



MINUTES
Hambledon Annual Parish Meeting
15 May 2025, 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Encke, Silcock, Mills-Goodlet, Lamb & Daly, & circa 39 parishioners.

In attendance: Mrs Joanna Tester (PC Clerk); Cllr Danny Lee (arrived 8.27pm); Cllr Malcolm Wallace (HCC & WCC; arrived 8.27pm); Hannah Marks (Hambledon Vineyard); PCSO Wheeler-Osman (arrived 7.46pm); Sodhi Dhillon (Digital Voice); & Adrian Smith (CityFibre).

Apologies: Cllrs Clarke & Hand (HPC); & Sue Crossley (Hambledon Greening).

Meeting started at 7.37pm

	Item	Discussion and Decision	Action
1	Chair's Welcome, Introduction & Review of the Year	Cllr Encke welcomed Villagers and delivered the PC's 'review of the year'. The main points were as follows: • Flooding/Southern Water (SW) ○ PC still pursuing SW re roadside damage caused winter of 2023/24 on Fareham Road in the area used by tankers to turn around. ○ RTA on B2150 between Old Forge Tearoom and Hook Vinney resulted in damage to the hedge/fencing on the verge alongside the Big Pipe (BP) outlet ditch, and significant debris within the ditch. After much chasing, Hampshire Highways (HH) finally removed debris but has not repaired the hedge/fencing nor addressed the progressively concerning issue of the degrading ditch bank. ○ A significant amount of silt has been removed from the BP outlet at the OFTR, but no further work has been diarised as far as the PC is aware. ○ Flood Action Group (FAG) continues to raise concerns about robustness of the sewerage infrastructure. ○ Jan Jarvie (JJ) has stepped down as Chair of FAG. Cllr Encke has taken over, with JJ still playing a major advisory role. Thanks given to JJ for his focus and dedication.	

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	• Hambleton Greening • Events held this year: ○ Denmead and Hambleton Repair Café; ○ three ‘speed-dating’ events at The Vine on heat pumps, EVs and solar panels; ○ an evening on waste and recycling; ○ a surgery on how to make homes more energy-efficient; and ○ the Greening Festival (run with Hambleton Eco-Church). • Biffa bin sited in the Village Hall for the recycling of rigid plastics. • The National Trust ran two wild-flower surveys on Speltham Down. • The film ‘Six Inches of Soil’, organised with Hampshire Market Garden and Rushmere Farm, will be shown 16/05/25 in the VH. • Beautiful and Safer Streets (BASS) ○ New street name signs project now complete. ○ Work continuing on introducing traffic calming features, but financial and statutory restrictions are becoming more obvious. ○ Positioning of white village entrance gates has been provisionally agreed by HH. ○ In order to introduce speed limit changes (eg at Park from NSL to 40mph) a TRO would need to be applied for, at a cost of circa £15k. No guarantee that it would be accepted & no refund. ○ Re-routing of HGVs continues to be discussed. ○ Destruction of Green Man flower bed by CityFibre cable-laying - £1k compensation has now been received. The Clerk is still chasing the potential for the chamber under the bed to be re-positioned so that the bed can be returned to how it was originally. • Playgrounds ○ New playground installed at Stewarts Green summer 2024. ○ Junior swings at the Village Hall replaced this year. ○ Tennis court repairs and re-paint carried out this year. Questions/comments to the Chair: • As a village, need to formally thank JJ for his contribution to FAG. [Formal thanks were given.]	

