

# MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 21 March 2024, Village Hall, 7pm

Parish Councillors: Charles Holroyd (Chairman), Paul Barnes, Nigel Long, Nick Ralls;  
Clerk Susan Turner; Members of the public 3

**1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Alison Barker; County Cllr Henderson; PCSO Andy Jones.

**2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** of 15 February, agreed and signed.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** in items on the Agenda

**4 REPORTS TO THE MEETING**

**.1** Written report received from County Cllr Juliet Henderson **APPENDIX I**.

**.2 Parish Lengthsman report**

- New Hawthorn trees in playing field are full of bud.
  - David Janaway has done a good job with the ditches along Weston Road.
  - Re dog poo bags left by paths and hanging in hedges, I will look for appropriate places to put up some laminated notices. Suggest a notice in *UG Magazine*: 'don't grow on trees'.
  - Litter picked Weston Road, Lees Hill and the Bridleway 21 by the Dower House
  - To make a request for a longer reach litter picker to reach into the ditches.
  - FP 14 (footpath from Cemetery Lane) at its junction with Tunworth Road, the roadside littered with rubbish by people from their cars; further up the road, by junction with bridleway 21 which comes by the Dower House, the same. The small copse over the stile into FP 14 (the Paddock side) is full of tin cans and bits of car. Can only be seen when walking. **APPENDIX II**
- Parish Council to write to landowner and Estate manager.

**5 PUBLIC SESSION**

**.1 Weston Road pinch point / footway**

- Beside the 'pinch point' where people walk along the verge behind the Highways reflector points – the surface becomes very muddy and slippery. Suggestion to co-ordinate a group of volunteers to remove some of the soil and fill with stone.

The path is narrow, length c 170m **APPENDIX III**

Discussion – Has been very wet weather the last three months, coming out of that now – Grass is growing now, if seed the verge without any protection... depends how much foot traffic – having people walk in the road defeats the safety objective.

- Potential to use the rubber mesh ground protection mats; designed for grass to grow through. Need to be well dug in, pegged down, can be a trip hazard.
- Other alternative – scalping / resin bound gravel and timber edging. Clerk to seek quote.

*Thanks to David Janaway and Parish Lengthman for bringing this to the meeting.*

**6 POACHING AND BOATS** *Chairman's report*

The byways centred in Upton Grey have become a magnet for criminal use including poaching (hares killed with lead shot), trespass, criminal damage – not so bad as recent media coverage of incident in Broughton – but has a big impact on wildlife, landowners, and the condition of the byways and so on all other users. Upton Grey has an extensive network of attractive byways and clearly Five Lanes End has five exit routes.

The Parish Council was approached by local farmers seeking a solution; a meeting held with landowners and County Cllr Juliet Henderson, joined remotely by the Hants Police & Crime Commissioner Donna Jones. The proposal is for a request to County as the local highways authority for seasonal part-closure of the BOATs (byways open to all traffic).

Such a closure has been achieved in West Berkshire via a Traffic Order on environmental grounds. Upton Grey will follow this approach; a request letter is drafted for the Parish Council's approval:

'[A] request is made to Hampshire County Council for an Order for the temporary prohibition of mechanically propelled vehicles with three wheels or more from proceeding in any direction over the Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) listed in Schedule 1, in accordance with Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

'The BOATs are located in the parishes of Upton Grey, Mapledurwell and Up Nately, and Greywell. The purpose of the Order is to preserve the surface of the byways during winter months. The request is that the Order comes into and remains in force until the 22nd April 2024, and again to come into effect on Monday 21st October 2024 and to remain in force until Monday 28th April 2025.

'The objective of the Order is environmental, to protect the surface of the BOATs, so that they can be used by ramblers and other walkers during winter months. Because the Orders will for a temporary prohibition, the BOATs will continue to be enjoyed in a good condition by all users including mechanically propelled vehicles of three wheels or more outside winter months.'

AGREED unanimously to the proposal and letter requesting winter part closure of the byways.

ACTION The letter to be forwarded to HCC via County Cllr Henderson, and copied to the PCC, Police (Country Watch), MPs. To also forward to Greywell and Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Councils seeking their expressed support, and that of their County Councillors.

NOTED The practical steps to close routes will need to be the responsibility of landowners.

## 7 POND

.1 **Alder tree** BDBC granted a five-day notice to fell the Alder last Autumn due to safety concerns. Subsequently established that the tree posed no immediate threat but continues in decline. Clerk to contact BDBC with a TCA (Trees in Conservation Order) application.

