

RECORD OF THE LITTLETON & HARESTOCK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Monday 8th May 2024 at 7 pm
at Littleton Millennium Memorial Hall

Present: Cllr J Biddlecombe (Chair), Cllr D Tozer, Cllr T Jackson, Cllr L Winn, Cllr S Borthwick, Cllr C Morton, Cllr T Jackson, Cllr J Musselwhite, City Cllr Horrill. City Cllr J Morris, the Commanding Officer ATR (W), the RSM ATR(W), PC 27719 Thomas Harries and 6 members of the public.

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.

County Cllr J Warwick, City Cllr K Learney, City Cllr J Batho and 2 members of the public.

3: Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2023.

The minutes of the meeting of 15th May 2023 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 Cllr J Musselwhite and seconded by Cllr D Tozer).

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

HCC Highlights from 2023/2024

Invitation by Hampshire County Council to bid for funding to plant disease-resistant elms Communities across Hampshire are invited to apply for funding to plant disease-resistant elm trees. The English countryside was once dominated by elms, but since the 1960s these trees have been ravaged by Dutch elm disease that was accidentally introduced to Europe in the early 20th century. The disease has killed nearly all the mature elms in Britain, an estimated toll of 60-100 million trees. Our planting initiative will be a great opportunity to enhance local spaces and provide essential habitats for wildlife including species of moth and butterfly.

The Hampshire Forest Partnership has already supported 1,205 disease resistant elm trees to be planted across Hampshire's green spaces by farmers, landowners, and local communities. Enquiries are open now for the 2024/25 tree planting season which starts from the autumn. Organisations such as town and parish councils, local groups and landowners can find out more information including how to apply for disease resistant elms by contacting the Hampshire Forest Partnership on treeplanting@hants.gov.uk

Bus Services Hampshire's £7.2 million share of the Department for Transport's (DfT) Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus money and has been awarded to protect existing commercial services (that might otherwise see reduced timetables) and to fund more frequent services from May. The **Bluestar 1** service between Winchester and Southampton will have an additional evening weekday service and new late-night services in each direction on Friday and Saturday evenings. **Service 66** between Romsey and Winchester will improve to every 30 minutes, Monday to Saturday daytime.

Government appoints Hampshire County Council to take lead role in local nature recovery Hampshire County Council has been appointed by our government to prepare a 'Local Nature Recovery Strategy' for Hampshire, including the areas of Portsmouth and Southampton. £388,000 will be provided to coordinate the development of the new strategy in collaboration with key partners.

The Strategy will bring together organisations and residents to restore precious habitats, protect wildlife and combat climate change.

Hampshire County Council is one of 48 individual local authorities across England designated as leads for the delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and will work with Southampton and Portsmouth unitary authorities, the region's two national parks and all eleven district and borough councils across Hampshire.

Improving Recycling and Reuse at the Household Waste Recycling Centres: Residents are being asked to separate their waste ahead of a visit to a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) to reuse and recycle

more, and to reduce the amount of material that goes to costly disposal methods such as landfill. By taking a few moments to sort our waste material, we could save up to £200,000 of taxpayers' money every year. The HWRC teams will be on hand to answer any questions and offer advice.

Most HWRCs in Hampshire will be able to recycle the following materials:

- Garden and green waste
- Metals
- Wood
- Cardboard
- Electrical equipment and appliances
- Batteries, printer cartridges, and light bulbs
- Furniture
- Clothing and textiles
- Paints, chemicals, engine oil and gas bottles

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 2023 for Coronation grants and will open again for other applications on 1st June 2024. 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:

Table 1: Grant Recipients of the Winchester Downlands Grant pot for 2023/2024

Applicant	Project
Compton & Shawford PC	Coronation Event
Otterbourne PC	Coronation Event
Hursley PC	Coronation Event
Oliver's Battery PC	Coronation Event
Chat T Café Badger Farm	Coronation Tea Party
Otterbourne Parish Council	Queen Elizabeth Memorial Garden
Hampshire Garden Projects	Edible Garden Oliver's Battery Primary School
Key Changes	Music Therapy for young people with a disability
Winchester Young Carers	Day Outing for carers
Winchester Go Learning Disability	Day Outing to Theatre
WinACC	Support for Green Week
Hygiene Basics Bank	Start Up grant

Our Hants -the county council's app is available for download to your smart phone. You can report a pothole, book your HWRC visit, find jobs at HCC and in education, apply for a school place, renew a library book, find things to do in Hampshire and much more too!

