



MINUTES

Hambledon Parish Council
02 Dec 2024; 7.30pm; Hambledon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Encke (Chair); Cllr Hand; Cllr Silcock; Cllr Lamb; Cllr Clarke; & Cllr Daly

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Lee (WCC; arrived 7.55pm; left 8.39pm); & Cllr Wallace (WCC & HCC; arrived 8.07pm; left 8.39pm).

Meeting started at 7.33pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2493	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of Peter Jenkins and all other villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2494	Apologies	Apologies received from Cllr White (WCC) & PCSO Wheeler-Osman.	
2495	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None.	
2496	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2497	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. No members of the public were in attendance.	
2498	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	
2499	District councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (Appendix A). Additional discussion around the following: Nature Improvement Plan.	
2500	County councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (Appendix B). Additional discussion around the following: HPC councillor enquired about S106 money - circa £142m - held by HCC & not yet allocated even though the 5-year deadline for use is close & developers can claim money back after this time. Cllr Wallace believes that it is known and being monitored. FOI request may be necessary to obtain details.	

2500 cont.	County councillor's report & questions arising cont.	• HCC applying to Central Government to increase council tax for 2025/26 by up to 15% rather than max 5%. • Damage to/debris within BP outlet ditch (following RTA) - Cllr Wallace confirmed that someone will return to site to re-assess. • Southern Water/Fareham Road - HPC councillor confirmed that work was undertaken w/c 25/11/24 to repair/replace blocked manhole; & tanker turning circle near Fareham Road/B2150 junction has been re-surfaced, so in a better situation for this coming flood season should over-pumping be required. • Cllr Wallace has asked HCC Director of Universal Services about providing Meon Valley with more support for road issues. Unlikely to be given due to lack of resources. • HPC councillor enquired if there was any chance of HH giving different diversion routes to limit volume of traffic through the Village? Cllr Wallace thought not. • Bus service for Hambledon likely to be lost in the near future - info to be sent to Cllr Wallace. Could Denmead Community Bus service be extended to Hambledon? Would need to look at funding and recruiting drivers etc.	Clerk
2501	Flood Action Group	Report received (Appendix C). Councillors acknowledged JJ's plea for new volunteers/someone to start taking over as lead.	
2502	Mins of previous meetings (04/11/24)	Agreed as a true record.	
2503	Clerk's progress report	Parish Lengthsman Agreement - remaining visits for 2024/25: 06/02/25. Last visit 08/11/24 - tennis noticeboard installed; hedgerow roadside B2150 bottom of SG cut back; & vegetation around traffic signs cut back. 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'. No update. Southern Water issues - site visit to look at damaged verges etc on Fareham Road conducted 06/09/24. Clerk chasing Jess Hanman (Stakeholder Engagement Manager) for an update on actions arising. 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. Remembrance Sunday - event went well. Teacher from Primary School played the bugle. Clerk to chase Scouts for invoice for grant. Remove from report. [Clerk to arrange card & small thank you gift for the bugler.] Big Pipe outlet ditch - Clerk liaising with Cllr Wallace re resolving issue of blockage in ditch due to collapsed bank where RTA happened. Highways considers NFA necessary. 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.	

