



## Minutes of the Highclere Parish Council Meeting

### Westridge Studio

Tuesday 09 November 2021 at 7.30pm

**Members Present:** Cllr Norton (Chairman), Cllr York, Cllr Jenkins, Cllr Leeson, Cllr Easton, Cllr Dierks

**In attendance:** Colin Wall, Neighbourhood Plan lead; Chris Garrett, Chair of Enborne PC; Jonathan Ashby, NWN; Cllr Falconer; Cllr Thacker

**Clerk:** Amy White

The Chairman, Brad Norton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. 70/21 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Stoker who was unwell and Cllr Smith who is away with work.

**2. 71/21 Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. 72/21 To confirm accuracy and sign minutes of 12 October 2021**

It was unanimously resolved that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record. They were signed by the Chairman, Cllr Norton.

**4. 73/21 Update on actions from 12 October 2021**

<b>75/21</b>	Cllr York to draw up a formal response and agree it with Cllrs Norton and Stoker, along with Mr Wall on behalf of the NPSG. The Clerk to subsequently forward to BDBC as appropriate. <b>Actioned.</b>	<b>Cllr York/ Clerk</b>
<b>81/21</b>	Clerk to write to owners of Keels Barn to request that they attend to the tree overhanging Pantings Lane. <b>Actioned</b> , tree will be attended to in December.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>86/21</b>	Clerk to feedback decision on mileage to litter warden. <b>Actioned</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>89/21</b>	Clerk to respond to BDBC re HPC's agreement to adopt Draft Code of Conduct. <b>Actioned</b>	<b>Clerk</b>

**5. 74/21 Public Participation**

Chris Garrett participated in the discussion below.

**6. 76/21 Reports from County and Borough Councillors**

**Cllr Thacker.**

Cllr Norton queried why, if there was a large grant available as per Cllr Thacker's report, why this could not have been used to put towards the recycling issue. Cllr Thacker replied that it was to do with revenue budgets, and that there is a permanent solution to the Newbury HWRC.

Cllr Norton argued that it was certainly not considered to be a closed matter amongst the parishioners. Cllr Thacker concurred.

Cllr Falconer: Did feed back to BDBC regarding the idea of refunds or vouchers to compensate for the many missed bin collections; the bin situation has got worse in that bin contracts will only be extended if the household renews the contract.

The precept will be increased 3.99% by BDBC for 2022/23, equating to a £5 increase for a band D house.

**7. Chris Garrett: Keeping Wash Water Rural**

Cllr Garrett, Chairman of Enborne PC explained that a planning advisor is assisting on the KWWR campaign and has advised that Enborne should work with EWPC and HPC on their Neighbourhood Plans, with the possibility of adding some extra wording.

Colin Wall explained that the HPC Neighbourhood Plan will be allocating sites for development, likely around 10, which, if agreed before the Wash Water application is received, will potentially make it harder for this application to be approved.

HPC said if Enborne has suggestions for adding to our current NP, to send wording suggestions to the Clerk to disseminate.

**8. Local Plan update & rural areas- Colin Wall & NP group**

There will be a meeting with Cllr Carr and EWPC Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Nov to discuss SHELAA sites in advance of the Local Plan Update meeting at BDBC on 18/11/21.

HPC has eight identified sites, one of which is commercial (near MacDonalds on the bypass). Colin Wall regards current BDBC policies and strategy regarding development in the countryside to be reasonable.

Attendees for 11/11 meeting: Cllr Norton, Cllr York.

**9. Neighbourhood Plan update**

Colin Wall reported on the 2000 replies from consultation- 13.8% of eligible population. 64% were over the age of 60. All 17 objectives gained greater than 70% agree or strongly agree, of those

Overall, pleased with the amount of responses.

A call for sites (for housing allocation) will be requested in mid December. These sites do not have to be identified as SHELAA sites.

## 10. 3/21 Recent Planning Applications:

- 21/03115/LDEU at The Old School House Church Lane Highclere- **No Comment**
- 21/03013/HSE Woodcutters Foxs Lane, Penwood- HPC Comment: **following discussion at full council meeting, HPC decided to recommend agreement to the application as long as it is in line with enforcement notice.**
- T/00510/21/TPO at 76 Penwood Heights Penwood Highclere RG20 9EZ- **No objection, as long as in line with tree officer recommendation.**
- 21/03159/FUL at Tot Hill Services, Macdonalds Drive Thru A34 Newbury Bypass- **No Comment**
- 21/03200/HSE at Old Honeyway Tubbs Lane Highclere RG20 9PP- **No comment**

## 11. Roads and Transport Update

Cllr Easton updated on the SID: she has written to the company in Germany with regards to the battery issue (it drains very quickly). Update in December.

The speedwatch team has been out on the Andover Road; HPC has not received any data from the group yet.

## 12. Environment

**Lengthsman:** The date for Highclere is 24<sup>th</sup> November.

The Clerk reported that Premier Grounds has increased its prices from £30ph to £35ph. It was decided that it was prudent to look at local contractors to ensure HPC is getting the best price for ad hoc work that Premier Grounds undertakes.

**Taking Pride in Highclere:** Cllr Dierks has posted some updates on Facebook to encourage clearing up. She has also asked a friend to assist with further themes and wording for future posts via the new website and Facebook.

## 13. 8/21 Website update

Cllr Leeson reported on the new site which has gone live today (09 Nov 2021). There is more copy to add, and areas to improve, but overall the creation is complete.

Cllr Leeson has asked Highclere Society and the editor of the Highclere Parish magazine to join in with content creation.

