [Please note that this is the only time that the public are able to speak and is limited to 5 minutes per subject]

Cllr Porter (HCC/WCC) asked in her capacity as Chair of Tubbs Hall management Committee if she could erect some coronation bunting outside hall. This was unanimously agreed and the Parish Council do so at Church Green.

A member public asked for an update on the meeting to discuss the Lovedon Fields s106 agreement. They had concerns with regards to parking and traffic.

Action – It was agreed for the Parish Council to meet with the management company and residents to discuss issues once the transfer is complete.

PC/23/074 – Impact of COVID-19 - meeting recommendations

It was agreed to keep the current recommendations.

PC/23/075 – Co-option to fill Councillor vacancy

The Council has received one application for the for co-option onto the Council and they gave a short presentation to Council about why they wish to stand and answered any questions.

A vote was held to co-opt Phillip Horne with 8 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstention.

Cllr Horne then signed his declaration of the acceptance of office.

PC/23/076 – Appointment of Councillors onto committees

Cllr Horne was appointment onto the Planning & Highways committee.

PC/23/077 – To receive written reports from City & County Councillors and Parish Councillors following external meetings

A copy of the Council Councillor report had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting (see attached). Cllr Porter summarised her report to attendees.

PC/23/078 – S106 agreement for the land at Lovedon Fields – update on transfer

Cllr Miller-Hall and the Clerk have an update on the current status. Winchester City council are to be asked to draft the deed of variation. Once the land is transferred the Clerk will obtain formal costings including a possible grant funding.

Action – Clerks to obtain costings for works at Lovedon Fields as above.

PC/23/079 – To agree and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 March 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

PC/23/080 – Matters arising from the meeting held on 27 March 2023

None.

PC/23/081 – To agree and sign the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 13 April 2023

The Clerk noted that he had received a comment from the parishioner querying the accuracy of the minutes. No changes were made, and the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

PC/23/082 – To receive the minutes of the committees:

- Recreation and Amenities (R&A) Committee – 03 April 2023 – A copy of the minutes had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting; no questions or queries were raised.
- Finance, Administration & Remuneration (FAR) Committee – 12 April 2023 – A copy of the minutes had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting.
 - Grant to StrangeTimes Quest– It was agreed to ratify the decision to grant the StrangeTimes Quest for £600.00 towards to the cost of running their public open studio event.
 - Potential doctor’s surgery – It was agreed for Cllr Miller-Hall to write to WCC to request a doctor’s surgery in the village.

PC/23/083 – Eversley Park play area renewal tender – update including delay of works to the tower (and associated costs)

The Clerk updated Councillors on the current status of the planning application and costs for delay. The tower had been stored at a secure local location free of charge with appropriate insurance cover. Cllr Cossburn was thanked for his help in organising this. The additional costs of £4,840.72 for later installation of the tower were agreed with 1 abstention.

It was agreed to include potential mitigation planting and/or obscure panels in the Council's response to the application.

PC/23/084 - Tubbs Hall play area including insurance update & CCTV

The tender documentation is being drafted by Cllr Stannard. A skip had been organised for the removal of the damaged play equipment and it was agreed to ratify the cost of £280.00 with 1 abstention.

PC/23/085 - Appointment Deputy Clerk update - including contract of employment

A revised contract of employment had been circulated and a vote was held to approve this contract with 1 abstention.

PC/23/086 - To review & approve the asset register

A copy of the revised asset register had been circulated; no changes were made and it was agreed for adoption with 1 abstention.

(3 members of the public left at this point)

PC/23/087 - To receive the statement of accounts and management reports for period ended 31 March 2023 (including end of year accounts for audit)

Due to the lack of large invoices still not received, it was agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting to approve these accounts before the internal audit.

Action - Cllr Miller-Hall to distribute a list of dates.

PC/23/088 - PCSO/Neighbourhood Services liaison

It was agreed to defer this item until Cllr Waters is in attendance.

PC/23/089 - Communications [incl. Website / Facebook / Newsletter Monthly Comms. Etc.]

Grants, New Deputy Clerk, revised office times and thanks to local farmers who have helped with storage of the play tower.

PC/23/090 - Frequency of Council meetings

After discussion, it was agreed for Cllr Miller-Hall to comeback with a proposal.

Action - Cllr Miller-Hall to draft a proposal.

