

**RECORD OF THE LITTLETON & HARESTOCK  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7 pm  
at Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall**

**Present:** Cllr G Sallis(Chair), Cllr J Biddlecombe, Cllr P Cunningham, Cllr R Warren, Cllr D Tozer, Cllr E Maun, Cllr J Whitburn, Cllr L Winn, Cllr T Jackson, City Cllr Horrill. City Cllr K Learney, City Cllr M Craske, City Cllr J Batho, Brian Middleton, Barbara Kingston, Francis Martin.

*Note: Members of the public have given their permission to be listed on the attendees' list*

**In attendance:** Mrs L Fielding (Clerk & RFO).

**1: Welcome**

The Chairman, Cllr G Sallis, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

**2: Apologies.**

County Cllr J Warwick, June Middleton.

**3: Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**

The minutes of the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were available on the Parish Council website and distributed to those who attended the meeting. Cllr G Sallis asked whether there were any questions or queries on them, and there were none mentioned. The minutes were then agreed upon without amendment (proposed by Cllr J Biddlecombe and seconded by Cllr D Tozer).

**4: City Councillor's Report – Wonston and Micheldever Ward - City Cllr C Horrill**

City Cllr C Horrill presented the following report on behalf of wards councillors, Cllr Patrick Cunningham, Cllr Stephen Godfrey and Cllr Caroline Horrill:-

It has been our privilege to represent Littleton as part of the Wonston & Micheldever ward for the last year.

2021/22 has been a strange year in Local government with the Covid pandemic impacting the work we have been able to undertake. Meetings have been on Teams and staff have been limited in the office. However, the City Council has continued to maintain services and has been especially focused on paying out grants allocated by the Government as part of the various Covid support packages.

Our village communities have become especially important during this time and the wonderful array of village groups in Littleton have been testimony to this.

We continue to build Council houses and completed a large development in Stanmore last year. We have been active in the 'Everyone In' programme ensuring the homeless in the City were cared for during the pandemic. We continue to work with charitable partners to encourage those we see on the Winchester streets sleeping rough and begging, to follow a pathway to an improved way of life.

**There have been several key projects that are of significance to the Winchester District during the last year.**

The **Sport and Leisure Centre** opened in May last year and provides a much-improved sports and leisure facility for the District. It was a joy to see this opened as it was a project that we were all heavily involved in.

**Central Winchester** has continued to grab the headlines and it has just been confirmed that a new development partner is being sought. This is super frustrating as the Supplementary Planning Document setting out the agreed plan for the area following extensive consultation with the public was agreed by us in 2018.

**River Park** which is now vacant, following the opening of the new Sport and Leisure Centre, has proved a hot topic. The Liberal Council failed to consult with the public about the future of the site and have agreed to a plan to sell the land to the University of Southampton. This has rightly caused much anger amongst the public.

A recent survey about the **Andover Road** which received over 800 responses indicated that +90% of people wanted the road to stay open. We have been lobbying extensively in the ward about not closing the road

and I know this will continue to be a discussion. We know that residents in Littleton are concerned about the possible rat runs in the village

**Planning** is at the heart of City and Parish Council activities, and you have had a number of applications to review. We continue to lobby the Council about the lack of progress in enforcement and support the Parish Council's efforts to ensure any outstanding cases are processed.

The new **Local Plan** currently in development offers a real cause for concern. 3000 additional houses are required through to 2039 over and above those already to be built in locations such as Kings Barton. However, the final number is not confirmed as the City Council has failed to confirm that it will not take additional houses for the Partnership for South Hampshire which says it has insufficient land to accommodate their housing needs. As a Parish, you are in the thick of the discussion given the SJM SHEELA site and the possibility of 800 to 1000 new homes there. This will be the largest new development in the revised Local Plan. In addition, you have multiple other SHEELA sites being proposed in the Plan. This means as a Parish you need to be thoroughly involved in the process as many of the decisions are yet to be clarified and some would fundamentally change the character of the village.