2503 cont.	Clerk's progress report cont.	Useful/Emergency Info Leaflets - WCC Small Grant fund awarded £150. Clerk to take forward when time allows. Auto Speedwatch device - Hambledon Speedwatch data (from inception) was received July 2024 but probably not containing the detail required to compare with Ampfield data. Cllr Silcock to advise. Hambledon Walks Booklet - Walking Group will compile list of small alterations needed to walk descriptions & send to Clerk to amend online. New hard-copy booklets not considered necessary. Tennis Court Notice Board - has been installed. Thanks to Cllr Clarke. Remove from report. Bench Repairs - awaiting update from JH regarding date for commencement of work. Insurance renewal - tennis noticeboard has been added to asset register & insurance broker has been informed (confirmed that covered under the new policy at no additional cost). Replacement junior swings/surfacing at the Village Hall - contract has been placed. A £995 grant from Cllr Wallace has been approved, alongside a £139 discount from contractor - leaves a balance which can be covered by the playground projects fund. Installation likely to be Jan 2025.	
2504	Bank account	Bank balance @ 02 Dec 2024 - £55,838.32 (Cllrs have been provided with bank statement 180, 01 Nov 2024 to 30 Nov 2024.)	
2505	Budget/precept for 2025/26	Resolved: that the PC approves the budget as proposed by the Finance WG, and a precept of £56,295.00 for 2025/26.	Clerk
2506	Grant - Hambledon PCC	Resolved: that the PC has approved a grant application of £600.00 from Hambledon Parochial Church Council to assist with the costs of maintaining the churchyard at St Peter's & St Paul's Church.	Clerk
2507	Payment of accounts	Mrs J C Tester Clerk salary Nov 2024 £923.50 NEST Clerk pension Nov 2024 £75.14 Hambledon Village Hall Hall hire Nov 2024 (3.5 hrs main hall, 10/11/24 @ £70, & 2.5 hrs meeting room, 04/11/24 @ £32.50) £102.50 Biffa Recycling bin collection Nov 2024 £49.82 JH Tree Services Ltd Village maintenance Nov 2024 £375.00 K Knight Engineering Green Lane street names signs x2 £2,060.00 Hambledon PCC Glebeland maintenance 2024 £700.00 Moritz Flohr Tennis Coaching Nov 2024 £80.00 Alfie Godwin-Hudson Tennis Coaching Nov 2024 £120.00 RP Commercial Services Ltd 2 x bags postcrete for installing tennis noticeboard £20.16	Clerk
2508	Planning applications	- SDNP/24/04824/LIS - Tower House, High Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RS. Install external oil fired boiler. [NO OBJECTION.] - SDNP/24/04286/HOUS & SDNP/24/04910/LIS - Haywood House, 9 East Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RX. Replace two cracked window panes (frosted dating from C. 1930-1955) with recycled/reclaimed bullseye panes. [NO OBJECTION.]	Clerk

2508 cont.	Planning applications cont.	SDNP/24/04791/TCA - 3 Coachmans Halt, West Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RN. T1 large conifer to be removed to ground level due to excessive decay/wounds in the upper canopy. We have carried out inspection via climbing through the canopy and found multiple concerning issues throughout the canopy, signs of severe decay compressed branches etc. It is not viable to reduce the canopy due to the species and the severity of the reduction to make it safe. The tree is close to both property and life and poses a severe risk. Replant with a beech tree. [NO COMMENT.]	Clerk
2509	Planning apps received after 26/11/24	- SDNP/24/04884/LIS - 3 Crossways, West Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RW. South facing roof is leaking causing water ingress to south facing wall of building and severe damp in the living room. The roof is constructed using traditional clay peg tiles, however the roof pitch is only circa 25 degrees which is too shallow for a peg tile roof. The roof has leaked repeatedly over the period I have owned the property (since 1990) and was last re-roofed in around 2000. The proposal is to replace the peg tiles with a slate roof which is appropriate for a roof with this pitch on a property of this age. [NO OBJECTION - but the PC would like to comment that the Sandtoft clay roof tile 20/20 is a modern interpretation of the traditional plain clay tile and could be used successfully at the required roof pitch. Councillors feel that these would far better complement the local vernacular than would slate tiles.] - SDNP/24/04727/ADV - Hambledon Vineyard, East Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RY Display of four signs within the site, comprising: (A) double-sided, externally illuminated totem sign at the East Street entrance; (B) non-illuminated directional totem sign adjacent to the car park entrance; (C) non-illuminated directional totem sign adjacent to the Visitors Centre, and; (D) non-illuminated 'HAMBLEDON WINE ESTATE' metal lettering sign installed on the front (south) elevation of the Visitors Centre. [NO OBJECTION, but Councillors would request that the lights associated with sign A are on a timer & an isolation switch is used so that the last person to leave the premises can switch them off, in order to mitigate any impact on the quality of the dark night skies (SDNPA Policy SD8).]	
2510	Planning decisions	Noted.	
2511	BASS WG	No report received. Discussion on the following points as follows: - Anticipated that village entrance gates will be the Clanfield-side of Park Cottages (with accompanying 40mph speed change, should it be approved by Highways Authority). - Will be looking to purchase speed device in the future (24/7; 365 days a year).	
2512	Village entrance gates	Resolved: that the PC has discussed quotes received to date for manufacture and installation of village entrance gates & agreed to proceed as follows: - Cllr Clarke to request quote from contact, so that three quotes are available for comparison at Jan PC meeting. - Gates to be white and current village entrance signs to be relocated onto them, with the addition of the speed roundel.	

