

**RECORD OF THE LITTLETON & HARESTOCK
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held on Monday 15th May at 7 pm
at Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall**

Present: Cllr J Biddlecombe (Chair), Cllr D Tozer, Cllr T Jackson, City Cllr Horrill. City Cllr K Learney, City Cllr J Morris, City Cllr J Batho, Clive Thomsett, Eryl Thomsett, Francis Martin, Colin Martin, John Murray, Sinead Borland, Donald Sendall, RSM ATR(W), PC 18348 Gary Leung 18348, PC 28656 Sam McEvoy.

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 J Biddlecombe, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

2: Apologies.

Cllr P Cunningham, Cllr L Winn, George Sallis.

3: Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2022.

The minutes of the meeting of 9th May 2022 were available on the Parish Council website and distributed to those who attended the meeting. Cllr J Biddlecombe 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 City Cllr K Learney and seconded by Cllr T Jackson).

4: City Councillor's Report – St Barnabas Ward - City Cllr K Learney

City Cllr K Learney on behalf of St Barnabas wards councillors, City Cllr J Morris, City Cllr J Batho and City Cllr K Learney.

The St Barnabas ward covers Harestock, Weeke, Bereweke and Teg Down, the Harestock part of the ward represents two-thirds of the electorate of the Littleton and Harestock Parish. Cllr M Craske who stood down this year was not able to be at the meeting, but Cllr K Learney took the opportunity to publicly thank him for all his hard work including the work on the local plan. He had enjoyed his time working for the local community but had to leave the City Council due to increased pressures of work and family demands. She then introduced the newly elected Councillor, Jonny Morris.

City Cllr K Learney noted that she had received input from many of the residents in Harestock, and much of that was related to concerns on the state of the local roads, street signage, litter and road changes due to the Kings Barton development. In the coming year the council will be focusing on the next steps for the Local Plan, and investigating changes to the recycling facilities with the hope to expand plastics recycling. She noted the progress on approving the revised Littleton Village Design Statement as a Supplementary Planning Document and hoped that the new government-led design code system would provide similar planning guidance for Harestock which is one of the pilot areas for the system.

City Cllr K Learney finished by saying that all three St Barnabas councillors are all readily available to local residents to talk through any issues.

5: 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 you as part of the Wonston & Micheldever ward for the last year.

We cover the 6 parishes of Crawley, Littleton, Micheldever, South Wonston, Sparsholt and Wonston, representing 7,984 residents across 109.8 km².

The last year has been focused on the development of the **new Local Plan** and the first version of the plan, the Reg 18 has been consulted on and circa 3,500 responses are currently being analysed. It proposes 3000 additional houses through to 2039 over and above those already to be built in locations such as Kings Barton. The City Council has still 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. The next stage of the plan will involve a further discussion about the housing numbers for the area and the location of the sites.

Sir John Moore Barracks is the key development site in the plan and will be the largest housing development in the plan, if it goes ahead, with circa 1,000 homes. Sadly, the City Council has not listened to the concerns of Littleton residents regarding the preservation of the northern fields, the location of a proposed park-and-ride facility and the preservation of the Littleton gap. The council continues to refer to the SJM site as part of north Winchester and consequently raises concerns about ensuring the rural nature of Littleton and the surrounding area. As your representatives, we will continue to make your views known.

Although not in the current draft plan the Micheldever Station site continues to be a major worry.

The developers representing the landowners have challenged Winchester City Council on the feasibility of the Sir John Moore proposals, our ability to fulfil our building requirements because of the phosphates issues and most importantly the decision by the Council to provide housing for the unmet need in the surrounding districts covered by the Partnership for South Hampshire. Their conclusion is that a development at Micheldever Station would solve these issues.

Residents in our ward continue to worry about the closure of the **Andover Road**. A recent HCC Decision Day decided to support the current planning approval to close the Andover Road once CALA has built out the required number of homes, despite the 3,000 and 764 signature surveys received asking for the decision to be reversed. We have been lobbying extensively about not closing the road and I know this will continue to be a discussion as the impact on our local road network could be extensive.

We continue to work with the Parish Council and other authorities such as HCC on finding a solution to **walking safely to and from the Running Horse**, due to the narrowness of the road and the **flood alleviation scheme** for the village.

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

Central Winchester has continued to grab the headlines and it has just been confirmed that a new development partner has been approved. This project has been 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 been the subject of much, vandalism. The Liberal Council have agreed a plan to sell the land to the University of Southampton. Exactly how the site will be developed is still not clear a year on from the deal being announced.