HCC budget 2024-25

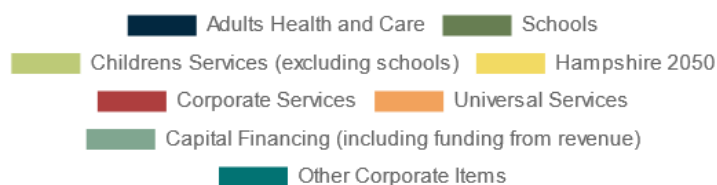
The County Council's budget for the next financial year has been approved by the council. This budget covers £2.6 billion of public spending on the ongoing delivery of important local services to Hampshire's 1.4 million residents.

The County Council also approved the spending of **£880.6 million** over the next three years on capital programs, to help boost jobs and the local economy, the quality of the environment and contribute towards the County Council's commitment to tackling climate change. This provision for Hampshire's infrastructure, including more school places, improving roads and bridges and investing in the fabric of Hampshire's older people's social care estate, is one of the largest in the country, and brings the County Council's four-year total investment in the fabric of Hampshire to £1.4 billion, providing a huge boost to the local economy through jobs, skills and construction.

Transforming in-house care for older people The County Council operates in-house care homes for older people and will invest **£173m** on new specialist nursing and complex dementia care, as well as short term pre-and post-hospital support, to better meet the needs of the county's ageing population.

It will increase the overall number of beds available to local people from 900 to 1,000, within a network of 13 homes. Approving these plans secures the long-term future of our in-house homes ensuring they remain in the council's ownership.

Where the budget will be spent



5: City Councillor's Report – St Barnabas Ward - City Cllr J Morris

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

Apologies from Councillor Kelsie Learney who is on a training course and Councillor James Batho who is working but I am very pleased to be here to report on behalf of St Barnabas Councillors who represent the Harestock part of the Parish Council.

Kelsie would like to thank local people for her reelection this month. As the member of Cabinet for the Climate Emergency, she has been involved in not only carbon reduction but natural environment improvements, regeneration, new homes and recycling and very much appreciates the opportunity to see projects through.

This year James has chaired the Economy and Housing Policy Committee and been vice chair of the Kings Barton Forum.

In my first year, I have served on several committees and got involved in a number of planning issues – all good experience

On the doorstep in Harestock the biggest issue continues to be potholes and the state of roads and pavements, unfortunately not something the City Council can sort out. Other major issues are road safety, major developments, recycling and the City Centre.

We have continued our 20mph campaign and will be looking to progress to more concrete measures this year. James has continued to organise speed watch sessions and has been looking at local school travel plans. This year, a new crossing on the Worthy Road will provide the final link in a safe and pleasant cycle and walking route from Harestock over Kings Barton to town.

We have kept a close eye on the Sir John Moore development proposals, particularly around preserving the Harestock football pitch and providing safe routes across the Harestock Road to the field and any new development.

On recycling the Government finally published its simpler recycling proposals in the autumn and the City Council is working on introducing food waste collection hopefully well before the March 2026 deadline. Unfortunately, wider plastic recycling, pots, tubs and trays is awaiting the creation of new county council disposal facilities and they have indicated this won't be ready until after March 2026.

In the City Centre redevelopment area the Council has signed the development agreement with the Jigsaw consortium and the signs of change are already there with the successful revamp of Kings Walk, the demolition of the Medical Centre and the start of work on the temporary riverside park which will be ready next month. The new doctors' surgery is also well on its way.

In the past year, new bins and new and refurbished benches have been provided in the town and a major toilet refurbishment program has started with the St Maurices covert toilets which are to be followed by Chesil car park and Abbey Gardens toilets.

6: 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:-

Chair, thank you for the opportunity to address the Annual Parish meeting this evening. It has been our privilege to represent you as part of the **Wonston & Micheldever Ward** for the last year.

