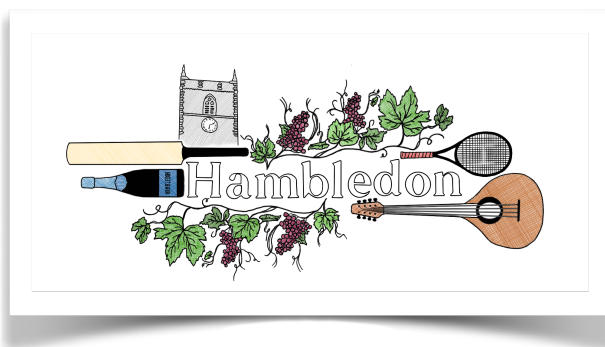




DRAFT MINUTES

Hambledon Parish Council

To Incorporate the Annual Meeting of the PC and the Ordinary May 2025 Meeting of the PC
07 May 2025; 7.00pm; Hambledon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Encke (Chair); Cllr Silcock; Cllr Clarke; Cllr Lamb (left the room at 8.13pm; returned at 8.18pm); & Cllr Hand.

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Wallace (HCC & WCC; arrived 8.43pm); Cllr Lee (WCC; arrived 8.43pm); Cllr White (WCC; arrived 8.43pm); Jan Jarvie (FAG); & four members of the public.

Meeting started at 7.00pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2640	Election of Chairman for 2025/26	Resolved: that Cllr Encke is elected as Chair of the PC for the year 2025/26. [Cllrs voted unanimously for.]	
2641	Chairman's Acceptance of Office Forms	Cllr Encke duly signed the Chairman's Acceptance of Office form.	
2642	Election of Vice-Chairman for 2025/26	Resolved: that Cllr Silcock is elected as Vice-chair of the PC for the year 2025/26. [Cllrs voted unanimously for.]	
2643	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of all villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2644	Apologies	Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Mills-Goodlet.	
2645	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None.	
2646	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2647	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. The following issues were raised: Fencing in Headstone Copse.	
2648	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	

2649	District councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (see appendix A). Additional points discussed as follows: • Rural Prosperity Fund. • Electric car charging points.	
2650	County councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (see appendix B). Additional points discussed as follows: • Recycling changes. Food waste collections due to start Mar 2026. Delay on collections of plastics/tin foil etc. until 2027.	
2651	Mins of previous meeting (07/04/25)	Agreed as a true record.	
2652	Fencing in Headstone Copse	Resolved: that the PC has discussed the concerns raised by some members of the parish over the closure of the access to the top section of Headstone Copse and agrees that no further action by the PC should be taken. [Report provided in advance to councillors - appendix C.]	
2653	Delegation arrangements to committees, sub-committees, staff and other local authorities.	Resolved: that no amendments are required to current arrangements.	
2654	Review of the terms of reference for committees.	Resolved: that no amendments are required to the terms of reference for committees.	
2655	Election of members to existing committees (C)/working groups (WG)	Resolved: that the PC approves the appointment of the following cllrs (lead councillor in bold type) to existing committees (C)/Working Groups (WG): • Planning (C) - Cllr Clarke; Cllr Silcock • Finance (WG) - Cllr Silcock; Cllr Hand; & Cllr Encke • Beautiful & Safer Streets (BASS) (WG) - Cllr Silcock; Cllr Clarke • Footpaths (WG) - Cllr Hand; Cllr Lamb • Village maintenance & Lengthsman (WG) - Cllr Hand • Play (WG) - Cllr Daly • Flood Action Group (WG) - Cllr Encke; Cllr Hand • Tennis (WG) - Cllr Mills-Goodlet • Hambledon Greening (WG) - Cllr Lamb Flood Action Group - Jan Jarvie stood down as Chair of the FAG. This role has now been taken back into the PC and will be undertaken by Cllr Encke. JJ's significant contribution to FAG was recognised by the PC. Clerk to update website with the above details.	Clerk
2656	Arrangements with other local authorities	Resolved: that the PC approves the continued membership of the Lengthsman Scheme. (Previous lead parish was Soberton; new lead is Tichbourne PC. No contract with the lead parish is now required.)	Clerk
2657	Representations on external bodies	Resolved: that the PC approves the following cllrs to represent the PC on external bodies: • Vineyard Liaison Group - Cllr Hand • Hambledon School - Cllr Encke	

