



DRAFT MINUTES

Hambledon Parish Council
03 Feb 2025; 7.30pm; Hambledon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Silcock (Acting-chair); Cllr Hand; Cllr Lamb; Cllr Clarke; Cllr Mills-Goodlet; & Cllr Daly.

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Lee (WCC; arrived 7.59pm; left 9.24pm); Cllr Wallace (WCC & HCC; arrived 8.30pm; left 9.29pm); & Jan Jarvie (FAG).

Meeting started at 7.37pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2546	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of all villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2547	Apologies	Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Encke. Apologies also received from Cllr White (WCC).	
2548	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None.	
2549	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2550	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. No members of the public were in attendance.	
2551	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	
2552	District councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (Appendix A). Additional discussion around the following: • Devolution • WCC Leader will be talking to PCs 05/02/25. • Winchester Town Forum has requested to become Winchester Town Council. • Unitary authorities are likely to face significant financial difficulties. • Vision for PCs? Nothing yet proposed. • Unitary will be three to four times bigger than WCC currently. • SDNPA meeting - included discussions around way-finding infrastructure & a new policy on viticulture economy.	

2553	County councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (Appendix B). Additional discussion around the following: • Drain clearance - Cllr Clarke to provide recent CCTV evidence that Conway contractors turned up to clear drain on Green Lane but failed to do anything. Clerk to report to HCC online. • Thanks given to HCC for work on verge/kerb at Three Corners. • Confirmation that HCC's request to increase council tax by 15% has been rejected by Central Government. There is still the option to carry out a referendum. Getting closer to issuing a S114 notice. • Mtg with Tracey Webb to discuss BASS issues organised for circa 2 weeks' time. • Mtg with the director next week. Will be talking about general issues eg how can HCC progress projects where external funding (e.g. by a PC) is being proposed?	Cllr Clarke/ Clerk
2554	Flood Action Group	Report received (Appendix C). Additional discussion around the following: • Disaster Action Plan - Cllr Daly to assist Jan Jarvie in progressing this for Hambledon. • Clearance of BP outlet ditch is anticipated in the next week or two (reported 08/01/25).	Cllr Daly
2555	Mins of previous meetings (06/01/25)	Agreed as a true record.	
2556	Clerk's progress report	Parish Lengthsman Agreement - remaining visit 06/02/25. 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'. No update. [UPDATE: as this is linked to the blocked drain on the highway, it will be reported to HH as per item 2553, above.] Southern Water issues - work carried out 16/01/25 to seal x2 manhole covers on the Fareham Road near to the pumping station, to reduce surface water infiltration. E-mail correspondence with Nick Davis re surface vs groundwater infiltration. Clerk has requested a copy of the data (and conclusions should they be available) collected from the large-scale infiltration CCTV survey. Chased 29/01/25. 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) - Cllr Wallace has raised a further request following closure of the original one without any work being carried out. Added to the contractor's work programme 08/01/25.	Clerk

