

Greatham Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 8th January 2025, 7.30 pm

Present Cllr R. Lafferty (Chair), Cllr SJ Bartlett (acting clerk), Cllr A Cheesman, Cllr S Pond.

Also present : 6 residents

24.187 : Chairman's Announcement : The Chairman wished to thank all those that attended the meeting, given it was such a horrible night weather wise. He also wanted to thank everyone that had helped with taking down the Christmas tree and disposing of it.

24.188 : Apologies for Absence : Cllr C. Rudd and Cllr R Oppenheimer.

24.189 :Declarations of Interest : Cllr A Cheesman has declared an interest in the planning application reference SDNP/24/04752/HOUS and will not participate in this discussion.

24.190 :Approval of Minutes: The Clerk raised 2 questions regarding details of the minutes with named individuals to ensure correct spelling of the minutes. It was **RESOLVED** to approve minutes from the council meeting held on 11th December 2024 once the amendments had been made.

24.191 : Update on previous actions arising from council meetings : (Appendix 1)

- There is ongoing concern regarding the Coryton Alms houses and how they are being managed. Residents are not sure that the Charity Commission website is actually correctly up to date. It was agreed that a letter should be sent. Further to discussions between the Clerk and the Secretary of the Coryton Charity it has been decided that no further action should take place on behalf of the parish council. The last parish council took the decision, as did Liss Parish Council, to no longer have a councillor sit as a trustee on the board and this decision still stands.
- There is still concern about parking in the village at peak times. Cllr Oppenheimer suggested he would contact the enforcement team at HCC to ask them to visit. Clerk to chase and update the meeting.

24.192 : Report from District Councillors: Report from Cllr Mitchell/Cllr Steevens (Appendix 2)

- Nothing to Note.

24.193 Report from County Councillor: Report from Cllr Russell Oppenheimer (Appendix 3)

- General update given with regards Devolution and how it might impact residents and councils.

24.194 Public Question Time: Adjournment of the meeting for 15 minutes to allow the public to raise questions

- A question was raised regarding the old church laurels, as the stumps are sprouting, and whether anything could be done about this. There was a follow on question asking for the plans for a new hedge once the laurels had been dealt with. Note : Clerk will follow up with SDNP.
- It was noted that Longmoor Road does not get gritted during cold weather and whether it should be given the lack of sun light due to the warehouses being built at the Old Apple Pie Depot. Note : The parish council are not aware that this road would usually be gritted, but did agree that a review should take place of the salt bins in the village and their locations. Action with Cllr Lafferty.
- It was requested that the junction of Petersfield Road and Farnham Road signage be looked at and improved. Also that the HCC works be carried out to update the road markings and corner chevrons etc. Clerk to Chase.
- There is a pot hole opposite the junction of Forest road with Petersfield road that needs to be reported. There is also a pot hole opposite the Greatham Inn. Clerk to Action.
- The bus stop at the entrance to the village from Digby way roundabout needs to be cleared. Clerk to action with the Lengthsmen.

24.195 : Parish Council Finances/Administration:

- a) **Payment Schedule:** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule. (Appendix 4). **Proposed by Cllr Cheesman and seconded by Cllr Lafferty.** (Appendix 4). It was **RESOLVED** to review the mobile phone contract with Giff Gaff because although the cost is acceptable, it is not possible to pay for the service other than the clerk to expense. Cllr Lafferty to review.
- b) **Finance Report:** To note the Finance Report for December 2024. The clerk/RFO advised that there was an error on the bank reconciliation for the month of January. This would be rectified for February meeting when they can be approved.
- c. **Clerks Report** (Appendix 6)

24.196 : Planning Applications :

- Lindisfarne : A request has been made for a flat roof canopy to form an open porch and a front door screen.

Council comment : It was **RESOLVED** that the council have no objection to the development. **Proposed by Cllr Pond and seconded by Cllr Lafferty.** It was concluded that the council can only comment with specific planning reasons and that we must utilize the extensive knowledge of Cllr Pond for advice. Cllr Cheesman declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion.