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2	Hambledon Vineyard	Hannah Marks gave an update on what has been happening at the Vineyard over the past year, as follows: • Thanks to the Village for the huge amount of support given to the Vineyard over the past year. • New courtyard opening 26/05/25 for villagers and members. • Cellar door shop opening the following week. • Couple of weddings, but will update villagers with details of any other events occurring. • Keen to get really involved with the Village - happy to assist with good causes; need of a venue etc. • Stile on fp15b (between Vineyard and track next to Whitedale) due to be changed to a gate, and footpath signs/safety signs will be installed. • Trying hard to limit/control the route of traffic to the Vineyard. • Hannah happy for people to contact her with issues etc. Questions/comments to Hannah as follows: • Is there going to be a lift installed? [Yes.] • Thanks for supporting the Hambledon Hilly this September. The run will start and finish at the Vineyard.	
3	Digital Telephone Switchover	Sodhi Dhillon, Engagement Manager – Digital Voice (EE / BT / Plusnet), gave a presentation on digital telephone switchover. Main points as follows (full presentation will be made publicly available idc): • Open Reach will switch off analogue landlines end of Jan 2027. • Have been moving customers for some time now. Additional needs & vulnerable customers have not yet been contacted but will be in due course, on a regional basis. • Landline is not going away. Phones plugged into back of broadband hub rather than the socket on the wall. • Digital Voice Adapters - work wirelessly for phones in rooms where there isn't a hub. • Customers will keep their landline no. and there will be no additional cost (unless customer changes package). • Service will be enhanced. • Extensive testing has taken place of accessible devices for those with additional needs/disabilities. • If a customer has Telecare alarms &/or monitored burglar alarms they should let the telephone provider know in advance of the switchover. • Scam protection - enhanced protection powered by AI.	

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3	Digital Telephone Switchover cont.	• Resilience solutions - in areas where there are frequent power cuts, customers can purchase (circa £70 each) hybrid phones (where there is some mobile reception) or battery back-up (where no mobile reception). Both free for vulnerable customers. • Vulnerable customer will receive tailored communication explaining their journey to Digital Voice. • Working with RNIB etc to ensure that communication is accessible. • Pilot to support those with Telecare. Running until July 2025. Every local authority has signed a data share agreement - allows them to share details of people with Telecare devices. • New campaign to be launched in a couple of weeks to raise awareness further. • For those without broadband and only a landline, there will be equipment within the telephone exchange to enable a digital connection there instead of in the home (but this is for a finite time only). • South East region - 468k customers with landline; 58% already on Digital Voice. • National campaign, across multiple media channels, starting 02 June to raise awareness of switchover - particularly aimed at Telecare users. • Engaging with support networks of vulnerable customers - Connected Together. • Working with Moira Stuart to help raise awareness. • Working with charities and local organisations eg Neighbourhood Watch to help spread the word. • Huge importance in identifying customers with additional needs (including physical, mental & financial). Questions/comments to Sodhi: • What about areas with poor mobile reception? [EE committed to expanding coverage. Can generally make emergency calls. Will take back and ask HO what the plan is for this region.] • Villager has been switched over but old phone doesn't work. Need more customer service staff. [Pass details to Sodhi & he will pass on to the correct team. Old handsets should be compatible.] • Changed over last Friday - digital didn't work; switched back to analogue; not working either so no landline for a week. Give details to Sodhi to investigate.] • Power cut in Village circa 6 weeks ago. No mobile phone, no broadband, no landline. Now on digital. No battery back-up offered. • Elderly mother switched over with no warning. [Should not have happened. Need to make sure she is registered as vulnerable. Should be given a month's notice.] • PlusNet - not providing landline service going forward. Will need to change provider but will be able to keep the same number.	

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3	Digital Telephone Switchover cont.	• BT is responsible for all vulnerable customers - should include elderly not just those with Telecare etc. • Very frustrating if you can't contact them directly. • Poor reliability of broadband - went down 89 times in one day. Currently, there is copper cable running from the cabinet to the residence. [Only fibre-based broadband will allow Voice Service to work so very surprised that the switchover is going ahead. Contact Sodhi directly - will provide e-mail.] • Major communication issues & what Sodhi thinks is happening on the ground actually isn't happening. [As an organisation, taking this very seriously. Taking direct feedback from events back to the organisation.]	
4	PCSO report (an addition to the agenda)	PCSO Steph Wheeler-Osman introduced herself and briefed villagers as follows: • Updates can be found on the Winchester Police FaceBook page. • Crimes can be reported via calling 101, or online. • Response times to calls on 101 have improved. • Updates will sometimes also be on the HIOW Constabulary website. • In Bishops Waltham, one designated Neighbourhood Officer is trained with the speed gun. Questions to Steph: • Could the mobile speed gun be used on the B2150 through the Village? [Unlikely as officers have very limited time available.]	
5	Cityfibre	Question and answer session with Adrian Smith; Partnership Manager at CityFibre. Adrian gave an initial presentation; main points as follows: • Project Gigabit - funded by UK Government. Majority of target areas are rural. • CityFibre has sufficient funds to complete the roll-out (numerous investors). • Government uses Open Market Review to select target areas. Circa 4-5 times more expensive to roll-out to rural areas. • Parish is split into nodes of 300-400 homes. • There will be 3-4 more months of people working in the Village. • Upcoming roadworks - Adrian to provide map and info to Clerk. • Details on road closures can be found on Causeway one.network, and it is possible to sign up for automatic updates. • Teams won't be on site every weekend but will work 6-7 day weeks if necessary to complete jobs within the HCC-approved road closure timescale. • Easement wayleave - sent to landowners when they need to access private land.	