2556 cont.	Clerk's progress report cont.	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. 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 has provided Clerk with list of small alterations needed to walk descriptions online. New hard-copy booklets not considered necessary. REMOVE FROM REPORT. Bench Repairs - replacement of missing back pieces on VH bench has taken place, but Clerk in on-going correspondence with JH Tree services re seat plank that appears to still be loose. [UPDATE: this has now been rectified.] Remaining work due to take place as soon as weather conditions allow. Replacement junior swings/surfacing at the Village Hall - installation complete. Remove from report. Villager drop-in 'surgeries' - no progress to date. Cllr Daly & Clerk to take forward when time allows.	
2557	Bank account	Bank balance @ 31/01/2025 - £48,226.27 (Cllrs have been provided with bank statement 182, 01 Jan 2024 to 31 Jan 2024.)	
2558	Q3 Financial Report & Statement	Resolved: that the PC has approved the following minor amendments to the financial report & statement Q3 2024/25: • Bank service charge for Dec 2024 £6.00 not £6.60. • Pension payment for Dec 2024 to NEST slipped into Jan 2025, so has been moved out of Q3 and in to Q4.	Clerk
2559	Domain Renewal	Resolved: that the PC has approved the renewal with X-Net Services Ltd of the hambledon-pc.gov.uk domain, at a cost of £125 for a two-year period (April 2025 to March 2027).	
2560	Payment of accounts	Mrs J C Tester Clerk salary Jan 2025 £964.97 NEST Clerk pension Jan 2025 £78.63 Hambledon Village Hall Hall hire Jan 2025 £32.50 Biffa Recycling bin collection Jan 2025 £52.85 JH Tree Services Ltd Village maintenance Jan 2025 £375.00 JH Tree Services Ltd Bench maintenance work £192.60 Murray Mahon Reimbursement for printer paper (HG) £5.99 HMRC Clerk's tax/NI £108.51 Ava Recreation VH swings & re-surface £8,155.20 X-Net Services Ltd .gov.uk domain renewal 04/2025-04/2027 £150.00 Moritz Flohr Tennis coaching Jan 2025 £20.00 Alfie Goodwin-Hudson Tennis coaching Jan 2025 £140.00	Clerk

2561	Planning applications	• SDNP/24/05278/TCA - Court House, East Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RX. Project: Removal of sycamore closest to the house. Reason: In recent winds it has started to lose large branches, and if the whole tree falls it will crush the property. Removing the sycamore will also help the beautiful beech tree behind. Works: careful removal of the full tree and grinding of stump, carried out by a qualified professional given its size and proximity to other houses and trees. [NO COMMENT] • SDNP/24/05290/TCA - Verney Cottage, East Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RX. T1 eucalyptus tree- reduce crown height to suitable growth points to just below height of adjacent garage, reduce crown width by around 1-2 meters to suitable growth points. Remove any major deadwood General maintenance of the tree as is very close to buildings. [NO COMMENT] • SDNP/24/05319/TCA - End Cottage, Church Lane, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RT. CG1 IVY CG2 IVY S1 SHRUB SG1 HOLLY T2 SYCMORE - REMOVE. [NO COMMENT] • SDNP/25/00121/PNCOUF - Rushmere Farm, Rushmere Lane, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4SG. Prior Notification of Class R Permitted development under 150m2 for use of barn for light industrial (Egiii). [NO OBJECTION] • SDNP/25/00030/HOUS & SDNP/25/00031/LIS - 3 Rosecroft Cottages, East Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4SA. Demolition of the existing out of date modern plastic roofed conservatory and replacement with a new garden room and alterations to partition in utility/cloak room. [NO OBJECTION to this application on the understanding that recommendations made by the WCC Historic Environment Officer are taken into account.] • SDNP/25/00186/HOUS & SDNP/25/00187/LIS - Verney Cottage, East Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RX. Minor internal alterations along with the reinstatement of a front window in an existing door opening and demolition of the small rear modern porch, formation of a new single storey dining room and replacement of steel windows with new double glazed timber windows. [NO OBJECTION]	Clerk
2562	Planning apps received after 28/01/25	• None received.	
2563	Planning decisions	Noted, with the addition of the following: • SDNP/24/05290/TCA - Verney Cottage, East Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RX. T1 eucalyptus tree- reduce crown height to suitable growth points to just below height of adjacent garage, reduce crown width by around 1-2 meters to suitable growth points. Remove any major deadwood General maintenance of the tree as is very close to buildings. [RAISE NO OBJECTION] Clerk to contact Hambledon Vineyard regarding state of East St where vehicles are bringing mud etc out from the site onto the road.	Clerk