Cllr Leeson proposed another 6 months' worth of Silver Linings Consulting as a technical expert/retainer at £100 per month.

Cllr Norton seconded the motion.

All council agreed to continue with Silver Linings Consulting for 6 months.

**Action:** Clerk to liaise with Silver Linings to agree £600 for six months of support.

## 14. 85/21 Finance update

The Clerk presented the following items for payment:

	Category	Notes/Explanation	
10-Nov-21	Pension contribution	Direct Debit	£ 69.84
10-Nov-21	Admin & Office incl payroll	Red76 for Oct	£ 12.00
10-Nov-21	VAT	Red76 for Oct	£ 2.40
10-Nov-21	Admin & Office incl payroll	Website creation: Silver Linings Consulting Ltd	£1,000.00
10-Nov-21	Neighbourhood Plan	Planet Reviewing V&O Inv 2100	£ 90.00
10-Nov-21	VAT	Planet Reviewing V&O Inv 2100	£ 18.00
10-Nov-21	Clerk's expenses	ionos (£6.00) and zoom (£14.39)	£ 16.99
10-Nov-21	VAT	ionos (£1) and zoom (£2.40)	£ 3.40

10-Nov-21	Clerk's Salary		£ 739.89
10-Nov-21	Litter Warden salary		£ 446.82
10-Nov-21	Litter Warden Exps		£ 13.95
10-Nov-21	PAYE	HMRC Month 8	£ 225.83
			<b>Total: 2639.12</b>

**Bank Balance as at 31/10/2021:**

**Business Account:** £65,509.70

**Community Account:** £2,003.53

**15. 90/21 Correspondence Received**

There was no other correspondence received.

**16. 91/21 Items to take forward to next meeting:**

Standard items, first draft of precept for 2022-23.

The meeting finished at 9:40pm.

**92/21 Date of the next Council Meeting** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at Westridge Studio.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Actions from November Meeting**

	Clerk to liaise with Silver Linings to agree £600 for six months of support.	<b>Clerk</b>
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**Hampshire County Councillor update**

**November 2021**

**HCC budget balancing proposals update**

The proposals outlined in my previous update were approved at the Full Council on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Community Climate grants**

The Council is inviting bids for grants to make community buildings more energy efficient as part of its commitment to combatting climate change. These grants are provided under the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund.

Capital projects that could be funded include solar panels, LED lighting, window replacements or insulation for buildings such as village halls and community centres. Revenue grants for measures that meet local needs are also available with an upper limit of £30,000. Schemes that enable local communities to be more resilient, for example encouraging 'neighbourliness' and tackling social isolation or for the management of community assets could be eligible.

Training: Investments up to £10,000 provide appropriate training in the local community. This could cover a broad range of schemes, for example training from specialist skills for Parish Clerk through to local path wardens looking after their rights of way

Grants will be available to town and parish councils or local community groups and will be available for projects that can demonstrate how they will contribute to HCC's climate targets.

There will be an absolute upper limit of £30,000 for any single organisation.

For more information, visit: [hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/parish-town-council-investment-fund](https://hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/parish-town-council-investment-fund)

## **Reporting highway problems**

I have been pressing cabinet members to improve the feedback for members and the public when they have reported a problem using the TrackIT system and subsequently wish to track and chase its progress. A working group of the Economy, Transport and Environment Cabinet member. has been established and is actively considering how to improve the systems and processes used for reporting and tracking issues and problems.

## **Other matters**

### **Actions: Report back on Julia's email**

Community preparedness event

Highclere Traffic CFI (speeding awareness).

Tom Thacker

## **Highclere Neighbourhood Plan – Progress update – November 9<sup>th</sup> 2021**

### ***Community Survey***

The report from PlanET arrived October 29th, and we are currently going through it for corrections, improvements etc. When we have a final copy I will send it to the Clerk for publishing.

SurveyMonkey was closed to any further online responses on the 8th October 2021.

At that point the numbers of surveys returned were;

- 146 via SurveyMonkey
- 54 via paper copies returned to the drop-off points.

There are 1,606 residents within Highclere parish, of which 1,450 were eligible to respond (over 8 years old). Therefore the response rate calculates to 13.80%.

#### *Summary of responses*

- 64% of respondents were over 60 years old.
- 200 surveys were returned, equating to nearly 14% of the community.
- The objective with the highest 'strongly agree' response was 'Ensure all new residential developments are energy efficient and fully supported by adequate infrastructure'.
- All objectives received over 70% support.
- Of the 17 objectives, 8 received less than 10 counts of 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree'

#### *Local Plan Update*

One of our councillors, Sam Carr, has organised a joint Zoom meeting on Nov 11th with East Woodhay PC and Highclere PC to gather views before a meeting of the B&D Economy, Planning and Housing committee on Nov 18<sup>th</sup>, concerning :

- sites currently mentioned in the SHELAA – we agree with Cllr Norton on all points
- our views on the broad guiding principles that should shape the Local Plan Update's approach to the rural areas of our borough – we consider the existing LP to embody a sensible strategy for this, and would support the maintenance of the current policy framework and direction for the Update.

#### *Next Steps*

The next stage of NP development is the issuance of a Call for Sites and subsequent Site Assessment – this could well be a sensitive issue. Furthermore, it seems that there are some issues around how built windfall sites affect the two-year protection provided by a new NP. For these reasons it seems right to keep our own powder particularly dry on the matter of the sites we might want to put forward, and we will not be publicising these at or before the meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Our target for the NP to be "made" remains Spring 2023, one year ahead of the Local Plan..