2658	General Power of Competence	Resolved: that the Clerk gains the CiLCA qualification before PC elections in 2026, to enable the PC, if applicable, to then exercise the general power of competence.	Clerk
2659	Arrangements for Ordinary Meetings & Next Annual Meeting	Resolved: that the ordinary meetings of the PC will be held on the first Monday of the month, with the exception of August 2025 (no meeting held in August). The annual meeting of the PC will be held in May 2026, date to be confirmed. All meetings to take place in VH Meeting Room @ 7.30pm.	
2660	Clerk's progress report	Parish Lengthsman Agreement - schedule for 2025/26: 06/05/25; 30/07/25; 05/11/25; & 05/02/25. Flooding @ bottom of Bury Lodge Lane - no update. Large puddle on pavement outside 13 West St/The Cross Tree - HH reported back 'no maintenance work required'. E-mail sent 05/02/25 to Gina Chandler (HH) re blocked drains throughout Village. Member of the Highways Customer Support team has reported online on PC's behalf. Last updated 25/03/25 - initial assessment has taken place & further investigation will be carried out. Checked 06/05/25 - no change to status. Southern Water issues - currently liaising with Floyd Cooper re meeting on-site 13/05 or 14/05 to look at damaged fence (Fareham Road) and manhole covers from Green Man to OFTR. Flooding on road near Kings Rest - reported to HH 13/10/23. Response 'could not locate defect'. Likely that they visited when there was no road flooding but didn't look into the cause of previous flooding. Suggest wait for next flooding, take photos & re-submit. Damaged bollards at East St pinch-point - two of the three bollards have been replaced with narrow, non-reflective posts. Contact has been made with Tracey Webb (HCC) via e-mail & Tracey has taken measurements for the reflective strips during site visit with Cllr Silcock 25/09. Big Pipe outlet ditch (blockage due to collapsed bank where RTA happened) - some work has now been carried out on the BP outlet ditch where the most recent RTA occurred. The main debris has been removed from the bed of the ditch but debris remains on the road-side bank, and the deteriorating condition of this bank is obvious. Clerk has sent photograph to Cllr Wallace. Blocked gullies opposite OFTR - reported to HH online (build-up of debris inhibiting drainage of water spilling out of SW manhole covers). Response was that the issue was SW's and had been passed on. Useful/Emergency Info Leaflets - WCC Small Grant fund awarded £150. Clerk to take forward when time allows. Villager drop-in 'surgeries' - no progress to date. Cllr Daly & Clerk to take forward when time allows. Drain clearance - E-mail sent 05/02/25 to Gina Chandler (HH) re blocked drains throughout Village. Member of the Highways Customer Support team has reported online on PC's behalf. Last updated 25/03/25 - initial assessment has taken place & further investigation will be carried out. Checked 06/05/25 - no change to status. SDNPA CIL fund - application has been submitted for £30k for phase 1 of BASS traffic calming measures. Need to consider WCC CIL fund application. CityFibre works • £1000 received for bed reinstatement. • Adrian Smith still investigating whether chamber can be moved.	
2661	Bank account	Bank balance - £60,517.34 @ 30 Apr 2025; bank statement 185, 01 Apr 2025 to 30 Apr 2025, has been forwarded to cllrs.	Clerk

2668	Tennis WG	No report received. The Clerk informed the PC that the new tennis court net has been installed. Alice Godwin-Hudson and coaches are due to complete online safeguarding course 13/05/25.	
2669	Flood Action Group	Report received (see appendix F).	
2670	Play & playground Re-vamp WGs	No report received & no additional updates.	
2671	Hambledon Greening WG	Report received (see appendix G). Cllr Lamb also reported the following: • Headstone Copse fencing - Cllr Lamb has advised HG that as a working group of the PC there is no need to respond/comment separately. • Recent road closures around Rushmere Farm/Speltham - not acceptable.	
2672	Reports & Issues	• SDNPA CIL - £488.60 has been received. • Damaged Green Man flower bed - £1000.00 compensation has been received from CCN Communications. • SDNPA CIL fund - application has been submitted for £30k for phase 1 of BASS traffic calming measures.	
2673	Date/time of next meeting	• Annual Meeting of the Parish - Thurs 15th May 2025 at Hambledon VH; 7.30pm. • Mon 2nd June 2025 at Hambledon VH; 7.30pm.	
2674	Confidential matters	No members of the public or press were present and no confidential matters were discussed.	

The meeting closed at 9.18pm

Signed:

Signed:

Cllr Encke (Chair)

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

Dated:

APPENDIX A

Winchester City Councillor Report Apr 2025

Cllr Malcolm Wallace (mwallace@winchester.gov.uk)

Cllr Danny Lee (dlee@winchester.gov.uk)

Cllr Suzanne White (SWhite3@winchester.gov.uk)

80 years since Victory in Europe (VE) Day

Thursday 8 May 2025 marks 80 years since Victory in Europe (VE) Day and the Winchester district is remembering the sacrifices and contributions that brought peace to Europe in 1945. See [VE Day 80 in the Winchester district - Winchester City Council](#) for a number of events being held across the District and local Region.

Devolution

Devolution provides an opportunity to deliver efficiencies and better services to our region through:

- A Mayor-led Strategic County Combined Authority (MCCA) covering Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton & IOW after Mayor elections in May 2026.

- o In the Hampshire and the Solent devolution consultation response by Winchester the following was requested/commented on

- need for improved governance and strengthened environmental powers and duties. The need for these duties was also supported at aHCC Full Council meeting.

