

**Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting
held on Monday, 12 May 2025 at 19:30
Held at School Hall, Kings Worthy Primary School,
Church Lane, Kings Worthy, SO23 7QS**

Attendees

Cllrs Colin Cossburn, Ray Elliott, Emily Fish, Ian Gordon, Mandy Hallisey, Phillip Horne, Charlotte Smith, Christopher Read (Clerk)

Cllr Steve Cramoysan (Winchester City Council [WCC])

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

Members of the public

Three

APM/25/01 – Parish Council Chairman’s welcome to parishioners and guests

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APM/25/02 – Apologies for Absence

Cllr Jane Rutter – Winchester City Council

APM/25/03 – Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on the 13 May 2024 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

APM/25/04 – Parish Council Chairman’s Report

Cllr Colin Cossburn gave a report as Chairman and highlighted the following items:

Planting –

Cllr Cossburn thanked both his fellow Councillors and past Councillors. Thanks were also expressed to Councillors that helped with the planting of 16 mature trees on parish land and 800 hedge whips at Lovedon Fields. Thanks, were also given to Worthys Conservation Volunteers for their help obtaining a grant and planting 200 of the whips.

Cllr Cossburn noted that the Parish Council had been awarded grants from the Winchester City Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund for both the allotment site and a new inclusive roundabout at Eversley Park play area.

Allotment Site –

Cllr Cossburn thanked the Parish Council working group, farming community and our Maintenance Contractor for their help with the project. Cllr Cossburn noted that tenants had now begun moving onto the plots

Volunteering & plant pot recycling –

Ridge & Partners LLP had provided both volunteer days and technical assistance as part of their corporate social responsibility initiative. This included renovation of gates and benches at the Burial Ground.

The plastic flowerpot recycling scheme was a success, with more than 100kg collected and recycled by Ecogen.

APM/25/05 – To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Porter gave a report and highlighted the following items:

County Council funding –

Cllr Porter noted that the County Council had a projected funding deficit of £100 million and that they must produce a balanced budget. Adult social care and education costs had increased dramatically.

Cllr Porter noted that the building of a new care facility at Cornerways had been paused and may become a private care home. The County Council were proposing £9.9m of saving including the closure of day centres and less spend on highways. They would also be asking parents to contribute 40% to school transport costs for their children. However, these savings will not address the deficit.

Cllr Porter also noted that the Council devolution proposal was being considered and noted that 300 employees had left voluntarily.

Ecogen application –

Cllr Porter noted that revised plans for surface treatments had been submitted but this wouldn't impact the planning application and was just a highways measure. The Ecogen liaison meetings were proving useful in dealing with issues.

Walking & Cycling –

Cllr Porter noted that cycling and walking was a big issue being tackled by HCC. A new crossing in Abbots Barton has been funded from developer contributions from the Barton Farm development. Improvements to the cycling route from Worthy Lane were also being investigated. Headbourne Worthy Parish Council had also received funding for improvements to Nuns Walk.

Cart & Horses Junction –

Cllr Porter noted that there had been another accident recently and the cameras were still present to record accidents. She noted that a letter would be sent to Highways England and central government to request that the junction works are carried out as part of the Junction 9 works.

APM/25/06 – To receive a report from the City Councillors

Cllr Cramoysan and Porter summarised their report (see attached).

APM/25/07 – To receive reports from the Parish Council Committee Chairs

Finance, Administration & Remuneration (FAR) committee

Cllr Gordon gave a report from the FAR committee and highlighted the following items:

Cllr Gordon noted that the Council's finances were in a good position to allow us to fund items to improve our open spaces including replacement adult exercise equipment, which was currently being installed.

Cllr Gordon also noted that the precept had increased, partly to fund the allotment site if the grant was not forthcoming. This placed the Parish Council amidships in comparison to other parishes.

Cllr Gordon also noted that the Deputy Clerk had decided to reduce their hours to part-time, and the Parish Council will be looking at the need for a replacement for the lost hours.

Planning & Highways (P&H) committee

None.