PC/23/091 - Parish Council shed - update

No update.

PC/23/092 - Clerk's Notices

Time capsule for the Beavers – Cllr Horne gave a short synopsis of the request. It was agreed to allow the time capsule to be buried at Church Green, with 1 abstention.

Action – Cllr Horne to confirm location with office to ensure the Council is aware of it's location.

Quotation for replacement half door at the entrance to Tubbs Hall – The Clerk had obtained a quotation for a replacement half door at a total cost of £1,595.00. It was agreed for Cllr Cossburn to confirm if this door needs to be a full fire door. Quotations for a full replacement door set are to be sought if needed.

Action – Cllr Cossburn to confirm fire safety requirements for the door.

PC/23/093 – Chairman's Notices

Opening of Eversley Park play area – After discussion, it was agreed to open the play area at 16:30 on Friday 5th May, and also include the opening of the coronation bench.

PC/23/094 – Agreement of time for the Annual General Meeting

It was agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting at 18:45, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at the already agreed time of 19:30.

PC/23/095 – Items for discussion at the next Meeting on 26 June 2023

None.

Meeting Closed at 20:42.

Signed:

Date:

County Councillor Report to Parishes April 2023

Don't forget:

**National Warning will be sounding on your phone and all phones on the 23rd April at 3pm
Please warn your friends and neighbours so they understand what is happening.**

Thank you!

Potholes everywhere

So many people complain about the dreadful potholes everywhere. I worry that the public aren't looking ahead when they drive- but look down at the road to swerve round the next deep hole in the roadway or the kerbside. So many people are having to pay out for a new tyre or wheel and unfortunately HCC refuses to accept their claims for compensation in most cases.

You will be aware of the recent Govt announcement: £200m has been allocated to local highway authorities to repair potholes and other road defects. **Hampshire received £5.954m** and has informed county councillors how this will be spent. You may also have had correspondence on this. Director Tim Lawton has clarified that the *extra money is ringfenced* and will enable HCC's winter programme to continue, at pace, but unfortunately in the same way as they do now- one hole at a time.

He explained that the **objective of the programme** will be to deploy more smaller patching teams that can focus on fixing potholes and other localised defects across the road network. HCC will utilise the existing 'Dragon Patchers' and other established repair techniques. It is estimated that the extra money should enable HCC to repair up to 40,000 more potholes with work expected to start during April.

The Highways team is currently assessing the road condition data, which includes online reports received, to prioritise and plan the repair programme, which will need to remain dynamic as HCC receives thousands of new defect reports daily. HCC's highways contractor partner, Milestone, has started a dialogue with their primary supply chain to increase the number of patching teams on Hampshire's roads.

Over the winter period extra resources had already been secured to repair more road defects following the sharp and sustained increase in reported road issues as a consequence of the cold and wet weather. **But the holes have reappeared so fast, and temporary fixes have proved expensive and ineffective.** HCC anticipates that the additional funding will enable approx. six months of increased repair activity.

Please continue to report and encourage residents to report highway issues online too.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance> You will be given a tracking number.

You can review the status of reported issues, using that tracking number given to you from the website via the roads and transport icon on www.hants.gov.uk. If it says 'case closed' please contact me.

If you are struggling with this system, just email a picture noting the site, with a picture and/or a what3words location if in rural areas to roads@hants.gov.uk and copy to me. Thankyou.

Funding Fayre- strengthening communities

I attended a recent 'funding fayre' sponsored by WCC to see if there are any tips to help you and groups in your area to seek funds. We heard from the Lottery, Heritage lottery, WCC, HIOWCF, and HCC.

County Councillor Grants start again in June, but if any young persons' group is seeking support for a coronation event, please contact me, as there is a county grant available until the 21 April.

Flooding works

Reports continue to flow in and the team has a number of sites that need road closures to deal with the underlying causes of the flooding. Signs are usually put up about two to three weeks before, but dates have been changed according to weather conditions- please watch for date changes to avoid inconvenience.

S106 funding projects

HCC had drawn up several smaller projects in this division- but some have used up all the available funding with the design work only! This is frustrating and I have taken up the matter with at the Scrutiny cttee and with the Asst Director for implementation. It turns out that this is a common problem- and HCC is now looking at how they can be more efficient in spending money that has been generated by S106 agreements. This has affected several projects in this division: staff changeover has been frequent and it has been difficult to keep in touch with the right officer. Now three months after the reorganisation and department changes, things hopefully will settle down and we can get back to work with consistent officers.