2513	Tennis WG	No report received this month.	
2514	Play & Playgrounds Re-vamp WG	No report received. Clerk commented as follows: • New swing set/re-surface has been ordered with Ava Recreation. Due for installation Jan 2025.	
2515	Hambledon Greening WG	No report received. Cllr Lamb reported back on the WG's most recent meeting, as follows: • Biffa hard plastics recycling bin - to increase collection frequency, extra money would be required from the budget. [Cllrs confirmed that this increase has been approved for 2025/26.] • Moth traps - anyone in village experienced with putting them up? • Parish Pollinator - PC to join separately? [No, as WG is part of PC.] • Solar panels for primary school - could the PC mediate? [YouPower is looking to support HCC entities with purchasing new renewable energy solutions at cost price. Cllrs felt that it would fall under HCC's remit to approach the school, not the PC.] • Glebe field potential change of use - is the PC involved? [Not at the current time; land owned by Diocese; Church Warden is liaising.]	
2516	Villager drop-in 'surgeries'	Resolved: that councillors are supportive of arranging a regular PC 'surgery' in the village. Clerk & Cllr Daly to look at possible locations/times etc. and report back at the Jan 2025 PC meeting.	Clerk/ Cllr Daly
2517	Reports & Issues	WCC bins at the VH are to be removed due to on-going issues with over-flow.	
2518	Date/time of next meeting	• Mon 6th Jan 2025 at Hambledon VH; 7.30pm.	
2519	Confidential matters	No members of the public were in attendance.	
2520	Co-option of PC Members	Resolved: that councillors have appointed Mark Mills-Goodlet as a co-opted member of Hambledon PC. Voted unanimously for.	Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed:

Cllr Encke (Chair)

Dated:

Signed:

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

APPENDIX A

Winchester City Councillor Report Dec 2024

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

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

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

Local Plan update: Submission of Local Plan - Regulation 22

The Winchester District Local Plan 2020-2040 was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination on 15th November 2024. The Inspectors' will now consider the soundness of the submitted Plan and whether it has been prepared in accordance with the legal and procedural requirements. If you visit the website, you will be able to view and search for feedback and comments from the most recent consultation that took place in the autumn: www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/examination-page

South Downs National Park Local Plan

The South Downs Local Plan Review commenced in May 2022 and is progressing in accordance with the Local Development Scheme timetable. Current timetable:

- Regulation 18 public consultation Jan-Mar 2025;
- Regulation 19 publication of the proposed submission Plan Jan-Mar 2026;
- Submission to the Planning Inspectorate for examination Jul-Sep 2026; and
- Subject to a successful examination, adoption Apr-Jun 2027.

Details of the first public consultation will be shared when known.

Free solar panel support for Winchester district community organisations

Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis (WinACC) is providing free support to community organisations in Winchester District to upgrade their facilities with solar panels – helping to reduce their carbon footprint and their running costs. They can help with every stage of the process, including with:

- producing initial feasibility study
- developing a fundraising plan
- writing funding applications
- writing tenders for installer quotes.

The scheme is funded by Winchester City Council via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and is open until March 2025. Let us know if there is a community building that might be suitable and we can arrange the support for you or email solar@winacc.org.uk for more information.

The ‘Business Growth Factory’ - still available

Winchester City Council is launching a new programme to help entrepreneurs, early-stage startups and small to medium sized businesses across the Winchester district boost their growth and innovation. The Business Growth Factory, will run in partnership with IncuHive to provide businesses with crucial skills such as the ability to identify target markets, effectively manage finances and make successful investment pitches. Free of charge thanks to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. If you know of any businesses you think would be interested and would like to share more information email: Business Engagement Manager Alison Woods (awoods@winchester.gov.uk) who can provide you with promotional postcards to handout. To find out more visit <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/news/2024/oct/new-initiative-to-boost-growth-and-innovation-for-winchester-district-businesses>

The **Winchester City Council Community Hub**, where people can chat to the officers about any issues relating to benefits, housing and wellbeing and receive informal guidance around the cost of living takes place every first Monday of the month (2.30p.m.- 4.30 p.m at Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham.