.2 **New pond tree**

AGREED Purchase of Weeping Silver Pear – Pyrus Salicifolia Pendula; Extra Heavy Standard 14-16cm (4.5 to 6m) @ £275 plus VAT plus delivery £55 = £330. Plus cost of planting, stakes etc. Delivery – dispatch two to three weeks. Chairman and Cllr Barnes to confirm planting site.

.3 **Pond vegetation**

TO NOTE works completed to cut back the Iris and sedges – received general approval.

## 8 HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE

.1 **Weston Road ditching**

TO RECORD thanks to David Janaway, ref 4.1 Parish Lengthsman's report.

.2 **Weston Road pinch point / footway** See Public Session at 5.1. Options discussed – to use plastic grid matting – to dig out soil and lay a scaplings / resin bound path. Clerk to seek quote from County Lengthsman.

NOTED Narrow road, will require banksmen, traffic management.

.3 **Ditch from pond junction** north of Bidden Road pond toward phone box; then piped. Takes surface water runoff including from Lees Hill. Clearing the ditch again potentially a County Lengthsman task.

.4 **Public rights of way**

i. Email received from resident re dog poo bags left hanging in hedges etc. See 4.1 Parish Lengthsman report.

ii FP 8 from Weston Road alongside Holme Hill right at the top. Owners have undertaken a lot of ground work and put in a chain link fence at the edge of their property enclosing the hedge. Hopefully an indication the hedge will be kept well cut back from the path.

## 9 HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC

.1 **Closure B3349 at South Warnborough** from 20 March (yesterday) for six days 7.30am to pm or weekend. Noted a recognisable increase in traffic through the village but not as bad as might have been expected.

.2 **Speed limit reminder signs** – deployment to date.

1 – Location 3 - Weston Road from 21 Nov	4770 activations
2 – Location 1 - Bidden Road from 12 Dec	6414 activations
3 – Location 3 - Weston Road from 02 Jan	4203 activations
4 – Location 2 - Church Street North from 23 Jan	2740 activations
5 – Location 3 - Weston Road from 13 Feb	4142 activations
6 – Location 1 - Bidden Road from 05 Mar	8346 activations

For signature (p2 of 4) .....

Discussion – the sign does raise awareness – drivers break when they see it flash – do slow down, at least initially.

AGREED Schedule to July 2024 – to repeat as previous.

1 – Location 3 - Weston Road	26 March
2 – Location 1 - Bidden Road	16 April
3 – Location 3 - Weston Road	07 May
4 – Location 2 - Church Street North	28 May
5 – Location 3 - Weston Road	18 June
6 – Location 1 - Bidden Road	09 July.

**10 FINANCE**

**.1 Accounts to date APPENDIX IV.** Reconciliation at 14 March = £26,824.27

Payments since the last meeting of 15 Feb

65	Broadley Aquatics – (50%) cut back Iris rhizomes, pond	£420.00
66	Anscombe & Sons – Kitchen units VH	£4,300.00
67	Saunders-1992 – Maintn Contract-FEB	£279.00
68	Lengthsman – Salary FEB	£61.60
69	Clerk – Salary FEB	£528.00
70	Broadley Aquatics – (bal) cut back Iris rhizomes, pond	420.00
71	Simone Systems Ltd – SLR sign (4)	£60.00

March payments to year end

Saunders-2005 – Maintn Contract-MAR	£279.00
Lengthsman – Salary MAR	£61.60
Clerk – Salary MAR	£528.00
HMRC – Oct-Nov-Dec PAYE Clerk £396 + LM £46.20	£442.20
Simone Systems Ltd – SLR sign (2, 3 & 6)	£180.00
Clearways Sport – De-mossing etc tennis court	£198.00

Note – March payment to Simone Systems also covers Jan invoices. Requested for one invoice of £300 to cover the next scheduled six visits.

Income of note since last meeting

£2,515.24 VAT reclaim; £399.75 BDBC Ward Cllr grant (ref Village Hall cutlery).

**.2 Internal Audit** booked for Thurs 13 June, requirement for External Audit noted.

**.3 Governing documents and policies** Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Assessment reviewed and agreed no updates. To be marked for next review May AGM.