2564	BASS WG	Report received (Appendix D). Discussion points as follows: • Cllr Silcock & Clerk to start process of applying to HCC for traffic regulation order.	
2565	CIL funding	Resolved: that the PC has agreed upon the following projects for applications to SDNP and WCC CIL funds: SDNP CIL • BASS application as per last year. • Way-finding noticeboard. WCC CIL • Equipment to enable people to play Padel on the tennis court. • Cricket nets for the Glebe Field. Cllr Lee also advised that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund could be considered for a bicycle 'park' e.g. near Old Forge Tearoom.	Clerk/ Cllr Silcock/ Cllr Clarke
2566	Footway/footpath along B2150/Green Lane	Resolved: that, in light of advice and information received to date, the PC has agreed that there is no feasible way (in safety, practical, and financial terms) of creating a footway or footpath along Green Lane from Three Corners to Stewarts Green. [Cllr Wallace re-confirmed that HCC does not permit new footways unless new buildings are being created. Cllr Clarke also advised that the highway as it stands is not wide enough for a footway to be added. Cllrs agreed, even if the landowner agreed to sell a strip of land, that there was no safe or practical way of creating access from the B2150 to a footpath on the field.] Clerk to respond to residents who made the initial enquiries.	Clerk
2567	Tennis WG	No report received this month. Clerk to chase Welfare Officer re training/DBS etc.	Clerk
2568	Tennis Safeguarding Policy	Resolved: that the PC has approved the updated Tennis WG Safeguarding Policy (with the removal of all reference to Welsh & Scottish legislation). Publish on PC website.	Clerk
2569	Play & Playgrounds Re-vamp WG	No report received.	
2570	Diversion of Footpath 4A	Resolved: that the PC in principle has no objection to the diversion of footpath 4A. A formal response will be considered when the PC is contacted by HCC during the official consultation process. Clerk to inform landowner.	Clerk
2571	Hambleton Greening WG	Report received (Appendix E). Cllr Mills-Goodlet to attend Climate Fresk workshop 17/03/25.	Cllr Mills- Goodlet
2572	APM 2025	Resolved: that the Clerk consults Cllr Encke re availability in May for the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Parish. Thursday evenings suit the majority of councillors. To consider 08/05, 15/05, and 22/05. To be discussed at the Mar PC meeting.	Clerk
2573	Reports & Issues	• Southern Parishes Group Meeting will be held on Monday 10 th February, 2025 at Boarhunt Village Hall at 2.00 p.m. • SDNP Local Plan Consultation - 20 Jan to 17 Mar 2025. Planning Committee members and Clerk to work on draft responses which can be considered at the Mar 2025 PC meeting.	Clerk/ Cllr Silcock

2574	Date/time of next meeting	• Mon 3rd Mar 2025 at Hambledon VH; 7.30pm. • Cllr Silcock to Chair 03/03/25 meeting as Cllr Encke will not be available.	
2575	Confidential matters	No members of the public were in attendance.	

The meeting closed at 9.29pm

Signed:

Cllr Silcock (Acting-chair)

Dated:

Signed:

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

APPENDIX A

Winchester City Councillor Report Feb 2025

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

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

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

Devolution/Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

HCC Full Council (Jan 9) and Cabinet (Jan 10) meetings agreed the County would seek to join the Government's fast-track devolution plans. Under the proposal, a Mayor would be elected in spring 2026 to lead a Combined Authority covering Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, and Southampton. If approved, HCC elections scheduled for May may be postponed by a year. It is likely a LGR will follow Devolution involving all District Councils combining into Unitary Authorities. A response to the County's expression of interest is expected by mid-February 2025. **There will be a WCC briefing to update Parish Councils on the above proposals on 5th February. The invitation has been sent to Parish Clerks.**

South Downs National Park Local Plan review - 20 Jan 17 Mar 2025

A consultation aims to determine how and where development takes place in the National Park. The South Downs Local Plan is being reviewed up to 2042 to address important issues such as nature recovery, climate change, affordable housing and helping local communities thrive. Please note SDNP is preparing a 'Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan' with some important opportunities to comment on criterion for way-finding infrastructure. See proposed Policy SD20. To have your say on the full Local Plan Review - see <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/have-your-say-on-south-downs-national-parks-local-plan-review/>

New Hospital Programme - update

The Government's review of the New Hospital Programme confirmed that the Hampshire Together programme is in Wave 3, with construction now scheduled between 2037 and 2039 at an estimated cost of £2bn+. Work continues on the Decision-Making Business Case, with the NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Board set to determine the best way forward. Investment in Royal Hampshire County Hospital remains a priority, building on the success of:

- The new pharmacy
- Nursing training collaboration with the University of Winchester
- The planned Orthopaedic Centre of Excellence

Further updates will be shared as more information becomes available.