- concerns about the use of First Past the Post risks the election of a Mayor who does not have the consent of the majority of Hampshire's electorate will create inevitable barriers in their ability to deliver.

Local Government Reorganisation

The 15 councils across Hampshire submitted their interim plan for Local Government Reorganisation to the government on 21st March and are currently awaiting the government's response to this. We will keep you informed when we have received further information on this.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/no-listing/devolution-and-local-government-reorganisation>

Next step by Councils is to refine potential Unitary Authority configurations. Maps of Winchester assets in Parish localities have been passed for consideration of transfer of ownership. Maybe an opportunity for Parish Councils to take ownership? Public consultation can be expected for any significant organisational changes for the above including boundary changes. No boundary changes expected for Central Meon Valley at this stage. If you have any questions about the LGR and Devolution, contact your Councillors.

Winchester Local Plan Update

The hearing sessions for the Examination opened on Tuesday 22nd April. Links to the hearing sessions information can be found on the examination page of the Council's website under Watch Hearings, View Agendas, Documents and Statements: <https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/examination-page> Work on the subsequent Local Plan required to meet the new National Planning Policy Framework published in Dec 2024 (uplift in housing numbers etc) has commenced with the publishing of a timetable. The aim is to adopt this Local Plan in 2028 assuming there is no delay in the secondary legislation being published in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act. See timetable - [Local Plan Timetable - Winchester City Council](#)

Rural England Prosperity Fund and Uk Shared Prosperity Fund 25/26 Now Open

Open for applications for not-for-profit and businesses with the themes of Community and Place, Local Business Support and People and Skills.

Proposed eligibility criteria and methodology:

- Awards between £25,000 and £50,000 encouraged
- Priority to first-time applicants
- Emphasis on sustainability, inclusivity and prosperity

Key Dates:

- 27 May – UKSPF application period closes
- 11 June – REPF application period closes
- July/August – awards
- 28 February 26 – all projects complete

Interested community groups or businesses with a project they want to discuss are encouraged to contact the economy team at prosperity@winchester.co.uk for advice and information about how to apply.

My Home Made Better

A new initiative has now been launched by the Hampshire Environment Centre.

The aim is to inspire residents with one-to-one advice, case studies, videos, online resources, open homes, events and webinars, all designed to help individuals make more informed decisions about their properties. There is free training available for people who would like to become local 'energy champions', who will then be able to provide energy efficiency information to help residents improve their homes. Contact Stuart Mills at WinACC for more information stuart.mills@winacc.org.uk

Local sustainability groups will be sharing this information with residents at some of the local summer fetes.

More information can be found here - <https://myhomemadebetter.org/>

Planning for Renewable Energy cross the District

Join the next Carbon Neutrality Open Forum (CNOF) on 21 May 2025 and hear from experts in planning energy for the future and how renewable energy generation can benefit Winchester.

You'll learn about Winchester's local area energy planning project and hear from experts in our district who are already looking at the potential for sustainable energy in their areas.

Everyone is welcome, and questions on the subject of Winchester's future energy needs can be sent in advance to climateemergency@winchester.gov.uk

Book here: Carbon Neutrality Open Forum: Energy Planning for Winchester District Tickets, Wed, May 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite .

The Four 'C's' - Household energy Consumption, Carbon dioxide emissions, occupant Comfort and running Costs,

The Hampshire 'My Home Made Better' initiative (above) was inspired by National Energy Foundation (NEF) Superhomes improvement projects. NEF this week published findings following the performance evaluation of 30 retrofitted homes based on a year's worth of monitored data where multi-measure packages were used. Details here- [National Energy Foundation releases findings following the performance evaluation](#)

[of whole home retrofits](#). The health and comfort data that NEF shared with residents was found to be welcomed as in almost all cases it revealed something that the homeowner was not aware of, be this poor indoor air quality, high humidity or periods of ‘overheating’ in summertime. This has led to some residents reviewing and changing the way they ventilate their home to prevent mould growth and potential negative impacts on health. This technical information is being shared in case it is helpful to those who are thinking about upgrading their homes. If too technical, it can be used to inform scoping work by experts for home improvement projects.

- For those who already have a heat pump please complete the satisfaction survey that NEF is running <https://forms.office.com/e/c5XafcNpMP>

For technical improvements to your heat pump to make them run more efficiently contact the HeatGeeks: www.heatgeek.com/

Other Home Energy Efficiency opportunities

The following offers advice and support. But please carefully check eligibility for grants as they will depend on the type of home and your circumstances.

- [The Energy Saving Trust](#) . Guidance for the type of insulation for properties..
- [GB Insulation Scheme](#) – eligible if the property has an [energy performance certificate \(EPC\)](#) of D to G and is in Council Tax bands A-D in England.
- [Energy Company Obligation \(ECO4\) scheme](#) - supports energy efficiency measures for homes in fuel poverty.