Recreation & Amenities committee

Cllr Fish gave a report from the R&A committee and highlighted the following items:

Cllr Fish thanked Green Smile (our grounds contractor) for their hard work maintaining our open spaces. She also noted that the Junior pitches are scheduled for full renovation in the summer. The Parish Council had also undertaken a bin rationalisation programme to reduce costs but increase litter bin capacity.

Cllr Fish highlighted the works undertaken to increase the security of open spaces at Broadview and Lovedon Fields, to prevent unauthorised access.

Cllr Fish noted that the R&A committee were looking at further allotment provision as well as potential induction sessions for the new adult exercise equipment.

Cllr Fish expressed her thanks to our Maintenance Technician for their hard work. She also thanked the R&A committee and Clerks, as well as the parishioners who helped at our litter picks.

Question –

Cllr Cramoysan queried why there is currently un-erected temporary fencing at Hinton Park.

Cllr Fish noted that this had been moved there to allow an unofficial access to be fenced off after planting has taken place.

APM/23/08 – Public Participation and Question Time

A parishioner asked why the precept had increased by 12.6% this year.

Cllr Cossburn responded stating that whilst the percentage change looks large, the change in the annual cost was a small amount. The Council had to find funding for additional costs such as the recent increase in employers national insurance contributions, as well as funding for the allotment site if the grant was not forthcoming. The precept increase over the last two years was similar the amount inflation for that period.

The parishioner also asked if the Council had looked at making economy savings.

The Clerk noted the full budgetary process and the savings made including the bin rationalisation.

Meeting Closed at 20:41

Signed:

Date:

Annual Parish Meetings – WCC councillors’ report

Another busy year at Winchester City Council

Jackie has continued her role in the Cabinet responsible for Communities and the Local Plan. Steve has Chaired the Health and Environment Policy Committee and the Kings Barton Forum, and Jane has remained Chair of the Planning Committee. We have all dealt with significant items of personal and confidential casework, as well as reporting to and regularly attending parish and other local meetings. This annual report gives a flavour of some of the other things we as a Council have been busy with.

A balanced budget for 2025/26

Winchester City Council has approved a balanced budget for the upcoming year, which supports vulnerable people, addresses the climate emergency, improves recycling and protects our environment. Key highlights in the budget include:

- A commitment to the roll out of weekly food waste recycling collections to all households later this year with £595,000 allocated this year (£460,000 as one-off funding). This will start being introduced for residential properties from October 2025, collecting from each household by April 2026.
- A strong emphasis on supporting vulnerable people, with additional funding to help prevent homelessness (an additional £300,000) and a revision of income bands for the council tax reduction scheme – ensuring that support continues to be received after the changes to the DWPs universal credit scheme.
- Recognising the ongoing impact of the cost of living, the council has also extended the Council Tax Exceptional Hardship Fund into 2025/6.
- Allocation of funding to increase capacity for planning enforcement cases, to help protect the district’s communities, its heritage and the natural environment from harmful unauthorised development.

In full council, an average council tax increase of 2.7% was approved. For a Band D property, the City Council’s share of the council tax bill will be £163.66 per year (an increase of £4.30 per year).

The council’s immediate financial position is stable. However, as with many local authorities, it faces increasing budget pressure long term, which it is addressing through its transformation programme, focusing on reviewing contracts, creating an effective and efficient digital service and generating more income.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) 13 community initiatives benefit from £1.9 million investment

Communities across the district reaped the benefits of a £1.9 million investment last year as 13 projects funded through Winchester City Council’s Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) reached fruition. The district CIL, raised from levies on new developments across the wider Winchester area and administered by the city council, helps fund local initiatives that contribute to communities and improve the lives of residents.

In the Worthys Ward, we saw £146,000 allocated to improvements to the Nun’s Walk, and over £17,000 towards completing the provision of new allotments at Eversley Gardens.

CIL has also supported key Council-Led Projects including (Winchester Football Club 3G Pitch - £300,000, KGV Pavilion - £1,250,000, KGV Park Project - approximately £110,000).

Central Winchester Regeneration (CWR) moves ahead

WCC's Central Winchester Regeneration (CWR) is the project that will see that area around Kings Walk, Friarsgate and the bus station developed into a mixed-use, sustainable, pedestrian-friendly quarter. The aim is to reflect the distinctive character of the city centre, set within attractive open spaces.