The three Councillors cover the 6 parishes of Crawley, Littleton, Micheldever, South Wonston, Sparsholt and Wonston, representing over 7,000 residents across more than 100 km². Patrick lives here in Littleton, Stephen in South Wonston, and Caroline lives in Sparsholt. We are all local to the communities we love and represent.

We still await the next draft of the **new Local Plan - Reg 19** where the Council will have considered the consultation feedback, requests for more development sites from developers and any shifts in key data that we need to take into consideration. The City Council has participated in the search for additional development sites to accommodate homes required by the Partnership for South Hampshire, which says it has insufficient land to accommodate their housing needs. The site in our area has been identified near Botley and would result in 1000 homes. We have objected to the proposed Popham Airfield development in the Basingstoke District which has also re-ignited a discussion about the Micheldever Station development of 6,000 homes, which would all impact our ward. We have also campaigned not to have new development in the new local plan on green field sites.

For Littleton **The Sir John Moore** consultation continues to be a key focus, with recent site visits organised for Councillors and the public. It is anticipated a master plan will be submitted to the Council for approval later in the summer. It is essential that local individuals and groups continue to engage with the DIO in the discussions about what they would like to see on the site and attend any available sessions as the re-development of the site with 900 homes will have a major impact on the parish.

Residents in our ward continue to worry about the closure of the **Andover Road**. Hundreds of residents are requesting that the decision be reconsidered as we now know we will have some 900 new homes at the top of Andover Road on the **Sir John Moore** site. 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.

As a Council we are committed to **building more Council houses**, some 1000 over the next ten years to ensure more affordable homes are available in the District. Micheldever and Sparsholt in our ward will be part of that programme.

The Council continues to work on re-development projects such as Central Winchester, River Park, and Station Approach in the city. The most obvious recent change has been the demolition of the Friarsgate Medical Centre and the exposure of the waterway.

We continue to work alongside the Parish Council on many important local issues and to ensure your views are fully represented. In particular planning and especially the continued development of the **Three Maids Hill** site with more industrial units has been an area of focus.

More specific local issues such as the **footpath through the village**, which we know is a key matter for residents, are areas of work we continue to focus on with HCC Cllr Jan Warwick.

You can contact your City Councillors at any time, or you can catch us at any Parish Council meetings.

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

The Army Training Regiment report was given by the new Commanding Officer who has been in post since February 2024.

He noted that the ATR branding had changed and that they were now providing training in line with the British Army's new training system, the Soldier Academy. They are one of only 3 regiments that deliver basic training to over 18's and they have recently received the highest applications for training for the last 5 years, with the biggest intakes since September 2022. There is a real sense of community on-site, and they are now using more technology and modernising the training program.

As part of the Defence Estate Optimisation Program, they will cease all training in Summer 2026 and they will hand over the site to the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) at the end of 2026. The training regiment will then move to Pirbright and continue to deliver training from there.

More recently, the ATR has been attracting a lot of interest from the wider community. Steve Brine (MP) attended the April passing out parade as the inspecting officer, and the Minister of Defence recently visited and was impressed by the training and the site in general. A three-star general is also expected to visit the site soon, and as the Commanding Officer noted, there is a lot of interest from the Army's higher echelon who have recognised what a fantastic site the ATR have at the Sir John Moore Barracks.

8: Police Report –Designated Neighbourhood Officer (DNO) – PC Tom Harries 27719

PC Tom Harries presented the police report as the new Designated Neighbourhood officer introduced as part of the "Local Bobby Scheme".

He noted that Harestock and Littleton, as well as the North of Winchester would be covered by himself, PC Tom Harries 27719 who will be the Designated Neighbourhood Officer (DNO) for the area. The role of a DNO is to be a constant point of contact for residents in the local area allowing the DNO to have a better working relationship with partners, and a better knowledge of issues in the area, helping to create a proactive multi-agency approach to issues.

He works alongside the rest of the Winchester Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) currently made up of a further 2 other DNOs for different areas of Winchester, 6 Police Constables (PCs) and 4 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

The Winchester City NPT work alongside Alresford and Bishop Waltham making up the Winchester District. They all work in conjunction with 5 shifts of Response and patrol covering a 24/7 Policing response to emergencies and day-to-day Policing.

For the north of Winchester, the big changes are the development of the role as a DNO, as well as the push for the public to sign up to Hampshire Alerts. This is a new system being used by Hampshire police to communicate to members of public on an almost personal level by local officers who have an understanding of the area.