CENTRAL MEON VALLEY - COUNCILLORS ANNUAL REPORT (MAY 2024 – MAY 2025) (Cllrs Malcolm Wallace; Danny Lee & Suzanne White)

Your Winchester District Councillors have been actively involved in the 2024/2025 Municipal year in shaping some of the most significant decisions affecting our area in decades.

Some headline successes from the last municipal year - 2024/2025

- **Meon Valley Transport/Travel Forums** - A new CMV Councillor initiative tackling shared transport issues, improving highways reporting, promoting active travel schemes, and supporting community bus services.
- **Cultural Strategy, Community, Sustainable Spaces and Schools** - Supporting village halls with funding access, renewable energy projects, EV charging, and backing greening initiatives including wildflower planting and River Meon protection.
One significant success - Swanmore College has installed 152 solar panels, expected to generate 120MWh of clean electricity annually with a lower carbon footprint, and £15,000–£20,000 saving a year.
- **New Winchester Local Plan** - Secured minimal and well-placed development, prioritising stronger environmental protections and infrastructure delivery — now with the Planning Inspector — while we prepare to resist weakening changes.
- **South Downs National Park (SDNP) Management Plan and Local Plan Review** - Safeguarding nature-led priorities against housing-led pressures, promoting traffic calming and landowner-led conservation through SDNP programmes.
- **Planning Enforcement** - Successfully lobbied for £200,000 in extra funding to improve enforcement against illegal planning, especially in our rural areas.
- **Local Flooding** - Worked with flood and water authorities to highlight and pushed for improved flood prevention and resilience measures in Meon Valley parishes.
- **Waste and Recycling** - Helped prevent the closure of Bishops Waltham Recycling Centre and supported new doorstep food waste collections from early 2026.
- **Landline and Mobile Services Changes** - Lobbied for better emergency and social care access as landlines are switched off and mobile services evolve.
- **One District Approach** - Promoting a fairer, more balanced distribution of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and grant funding between urban and rural areas.
- **Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation** - Significant conversations have taken place in Council and with Parish Councils about these Government proposals.
➤ **Devolution** - Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, and the Isle of Wight are working towards forming an elected **Mayor-led Combined Authority (MCCA)** by May 2026, with Parliament expected to ratify this via a Devolution Bill in late summer 2025.

- In the Hampshire and the Solent devolution consultation response by Winchester, improved governance and strengthened environmental powers and duties was requested, namely:
 - mandated statutory legal duties to address the Climate Crisis alongside strengthened Nature duties when making major economic and spatial planning decisions. These weakened considerations in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill are now passing through parliament.
 - concerns that the use of First Past the Post risks the election of a Mayor who does not have the consent of the majority of Hampshire's electorate – with the inevitable barriers that will pose to their ability to deliver. There are many electoral systems that can address this – including the alternative vote, supplementary voting or two stage voting – which it is believed should be considered in the upcoming Devolution Bill.
- **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)** — Potential mergers of District Councils, County Council & Unitary Authorities under the MCCA are being considered, with business cases to be reviewed by the Government in Autumn 2025.
- Maps of any **Winchester assets in Parish localities** for consideration of transfer of ownership have been shared. Maybe an opportunity for Parish Councils to take ownership?
- As the LGR programme develops, a public consultation is likely. We will share updates as soon as we have them.

Your CMV Councillors remain committed to supporting and fostering **thriving, safe, sustainable connected parishes**. Many challenges lie ahead, and we look forward to working with residents and Parish Councils to tackle the ongoing and any new challenges.

APPENDIX B

Hampshire County Councillor Report Apr 2025
Cllr Malcolm Wallace (mwallace@winchester.gov.uk)

Devolution

Elections for Mayor of the new Strategic Authority are planned to be held in May 2026. As well as promoting the interests of the wider region to central Government, the Mayor will work with local council leaders to make strategic decisions for our region in areas such as transport, skills and employment support, housing and planning, and tackling climate change.

Local Government Reorganisation

An initial response to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) has been jointly submitted to central Government on behalf of all 15 councils in the Hampshire and Solent area. Government feedback to the response has been delayed. More details on both devolution and reorganisation can be found at: Devolution and local government reorganisation | About the Council | Hampshire County Council

Hampshire Future Services Consultation

Hampshire County Council latest consultation on service changes runs to **7 May 2025**, and is being performed as part of steps by the Authority to help meet a remaining budget shortfall of at least £97.6 million for 2025/26. The savings proposals being consulted on cover:

- *Planned highway maintenance* – To remove funding provided each year by the Council to supplement Department for Transport (DfT) funding for highway maintenance activities.
- *Older Adults Day Services* – To stop running the older adult day care services at Chesil Lodge (Winchester), and Newman Court (Basingstoke). These day care services provide a range of individual and group activities (e.g. crafts, exercise, singing) together with personal care.
- *Post-16 Transport Only* – To focus resources so that the County Council would only assist with travel for Post-16 students with special educational needs or a disability, and who are from a low-income family.
- *Both School Transport and Post-16 Transport* – Several changes including asking parents to increase their financial contribution towards the cost of transport.