Southern Water's Surface Water Management Policy (SWMP) – update

Finally, the much heralded Southern Water updated SWMP to reduce the impact of surface water on foul and combined sewer networks from future new developments has been published.

Key Changes:

- **No surface water discharge** will be permitted into **foul-only sewers**, even if all other options are exhausted.
- Discharge into **combined sewers** will only be allowed in **exceptional circumstances**.

- The policy supports efforts to **reduce storm overflows, improve water quality, and prevent sewer flooding.**

Full details are available on Southern Water's website.

Existing flooding hotspots in the Meon Valley.

Your local Councillors continue to push for improved actions by Southern Water to manage and prevent flooding from/to existing flooding hotspots across the Meon Valley parishes. This includes a need for Southern Water to communicate better with both Councillors, Parishes and residents regularly impacted by flooding on proposed plans of work.

Mayor of Winchester Awards 2025 - Nominations by 16th February

Nominations for the annual Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards are now open, offering an opportunity to recognise and celebrate those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help others. The closing date for nominations is Sunday 16 February 2025. The awards will take place on Thursday 13 March 2025. More information and a link to the nomination form here:

<https://winchester.citizenspace.com/communications/mayor-of-winchester-community-awards-2025/>

Solar Showcase for Community Buildings Wed 26 Feb @ 2p.m. Denmead Community Centre, PO7 6LU

Thinking about installing solar panels on your community building? Join this event to hear how Denmead Community Centre installed **59 solar panels and 10kWh battery storage**, cutting costs and reducing their carbon footprint. Learn from trustees about **funding, challenges, and benefits**, with insights from the **Winchester District Community Solar Support Scheme**—a free service offering technical advice, feasibility studies, and funding support. More info: [WinACC Solar Support Scheme](mailto:solar@winacc.org.uk) **Book your free place:**

solar@winacc.org.uk

GRANTS

District Small Grant Scheme - last chance - closes 28th Feb 2025

Grants of up to a £1000 for not-for-profit organisations: <https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations/small-grant-scheme>

UK Shared Prosperity Fund - 1 Apr 25 to end of Mar 26. Application details and eligibility criteria to be announced in due course. To allow early thinking about potential projects it might be useful to review the successful allocation made over the last three years to a diverse range of projects spread across the district. Previous achievements by organisation/businesses and project description can be found at: [UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity Funds - Winchester City Council](#)

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 Feb 2025

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

Devolution

The Government is expected to announce in the coming days whether our area has been accepted onto the devolution priority programme. If accepted, elections for our regional Mayor would be held in May 2026, and County Council elections, due this May, will be postponed for 12 months. With a combined population of over two million residents, home to 90,000 businesses and an economy that generates around £80 billion a year, our region is a powerhouse of economic activity and a significant asset for the wider UK economy. The Mayor will have a key role in promoting the interests of our region to central Government, and will also take on some decision-making powers that are currently held by central government.

Alongside devolution, the County Council has committed to progress with developing proposals for local government reorganisation in the area. Reorganisation will completely change the landscape of Hampshire's local councils by replacing the current two-tier council system, which is in place across most of the region, with a number of new unitary (all-purpose) councils. Proposals for local government reorganisation need to be submitted to Government by Autumn 2025.