### **5: City Councillor's Report – St Barnabas Ward - City Cllr K Learney**

City Cllr K Learney presented the following report on behalf of wards councillors, City Cllr M Craske, City Cllr A Weir and City Cllr K Learney:-

This report is from the councillors of St Barnabas ward which covers Harestock, Weeke, Bereweke and Teg Down. Unfortunately, Councillor Anne Weir who stood down this year after 10 years representing St Barnabas ward, which for the last 6 years included Harestock, couldn't be with us this evening but I would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank her for all the hard work she has done for local people over the years. A good example has been the recent start of work to improve access and facilities at the Weeke Community Centre used by many Harestock residents where it took 5 years to tie up additional land, legal agreements and grant funding. This is however an opportunity to introduce our newly elected Councillor James Batho.

Quite a lot of our mailbag is County related with the state of the roads, traffic speeds and dangerous crossings often coming up as they do to the Parish Council. While not strictly our remit we do make representations, report issues, lobby County Councillors and James Batho has been running speedwatch sessions in the local area.

Planning makes up a significant part of our casework. Harestock generally sees relatively few controversial planning applications. However, the major development ongoing on our doorstep with Kings Barton underway and Sir John Moore barracks likely to be redeveloped have been a high priority. At Kings Barton, we have taken an active part in the Kings Barton Forum to advocate for Harestock and other St Barnabas residents. Councillor Craske in particular has been involved in developing the Vision for Winchester which sets out what people would like to see change in the City and is working on how we carry that through into what is on the ground and the ongoing development of our new local plan.

The cost of living crisis is affecting our residents, and visits to the local foodbank have been increasing. The City Council has been doing what we can, raising Council rents by just 3.1%, keeping our Council Tax increase to below inflation and increasing funding for hardship programmes but clearly we are in for a rough time financially over the next few years.

As you may be aware there are about 70 military homes occupied in Harestock. This year the Council renewed its signing of the Armed forces covenant pledging the military and the council to work together for the benefit of the community and serving and retired servicemen and women and their families. In a similar vein of serving better our diverse communities and those with particular needs the City is to launch an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion forum and would be interested to hear from residents who would like to be involved. We have also agreed to move forward to becoming a City of Sanctuary which is welcoming of refugees.

As the Cabinet member for housing and asset management Councillor Learney has been heavily involved in building and regeneration projects, particularly Central Winchester where we are now shortlisting potential partners for the redevelopment of the area.

The housing register for the district has been falling, partly due to the building of new council homes, the Council will keep seeking opportunities to build itself with land rather than finance being the constraint.

District-wide the Climate emergency and creating a greener district has remained the key priority and we have cut the Council's own carbon footprint by a third, increased recycling to record levels, created new wildflower meadows, planted trees and increased prosecutions for flytipping. We could say a lot more but have a limited time slot so I will just finish by saying we are all readily available to local residents to talk through any issues.

#### **6: Sir John Moore Barracks Army Training Regiment Report – RQS (W02) David Lewis.**

The report from the Army Training Regiment was given by the Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant David Lewis on behalf of the new Regimental Sergeant Major (W01) Richard Bould.

RQS David Lewis reported that the new RSM, Richard Bould, was new to post that day, and replaced RSM (W01) Melita Jarvis. There was also a new commanding officer, Lt Col James Cartwright who replaced Lt Col Noott. RQS David Lewis reported that RSM (W01) Richard Bould would be available to attend future Parish Council meetings.

There has been a parliamentary announcement stating that the Winchester Army Training Regiment will officially close the site in 2026, however, there is a preferred option to have a phased closure over 2024-2026. The Army Training Regiment have received much needed investment to improve the accommodation and dining facility, as a result of the uncertainty of the closure date.

HRH the Princess Royal visited Sir John Moore Barracks on 29 Apr 22 and planted a tree as part of the Queen's Jubilee in the garden of remembrance. RQS David Lewis noted that the garden of remembrance was expected to remain after the Army Training Regiment leaves the site.