Full details are on the consultation webpage: www.hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation

Hampshire Celebrates and Remembers on 80th Anniversary of VE Day

On the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, 8 May 2025, Hampshire County Council will proudly raise the Union Flag outside the Great Hall in Winchester in celebration of the Day in 1945 which brought an end to the nearly six years of World War II. This year, 80 years of peace and our collective resilience and unity will be celebrated by communities across Hampshire as we also pay tribute to those who fought for the freedom we all enjoy today. Hampshire Archives has organised a free exhibition, running until 25 June, which explores the role of The King's Royal Rifle Corps and The Rifle Brigade, both historically based in Winchester. More information and links to VE Day events in Hampshire, as well as guidance for community celebrations such as street parties, can be found on the County Council's webpages.

Green Light to Boosting Recycling in Hampshire

Plans to construct a new, state of the art recycling facility for Hampshire, have been given the go-ahead enabling residents to recycle a wider range of household materials at the kerbside in future. Based in Eastleigh, the new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is expected to be up and running by the end of 2027, and will support all households across the Hampshire region to recycle:

- a much wider range of plastics, including pots, tubs, trays, cartons, and soft plastic film
- glass
- metal
- paper and cardboard

The £50.5 million proposal has been developed in conjunction with Hampshire's neighbouring waste disposal partners, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council, who will jointly fund the project ensuring a consistent service across the region.

The new approach being taken in Hampshire, aligns with Government's Simpler Recycling guidance on residential kerbside recycling – separating dry materials from other waste to reduce contamination – which occurs when dry recyclable material, such as card, is unable to be recycled if it gets wet or stained with food residue or mixed with glass. Managing waste in this way will reduce the cost of sorting 'contaminated' materials and ensure the recyclable materials can be put to best possible use. Further details on changes to bin collections will be announced in due course – at the moment, keep following the existing guidance!

Where Does Your Waste Go Currently?

General Waste (black bins) – Most of the non-recyclable waste collected from homes in Hampshire is taken to one of three Energy Recovery Facilities located in Marchwood, Chineham and Portsmouth. These facilities incinerate the waste and use the heat from this process to generate electricity which is fed to the National Grid. Each year these facilities create sufficient electricity to power 53,000 homes.

Recycling (green bins) – All of the recyclable materials from Hampshire's kerbside collections (cans, plastic bottles, paper, card, tins and empty aerosols) are sent to one of two Material Recovery Facilities in the county, in Portsmouth and Alton. The materials are separated using a combination of manual and automatic processes, including magnets, conveyor belts and lasers, before being baled up and sent to private companies for recycling into new products. Together, the two facilities can handle up to 157,000 tonnes of recyclables every year.

Garden Waste (brown bins) – All the green garden waste collected at Hampshire's recycling centres, as well as that from any local collections, is taken to one of two composting sites in the county. The green waste is composted in long heaps called windrows for 20 weeks and turned so it breaks down evenly. The finished product is 'Pro-Grow', a quality soil conditioner that is available to buy. Together, the two sites process over 75,000 tonnes of compost material every year.

Landfill – There is now only one landfill site open in Hampshire for disposing of household waste. Hampshire sends less than 5% of its household waste to landfill.

North Whiteley Secondary School

Planning Permission Granted

The County Council's Regulatory Committee has approved the plans for the school, which is set to open in September 2027, with building work due to commence on site this summer.

The new school is intended to meet the anticipated demand for secondary school places across Whiteley and will provide a vital new amenity for the Whiteley community. Designed by Hampshire County Council's Property Services team, the new school will include a three-storey main building providing classrooms, drama studio, and assembly and dining halls, with a separate two-storey sports block featuring a four-court sports hall and multi-use activity studio. The main building will also include a dedicated Resourced Provision for 15 children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), with its own outdoor area. A Resourced Provision is a specialist environment for children with SEND within a mainstream school. Outside, the site will provide two all-weather sports pitches, grass playing fields and a multi-use games area. The school's sports facilities and assembly hall will be available for community use outside school hours. The site will include a range of measures to reduce carbon emissions and ensure resilience to climate change, and links with the local footpath and cycle network to encourage families and staff to walk and cycle to school.

Approval to Relocate Henry Cort Community College in Fareham to North Whiteley

Following a recent decision by Hampshire County Council and consultation with the public, the new school is to be run by The Henry Cort Community College, which will relocate from its current site in Fareham to the new building in North Whiteley from September 2027. Chris Rice, Principal of The Henry Cort Community College, said: "My Governors and I recognise that this is the right decision for Henry Cort moving forward. While we fully appreciate that change can be challenging, the relocation will enable the school to remain viable, ensuring ongoing good quality education for local children. We will continue to work closely with the County Council to ensure local parents and pupils are fully supported as the transition

is made to the new site.” A further public consultation is being planned for later this year on changes to local catchment areas and admissions arrangements.