One resident asked what the relevant Police websites were and it was agreed to add them to the minutes of the meeting as follows:-

Hampshire Alert - <https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/>

UK Police Site - <https://www.police.uk/>

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary - <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/>

9: Chairman's Report

Cllr J Biddlecombe then gave his report for 2023-2024 as follows:

Introduction.

We started the year with only 6 Parish Councillors when 11 is our requirement. During the year we have been joined by Simon Borthwick and Cliff Morton, but we still have 3 vacancies. 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.

However, despite our shortage in numbers, the council has continued with its work doing its best to ensure the community was supported and informed.

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 468 subscribers.

As well as informing on the Parish Council work, we feature the news and consultations that affect our community that come via WCC and HCC, together with information on the activities of the Council PACE Group and any other matters which we feel need to be notified to the community.

The Proposed Flowerdown Redevelopment (Sir John Moore Barracks)

We continue to have regular meetings with the DIO with regard to their Master Plan for the Sir John Moore Barracks Development. As you are all hopefully aware they have organised public workshops and site visits to the site so that members of the Parish are aware of the extent of the proposals. They anticipate that they will present their Master Plan in the Autumn of this year. Unfortunately, until our meeting with them this morning, they have not seen fit to share any of their thoughts or proposals with us, but we have now agreed on a way forward and hopefully, we can progress. We have also contacted City Councillor portfolio holders to ask for their assistance and the provision of information, but that has drawn non-comittal responses.

We did gain access to the Capita ecological survey information, which we made available to the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) who contribute to national nature recovery, by managing the SINCs system in Hampshire on behalf of the local planning authorities and wider partnership.

HBIC does not have the authority to designate SINCs but through its survey programme can select sites that meet the SINC criteria for approval by the SINCs Advisory Panel and subsequent adoption by the relevant local planning authority. Our Parish Council were informed that the Hampshire SINCs Advisory Panel had designated the northern part of the Flowerdown site (predominantly the Northern Grasslands), a Candidate SINC, and that they would be advising the DIO and WCC as the local planning authority, so that WCC can make the necessary arrangements to formally designate this. The DIO have informed us, that they will be making some objections and have 12 months to do this, presumably ending October 2024. At this stage, neither the DIO nor Winchester City Council have confirmed to us that the SINC will be formally designated or adopted. With Winchester City Council declaring a Nature Emergency in September 2023, along with all the supporting publicly expressed ambitions explicit within that, We do hope the authority makes every effort to ensure the recommendation of the SINCs Advisory Panel is considered in every way, particularly in the guidance being given to the DIO regarding their draft masterplan.

We should emphasise that a SINC does not exclude public enjoyment of these spaces. Often, it's quite the reverse with appropriate management. However, if they are required to be managed appropriately in the interests of nature, then it is difficult to see any housebuilding directly on a SINC, as being compatible with that.

We have continued to engage 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 46 planning applications in the last year, and we review all the enforcement cases in the Parish every month. Of these applications, 7 of these related to tree preservation orders and we would like to thank our volunteer tree warden, <redacted>, for all of the work he has undertaken on our behalf.

We have also made comments on applications which are outside of our Parish, namely the Anaerobic Digester, the Concrete Crusher and Concrete batching plant and the proposed electric vehicle charging service area, all at Three Maids Hill

We have completed the revision of the Littleton Village Design Statement and are pleased to report that it was adopted on the 4th of September 2023 by the Winchester City Council as a Supplementary Planning

Document when considering planning applications. The document is available to view on both the Parish and WCC websites.

Recreation ground, playgrounds and buildings.

A significant part of the Parish Council's funding is spent maintaining our recreation ground and playgrounds, it is an incredibly unique and popular 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 are maintained in accordance with the weekly paid-for inspections by WCC. We have reinstated the 5-a-side football goals, carried out resurfacing in the playgrounds and carried out the health and safety works required to keep them up to date. We have installed the new Labyrinth in Littleton and the new mini MUGA, football and basketball area in Harestock. Both are being very well used.