Following a year of extensive consultation with the public and businesses by WCC's delivery partner, Jigsaw – Partnerships and Places, has taken a major step forward with the approval of the Development Delivery Plan and £4.5million capital grant of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

The Development Delivery Plan produced by Jigsaw was approved in March by the council's Cabinet. This sets out the project stages of this exciting regeneration programme and is supported by significant CIL investment to enable initial infrastructure works

Additional £1.18M investment for parking improvements

As part of the council's ongoing commitment to support a vibrant local economy an additional investment in parking infrastructure has been agreed for the year ahead. This includes £305,000 to improve CCTV provision and tackle anti-social behaviour at the Park and Ride sites and upgrade payment machines. A further £40,000 will be invested to improve and upgrade the multi-storey phone signal. As part of the improvements programme budget, further resurfacing works will take place at St Catherine's Park and Ride facility, alongside improved signage and enhanced cycle storage.

WCC's Park and Ride and Park and Walk facilities have both seen an increase in user numbers over the last 12 months, which is supported by positive city centre footfall data which also shows an increase over the same time period.

WCC has forecast that this year it will have reduced its own carbon emissions by 96%

The 96% reduction in carbon emissions - a total of 1596 tonnes of carbon – is equivalent to the annual electricity usage of 2,855 average households. It includes all the emissions that the council has direct control over, such as the energy used in its own buildings and by its fleet of vehicles.

To achieve this, the council focused on prudent measures that deliver the highest impact – e.g. switching to low carbon fuel for its waste vehicles and Park and Ride buses, switching to 100% renewable energy and reducing overall energy consumption in all its buildings, generating its own energy by installing solar panels, retrofitting its council homes with energy saving measures, creating and enhancing habitats and managing its land to store more carbon in nature.

WCC also forecasts a 40% reduction in emissions for activity outside of its direct control compared to 2023/24. This refers to things such as the fuel used by external contractors.

Making homes more energy efficient - Energy Saving Homes programme

'Good Homes for All' and 'Going Greener, Faster' are two of WCC's main objectives. A key initiative supporting both aims is the council's Energy Saving Homes Programme, which has been improving the energy efficiency of council homes, helping to save tenants money on their energy bills and reduce the homes' carbon footprints. So far, the council has already delivered upgrades

to 600 properties, raising their energy ratings as part of its Energy Saving Homes programme. This action supports efforts to achieve carbon neutrality for WCC operations by 2030.

Winchester City Council has been awarded £3,458,753 to improve the energy ratings of its council homes following a successful bid for funding to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

With this support, the council aims to bring improvements to 672 homes over the next three years by making use of energy-saving technology such as air source heat pumps, solar panels and solar batteries, as well as building fabric improvements such as cavity wall and loft insulation.

Increasing EV charging infrastructure and a greener waste fleet

Over the past year, Winchester City Council installed three new rapid EV chargers and upgraded four fast chargers to rapid in its car parks across the district. This brings the total number across the district to 39, the vast majority of which have two charging points – i.e. over 70 dedicated EV charging parking bays available in City Council car parks.

WCC is also seeking to improve the environmental performance of its own vehicles. Earlier this year, all 17 waste and recycling vehicles within the fleet (operated by BIFFA) switched to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) which is already saving over 600 tonnes of carbon per year compared to diesel (up to 96%). The council also added a new 100% electric waste vehicle to its fleet. To pilot the practicalities of EVs in this context, the new truck is now being trialled across the district on a number of routes.

Strong service delivery - Local Government Association peer review

A 2024 peer review of Winchester City Council by the Local Government Association found the local authority to be a well-respected and high-performing organisation with a record of strong service delivery. The review provided external feedback on how WCC is performing and how it could improve, examining five key areas (local priorities and outcomes, its governance and culture, and its financial planning and management). Evidence included analysing data, interviewing staff and councillors and speaking to key partners.