Hampshire County Council Funding

The County Council has written to Government requesting that it is allowed to increase council tax by up to 15% in 2025/26 to help address the on-going budget issues. Normally any increase above the limit set by Government (5% for 2025/26) would require a local referendum. However, the Council has requested an exception under Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) rules. Currently, Hampshire has the second lowest council tax of all counties nationally. Increasing council tax by 15% would generate an extra £84m, which would help to address some of the budgetary issues. It is important to note that part of the reason that Hampshire is in this position is because the administration chose to freeze council tax for five years (from 2011/12 to 2015/16). Another key issue is the ongoing increase in social care costs. Across all County Councils, average social care expenditure as a proportion of total council spend has increased from 62% in 2016-17 to 80% in 2023-24. Until a long-term solution to social care funding is put in place by the Government, all local authorities responsible for social care are fighting a losing battle.'

Lane Rental' Scheme

Hampshire County Council has set out proposals for the introduction of a new disruption charge scheme designed to reduce delays on the county's busiest roads, at the busiest times. The plan would incentivise any companies or agencies needing to carry out work on busier parts of the public highway to improve their planning, work outside of peak times wherever possible, and reduce the duration of their work. This would be achieved by charging a daily fee for the duration of the work, including any delays. Part of the surplus revenues received over and above the basic scheme operation costs would be used for funding innovative projects to reduce traffic disruption, and part re-invested back into highway maintenance. The aim is for the scheme to become operational in 2026. Charges can only be applied on the most congested, strategically important local roads across Hampshire. The County Council would be able to apply a 'rental' charge of up to £2,500 per day.

Botley Bypass Update

Work will start next month on the final phase of the Botley Bypass following approval by Hampshire County Council. The County Council has appointed contractor, Milestone Infrastructure (part of M Group Services' Transport Division), to deliver this scheme which is expected to be completed in late summer 2027. The final element of the Botley Bypass scheme will create a new single-carriageway road running eastwards from Winchester Street, a new bridge crossing the River Hamble and a new roundabout at the A334 junction with the A3051. New and improved pedestrian and cycle routes will also be provided as part of the project, encouraging people to travel more actively, by walking and cycling for their local journeys.

Site clearance will begin in February 2025 with the main works commencing in May 2025. A public information event with the contractor will be held in advance of the main works starting. Regular updates are provided on the scheme webpages including information about upcoming community information events: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/botleybypass>

M27 Junction 10 Update

The M27 Junction 10 project involves the provision of three new slip roads to facilitate an 'all moves' arrangement, along with a new motorway underpass to the west of the existing motorway junction and the construction of a new dual carriageway to link the new slip roads to the existing road network. These highway changes are being implemented to support the development of Welborne, a new community of up to 6000 homes between Wickham and Fareham. In recent months, the footprint of the scheme has rapidly taken shape. The focus of work on site is on the construction of a large concrete underpass next to the motorway which will be slid into position over the Christmas period 2025. However, to support the current phase of the scheme, several full and partial overnight closures on the M27 will be necessary in late March and early April, which will reduce the number of lanes on the motorway at this section from four to three for the duration of the works. Information on the exact dates of the overnight closures will be published on the scheme web page and on social media shortly.

Flooding

Flood water can come from rivers or the sea, surface water or groundwater, or more usually, a combination of the different sources. Weather patterns are becoming increasingly unpredictable with summer downpours often

having more severe impacts than the winter rainfall. Groundwater levels are also reacting with wetter summers leaving aquifers (natural underground water storage) at a higher level before the winter recharge season begins. While those involved in flood risk management can and will undertake a variety of actions in relation to their remits, flooding is almost never due to a single source or factor, and it can be extremely complicated to understand how and why it occurs. There is an increasing need for multiple bodies, including the community, to work together in understanding and managing the risk. With so many different parties involved in the different types and mechanisms of flooding, Hampshire County Council have prepared a community toolkit to help provide clarity on the most appropriate support available:

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/flood-water-management/managing-risk/hcc-community-toolkit.pdf>.

The new community toolkit is designed to provide communities, parish and town councils, householders, landowners and businesses with information on flooding and where to find advice and support, plus where to report flooding for assistance. Reporting incidents of flooding also helps organisations to develop measures to reduce the flooding in high-risk areas.