**11 PLANNING**

**.1 Planning applications**

i Update on Parish Planning applications **APPENDIX V.**

ii Hoddington House entrance gates, no evident progress since email from case officer re potential redesign in brick and tile.

iii Manor Farm units – Heritage Statement has been posted to BDBC website.

iv Tree applications – Parish Council no objection, no comment re recent tree applications.

v New planning applications since last meeting

[24/00412/HSE](#) (Validated 23 Feb) The Old Bakery, Church Street. Removal of existing brick wall, steps and garden terraces and construction of new retaining wall with metal railings at top and steps to create enlarged patio area. This follows approval of LBC application 23/02476/LBC (Grant 22 Feb 2024); *PC no objection, no comment.*

[24/00334/HSE](#) (Validated 16 Feb) Foxgloves, Powntley Copse. Demolition of the rear conservatory, detached single storey garage and lean-to and shed structure. Erection of a two storey replacement garage with accommodation incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse above. Erection of an outdoor structure to cover existing outdoor kitchen and the extension of the existing wall around two sides. Plus corresponding application to East Hants District – the southern section of the land is in East Hants. *PC Noted the continued expansion of development, the most recent approval 2022 (with standard condition for additional accommodation to be ancillary to main dwelling). But a large plot, secluded, neighbours appear to have no issues: no objection, no comment.*

**.2 Local Plan Update Reg 18 consultation**

NOTED Parish Council response including applications x 3 for Local Green Space (Church Meadow, Pond, Recreation ground) and for local Gap.

For signature (p3 of 4) .....

**12 FURTHER UPDATES / REPORTS**

- .1 Sewer pipe blockage** evening of Friday 16 February. The sewer pipe from Holme Hill was again blocked; foul water pushing up from the manhole in Bidden Road by the pond and flowing into the grid by the pond kerbside. It was thought the grid led to pond, so the grid blocked as best possible and Thames Water called. Thames Water are required to respond to an environmental incident within two hours, which they did, within hour and a half. As it turned out – and for future reference – the grid takes surface water runoff from the road – but not leading the pond or to the ditch; but Thames Water did clear the pipe which they reported to be completely blocked incl with wet wipes.

To RECORD thanks to Thames Water for attending.

TO NOTE The emergency contact number for Thames Water is posted at the Pumping Station.

**.2 Village Hall**

Land Registry – Email received from solicitors on 21 March detailing progress:

‘The Land Registry have raised some queries, which is not unusual... This does mean the application has been looked at and provided we can deal with the queries satisfactorily... I would expect the application to be concluded in the next few weeks.’

New kitchen installation scheduled for April.

- .3 Holme Hill** management company will be set up when the final property is sold. BDBC have agreed to take on the tree planting, but require responsibility for the trees to be then handed over to a management company. With any further delay, it will again be too late in the year to plant.

AGREED The Parish Council will take over responsibly for the trees from BDBC until such time as the management committee is set up. To confirm transfer of liability onwards.

**.4 BDBC Playground lease** – Email received from BDBC Estates Surveyor:

On 16 Feb 2024, at 13:11 – ‘Thank you for your email. We can make some enquiries as to whether the playground land could be transferred permanently to the Parish Council, the land is managed by our Natural Environment team so we would need to consult them in the first instance. However if not permitted we will renew your lease as planned.’

**12 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Third Thursdays in the month, 7pm:

18 April, 16 May (AGM), 20 June, 18 July, 19 Sept, 17 Oct, 21 Nov

*Meeting closed 8.40pm with thanks to all*

For signature (p4 of 4) ..... Date .....

**APPENDIX I** CLLR JULIET HENDERSON – HCC REPORT – MARCH 2024**1. County Council Budget Consultation**

I talked about the ongoing consultation on the County Council's future services in my last report. That consultation is seeking Hampshire residents' views on proposals to change and reduce some local services and help the Authority address a £132 million budget shortfall faced by April 2025. :<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/future-services-consultation>

A reminder about the areas covered by the consultation - road maintenance and winter gritting, public transport, street lights, school crossing patrols, parking charges at rural countryside car parks, homelessness support, library stocks levels, adult social care contributions, grants for voluntary and community organisations, funding to Hampshire Cultural Trust and changes or closures of Household Waste Recycling Centres. Many people have already responded. The consultation runs until the end of the month so if you have not responded yet, I do encourage you to take part. This affects us all. A number of people have emailed me with thoughts - again, do still reply to the consultation or email any thoughts to the Council's Insight & Engagement Unit on [insight@hants.gov.uk](mailto:insight@hants.gov.uk)

**2. HCC budget 2024-25**

The County Council's budget for the next financial year has been approved by council. This budget covers £2.6 billion of public spending on the ongoing delivery of important local services to Hampshire's 1.4 million residents. From 1 April 2024, Hampshire County Council's portion of council tax will increase by a total of 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care and supporting the county's higher numbers of older people and adults with complex needs and disabilities – in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,533.24 for a Band D property – an increase of £72.99 per year or approximately £1.40 a week.