Home Energy Efficiency Opportunities

My Home Made Better

The Environment Centre has launched a groundbreaking new service for homeowners in Hampshire, offering **free, tailored and impartial advice** to homeowners on making your home warmer, greener and cheaper to run.

My Home Made Better recognises that widely available, generic information on heat pumps, insulation and solar panels isn't enough, and that householders need relatable guidance unique to their home.

Why make changes to your home?

- ✓ Save money – Reduce your energy bills by making simple upgrades
- ✓ Feel comfortable – A well-insulated home stays warmer in winter and cooler in summer
- ✓ Increase your property's value – Energy-efficient homes are more desirable
- ✓ Do your bit for the planet – Use less energy and lower your carbon footprint

My Home Made Better offers free and impartial advice on everything from insulation and heating upgrades to switching to new energy-efficient technologies. Experienced energy advisers will simplify complex information and dispel myths to guide you through your options and help you find the best ways to keep the heat in, lower your energy bills, and make your home more comfortable.

How it works...

1. *Get tailored advice* – Call (or email) for a chat with one of the friendly advisers. During the call, you'll be asked about your unique property and circumstances, and then recommendations can be made tailored to you. The number to call is 0800 804 8601. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.
2. *Receive a personalised plan* – You'll get an email summary outlining everything that was discussed, including recommendations and things to consider before taking your next step.
3. *Over to you* – When you're ready, search the independent directory to find local suppliers and installers. *This should be a fantastic new service, and I encourage everyone to make use of it!!!* Go to **myhomemadebetter.org** for more information.

Energy Efficiency Grants

The following offer advice and support. But please carefully check eligibility for grants as they will depend on the type of home and your circumstances.

- Energy Saving Trust – Guidance for the type of insulation for properties
- Great British Insulation Scheme – Eligible if the property has an energy performance certificate (EPC) of D to G and is in Council Tax bands A-D

Warmer Homes – Warmer Homes provides fully funded insulation, solar panels and other energy efficiency measures for owner-occupiers and private renters living in low-income households in properties that have EPC energy efficiency ratings from D to G. The previous iteration of this program has now closed, but the Government has just announced a further £26 million of funding has been awarded to our local consortium. Whilst the previous iteration of this scheme only funded measures in off-gas households, the new scheme will be open to all fuel types, including on gas households and off gas households.

APPENDIX C

Report to Councillors Re Fencing in Headstone Copse

Introduction

The purpose of this report is, with particular reference to the recent closure to the public of the uppermost section of Headstone Copse, to provide councillors with background information on the legislation surrounding claiming of unrecorded rights of way, and any relevant duties/powers held by the PC. It is anticipated that councillors will be able to use this information to decide upon a course of action, if any, in response to the concerns raised by some members of the parish.

Background

A recent change of ownership of a section of Headstone Copse has resulted in the closure to the public of a loop of previously accessible woodland. The loop runs around the uppermost perimeter of the Copse and connects at each end with the official footpath (8b) which transects the woodland. The loop is not a recorded right of way but has been used by walkers for a period in excess of 20 years. The previous landowner, after initially attempting also to prevent access, agreed to give permission, but the route has not, in common knowledge, been a recorded right of way or a permissive right of way.

The new landowners closed the loop to public access 14/04/25 for a number of reasons, as explained in their letter to the PC (subsequently made available to villagers subscribed to the PC weekly e-mail):

- Protection of livestock (in light of a number of dog attacks on sheep on the owners' land).
- Protection of wildlife:
 - To protect resident deer (recent dog attacks have resulted in the death of a number of deer);
 - To create a safe environment for essential nesting and ground-nesting birds; and
 - To allow insects, such as bees and butterflies, to flourish, in turn helping mammals—including hedgehogs, rabbits, and deer—to thrive.
- Protection of woodland workers and visitors: a woodland management plan will be put in place to assess and enhance the health of the woodland. This plan will guide any necessary felling and planting works to ensure a thriving ecosystem and these activities cannot be completed while people and dogs are present in the woods.

The PC has been made aware of the concerns of some parishioners via social media and also by direct contact via e-mail and written letter. This has prompted an investigation into relevant legislation and whether the PC has a duty to represent these parishioners by either attempting to liaise with the landowner or applying for the loop in question to become an official right of way.

Relevant Legislation

- In the UK, a path can become a public right of way through long-term use under the principle of 'presumed dedication'. The main rule is 20 years of uninterrupted use by the public 'as of right' (i.e. without force, secrecy, or permission) can establish a public right of way under the **Highways Act 1980 (Section 31)**.
- Highways Act 1980 (Section 31), states that for presumed dedication the route must have been enjoyed by the public as of right and without interruption for a full period of 20 years
- 'As of right' use must be without secrecy, without force and without permission.
- If a landowner formally objects or challenges the use during this time, it may prevent the path from becoming a right of way. However, if the landowner does nothing and people continue using it openly for 20 years, it can be legally recognised as a public right of way.