In its feedback report, the CPC stated that the city council was a “well-respected and high-performing council, delivering for residents and partners”. The report continued: “The peer team heard positive feedback regarding the council’s performance and was satisfied that the city council is well-managed and benefits from a Leader and Chief Executive who are respected by staff, members and external stakeholders”. The report also highlighted a number of other areas of positive action from the city council, including its prudent financial management, the work it is doing to address climate change and its efforts to consult and engage with residents on important decisions.

Nine recommendations were included in the report to help the council address future challenges, realise efficiencies and improve services, each of which have been addressed in a high-level action plan subsequently produced by the city council. The full feedback report, and Winchester City Council's action plan, can be read on our

website: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/about/corporate-peer-challenge>

Local Plan in the Spotlight

The new City Council Local Plan has been closely scrutinised by the government Inspector over the past two weeks. We hope that it will pass the final stages soon and become the new approved Plan which will guide planning approvals in the coming months.

Significant proposals in the Plan currently being considered include redevelopment of the former Cornerways site. Sadly County Council plans for a new County care home on this site have been abandoned, but we are keen to see the site redeveloped for older people, either as a mixed care/sheltered development or something similar, and will be pushing the County to move forward on disposing of the site on that basis urgently. The other significant site in the Worthys is on the field and woods behind the Cart & Horses. To enable development of this site, a safe access onto the A33 is required – this should involve significant investment from the developer into finally seeing safety improvements at the junction. We wait to hear proposals and again will be urging the County to make the most of this opportunity.

However, following the publication of new government housing targets, a new revised Plan will immediately start to be developed as soon as this one is agreed. The huge pressure for more homes throughout our Region will mean difficult decisions are ahead, but we believe that local people will wish us to maximise public gain from any new development proposed for our area.

Devolution & Local Government Re-Organisation.

These are two separate but connected and significant changes to how local government in Hampshire specifically will operate, with similar changes in other regions of England. This programme is being driven by the national government with legislation behind it. It is not a political choice made locally. Winchester City Council has organised several briefings to Parish councils to inform them of what each of these are and covered the extensive details of how this would affect the powers of each body and how they will be funded.

Devolution will see the area of Hampshire & IoW in future elect a strategic mayor for the whole region. The upper tier authorities (County and existing smaller Unitary authorities Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight) in this area all agreed to the priority track which was accepted by the Minister of state for Local Government. County Council elections were suspended in 2025 due to the need for local consultation work. However, by-elections were held where County Councillors decided to step down. Currently, we expect that the timetable for devolution will result in an election for a Strategic mayor in May 2026. This is subject to confirmation.

Local Government Re-Organisation aims to combine the two-tier authorities of County Council & District Councils into unitary authorities. Some areas such as Portsmouth, Southampton and IoW are already unitary authorities. But they too will be affected as the Government has set a population guideline of about 500,000 residents for each of the Unitary authorities that emerge from this re-organisation, and the existing Unitaries are much smaller than this.. Leaders of each of the Councils in Hampshire & IoW are in negotiations for the best ways to “carve up” the whole of this region, bearing in mind what could work at a practical level. For instance, while IoW is well below the target size of authority, it is difficult to see that combining it with other areas on the mainland would lead to a coherent Council where the scale can be leveraged to achieve operational benefits. The discussions about which districts might effectively be merged together are in progress, but with no clear outcomes agreed it is premature to report on this. The current

assumptions are that elections of councillors to a shadow unitary council will occur in 2027, with a view to these new Councils taking over in 2028, but this timetable is subject to change.

We do not know at this stage whether the City/District Council elections due in 2026 and 2027 will go ahead or whether Councillors who are up for election will be asked to stay on for an extra year or two.

Kings Barton

Last but not least, here is a summary update. HWPC will be very familiar with what has and has not progressed in Kings Barton but KWPC will be much less so. Progress can be reported in terms of the amenities and services that have been funded or built and then adopted by the relevant public authority.

Headbourne Parish Council (HWPC)

HWPC has done a fabulous job at acting as a “Parent Parish Council for Kings Barton as an MDA” since housing was first built and occupied in 2017. Most of Kings Barton is in HWPC, with in the region of 50-60 homes in the St Barnabas Ward of the City, in the area just east of the Andover Rd for perhaps 60-80 metres. St Barnabas is currently unparished. Power similar to a Parish Council resides in the Town Forum. As a prelude to the LGR, wards in the unparished area of Winchester Town are going through a process to set up a Town Council for the City.