The next few months will see the Army Training Regiment hold a family's day for the Queens Jubilee, and the Freedom of Winchester Parade.

#### **7: County Councillor's Report – County Cllr J Warwick.**

County Cllr J Warwick had not been able to attend the meeting, however, the Clerk read out the report from County Cllr J Warwick as follows:-

**Facts and Figures** Hampshire's population is **1,389,200** (2020) the third most populous county in England (85% is rural and 15% urban). Hampshire CC maintains **5400** miles of roads, **4300** miles of pavements, **150,000** streetlights, **474** maintained schools for 138,000 pupils, **52** academy schools for **38,000** pupils, **10** residential homes for children and young people, **18** Older Persons Care Homes, **24** Household Waste Centres and **5** Country Parks. **4.8 million** books, e-books and magazines are loaned each year. The proportion of household waste sent to landfill has decreased since 2011/12 (from 8% to 4%). **96%** of all Hampshire waste is either recycled, reused, composted or sent for energy recovery. The waste sent to energy recovery produces sufficient energy to power **50,000** homes.

#### **Budget HCC approves £2.4 billion spending on local services in 2022/2023**

Plans for the next financial year focus on the county's ongoing work following the pandemic, support for vulnerable children and adults, investment in Hampshire's roads and infrastructure to support economic recovery, as well as climate change mitigation.

The annual council tax charge for a Band D property will be £1,390.86 – an increase of £0.78 per week, equating to 2.99%, of which 1% is for adults' social care. The budget includes £556.2 million of capital expenditure over the next three years to boost jobs, the quality of the environment and to tackle climate change.

The proposed capital programme includes: • £109 million in new and extended school buildings to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire • £136 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years • £109 million for integrated transport schemes including over £50 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements • £95 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings and land holdings over the next three years following the £33 million for decarbonisation schemes covering solar PV, single to double glazing window replacements, the transition from oil to gas and the implementation of heating controls that took place in 2021-2022

### Homes for Ukraine

The County Council is working with local district and borough councils, as well as key local partners such as the NHS and Hampshire Constabulary, to prepare for the provision of immediate support and assistance to Ukrainians arriving in Hampshire under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. An initial £100,000 has been set aside to provide immediate support and assistance.

Several key areas of activity are currently being prioritised:

- a process for home visits is being put in place; individual sponsors will be contacted by the County Council regarding these, as soon as they have been formally notified by the Government of an impending arrival
- a process is also being set up to allow sponsors to receive a 'thank you' payment of £350 per month direct to their bank accounts.
- DBS checks are required of all sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, as well as enhanced DBS checks for hosts who will have Ukrainian children staying with them. These will commence as part of the home visit process and will be undertaken by HCC.
- guest families will be assisted with school admissions so that formal education can continue as soon as possible; queries about school places can be directed to [https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/contacts\\_places](https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/contacts_places)
- the County Council's adult social care team is liaising with NHS representatives regarding how support will be provided. GP support and the provision of crisis mental health assistance is a key consideration.

A dedicated 'Support For Ukraine' webpage ([www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine)) has been set up and is being regularly updated with the latest information, together with signposting to updates from central Government.

**Climate Change** Hampshire County Council has been taking active steps to ensure Hampshire is resilient to the impacts of a 2% rise in average temperature and in mitigating further changes through carbon reduction measures. HCC's own emissions have been reduced by more than 43%, with more than a 50% reduction by 2025 and carbon neutrality by 2050.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/climatechange>

**Councillor Grants** This year I have supported a wide range of local causes across the Division with grants amounting to £8000 including a range of projects in our local parishes, Winchester Charities CAB, MHA (older persons support) and GoLD (Learning Disabilities), Wessex Cancer Trust and Maggie's centre.

### 8: Chairman's Report

Cllr G Sallis then gave his report for 2021-2022 as follows:

#### Introduction:

I am pleased to present to you the first 'face to face' Chairman's report since 2019 due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic.