Alternatively, rights of way can be recognised through:

- **Common Law dedication**, where a shorter period of use may be sufficient if there's clear evidence the landowner intended to dedicate the path.
- **Historical evidence**, such as old maps or documents proving public use.

If a path has been used for 20 years but isn't yet officially recognised, users can apply to the local council for it to be added to the Definitive Map and Statement (the legal record of public rights of way).

- Parish councils currently have no duties regarding public rights of way, and the only applicable powers are those to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways in its area, and to provide warning notices on footpaths and bridleways (Highways Act 1980).

Application of the Legislation

'As of right'

- The previous landowner did give permission, therefore use is no longer as of right.

'Without interruption'

- Use has been interrupted: 'Private land', or similar signs were put up by the previous landowner in an attempt to direct users onto the official ROW (FP8a), before he conceded and gave informal permission.

The principle of 'presumed dedication' is not supported. Only presumed dedication cannot be reversed nor cancelled by new landowners.

Summary

Whilst the PC may be sympathetic to the concerns of residents, there is no evidence to suggest that the new landowner is acting outside of the law, or that an application to Hampshire County Council to register this route as a formal right of way would be justified or eligible for consideration.

Recommendation

In light of lack of evidence to suggest otherwise, and consideration of the current legislation, there appears to be no justification for the PC applying to HCC for this route to be designated a formal right of way. This does not preclude members of the public doing so autonomously should they interpret evidence and legislation in an alternative manner.

Dated: 06/05/25

Signed: Joanna Tester

(Joanna Tester, Clerk & RFO to Hambledon PC)

APPENDIX D**Playground Inspections 2025 - Findings & Suggested Actions****Stewarts Green**

ITEM	RISK LEVEL	DETAIL	SUGGESTED ACTION
Site general	Very low	It is recommended that signage, with information including the site address, contact information for maintenance issues and emergency contact details are provided for the facility.	Suggest NFA.
Site general	Low	It is recommended that Adult Outdoor Fitness equipment is installed a minimum of 25m away from a children's playground or separated and screened to discourage access by younger children.	Monitor use and review risk assessment regularly.
Site general	Very low	Signage should be provided for the outdoor fitness equipment in accordance with the requirements of BS EN 16630, key requirements of the sign include, but are not limited to, intended users, medical safety and emergency contact details	There is a small sign on the equipment already. I will check what it entails. Suggest NFA.
Basket swing	Low	The item is noisy during operation.	Lengthsman has been asked to lubricate as appropriate on their visit 06/05/25.
Basket swing	Low	There is some notable evidence of chain wear.	Speak to Ava Recreation to find out if wear is more than expected wear and tear for equipment of this age.

Hambledon Village Hall

ITEM	RISK LEVEL	DETAIL	SUGGESTED ACTION
Site general	Very low	It is recommended that signage, with information including the site address, contact information for maintenance issues and emergency contact details are provided for the facility.	Suggest NFA.
Gate - combination	Low	There are openings that are less than 12mm that could trap or crush fingers.	Suggest NFA & monitor.
Fence - bow top	Low	The paint is flaking off the metalwork.	Either NFA or obtain quote for rub-down & re-paint.
Fence - bow top	Low	There are cable ties attached to the fencing.	These have now been removed. NFA.
Fence - bow top	Low	A number of fixings have worked loose around the fencing.	These are likely to be where the contractor opened the fencing to allow access for the playground re-furb. Check but likely to be NFA.
Fence - bow top	Low	There is some damage to the fence sections.	As above.

ITEM	RISK LEVEL	DETAIL	SUGGESTED ACTION
Swings - 1 bay 2 seat (cradle)	Low	BS EN 1176 Part 2: Annex A makes a recommendation that fences or enclosures should be up to 1.50m from the edges of the swing seat to the sides, and subject to risk assessment, from the edge of the impact area. This is however, a low risk finding and no remedial action is recommended.	NFA.
Swings - 1 bay 2 seat (cradle)	Low	There is some notable evidence of chain wear.	Monitor for any further deterioration and replace when 40% worn.
Swings - 1 bay 2 seat (cradle)	Low	The paintwork on this item has been damaged or worn exposing the metal underneath which is rusting /corroding.	Seek quote for treating affected areas and repainting.
Swings - 1 bay 2 seat (cradle)	Low	The item is noisy during operation.	Lengthsman has been asked to lubricate as appropriate on their visit 06/05/25.
Activity Equipment - Multi Play (Junior)	Low	The vegetation growth forms a hard object within the falling space of the equipment and there is also insufficient surfacing provided in contravention of BS EN1176 Part 1.	Ask maintenance contractor to cut back and maintain to a distance of 1.5m.
Activity Equipment - Multi Play (Junior)	Low	There are falls in excess of 600mm between adjacent components on the structure, in contravention of the recommendations set out in BS EN 1176 Part 1; 4.2.8.4.	NFA.
Activity Equipment - Multi Play (Junior)	Very low	There is/are bolt cap covers missing or damaged.	Replace missing bolt cap - request from Ava Recreation.
Activity Equipment - Multi Play (Junior)	Low	The top step is working.	Ask Ava Recreation/ Lengthsman/maintenance contractor to look at and repair as necessary.
Multi Use Games Area - Basketball Post	Low	There is algae or moss on the surface of the equipment.	Lengthsman has been asked to clean/treat as appropriate on their visit 06/05/25.
Multi Use Games Area - Basketball Post	Low	There are projecting bolt thread(s) present	Consider removing excess thread length and deburring, or provide caps.