- 1 Hill View : Erection of 3 dwellings following the demolition of 2.

Council comment : It was **RESOLVED** to not object to the application as long as the parking is clearly delineated, solar panels are considered, biodiversity of the site is respected and adhered to as per the application, and that access from the site to the main road can be carried out in a forward gear. **Proposed by Cllr Pond and seconded by Cllr Cheesman.**

24.197 : Council Led projects for the 2025. It was **RESOLVED** to move this agenda item to the February 2025 meeting allowing for Councillors to consider the projects in more detail.

24.198 : Discuss SLR Locations for 2025. It was **RESOLVED** to move this agenda item to the next meeting so that the council can be presented with details of current locations and those previously approved by Hampshire Police.

24.199 : Reports from other organisations and outside bodies :

- PCC : Residents were reminded that Portsmouth Cathedral Choir will be singing Evensong in St Johns on the 9th February 2025.
- Community Hub : All residents were encouraged to attend the drop in sessions being hosted in the village hall to have your say on the project.
- Greatham Village Hall :
 - The PIR has been installed ensuring better illumination during the evenings of the front entrance.
 - The Nursery break in has been resolved.
 - Trim Trail quotes are being obtained.
- Cove Homes : Tree work will commence in the coming weeks and take approximately 2 weeks. It was agreed that access be via Digby way end of the village due to the issues with parking at the school and the pinch points making navigation by large vehicles difficult.
- The Old Church : a meeting of the working group will be organised to discuss ongoing maintenance and financing of the church.
- Longmoor Camp : There will be additional training carried out at Longmoor to generate revenue. 4000 cadets will be trained in 3 months over the summer. If the site is not fully utilised there is a chance that it would be sold for other use.

24.200 : Agenda Items for next meeting :

- 2025 Projects
- SLR Locations.
- End of Year Audit.

24.185 : The Date of the next meeting : 19th February 2025 @ 7.30 pm

24.201 : The meeting closed at 21.07

Signed (Chairman)

Date

Appendix 1 : Matters Arising

- The Clerk will follow up with the environment agency in the new year to discuss the flooding issues at Longmoor Bridge.
- A review of the information on the charities commission website has taken place. It is very limited in scope and would appear to also be incorrect. A formal letter will be send in January 2025 to the secretary of the charity requesting further information.
- The clerk will follow up with Cllr Oppenheimer to see if the parking enforcement team can visit to assess the parking issues within the village.

Appendix 2 : District Councillors Report

None Received.

Appendix 3 : County Councillor Report

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

TO

ALL PARISH COUNCILS

IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

2 JANUARY 2025

1. Devolution White Paper

On 16 December 2024 the Government published its White Paper on English Devolution. The proposals have widespread implications for the future of local government in Hampshire. I summarise here some key points of interest:

· The Government wants to rewire the relationship between Town and Parish Councils and Local Authorities, strengthening expectations on engagement and community voice.

· Community assets: The Government will replace the community ‘Right to Bid’ with a strengthened ‘Right to Buy’ Assets of Community Value in order to promote community asset ownership.