Winchester City Council Consultations

Creativity and Culture across the Winchester district- last chance! Closes 31st December 2024

Community Insight Questionnaire

Winchester City Council are running a short survey, in partnership with Temple Group, to gather feedback from residents across the district that will help shape the new Community Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy.

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=qvePhv458Em1uaEdROB_EvHJtx1Y-BBJorpImjkSigFUMFRaTTJYNUwyTE1TSEZWnk5QUUISTUk1Uy4u&route=shorturl

Other consultations

Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings (this includes parish council meetings)- closes 19th December

This government consultation seeks views on the detail and practical implications of allowing remote and hybrid attendance at local authority meetings. It also tests views on the possible introduction of proxy voting for those occasions when an elected member, due to personal circumstances, may be unable to attend even remotely. For example, during maternity, paternity or adoption leave. Parish councillors can give their views by

completing this online survey: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-standards-and-conduct/remote-attendance-and-proxy-voting/>

Skills Training

Essential Digital Skills for residents - ongoing to end of Jan 2025

The aim is to tackle digital exclusion and support the basic digital skills of the Winchester district residents, which in turn supports the district's overall skills and increases employability. The scheme will support and train basic digital skills to the district's residents, such as booking GP appointments and keeping in touch with friends and family online. Free to Winchester district residents - funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

<https://employers.workadvisor.co.uk/workadvisor-training/essential-digital-skills-training/>

Retrofit Skills for Businesses and Communities

Winchester City Council recently launched two new completely free retrofit skills programmes, in partnership with Hampshire County Council. [Retrofit 101](#) is a two-hour online course on the fundamentals of retrofit, whilst a more in-depth two-day course will give attendees an [NOCN level 2 Award](#) in Understanding Domestic Retrofit. To book: email skills@hants.gov.uk

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.
- [Warmer Homes/HUG2](#) - Warmer Homes provides fully funded insulation, solar panels and other energy efficiency measures for owner-occupiers and private renters living in low-income, off-gas households. The scheme is supported by Winchester City Council and is available until March 2025.

APPENDIX B

Hampshire County Councillor Report Dec 2024

Cllr Malcolm Wallace (malcolm.wallace@hants.gov.uk)

Hampshire County Council Financial Challenges Continue

At the November meeting of the County Council's Cabinet, Cabinet Members considered the Local Authority's financial position over the next two years (2025/26 and 2026/27) and the prospect of formal talks that may be needed with Government to request permission to raise council tax for 2025/26 above the permitted 5% national threshold. Hampshire County Council's Leader, Councillor Nick Adams-King reported that: "The exceptional budget pressures we face are not of our making - namely unprecedented demand for local services, particularly across social care and services for children with special educational needs and disabilities, as well as rising costs. The report we have considered today is a snapshot in time which warns of a stark financial challenge that potentially lies ahead in two years' time. We continue to do everything in our power to address this recurring budget gap - now anticipated to rise to £182 million from 2025/26 onwards. We have already identified a substantial part of this amount through our recent decisions around savings, however there is much more still to do.

"We are looking again within our own organisation, working more closely with our district, borough and parish council colleagues, and exploring every opportunity to find efficiencies, reduce costs and increase income, but we recognise that these steps alone, won't be enough to keep pace with the ongoing pressures in those key services we must deliver by law.

"Alongside councils up and down the country, we were hoping Government would announce a significant increase in funding in their recent Budget, to help with social care pressures, together with some extra freedoms and flexibilities over council tax setting and raising income. Frustratingly, this didn't happen, with only an extra £8 million or so for Hampshire from the additional £1.3 billion earmarked for local government overall."