Solar Showcase for Community Buildings, Wed 26 Feb at 2pm, Denmead Community Centre, School Lane, Denmead PO7 6LU

Do you run a community building (such as a community centre, sports building, scout hut, faith building etc) in Winchester District and have been thinking about having solar panels installed? Denmead Community Centre installed 59 solar panels and 10kWh battery storage in July last year – and it's already provided considerable savings on their energy bills and their carbon footprint. This event is an opportunity to hear from the Community Centre trustees who led on the installation project – what they learnt, how they raised the funding, how they dealt with the challenges and the benefits they've gained. The trustees were given free support from the Winchester District Community Solar Support Scheme, delivered by local charity Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis (WinACC). The scheme provides free help with all aspects of having solar panels installed – technical advice, a feasibility study, support to develop an implement a fundraising plan and template tenders for installer quotes – find out more and see case studies at <https://www.winacc.org.uk/community-solar-support-scheme>.

Stuart Mills, WinACC Project Manager, will also be speaking at the Solar Showcase event about how to access the scheme. To book a free place, email solar@winacc.org.uk

Climate Future: Take the quick survey today!

You are invited to complete a short survey on climate change. Your feedback will help HCC understand how to better support residents in tackling climate change and meeting our carbon-neutral targets by 2050. The survey should take less than 10 minutes. Thank you.

[Share Your Views](#)

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.

Upcoming Events

- *Warmer Homes Retrofit Advice Surgery*, Hambledon, Saturday 22-Feb, 10am-1pm – Hambledon Greening are holding a Warmer Homes Retrofit Advice surgery in Hambledon Village Hall. If you know anyone you think would benefit from a FREE 20-minute session (or 40 if you book 2 sessions!) with an expert, then please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/homes-retrofit-advice-surgery-tickets-1152080536899>
- *Sustainability Event Barn Farm*, Whiteley, Saturday 01-Mar, 10am-12pm – Kick-off event for the Whiteley group covering Sustainable Energy, Sustainable Gardening & Sustainable Consumption.

Overview

Thus far in this winter season we've had very little precipitation, so the trend lines recorded in the aquifers levels are still indicating downward movement as of 29th January. The FAG will continue to monitor the situation, and await further information from the Environment Agency if there are any changes of note.

30/01/24 BHD 53.830 AOD Whitedale 54.726 AOD

29/01/25 BHD 50.010 AOD Whitedale 46.281 AOD (-3.82 & -8.45)

Risk Situation

The list of challenges, however, is changing, especially where the condition of the village flood defences are concerned, owing to the total lack of maintenance since our last report, and where there has been further deterioration. The scene of the last vehicle that crashed into the outflow ditch is still cluttered, causing a blockage from the build-up of detritus coming downstream from the settlement basin. The East and West banks of the ditch walls in this area are showing greater signs of sluffing, and sections of the verge are breaking off, increasing the danger to pedestrians. We have not seen any assessment reports from Hampshire County Council covering their remedies for the ongoing slippage situation, or when they will be attended to. The present integrity of the entire channel needs to be surveyed from the settlement basin down to the footbridge, where the wall is eroding from the previous crash, which has sadly not been properly followed up.

And, there has been no real progress being made by Southern Water in dealing with the risks from sewerage infiltration, other than "sealing the manhole covers," which does not address the actual requirements. With any sort of luck, maybe there won't be a problem this season.

Environment Agency

From our discussions with Tom Woods, "both the trends at Broadhalfpenny Down and Whitedale Farm are both decreasing slowly. At Broadhalfpenny Down, the level peaked on 09/01/2025 and has since fallen by 1.6 m. At Whitedale Farm, the level peaked on 22/01/2025 and has since fallen by 24 cm. At Whitedale Farm, the level around 8.5m below where we'd expect cellar flooding to affect a small number of properties in Lower West Street."