The increase will generate an extra £39 million of vital income towards the delivery of crucial services to the people of Hampshire in 2024/25, and still means that Hampshire has one of the lowest council tax precepts of any county in England. Even with this increase, there is still a significant gap in the budget which will be filled from reserves – dedicated funds set aside specifically to address such shortfalls.

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

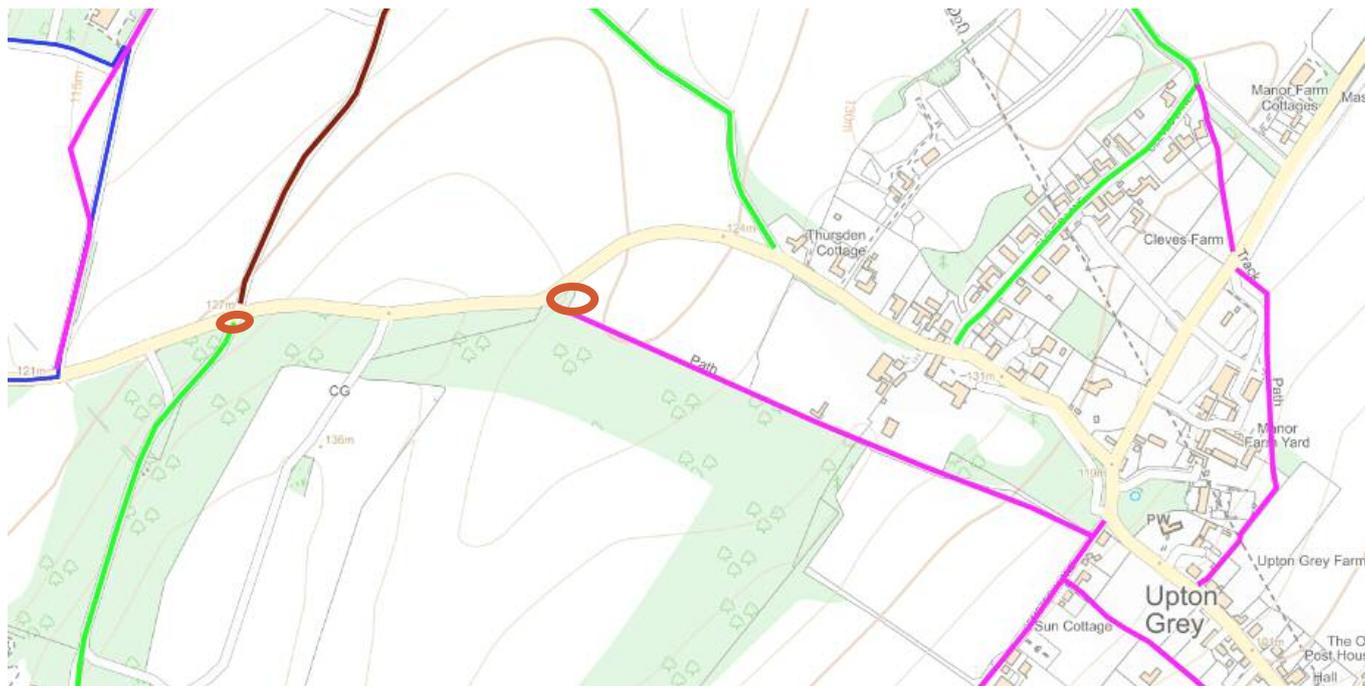
**3. Transforming in-house care for older people**

I have referred previously to the proposed changes to how the County Council operates its in-house care homes for older people. The plan is to focus on specialist nursing and complex dementia care, as well as short term pre and post-hospital support, to better meet the needs of the county's ageing population. These plans have now been approved, comprising a £173 million investment programme. It will increase the overall number of beds available to local people from 900 to 1,000, within a reduced network of 13 homes. Approving these plans secures the long-term future of our in-house homes ensuring they remain in the Authority's ownership – in stark contrast to the many other local councils who have sold their homes in recent years.

**4. New Local Transport Plan approved**

The County Council's new local transport plan (known as LTP4) has been approved. Its aim is the boost economic prosperity, reduce carbon pollution and help promote healthy lifestyles and build stronger communities over the next ten years. It is guided by two principles, widening the choice of travel options that people can use and providing a transport system that puts people first and creates high quality and prosperous places. 5. Schools Funding of £5.9 million has been approved by the County Council to help more parents access childcare before and after school, following a grant from the Department for Education. This will enable the provision of childcare which 'wraps around' the school day, enabling parents and carers of primary school-aged children to access and pay for term time childcare from 8am-6pm. The scheme will start in September this year and run for two years. In separate school news, 90.71% of the 14,587 online applications for a secondary school place in September have been offered a place in their first preference school, whilst more than 98% were offered one of their top three preferences.