Station Approach – the area around the railway station is being considered for redevelopment in partnership with the railway company. Exactly what and when is still being discussed.

As is the sale of the **Depot** the site next to the new Sport and Leisure Park at Bar End.

Work started on the new **St Clements surgery** recently which will be much appreciated by the 17,000 patients registered across the District who have not had a modern surgery facility for some time.

Planning is at the heart of City and Parish Council activities, and you have had your fair share of applications to review. This is a constant job and is important we all work together to ensure local views are well represented

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak this evening on behalf of my colleagues and I am happy to take any questions.

From the floor, one Harestock resident noted that he had felt isolated during the recent elections as no candidates knocked on his door and that perhaps Harestock should be in a different City Council ward. Cllr K Learney said she had personally knocked on 2,500 doors and that the wards were decided by the boundary commission based on the number of electors in each ward. Potentially a Governance Review planned for the Headbourne Worthy Parish may affect the local ward boundaries.

6: County Councillor's Report – County Cllr J Warwick.

County Cllr J Warwick presented the following report:

Budget for 2023-2024

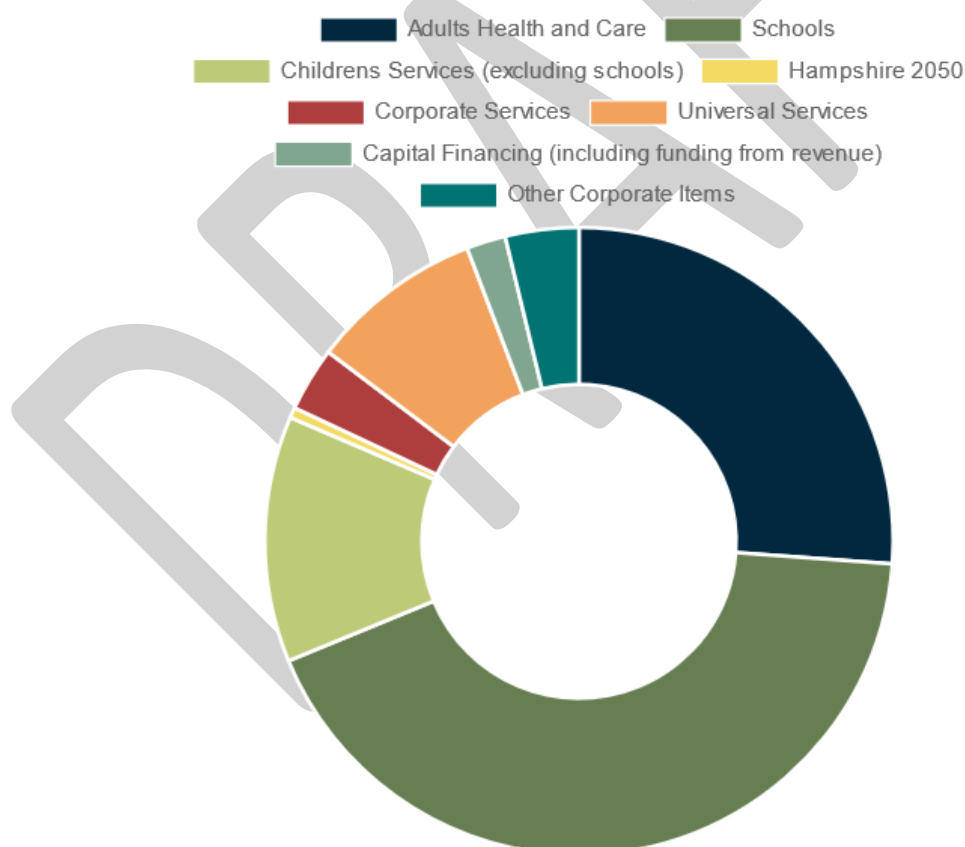
Hampshire County Council's expenditure for 2023/24 includes a £2.6bn annual revenue budget and covers all the services delivered by the council for 1.4 million residents, including supporting its most vulnerable children and adults.

Capital budget projects totalling £645.3m over the next three years include:

- £175m investment in new and extended school buildings to provide school places for children in Hampshire, giving a total of 18,874 new school places by September 2025.
- £142m for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges.
- £103m of Integrated Transport Plan schemes including £58m of schemes focused on walking and cycling improvements.
- £0.3m funding towards the County Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Defence Programme as part of our response to the challenge of climate change.