"From the last week in January, until Sunday 02/02/2025, only small amounts of rain are forecast in Hampshire (up to 15 mm across these 5 days). The 6-10 day forecast is also suggesting that more settled conditions are likely. Long range forecasting is difficult, but the Met Office are currently suggesting that throughout February, conditions in the south of England are expected to be mostly dry and more settled, although some rain is still likely at times. As of the last week in January, there is little in the weather forecast to suggest that groundwater levels in Hambledon are going to rise significantly. The risk of groundwater flooding in Hambledon continues to decrease as we move closer towards the end of the winter. Given the current levels and weather forecast, I would suggest the groundwater flooding impacts in Hambledon are unlikely. However, as you know, levels can rise quickly but it would require several heavy rainfall events across a couple of weeks for this to happen. I will give you another update in mid-February."

Flood Action Group

Our latest article in the Hambledonian provides further information on preparedness by villagers for inclement weather conditions. And we also encourage ongoing two-way discussion with the Parish Council and residents, in sharing ideas about ways to keep people better informed.

APPENDIX D

BASS Report Feb 2025 (Cllr Chris Silcock)

BASS work is currently stalled (but not stopped) due to a difference of opinion between the PC and Hampshire highways over the placement of the gate at Park. The Clerk and I met with Malcolm Wallace on 27 January to rehearse all the BASS proposals and in particular to seek his assistance in resolving the impasse. We may hear more from him this evening. We have received a quotation from Councillor Clarke for the sourcing and installation of gates from Glasdon, a potential gate supplier - the PC has already seen a quotation from this

company for supply only of gates and integral signs. Once we have agreed placement of gates with HH, the PC will be invited to review all quotations and to approve the letting of contracts etc.

Notwithstanding the slow progress on gates, I will now start work with the Clerk on seeking changes to speeds through the TRO process as well as changes to some signage mainly affecting HGVs. This will be the start of a lengthy consultation by HH.

APPENDIX E

Hambleton Greening Report Feb 2025

Repair Café and Recycling:

- The last Repair Café on Jan 18th was extremely busy with a large range of garden tools, knives, clothing, electricals and other items sharpened and repaired. It is very pleasing to see how valued this event continues to be within Hambleton and the wider community.
- The next Repair Café will be in Denmead on Feb 15th and in Hambleton on March 15th.

Climate Fresk workshop:

- We are very pleased that WinACC is providing funding for Hambleton Greening to run a Climate Fresk workshop in the village on the evening of Monday March 17th. We are aiming to find 14 volunteers from key groups in the village to take part in this very stimulating climate-education tool run by a professional facilitator. We have HGC and church members involved already and are hoping for representatives from the Parish Council, the school and the Scouts. The Vineyard has kindly allowed us to use their meeting room free of charge and will hopefully send a representative along as well. See link below for further information about this climate initiative: <https://climatefresk.org/world/purpose/>

Retrofit:

- The Warmer Homes Retrofit Advice surgery on Saturday Feb 22nd is currently being advertised both in Hambleton and local WeCAN communities and free sessions of 20 minutes can be booked on Eventbrite through the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/homes-retrofit-advice-surgery-tickets-1152080536899>
- We would be grateful if members of the Parish Council could recommend this event to anyone who would benefit from expert free advice on creating warmer homes.

Local accessibility:

- HGC supports residents of Green Lane in their efforts to find ways to create a footpath along Green Lane and thus enable all its residents to have car-free access into the village.
- We have written to the PC in support of this and drawn attention to possible CIL funding sources.

National Greening Campaign:

- There is a meeting on Jan 27th 2025 with a range of professional bodies and two Greening Campaign groups – Hambleton and Ringwood - to discuss the Greening Campaign 2030 strategy for Hampshire. Hampshire County Council Climate Change Team has an overarching role as one of the Greening Campaign partners. Sue Crossley will go as HGC's representative.

We are grateful as always for your support.

Dr Penny Mahon
(secretary of Hambleton Greening Campaign)