It's been another busy year for the Parish Council, perhaps more so than in previous years as we adapted to the constantly changing circumstances. However, the council has continued with its work whilst also doing its best to ensure the community was supported and informed.

**Communications.** The Council and community websites were revamped just over a year ago with a focus on engagement and accessibility. We also introduced a monthly e-newsletter which is going from strength to strength and now has approximately 300 subscribers.

This medium was particularly useful during the pandemic as it enabled people to stay up to date. As well as informing on the Parish Council's work, we feature the news and consultations that affect our community that come via WCC and HCC, as well as a monthly community feature which focuses on initiatives instigated by parishioners that we can highlight, support and contribute to financially and in kind through the estate.

For example, the excellent work by the Littleton Linkers and Harestock volunteers during COVID, all the work going into arranging the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the big picnic which will be held in the recreation ground on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, and the Littleton and Harestock show which we will be welcoming back and hosting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September after a two-year hiatus. The council would like to thank everyone involved in arranging these important community events and initiatives.

We do also very occasionally send out a hard copy newsletter if something very important comes up, for example, the proposed redevelopment of 'Sir John Moore Barracks', or as we prefer to refer to it, Flowerdown.

### **The Proposed Flowerdown Redevelopment (Sir John Moore Barracks)**

It's been a year and a half since the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and their advisors initiated the first and only public consultation to date regarding the proposed redevelopment of the 85-hectare estate. We reached out to our local MP to engage with the Secretary of State for Defence to ensure our concerns and feedback is being heard, as well as being included within the context as a primary stakeholder, I am pleased to say we have had ongoing and regular discussions with the DIO that continue.

We realised that it was not enough to simply object to the potential of between 800-1200 houses and a park and ride located in the north of Flowerdown, but we needed to come up with a viable alternative to mass building over the greenfield areas. So, we suggested that a new Local Nature Reserve be incorporated in the north to protect the Greenfields and the natural habitat. We also proposed the idea of an interactive heritage trail highlighting the many untold stories of the site. During many conversations, this initiative has received the support and/or the interest of the HIWWT, Natural England, Historic England, English Heritage, Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery fund, the Wonston & Micheldever ward councillors, MP, and the Hampshire Chronicle, who have told me that this is one of the most important issues and initiatives that they have been reporting on for a generation. I would like to thank all of you who have written letters of support and those of you who have advised on the merits of protecting a culturally historic and environmentally significant area.

What we now need to do is gain the official support of all our ward councillors and WCC: that protecting the greenfield and creating a space that will contribute towards the wellbeing of all residents of the Parish Council now and for future generations is a great investment, a vital investment and an opportunity that must not be lost for short-term gain. I must stress that we are not opposed to the development of the 'legitimate' brownfield areas within the ringed security fence.

In the meantime, we have engaged the services of an expert planning consultant who will be assisting us in our response as their evolving intentions for the site become clearer.

**Other planning matters:** we have responded to over 80 planning applications in the last year, and we review all the enforcement cases in the Parish every month. We also responded in detail to the two strategic planning applications for the aggregate recycling facilities or 'crushers' at Downs Farm and Three Maids Hill. I would like to thank my predecessor Stephen Burgess for the significant amount of time he put into responding to these applications. I would also like to thank our dedicated volunteer tree warden for reviewing all the applications related to tree preservation orders.

### **Recreation ground, playgrounds and wider estate.**

A significant part of the Parish Council's funding is spent maintaining our recreation ground and playgrounds, it's an incredibly unique asset which requires a lot of time and planning to keep in good order for the benefit of the community. The playgrounds in Bradley Road and Littleton as well as the outdoor gym equipment are

maintained in accordance with the weekly paid-for inspections by WCC. We recently refurbished the large multi-play at Bradley Road and installed a new toddler multi-play in Littleton.

We are pleased to see the sports clubs back in action and are in the process of building a new much larger storage facility behind the pavilion. We are also currently building a new retaining wall next to the tennis court to ensure the area is safe for people to walk.