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5	Cityfibre cont.	Questions/comments to Adrian: • Committed to road closure permit dates? [Yes - dates are key as tight schedule & if deadlines are missed they would have to reapply to HCC which would cause significant delays to the project.] • What is the process if a property is a long distance from the highway (e.g. 200m)? [Property owner will be contacted. Fibre would be taken to the gateway by CityFibre, but then the stretch to the house would be the landowner's responsibility. CityFibre would give the customer the necessary ducting but they would need to arrange installation.] • Use existing poles? [Yes, unless decayed. In this case, new pole may be installed but old one not removed as OpenReach property. Would need a wayleave if pole is on private property.] • Are there restrictions on the siting of the 'box' on listed properties? [Solutions do exist.] • Communication - very little info provided on road closures. [Residents are able to sign up to register interest. Flyers/cards should be used by build-partners.] • Letters arrived 2 weeks after work started in Village. [Adrian will take back to build-partners.] • Build-partners have been very pleasant and helpful. • Can we see exact locations of road closures? Closures can be very difficult in a small village with few roads. [Diversion roads will be shown on the One Network website. Difficult to be specific.] • When installing cables underground, what about newly resurfaced roads such as the B2150 (Well Hill)? [Highways Act 1980, Section 38 (HCC) dictates that in these shouldn't be dug-up within the first 2-3 years, so installation would have to be on the verge. If this isn't an option, CityFibre would have to completely re-surface the road.] • BT exchange on West St - why has the technology been refreshed recently if everything is becoming digital? [BT is not on CityFibre's network and CityFibre doesn't use any of the OpenReach infrastructure. OpenReach has told the Government that it will not be bringing ultrafast broadband to Hambledon.] • Given that Hambledon is in a conservation area, is planning an issue? [No - done under permitted development, but they do liaise with district council and SDNPA to ensure that they are happy with colours/designs etc.] • Does the Causeway One.Network website give live updates? [Yes.] • Will they be working nights? [No, generally only between 8am and 6pm. Emergency works are different. Noisy works must finish by 11pm.] • During road closures, what about large vehicles causing issues on narrow lanes? [Diversions are planned (by HCC) so that large vehicles are not using unsuitable routes.] • Disruption to business - compensation? [Contact CityFibre customer services to enquire.]	

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6	Devolution & local government reorganisation	HCC & WCC councillors gave a brief overview of devolution & local government reorganisation in Hampshire. Main points as follows: • Devolution - we are going to get a Mayor (voting next May). • Reorganisation - unitary authority (HCC and WCC will no longer exist). Due to start 2027/28. • News today - will find out soon what the merged districts will look like. • The <i>Planning and Infrastructure Bill</i> and <i>Devolution</i> legislation is making progress through Parliament. However, as it stands, it creates real risk of harm to people, places, and nature when growth and new development decisions are made. Safeguard amendments are needed - introduction of a climate duty and strengthened nature duties for all councils and public authorities. Questions/comments received from parishioners as follows: • Will we actually be in a better position after devolution & reorganisation? Large cost. [Likely to be pros and cons. One benefit may be that the Mayor will be able to take a strategic view based on local knowledge eg build a new town in an appropriate location.]	
7	Open forum	The following points were raised by members of the public: • Concerns regarding parking around the Old Forge Tearooms (OFTR), tables put out on the road, and Biffa bins left on pavement (hazard to pedestrians). [HH own the highway & determine what is allowed and what is not allowed. Speak to OFTR first. Could be a positive in that roadside parking slows down traffic. Individual may report to the Police if they consider actions unlawful, but they are unlikely to have the capacity to do anything about it. BASS is trying to get HH to look at the OFTR area. OFTR is a significant business in the village.] • Headstone Copse - concerns regarding the new fencing/closure of the top section of the Copse.	

The meeting closed at 9.40pm