Decision Due on Future of Hampshire County Council's Education Catering Service

Hampshire County Council is to recommend sourcing school meals from other providers, rather than directly providing meals as it currently does via its in-house Education Catering service. This 'managed outsource' arrangement would see the local authority purchase and manage the supply of meals from providers on behalf

of schools and nurseries who subscribe to this service. This would potentially support schools and families to pay a lower price for school meals. The recommendation is to move to this new arrangement by the end of March 2026. This proposed change is due to be considered by the County Council's Cabinet Member for Education on Friday, 6 December. Whatever the outcome of his decision, school meals will continue to be available to all children across Hampshire, including those eligible for free school meals.

Hampshire Music Service to Loan String Instruments for Free

Young musicians across Hampshire are set to benefit from the loan of 1,000 used string instruments by Hampshire Music Service (HMS). These instruments include a wide range of sizes including child-sized and full-sized violins, violas, cellos, and double basses. Schools, organisations and individuals interested in applying for these instruments can do so by visiting Hampshire Music Service Stringed Instrument Opportunity.

New Dates Confirmed for Consultation on Proposed Relocation of The Henry Cort Community College

Hampshire County Council is to open a formal public consultation on Friday, 10 January 2025 seeking views on the proposed relocation of The Henry Cort Community College in Fareham, to a new site in North Whiteley from September 2027. The consultation will be published on Hampshire County Council's website and will run until Friday, 14 February 2025. Final decision is expected to be taken in June 2025. The proposal to relocate the school comes as forecasts show that the ongoing development of the Whiteley area will result in demand for between 900 and 1,200 secondary school places. A new secondary school in North Whiteley is planned to meet the predicted need for school places across the whole of the Whiteley area, once the new development is complete. While clearly needed to meet future demand, the planned new school in North Whiteley would also have a significant impact on The Henry Cort Community College in Fareham, which currently takes pupils from across the Whiteley area. As more families in Whiteley are anticipated to move their children to the new school in North Whiteley from September 2027, it is expected that Henry Cort would see a corresponding reduction in its pupil numbers, and consequently in its funding from Government, which is allocated on a per-pupil basis. This in turn would lead to a reduced curriculum, staffing recruitment and retention difficulties, an impact on children's educational outcomes, significant financial challenges - and ultimately, an untenable future. The proposal to relocate Henry Cort to the new site in North Whiteley is considered the most viable option to protect its future while ensuring sufficient school places and most importantly of all, a good quality of education and stability for all children across Whiteley and Fareham. This has been informed by feedback from a previous informal consultation earlier this year, and consideration of the potential wider impacts on the educational offer in Whiteley and Fareham. If finally agreed, this would not mean that Henry Cort would close but that the school, including its staff and children, would be moved to the new site.

Funding Boost for Bus Services

On 17-Nov, Hampshire County Council was awarded £14 million pounds from the Government to boost bus services in the county. The Government has specified that this funding is to "enhance popular routes, protect rural services and increase bus use for shopping, socialising and commuting" and to "prevent service reductions on at-risk routes". The Government's mandate for this funding appears to be at odds with the County's Bus Service Improvement Policy (BSIP). The aim of Hampshire's BSIP is to "at least double current bus use to 42 million journeys by 2038", however the plan for achieving this aim was focussed on "urban areas of the county where commercial services thrive". I am following up to understand how this inconsistency will be resolved. Increasing bus use amongst Hampshire's residents is a key part of Hampshire's Local Transport Plan, helping to tackle climate change by taking cars off the road, benefitting Hampshire's local economy and linking communities with essential services.

Free Solar Panel Support for Winchester Community Organisations

Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis (WinACC) is providing free support to community organisations in Winchester District to upgrade their facilities with solar panels – helping to reduce their carbon footprint and their running costs. They can help at every stage of the process, including with:

- producing initial feasibility study
- developing a fundraising plan
- writing funding applications
- writing tenders for installer quotes.

Any non-profit organisation in Winchester District which is responsible for a building is eligible – including village halls, faith organisations, sports organisations and community groups. The scheme is open until March 2025.

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.

- [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 in England
- [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, off-gas households. The scheme is available until March 2025.

Thermal Imaging Cameras – A thermal imaging camera, under the right conditions, can reveal where heat is being lost from your home. Your local Community Action Group (for example, SWaCS – Sustainable Waltham Chase and Swanmore) may have one you can borrow. If not, you can reach out to Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis (WinACC) at homes@winacc.org.uk to find out more.