Hampshire County Council's council tax precept for the financial year beginning 1 April 2023, will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care, in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,460.25 for a Band D property – an increase of £69.45 per year or approximately £1.34 a week.

Where the budget will be spent



HCC Highlights from 2022/23

Pan-Hampshire County Deal

Council Leader Cllr Rob Humby held discussions with central government on plans for a Pan-Hampshire County Deal, with the aim of investing in Hampshire's economy and improving the lives of all residents and communities across the area by decentralising key decision-making and funding.

England's Chief Medical Officer Prof Sir Chris Whitty visited Hampshire County Council in March 2023 to discuss work by our Public Health team working alongside the NHS to help support a healthier old age. Preventing falls, being travel confident, better mental health and connecting through libraries will be part of the Live Longer Better programme launching soon. www.hantsiowhealthandcare.org.uk

Short Term Care Hampshire County Council's Adult Social Care service offers a range of care options to help our residents after a stay in hospital and help them settle back home. For some really good advice and help for older people visit www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk

The Chat About Scheme runs across our libraries and other community sites to provide a welcome space in which people can gather to connect and chat. The scheme is free to join and open to groups and organisations, such as libraries, cafés, community and voluntary venues, regular coffee morning gatherings, and workplace canteens.

Hampshire offers 97% of pupils their preferred Choice of School

More than 97% of parents in Hampshire have been offered a place for their child at one of their three preferences for a secondary school in September 2023.

Tree planting gathers pace

Hampshire Forest Partnership has continued to make great strides towards our target of planting one million trees by 2050.

Traffic Management

From 1st April 2023, the county council will take back traffic management (lines and signs!) from the district authorities.

Additional funding for pothole repairs

As confirmed in the government's Spring Budget, the county council will receive £5,954,400 to tackle this issue. Please report road issues at hants.gov.uk

HCC building a new Materials Recycling Facility in Eastleigh

This will enable the recycling of many more items, including Tetra Paks and plastics. The site will be fully operational in 2025.

Major investment in Hampshire Schools

A planned investment programme in Hampshire schools of £221m was announced. The programme includes several proposed school expansions; projects for special schools, early years settings and children's social care; as well as other improvements and modernisation of existing buildings.

20mph zones in Hampshire

The outcomes of the Task and Finish Group on the introduction of 20mph zones has been published. There are a number of recommendations in the report including community support before introducing 20mph zones more widely.

Lengthsman Funding

Funding to Parishes for the Lengthsman Scheme will continue for the coming financial year 2023/24. The Lengthsman scheme is a good example of successful joined-up government in Hampshire.

Energy efficiency programme

Hundreds of public buildings such as schools, libraries and museums have been made more energy efficient thanks to the installation of solar panels, double glazing, and modern heating systems. This follows the completion of an initiative to cut carbon emissions and has helped to mitigate the impact of rising energy costs.

Welcoming Ukrainian families

The county of Hampshire has welcomed the third-highest number of Ukrainian nationals in England. The county council will be increasing the payments made to all Hampshire residents hosting Ukrainian guests as part of the Government's Homes for Ukraine Scheme from £350 to £500 per month from March.

County Councillor Grant

My annual devolved Councillor Grant pot is for projects or events across the Winchester Downlands Division. It was opened on 1st April for Coronation grants and will open again for other applications on 1st June 2023.

Please contact me if you have a project or event that will benefit residents. In the meantime, please see the list of projects that benefitted from my grant funding last year:

Councillor Devolved Grants made in the financial year 22/23

Applicant	Project	Grant
Winchester Walking Football	Defibrillator	£333
Winchester Stroke Aphasia Group	Support for group meetings	£250
Sparsholt Parish Hall Committee	Wooden Floor Resurfacing	£400
Hursley Parish Council	Village in Bloom Planters	£300
Wessex Cancer Trust	Counselling Services	£250
Maggie's Cancer Trust	Hospital Garden room for families	£400
Oliver's Battery Parish Council	Sustainability Event at Fete	£300
MHA Winchester	Tackling isolation and loneliness in the Elderly	£300
Worthy Down Tri Service Base	Contribution to family event for service personnel	£600
Winchester GoLD (Learning Disability)	Winchester Pantomime Visit	£500
Otterbourne Parish Council	QEII Memorial Garden and Bench	£600
Hursley Village Community Association	Mini Forest Tree Planting	£300
Winchester Beacon (Night Shelter)	Upgrade of bathroom facilities	£1000
Blue Apple Productions	Animal Farm	£250
Badger Farm Community Association	Repair Cafe	£450
Winchester Bereavement Support	Bereavement Counselling Services	£600

From the floor, one Harestock resident raised the concern about sight lines near Well House Lane and suggested that some of the trees need a crown lift. County Cllr J Warwick agreed to investigate with the support of the resident.