- A forthcoming consultation on standards in local government will include proposals for a mandatory code of conduct, Standards Committees, and powers to suspend councillors. The Government will remove the requirement for home addresses to be published.
- The Office for Local Government will be closed. A small team in MHCLG will measure local government, with a focus on the Government's key missions, objectives and outcomes. A new body will be established to take on audit functions (not the Audit Commission).
- Strategic Mayoral Authorities. The Government's ambition is to complete the devolution map, so that all parts of England are within a Strategic Authority. The Bill will contain provisions for a Ministerial Directive, to enable the Government to create Strategic Authorities in regions where local leaders have not been able to agree how to access devolved powers.
- 'Mayors' only: The Government will remove the ability of Strategic Authorities to call Mayors by another name (e.g. Directly Elected Leader).
- Areas of competence: Strategic Authorities will have a defined list of areas of competence, where they have a mandate to act strategically to drive growth and support the shaping of public services. The proposed list of areas of competence are:
 - Ø Transport and local infrastructure
 - Ø Skills and employment support
 - Ø Housing and strategic planning
 - Ø Economic development and regeneration
 - Ø Environment and climate change
 - Ø Health, wellbeing and public service reform
 - Ø Public safety
- Public service boundaries: The Government's ambition over time is that the boundaries of public services – including those of police, probation, fire and health services – are aligned with those of Strategic Authorities.
- Mayoral Precepting: Legislation will enable Mayors to use their precept to fund their full range of functions. Mayors will have powers to raise a Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy from developers to support delivery of strategic projects.
- Commissioners: Mayors will be able to appoint and remunerate 'Commissioners' They would not be members of the Strategic Authority, and the roles would be expected to reflect the areas of competence, such as a Transport Commissioner.
- Resources and Elections: The Government will work closely with local leaders to explore what support they might need to develop robust proposals and implement new structures, including taking decisions to postpone local elections where this will help to smooth the transition process

2. Hampshire Devolution discussions

Following the publication of the White Paper, the Minister responsible for English Devolution in the MHCLG Department, Jim McMahon MP, wrote to council leaders to formally invite devolution bids with proposals for new unitary council frameworks. The letter set out information

on MHCLG's criteria for sustainable unitary structures, how and when to submit proposals and how the government intends to respond to proposals. It is clear that new unitary councils should have a population of 500,000 or more.

Hampshire County Council is in discussions with District Leaders and with the Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight Unitaries about a joint submission. We do not yet know whether Hampshire will be included in the Devolution Priority Programme (the next wave of regions to undergo a devolution process). The deadline for submissions is 15 January 2025. An Extraordinary Meeting of HCC has been called for 9 January. We should know more by the end of this month, so watch this space!

3. New places planned for pupils with Special Education Needs

Hampshire County Council is proposing to expand specialist school places for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) at two mainstream schools in Havant and the New Forest.

By the end of this decade, the number of children in Hampshire with Education, Health, and Care Plans could increase by over 11,000, reaching around 28,000.

That is why we are taking steps now to support as many children as possible with specialist school places closer to home - reducing the need for expensive and distant independent specialist school placements, along with the associated transport costs.

Details of the proposed places are as follows:

- Crookhorn College, Havant: extra provision for 15 pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), to open in phases from September 2025
- Bartley Church of England Junior School, New Forest: extra provision for 12 pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, to open in phases from September 2025

Currently, to meet demand, many children requiring specialist educational support are funded by the Local Authority to attend independent schools. The cost difference between resourcing a SEND place in a local authority mainstream or special school and a place in the independent sector is significant. If agreed, the total annual cost of the extra places at Bartley and Crookhorn will be £568,796, compared to an estimated £1.9 million for the same number of day places in independent special schools.

4. School meals update: Managed Outsource solution

I have reported previously that Hampshire County Council (HCC) was consulting with schools on the closure of its catering service HC3S. It has now been decided that HCC will move to sourcing school meals from other providers by the end of March 2026, rather than producing meals in-house as it currently does.

This new 'managed outsource' arrangement will see the County Council purchase and manage the supply of meals from alternative providers on behalf of the schools and nurseries who subscribe to this service. This will potentially support schools and families to pay a lower price for school meals - particularly important given the ongoing cost-of-living pressures. School meals will

continue to be available to all children across Hampshire, including those eligible for free school meals.