Over the last year HWPC has taken on significant areas of public space including playgrounds, and in doing so it has established a process and effective working relationships between Cala and itself to manage those spaces and play amenities into Public management by HWPC. It has also taken on board significant commuted sums and is in the process of establishing investment strategies for these monies. This has been a substantial amount of work, especially given that HWPC operates with only 7 Parish Councillors. HWPC has requested permission to increase the number of Parish Councillors, with support from City Councillors, but has been regularly turned down. The Local Government Re-Organisation looks to have created the opportunity to revisit this

New Community Building

The biggest piece of tangible infrastructure for which the S106 legal agreement sits with WCC and Cala is the Community Building. Over the course of the last year, Cala have brought plans forward and proposed a timetable that would see it delivered by early summer 2026 and in line with its S106 trigger point. The Parish Council has done quite a bit of work with Cala to optimise the design as much as they could within the other constraints of space and cost.

WCC officers have also been involved in some discussions regarding the equipment and surfaces in the playground areas, and in the planting and ongoing management of some of the landscaped areas, prior to HWPC taking these on. In the main this has been WCC supporting HWPC.

Barton Meadows – the contract between Cala and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIOWWT) to manage the ecology mitigation area of Barton Meadows is drawing to a close later this year. WCC have oversight of the negotiations between Cala and HIOWWT to extend the contract for a considerable time.

WCC Planning officers are deeply involved in supporting all the reserved matters applications, including those related to Playground and Recreation grounds. This includes the MUGA where the size had to be reduced substantially to fit the space left which was less than expected due to

overhead lines being moved underground. They have also involved in the process that has led to the Recreation ground being approved, with conditions attached.

As referred to above earlier requests to increase the number of councillors have been turned down, but subsequently

the advent of the Devolution & Local Government Re-organisation programme has created the opportunity to address this issue and the boundary anomaly in a Community Governance Review. This is a process to engage with rather than a matter of having options presented to the Parish Council for Parish Councillors to make a decision. More on this will emerge in the coming months.

Community Bus for Kings Barton

A community bus service has been established during 24-25 municipal year. The early reports on usage indicate that usage is increasing as people get more aware that there is now a bus service and on how and when it runs. It is constrained somewhat by having to route in and out of the North & South junctions separately rather than travelling directly through Kings Barton. Plans to tweak the timetable to improve the service when the north and south sections of Kings Barton were joined, have been put on hold as Cala have initiated a series of works on the South section that will at times involve diversions that might be unsuitable for the Minibus.

Winchester Avenue Progress

The most significant piece of infrastructure due to be delivered in Kings Barton - aside from the School - is the spine road that will see Andover Road re-directed through the estate with north and South junctions to be constructed. This was due to be completed and adopted by 650 occupations. 650 was reached at around Christmas 2024. In March 2025, Hampshire County Council confirmed that they had agreed with Cala to extend the occupation trigger to 1000 which are expected to be reached by December 2027. This is disappointing to say the least, although not unexpected as Councillors have been signalling the likelihood of the target not being reached since about October 2023. Steve Cramoysan as chair of KB Forum and your County Councillor Jackie Porter are not yet convinced that the new target will be delivered. On the positive side Cala do appear to have significantly increased the amount of work on the site, and joining up the North & South sections by an unfinished road was a major event. But to date, we have not received a satisfactory response to a request of County Council to deliver a schedule of what they expect to happen between now and December 2027 that will show progress towards HCC being able to adopt the road and the junctions. Adoption matters as this is critical for Cala to negotiate for operators to take on the Shopping area and the pub that will be massive steps towards establishing Kings Barton a community. We will continue to pursue this.

New Crossing

We also welcomed this spring the new crossing and small section of improved cycle path on Worthy Road in Abbots Barton, a joint project between the County and City councils. This is a template for the quality of cycle path we are working towards between Winchester and Kings Worthy and improves access for those using the cycle path from Kings Barton.

Jane Rutter

Steve Cramoysan

Jackie Porter

8th May 2025