7: Sir John Moore Barracks Army Training Regiment Report (ATR)

The report from the Army Training Regiment was given by the Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) who has been in post for one year. He stated that basic training for recruits would continue until September 2026, and that the regiment supports the community by allowing them to use the facilities at the Barracks including:-

- Penguins swimming on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays.
- Littleton Junior Football Club
- The Triathlon Club on Tuesday and Sunday afternoons.

The following events will occur during the Summer:

8 th July 2023:	Officer's Mess
15 th July 2023:	Sergeant's Mess
26 th July 2023	ATR Family Day

One resident noted that he had not seen the recruits running through Littleton for some time, and the RSM reported that all physical training was not within the camp and that more compound exercises were employed rather than extended runs.

The question was also raised about what would happen to the houses in Harestock when the ATR left the Barracks but the RSM was not aware of the plans for the houses.

8: Police Report –Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Gary Leung

PCSO Gary Leung reported that his team is the Winchester City Neighbourhood Policing Team which is made up of 1 Police Sergeant, 1 Special Sergeant, 10 Police Constables, and 5 Police Community Support Officers.

They are supported by the

- The Winchester Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team, who cover the rural parts of Winchester such as Alresford and Hursley.
- The Winchester Greater Neighbourhood Policing Team, who cover the other side of Winchester such as Bishops Waltham and Waterlooville.
- The High Harm Team who deal with high-harm incidents such as drug-related harm or high-risk offenders.
- And the 24/7 Response and Patrol Team who deal with all emergency 999 calls.

9: Chairman's Report

Cllr J Biddlecombe then gave his report for 2022- 2023 as follows:

Communications. The Council continue to invest in our Council and Community websites. Our monthly e-newsletter is going from strength to strength and now has over 400 subscribers.

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.

We occasionally send out a hard copy newsletter if something very important comes up, for example, the proposed redevelopment of 'Sir John Moore Barracks'.

The Proposed Flowerdown Redevelopment (Sir John Moore Barracks)

It's been two and a half years 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. After the initial consultation, we reached out to our local MP to engage with the Secretary of State for Defence to ensure our concerns and feedback were being heard. However, about a year ago, all consultations ceased and although we were advised in January that discussions were due to recommence, we are still waiting.

The DIO intends to align its Master Plan with the proposed Winchester District Local Plan which went out for public consultation recently. As part of the Parish Council's aim to protect the greenfield and have a space that will contribute towards the well-being of all residents now and in the future, the council has submitted a briefing document to the Winchester City Planners which lays out our ideas for the future of the Barracks site. This includes the protection of the Littleton gap and the northern field, plus proposals for pedestrian and cycle links to the site. I must stress that we are not opposed to the development of the 'legitimate' brownfield areas within the ringed security fence.

We have continued to engage the services of an expert planning consultant who will be assisting us in our response as the evolving intentions for the site become clearer.

Other planning matters: we have responded to over 50 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 Winchester District Local Plan Reg18 Consultation on the new District Plan.

We have revised the Littleton Village Design Statement (LVDS) and we are following up on the feedback that was received from the recent public consultation which included a response from the DIO and its Consultants. We have recently met with WCC planners to discuss their comments, and I would report that we do not agree with many of their suggestions and have reminded the planners that it is our VDS and not the DIO's

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, and an annual detailed and in-depth inspection from the Play Inspection Company.

We were disappointed that the surface of Parkour equipment was damaged last year by vandals which left the area with significant burnt areas. This area has now been repaired following funding from the Council's insurers.

We recently resurfaced the multi-use games at Bradley Road, Harestock and installed a large multi-challenge climbing structure ("Labyrinth") in Littleton, and we are delighted to say both are being well-used. We'd like to thank Environmena for their donation of £12,000 towards the Labyrinth which has enabled us to supplement the budget and meant that we could purchase a much bigger and more exciting piece of equipment.