Following an inspection of the football pitches by the FA, we have been advised to limit their usage to maintain the quality of the surface. We continue to lease the MOD football field/recreation areas on Harestock Rd for use by residents, the lease agreement currently lasts until May 2023. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chair of the sports club and its committee for supporting all the sporting activities.

### **The Parish Office**

We recently completed a long-overdue refurbishment of the Parish office, which included new larger windows, cavity wall insulation, new heaters, rewiring and hot running water. I would like to thank the volunteers that look after the flowerbeds around the office and keep them looking beautiful.

### **Littleton Pond**

We continue to maintain the Pond area and the island opposite, under licenses from HCC. Last year we also repaired the back retaining wall of the pond.

**Speed Indicator:** Last year we purchased a new Speed Indicator Device, which is placed in rotation at 5 locations in Harestock and 3 in Littleton as well as providing a useful reminder to motorists to stay within the speed limits, the council is also able to collect movement and speed data.

**Flood Alleviation:** We are pleased to report that HCC in conjunction with Hampshire Highways and Fyfield/Pitter Close residents are actively investigating solutions to the areas prone to flooding, these discussions are continuing, and we are hoping to have a viable solution soon.

### **With regards to other areas, we support.**

The council also provide a donation to the Littleton Church to maintain the churchyards, and to WCC to support the Harestock night bus.

### **Climate Change and Environment.**

We have worked with WINACC to assist with their carbon footprint tool to calculate the baseline of our parish community and have made the household carbon calculator available on our parish website. We have promoted the Winchester Area Super Homes project which provides homeowners with independent advice on a tailored retrofit to reduce their carbon emissions, particularly through insulation, solar panels and heat pumps.

We are investigating the opportunity to plant wildflower strips on grass in Harestock and we are liaising with English Heritage concerning a more sensitive mowing regime at the Flowerdown Tumulus Field. Within the **Tumulus Field** we created a butterfly glade in the wooded area and continue to work with English Heritage to protect the barrows and maintain the area with the support of our wonderful tumulus field volunteer wardens. Thank you to them.

### **Parish Council Changes**

There have been several changes in the make-up of the Parish Council in the last year. Stephen Burgess resigned as Chair and councillor. On behalf of the Parish Council, we would like to thank him for his diligence and hard work over the last few years.

Joan Burgess and Kelsie Learney also resigned from the council after many years of dedicated service, we would like to thank them for their time. All three will be very much missed.

I am pleased to welcome Liz Winn and Tim Jackson to the council, their experience and knowledge will be very useful, and I would like to thank them for hitting the ground running.

Thank you to all the Littleton & Harestock Parish Councillors for their dedicated work over the last year. Your time, input and advice is greatly appreciated.

Thank you also to our city councillors our, webmaster, cleaner and last and by no means least thank you to our brilliant Clerk, Lisa Fielding. You do an amazing job, and we all appreciate your dedication, diligence and guidance.

And thank you to all of you for attending; it's lovely to see you in person again.

Ladies and gentlemen that concludes the Chair's report for this year....

### **9: Financial Report**

The Clerk presented the unaudited accounts for the year 2021-22, and elaborated on various specific items in the accounts. There were no queries raised, but the Clerk stated that she would be very happy to respond to any questions related to the accounts at a later date.

### **10: Public Participation**

Cllr J Biddlecombe referred to the closure of the Barracks and was surprised that Winchester City Council had not been able to be clearer during discussions regarding the future development of the Barracks. Cllr J Biddlecombe asked if development plans were already in place given that it was only eighteen months until a proposed phased withdrawal of the Army Training Regiment. City Cllr K Learney reported that the Barracks were not in the local plan yet, and a planning application was not in place.

Brian Middleton, on behalf of the residents, thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work over the past year. City Cllr C Horrill also commended the council on the amount that has been achieved in the last year.

### **11: Concluding Remarks**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and the meeting was declared closed.

The next Annual Parish Meeting is planned for 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022.