With Government funding continuing to fall short, necessary price increases from HC3S have placed an added and regrettable burden on our schools' budgets, with many choosing to move to other more affordable suppliers. Outsourcing our school meals service to private providers, who have lower operating costs and are generally able to charge less, therefore presents a more attractive option for schools and paying families, while freeing us from the financial risk now associated with providing an in-house service. Education Catering, formerly known as HC3S, currently provides meals to 364 schools and 33 early years settings in Hampshire. It has seen 139 schools leave or give notice to leave since April 2022. While local authorities are ultimately responsible for ensuring free school meals are provided to eligible children, they are not legally required to run their own catering services to fulfil this. With the County Council continuing to face significant and well documented budget pressures, the move to a managed outsource arrangement will enable it to exit a market in which it can no longer afford to compete. It will also allow the local authority to continue supporting schools, addressing concerns raised in the recent consultation about the potential difficulty that certain schools might face in finding a suitable alternative provider, and the added challenges that schools might generally experience as a result of managing their own arrangements. It is expected that the majority of staff currently working in the Education Catering service will transfer to the new catering suppliers contracted under the managed outsource arrangement, in line with national employment legislation. Consultation regarding these arrangements will be undertaken with staff and trade unions in autumn next year.

5. National Parks powers to be strengthened

On 16 December 2024 DEFRA announced that new legislation will be introduced to enable National Parks to deliver more for people and nature. So far, we have only had a Press Notice so there is not a great deal of clarity on the detail of the new laws. I assume that there will be a proper consultation in due course.

The measures will (apparently) include a general power of competence for National Park Authorities, which will clarify their legal framework, removing restrictions which prevent an entrepreneurial approach, and cutting through bureaucracy to remove barriers to achieving more for people and nature.

The package will also “strengthen the role that public bodies, including water companies, must play in delivering better outcomes for nature, water, climate and access to nature in these special places, through new regulation that will support public bodies and Protected Landscape organisations to work more closely together”.

This sounds like enabling legislation, so the implementation of the new rules may be contained in secondary legislation or government guidance. That guidance might not be published for three years. I will be keeping an eye on the DEFRA announcements to see what is actually proposed.

6. South Downs Local Plan Review consultation

Town and Parish Councillors will be aware that SDNPA has been undertaking a review of its Local Plan. A consultation on the revised Local Plan will commence on 20 January 2025.

The consultation will run until 17 March and I imagine that most Town and Parish Councils will want to submit a response.

The Local Plan Review pages are available at this link: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/the-south-downs-local-plan-review/>

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER

County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Appendix 4 : Payment Schedule

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Net Total	Vat	Total
02/01/2025	Disking	Monthly managed support including MS apps and Email. Paid by Direct Debit.	63.97	12.79	76.76
13/12/2024	Disking	Monthly managed support including MS apps and email. Paid by DD	63.97	12.79	76.76
30/11/24	Unity trust bank	Service charge debited 31/12/24	6.00	0.00	6.00

Appendix 5 : Finance Report and Bank Reconciliations

Receipts 1st December to 31st December 2024

Total Receipts £273.27

Balances as at 31st December 2024

Current Account £12,601.51

Deposit Account £26,696.15

Total at Bank £39,297.66

Earmarked Funds Held

Trees £ 900.00

Community Engagement £ 250.00

Elections £3500.00

EMR CIL + £2K Grant £1720.00

Telephone Box £ 500.00

Kings Coronation £ 500.00

Old Church £4500.00

Defib Maintenance £ 250.00

Bus Shelters £ 250.00

Total Earmarked Funds £12,370.00

General Reserves Balance £26,927.66 (Total at Bank less Earmarked funds)

Appendix 6 : Clerks Report

- Meeting with Rev Peter Sutton to discuss how the parish council can support the 150 year centenary of St John the Baptist Church in Greatham.
- Meeting with Richard Barwick of Cove Homes to find out their plans for the site in 2025.

- Review of Charities Commission details for the Coryton Almshouses, and drafting of letter to the secretary of the charity.
- Reported flooding issues on Longmoor Road from Development Site and also electrical installation tarmac works. Requested meeting with developer to discuss ongoing issues.

DRAFT