APPENDIX E

BASS Working Group Report May 2025 Cllr Chris Silcock

The Clerk arranged a Teams meeting on 29 April between Hampshire Highways (Highways East: Tracey Webb and Simeon Carter) and herself, Rob and me. We had asked for a site visit. Key points:

- The 3 locations of the gates were agreed (once again).
- HH agreed that we could source and install the gates on the proviso that we provide detailed drawings of the sites and the gates in a format provided by HH.
 - On 4 May, the Clerk, Rob and I went to each site and established the exact positions for gates; we will now draw up the necessary paperwork in the correct format.
- A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is the necessary process to initiate changes to road speeds, HGV restrictions etc. The cost to start a TRO is £12,000, non-refundable in the event that we don't get agreement to any changes following consultation. The PC will need to decide when/[if] we proceed with this expense.

- Residents of Church Lane are pushing for an HGV ban in the lane due to its narrowness and the actual/potential damage caused to properties including by HGVs going to/from Alsoils. HH is keen to use directional signs instead (can be done under the CFI process whereas an HGV ban needs a TRO).

NEXT:

- PC to decide on the final design of the gates - JUNE meeting.
- Get updated costs for final design and manufacture of gates by GLASDON and installation by a highways licensed operator.
- Submit paperwork with all the above to HH to get approval for gates to be installed.
- Draw up a detailed cost profile for the above and further BASS work (speed changes, HGV).

APPENDIX F Overview

FAG Report May 2025

There is nothing new to focus on since our last FAG Report, and no other changes on the horizon other than the weather. The comparison data from a year ago remains about the same, so we can almost say the flooding season has passed (can we, really?).

24/05/24 BHD 47.490 AOD Whitedale 44.991 AOD

02/05/25 BHD 45.500 AOD Whitedale 40.099 AOD

Some progress has been made by Hampshire Highways to deal with ditch banks, but there has been no signs of Southern Water addressing any follow-up activities with their responsibilities for the lack of sewerage capacity, or other repairs to the roadsides in way of the pumping station. It is recognised however, there were no real plans for attention until 2026.

Planned Maintenance

There's a lot that can, and should be in the HCC forecast for the Summer and Autumn Seasons. The large amount of silt and detritus collected in the Big Pipe and headwall area should take priority in planning and management for the future. The maintenance requirements will not "go away" so long as the system remains in use. As we stated in the April Report; these matters will continue to get worse over time, and our only hope is to keep the pressure on the "owners" to take the necessary remedial actions, and continually monitor and manage.

Flood Action Group

Like the tasks associated with planned maintenance, the FAG continues to keep well aware of any warning trends or risks to our flood defences, and stay prepared for any sudden changes in circumstances.

APPENDIX G

Hambleton Greening Report May 2025

Repair Café and Recycling:

- The next Repair Café and Recycling collection will be in Hambleton on Saturday May 17th from 10-12pm.

Six Inches of Soil film May 16th:

- HGC, in collaboration with Hampshire Market Garden and Rushmere Farm, will be showing this inspiring film on soil health and sustainable farming methods, on May 16th from 6.30-8.30pm in the Village Hall. Tickets are £10 and include a free drink and a Q and A session afterwards. Children under 18 will not be charged. Tickets can be bought at <https://hampshiremarketgarden.co.uk/events/>.

Biodiversity:

- We received two packets of heritage pea and bean seeds from the national Greening Campaign and Ann Sykes from Hambleton Hort Soc is kindly overseeing their germination and liaising with Paddy Halling from Garden Organic.
- The National Trust has offered to run two butterfly surveys on July 9th and August 19th for our community. They felt this would be more useful than wildflower data at this point. We will start advertising for these events soon.

Future Energy Landscapes workshop:

- HGC has contacted Katherine Hewetson at Energise South Downs to arrange a date in early October for this to be held.

My Home Made Better:

- WinACC is launching this new initiative to support homeowners with advice on energy-saving methods and home insulation and heating. The new website is now live: <https://myhomemadebetter.org> They are looking to train Energy Champions who would volunteer their time to inform homeowners. When we receive more information, we will contact our supporters to see if this might be of interest to them.

WeCAN Network event April 30th:

- 12 WeCAN members including HGC attended this networking event in Winchester and presentations were given on successful grant funding, how to use Google Chat spaces and on data security.

We are grateful as always for your support.

Dr Penny Mahon