**APPENDIX II** – FROM PARISH LM REPORT: AREAS NOTED WITH HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF LITTER



**APPENDIX III** – WESTON ROAD FOOTWAY / PINCH POINT





**APPENDIX V**  
**PLANNING UPDATE 14 MARCH 2024**

**APPLICATIONS NEW SINCE LAST MEETING**

T/00146/24/TCA (Validated 14 Mar 2024) Highfield House, Cleves Lane. T1= Lime Tree, Old Pollard, last pollarded 4/5 years ago, Re-pollard back to knuckle. Leaving a finished height of 4m with a crown spread (radius) of 2m.

T/00147/24/TCA (Validated 14 Mar 2024) Greenwood House, Cleves Lane. G2 = 6 x Field Maple, All pollarded at 8 feet in height, Re-pollard back to knuckle. Leaving a finished height of 2.5m with a crown spread (radius) of 0.4m (pollard point).

T/00148/24/TCA (Validated 14 Mar 2024) Romney House Cleves Lane. T3 T4, 1 cherry and 1 Lime, Re-pollard back to the knuckle. Leaving a finished height of 4m with a crown spread (radius) of 2m.

24/00412/HSE (Validated 23 Feb 2024) The Old Bakery, Church Street. Removal of existing brick wall, steps and garden terraces and construction of new retaining wall with metal railings at top and steps to create enlarged patio area.

T/00119/24/TCA (26 Feb 2024) Churchmead Church Street. T1 Yew - Crown reduce back to previous by removing approximately 1-2m all over as part of continued maintenance. T2 Olive - Crown reduce by removing 2.5m from the height and reduce the over hang at the back by 2m to leave a finished height of 4m with a crown spread (radius) of 3m.

24/00334/HSE (Validated 16 Feb 2024) Foxgloves, Powntley Copse. Demolition of the rear conservatory, detached single storey garage and lean-to and shed structure. Erection of a two storey replacement garage with accommodation incidental to the enjoyment of the dwellinghouse above. Erection of an outdoor structure to cover existing outdoor kitchen and the extension of the existing wall around two sides.

*Plus corresponding application to East Hants District - southern section land crosses boundary*

**PROGRESS OF RECENT APPLICATIONS**

23/03138/FUL (**Pending**, Validated 08 Jan 2024) Upton Grey House, Basingstoke Road. Rear extension of existing pool house to accommodate new gym. PC no objection

23/03050/FUL (**Pending**, Validated 19 Dec 2023) Land At Manor Farm Yard. Erection of 1 no building with 4 no commercial units. *Objection comment submitted. 27 public objections, none supporting. Comment from Conservation 02 Feb re no Heritage Statement submitted.*

23/02801/FUL (**Pending**, Validated 09 Nov 2023) Thursden House, Basingstoke Road RG25 2RE. Erection of a single dwellinghouse, together with a garage and associated access, car parking and landscaping. *Parish Council objection comment. 88 public objections, 1 supporting. No activity on website since Dec. Now marked as 'awaiting decision'.*

23/02704/FUL & 23/02705/LBC (**Pending**, Validated 27 Oct 2023) Hoddington House, Baymans Lane. Erection of two new main entrance gate lodges and gates, construction of formal ponds and new landscaping. *PC comment submitted. (Preference for brick with clay tile roof as 02 Aug Option.) Correspondence from Case Officer Claire Steele 19 Feb re potential revisions; no new drawings posted to website, no new consultation advertised yet.*

23/02476/LBC (**Grant** 22 Feb, Validated 15 Dec 2023) The Old Bakery, Church Street. Erection of a stud wall and associated internal works. Removal of external landscaped terraces, construction of new retaining wall, relocation of existing steps and repointing of existing outbuilding and southern elevation to the main house. *PC: No objection.*

23/01955/FUL (**Grant** 29 Feb, Validated 09 Nov 2023) St Mary's Church. Construction of a new louvre and window to facilitate improved ventilation in the ringing chamber. *(PC: support comment submitted.)*

23/00957/LDEU (**Pending**, Validated 13 Apr 2023) Thursden Cottage, Basingstoke Road, Upton Grey. Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use of the property known as Thursden Cottage as a self-contained dwellinghouse. *PC comment submitted re unhappiness with the process of permission by default. No activity on website since Nov 23.*