The Sports Clubs have also funded the resurfacing of the tennis courts and in conjunction with a report and grant from the Football Association, have treated the football pitches in order to improve the playing surface to a higher standard

The Pavilion has been redecorated internally and externally, the gutters and fascias have been replaced, the grass cutting deposit area has been moved and replaced to provide easier access and maintenance, and the entrance into the overflow car park has been improved.

We have renewed the lease from the MOD football field/recreation areas on Harestock Rd for use by residents, the lease agreement has been extended for 4 years and now lasts until May 2027.

After rather protracted talks, we have recently signed a new agreement with the sports club for their use of the Recreation Ground facilities. Much of the agreement is as before, but we have now encompassed changes to the way that the ground is being used, and clarified a few inconsistencies and other matters.

Flood Alleviation.

We are pleased to report that HCC in conjunction with Hampshire Highways and Fyfield/Pitter Close residents have agreed on a solution to the areas prone to flooding, and once all of the legal matters and planning are completed works will commence in carrying out the remedial and preventative measures required.

Highways.

We have continued discussions with HCC regarding the provision of a means of safe passage between the Running Horse and the old village. Unfortunately, the only viable option which they would consider was the installation of a 'Bus Gate'. i.e. the closure of Main Road down the hill to all traffic except pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and buses.

We continue to maintain the Pond area and the island opposite, under licenses from HCC, and we continue to use our Speed Indicator Device to be placed in rotation at 5 locations in Harestock and 3 in Littleton, it provides a useful reminder to motorists to stay within the speed limits and the council is also able to collect movement and speed data of vehicles.

Climate Change and Environment.

Littleton and Harestock PACE (Parish Action on the Climate Emergency) continues to develop the Parish Council's response to the Climate Emergency.

- **Energy saving.**

Residents in Littleton and Harestock are able to borrow a thermal imaging camera for free. This highlights where heat is leaking out and where cold air is finding its way in and is a really good starting point for householders to identify energy saving home improvements. The group has provided information sessions on tackling heat loss in the home in local events, including the mini Eco Fair held in Harestock in September.

- **Improving biodiversity.**

Stall holders at the Fair chatted about our neighbourhood meadow initiative in Buriton Road and took away packets of wildflower and grass seeds for their own garden projects. Information boards have been put in place. A group of volunteers worked to mow and rake the meadow and seeds were sown in readiness for a flowering meadow this year. We have also recruited volunteers to help with clearing verges of litter in Littleton and Harestock. This is important for ensuring that native plants and wildlife have a better chance of survival.

- **Reducing waste.**

A popular A-Z of Recycling Information is available on our website and we have been working with other groups and parishes to help bring about a local repair café. This is dependent, as is so much of our work, on our being able to attract some keen volunteers.

- **Volunteers.**

We are already very grateful for the enthusiastic input we have had from our existing volunteers who work with us on a range of projects this year, but we are always looking for new faces to join us. You do not have to be a Parish Councillor to join.

We have been working with English Heritage to maintain the Flowerdown Tumulus Field, protect the barrows and maintain the area with the support of our wonderful tumulus field volunteer wardens. Thank you to them.

The Parish Council

The Parish Council is audited each year by not only our own internal auditor, but also an external auditor who does not just look at our finances, how we spend them and account for them, but also our processes and procedures and compliance with the rules, regulations and standards which are in place and the implementation of the many policies which we have. We are very fortunate to have a very able and capable Parish Clerk in Lisa Fielding who not only has managed to get a clean bill of health from our auditors on more than one occasion, but all keeps us councillors on the straight and narrow. Thank you, Lisa. You do an amazing job, and we all appreciate your dedication, diligence and guidance.

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

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

And that concludes the Chair's report for this year!

10: Financial Report

The Clerk presented the unaudited accounts for the year 2023-24 and elaborated on various specific items in the accounts. The Clerk then gave a brief overview of the reserves position, and the various reserve budget amounts currently allocated.

There were no queries raised and the Clerk stated that she would be very happy to respond to any questions related to the accounts should anyone wish to contact her directly.

11: Public Participation

One resident raised a concern about the storage of Sports Equipment in the Recreation Ground and noted that the Croquet team were considering introducing a new shed to store equipment and asked if funds could be made available to support this.

The council agreed to investigate the Croquet proposal and asked the resident to email the Clerk.

12: Concluding Remarks

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