Bus Service changes

Although the £2 fee (running until 30th June) has been popular, the number of buses in Winchester continues to be reduced. A new timetable starts on the 16th April 2023 with bus cuts across the county. The list is extensive and you can see more on this link.

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/service-updates/serviceupdatesarticle?SituationId=ID-08/03/2023-14:02:48:227>

As this is such a long link, I've created a tinyurl which works too: <https://tinyurl.com/BusChangesApril23>

Stagecoach use of buses has declined significantly since Covid-19 and is only making a slow recovery. These cuts and changes will be difficult for students to negotiate. I am in constant contact with the County School and Public Transport teams. No route is eliminated completely, but please let me know if you hear of any difficult situations for students and key workers. I am still trying to get an earlier /later bus offer for all residents along the 86 route, including residents in Kings Barton.

School Places for Children starting school These will be offered in mid April too.

The current school transport policy adversely affects children at rural schools with long journeys as the free school transport offered for older children is not provided for children before the term after they are 5. (unless they are entitled to Free School Meals: this is not necessarily for all children on Pupil Premium.) I will be talking to all schools to check that parents of pupils-to-be know how to appeal if necessary, and manage the system to ensure that their children start school confident of the transport arrangements.

A272 tree work: HCC carried out ash tree works in 2022 but private owners were asked to cut back their own land further north. Notice was not given to parishes because it is 'only a permissive path'. This has been disastrous and I asked HCC to intervene which they have now done. The path is now restored for use, albeit bare around the site. The HCC countryside Asst Director, has taken specific charge of the restoration to the beautiful route it once was (as far as is possible).

In informal discussions, HCC Countryside Service agree with me that this should be a definitive path on the map, not just a permissive one, but we'll need to gather evidence of use. If you know of anyone who has used this route by bike, on foot or on horseback, please could they contact me on Jackie.porter@hants.gov.uk? Many thanks

Cart and Horses Junction

Cllr Nick Adams-King, Exec Member for Highways, has *again refused to meet* with the relevant councils and councillors on this matter, until the accident investigation is received. This could take months, and his decision is very disappointing.

We have secured the principle of works when the M3 junction 9 work is being done, but this is subject to funding and only likely to be by 2027! I want to know that HCC will carry out earlier, simple but effective changes now.

Children with disabilities

From contact and letters, I have identified the need for better services for families who have a family member living with Downs Syndrome. The County Council has agreed to look at this in a formal scrutiny at Select Committee. If you know of families in this position, please ask them if they'd like to give evidence to that Select Committee, likely to be later this year, either in person or by letter. I'd be grateful for information about anytime in their lives. Thank you.

Major staff changes:-

Children's Services has had a change 'at the top' which has a knock-on effect on other positions.

Note - Redacted to remove personal information; information available on HCC website.

Millennium Path works

As explained at a recent New Alresford Town Council meeting, HCC has a contract in place to repair the Millennium path on Alresford in the Summer. I know this path is popular with many residents across the area, so I thought I'd mention it in this report.

The ecology of the river is very relevant to the timing which had to be agreed with Natural England. This leaves a very short window for the work to be done, and essentially it means that the path will be closed for most of the summer school holidays. HCC has a clear view of the work and the design of the path which will still have good access to the river side, but is still in discussion with the contractor to work out exactly how this operation will be carried out: where paths will be closed, how the contractors will access the site etc.

I hope to give more notice in the next report and will add it into the County Corner for magazines, social media and press etc.

Local residents will be informed of the exact dates and arrangements for access as soon as this is known. I'll keep you informed too.

Spring Cleaning your community grounds and places

Thanks to every Parish, Town and Community who organised a Litter Pick for the Great Spring Clean. I'm sorry I couldn't make it to every one.

We collected bottles galore: what a shame there isn't an HCC deposit scheme yet!

If you have any suggestions on how to improve the experience, please let one of your councillors know.

One suggestion is for a bag opener to keep it open at the top whilst you collect litter, another for litter picking signs to put out whilst we work.

Though it is now called The Great British Spring Clean, Keep Britain Tidy is still leading on this initiative and they wrote to me to say thank you! I hope you received this too, but just in case not, you can see more about this on www.keepbritaintidy.org.