The Sports Clubs are using the new storage building behind the pavilion which the Parish Council erected, and this, along with other items of repair and maintenance are being carried out to continue to provide this excellent recreational facility. There is one great drawback to having such a wonderful area, and that is that the recreation ground is very popular and whilst we do not want to spoil the enjoyment of visitors to the grounds, the facilities are being grossly overused and are showing signs of heavy wear and tear. This may result in us having to close off areas of the recreation ground for periods of time to allow the areas to recover.

Also, there was a lot of damage to large parts of the Recreation ground grass at the end of Summer/early Autumn last year due to Chafer grub which was exacerbated by the very dry weather. We are currently investigating what can be done to prevent this happening this Autumn.

The grounds maintenance contract was re-tendered this year with the successful contractor again being Green Smile, who has signed a contract for the work for the next 3 years.

The Parish Office

The Parish Office has recently been refurbished with new windows, improved roof and wall insulation, redecoration and new office furniture and carpets. This was long overdue as the previous refurbishment had been done more than 12 years ago. Re-arrangement of the office has allowed the introduction of a small space for councillor meetings.

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.

Highways

We did our best to alleviate the impact of the road works in the Summer which enabled the installation of the link between the Solar Power Farm and the battery on Stockbridge Rd. We have also reported the existence of many potholes in the Parish and will continue to do so.

We are continuing discussions with HCC regarding the provision of a means of safe passage between the Running Horse and the old village, and have budgeted for a scoping report to be carried out by HCC engineers to find a solution to the problem.

We continue to maintain the Pond area and the island opposite, under licenses from HCC, and we also arrange for our Speed Indicator Device to be placed in rotation at 5 locations in Harestock and 3 in Littleton.

We planted a large tree in the Bradley Rd playground to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and we also planted three other commemorative trees for the Jubilee in the Recreation Ground conservation field in conjunction with St Catherine's Church, Littleton and the Littleton and Harestock WI.

Climate Change and Environment.

Our Climate Change Working Group has gone from strength to strength. Following two climate change cafes, one held in Harestock and another in Littleton, several residents volunteered to support the council in pursuing Climate Change ideas. This included the purchase of a Thermal Imaging Camera which has been loaned out to residents over the Winter period. An Energy-saving event was held on 28th March where presentations were given that covered the use of the thermal imaging camera, loft insulation and DIY actions that combat draughts.

The team are also pursuing an opportunity to plant wildflower strips in an open space in Harestock. In addition, the Parish Council has distributed wildflower seed packets to the Harestock Primary School and Littleton pre-school to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. The seeds were also available for residents to collect from the Harestock Bakery and the Parish Office.

We are also liaising with English Heritage concerning a more sensitive mowing regime at the Flowerdown Tumulus Field, 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.

Council Changes

Following the recent local council elections, we now have 6 councillors and 5 vacant positions and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who has the enthusiasm and time to actively try to enhance the way of life of the residents of the Parish by joining the council.

Rod Warren, Ed Maun and Julia Whitburn decided not to put themselves forward for re-election, and I would like them for their dedicated service, in particular Rod Warren who has been a councillor at Littleton and Harestock Parish Council for 18 years.

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

Thank you also to our city and county councillors, our webmaster, our cleaner and gardeners who look after the border outside of the Parish Office 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.

That concludes the Chair's report for this year

10: Financial Report

The Clerk presented the unaudited accounts for the year 2022-23 and elaborated on various specific items in the accounts. There were no queries raised on the accounts themselves, however, a resident asked for the reserves information to be printed out for viewing at the meeting. The Clerk gave a brief overview of the reserves position and agreed to make the 2023-2024 reserves statement available at the next annual parish meeting.

The Clerk also stated that she would be very happy to respond to any questions related to the accounts at a later date.

11: Public Participation

One resident raised the concern that the latest collection at the post box at Harestock shops had changed to 9 a.m. whereas, during the Covid pandemic it was a priority post box with later collections until 5:30 p.m. Cllr J Biddlecombe noted that this was in line with all the other post boxes in the area except for the one at the Weeke shops in Stoney Lane.

Another resident raised the concern that the planned tree work in the Recreation Ground had not been done all at the same time, and the Clerk reported that this was due to operational schedules from the tree surgeons. The same resident was also concerned that the Green Storage Shed behind the Pavilion did not have planning permission, and Cllr J Biddlecombe reported that the council had applied to the Winchester City Council Planning department and had been advised that planning permission was not needed in this case.

Clive Thompsett, on behalf of the residents, thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work over the past year.

12: Concluding Remarks

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