APPENDIX C

FAG Report Dec 2024

Overview

The weather patterns are all over the shop as this report is being generated, and from the latest Shoothill readings, there is a large difference from last year. The starting point for Broadhalfpennydown is -12.46 M lower, with Whitedale far below at -16.87 M. What this affect will mean as the flooding season rolls on is anybody's guess, so keep watching the updates!

20/11/23	BHD 57.340 AOD	Whitedale 53.254 AOD
20/11/24	BHD 44.880 AOD	Whitedale 36.388 AOD

There are still challenges to consider however, owing to some of the increases in risk elements during the timeframe for this flooding season, as a result of a serious lack of preventive maintenance. There could be further arisings with the over-pumping operations at the Bury Lodge station, that had been contemplated by Southern Water, which have not been addressed as suggested by a presentation by their team a few months ago. From our experiences earlier this year, it is also possible that a shortage of tankers might be on the horizon with the magnitude of problems in other areas where there's a higher priority.

Environment Agency – latest information from Tom Woods:

“At the moment, it is difficult to estimate when or if groundwater flooding will happen this winter in Hambledon. We would consider groundwater levels to be close to average for this time of year at both BHD and Whitedale Farm. So, if average rainfall is recorded over the next few months, then flooding impacts will not occur this winter in Hambledon.”

“Long range forecasting is difficult, but the current indication is that we are going to get some unsettled weather over this weekend. Then for the last week of November we will get some spells of organised (sic) rain with some drier interludes. In general, there looks like a trend towards drier and more settled conditions for the first couple of weeks in December. However, there is a chance of more changeable weather patterns which could bring some wetter interludes. Over the next few weeks, temperatures could be slightly below average which means that there is a small chance that any precipitation recorded may fall as snow. The Met Office also provide a 3-month outlook that gives a very small amount of detail. The last one issued was on 28/10/2024, and this stated that there was an equal chance of this 3-month period (November, December, January) of being wetter or drier than average.”

“We would need to see consecutive weeks of heavy rainfall affecting Hambledon for groundwater levels to rise significantly to the point flooding impacts may occur. At the moment, while there are references to wet weather over the next few weeks, there currently isn't much indicating that we will get sustained heavy rainfall over a period of time. However, I will say that any long-range forecasting can be taken with a pinch of salt, the confidence in these forecasts is generally low and the situation can change quickly.”

Risk Review

1) Failures of Sewerage Systems – As confirmed by communications from Hampshire County Council (HCC), no corrective action has been undertaken by Southern Water since 2018. The EA has suggested that we might miss-out on water in cellars during the periods of heavy rain, but that is still guesswork. Past history would dictate for us to stay focused on the closure of Hambledon road at some point, when the aquifers combine with the sewerage leaks.

2) Required Maintenance of the Big Pipe and its support Systems – Again, the BP and its attached sub-systems have never been tested to their designed specifications, so any impediments must be regularly checked and maintained where possible by HCC to ensure a sound operational condition. This has to include distress sustained from accidental collision effects, which have been experienced on two occasions. Promises have been voiced by HCC since 2019, but there has been no sign of any reports or objective evidence that plans have been considered, or drawn-up to deal with any other consequential problems. The debris from the most recent incident is raising the risk profile of the discharge flow, thereby damming-up the water course which HCC owns. The main worry is slippage of the ditch banks, and subsequent closure of the B 2150, along with problems below Hook Vinney, where there will be a build-up of debris from bank erosion.

Flood Action Group – Planning

With the ambiguous start and duration of the 2024/25 flooding season, we have to move forward with our prediction of possible support requirements and priorities based on a SWOT analysis. Given the level of unknowns at this time, both myself and deputy James King, will be monitoring the situation to provide status updates to the Parish Council for dissemination to villagers, and other interested parties. The FAG is also focusing on succession planning for the long run, and are currently in need of additional volunteers for providing assistance as the need arises this season. There is also an opportunity for someone who might be available to assume a management role for a future transition to “younger staff” in the new year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Jarvie