

## **Kings Worthy Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday, 04 May 2021 at 19:30**

**Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held electronically via Zoom**

#### **Attendees**

Councillors Les Haswell (Chairman), Stewart Newell (Vice-Chairman), Signe Biddle, Sue Cook, Colin Cossburn, Emily Fish, Ian Gordon, Mandy Hallisey, Dorry Lawlor, Matthew Miller-Hall, Charlotte Smith, Steve Waters, Christopher Read (Clerk), Lucia Foster-Found (Assistant Clerk).

#### **Members of the public**

One.

#### **APM/21/01 – Chairman’s Welcome to parishioners and guests**

None.

#### **APM/21/02 – Apologies for Absence**

Winchester City Councillor Jane Rutter.

#### **APM/21/03 – Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

All Councillors agreed that they were happy to sign off the minutes from the previous Annual Parish Meetings. The minutes of both May 2018 and May 2019 were signed off.

#### **APM/21/04 – Parish Council Chairman’s Report**

Cllr Haswell welcomed those Councillors new to the Parish Council this year; Signe Biddle, Matthew Miller-Hall and Steve Waters. He also thanked those Councillors who have left during that period; Tracey Anderson, Martin Taylor and Derek Smith.

He extended thanks to:

- Green Smile and Martyn Smith for their services in maintaining the Parish grounds, dealing with maintenance issues etc.
- County and City Councillors Jackie Porter, Malcolm Prince and Jane Rutter.
- The Clerk, Christopher Read and the Assistant Clerk, Lucia Foster-Found for their efforts during a very busy year that has brought with it an extraordinary set of circumstances.

Cllr Haswell highlighted that Kings Worthy Parish Council, Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council all represent and support the local community together. He gave an example of recent planning applications which have raised concerns within the Parish and these concerns have been supported and voiced by Parish, City and County Councillors.

### **APM/21/05 – To receive a report from the County Councillor**

Report was received and read by the Clerk. See attached.

### **APM/21/06 – To receive a report from the City Councillors**

Report was received. See attached.

### **APM/21/07 – To receive reports from the Parish Council Committee Chairs**

#### Finance and Remuneration

Finance Report was shared on the screen by Cllr Newell. See attached.

(Clerk left the meeting at 19:57 and returned at 19:59)

The surplus of £5494 was highlighted – this was due largely to COVID-19.

#### Recreation and Amenities

Cllr Hallisey presented her report. Points of note included:

- New playground fence at Eversley Park
- Height restriction barrier at Eversley Park car park
- New drain and kerb works at Eversley Park car park
- Easter football project run by WCC at Eversley Park was well attended
- Hedgehog sticker design competition with Worthys Conservation Volunteers – which will lead to stickers on Kings Worthy bins to raise awareness of falling numbers of hedgehogs
- Memorial area at Burial Ground – new cherry trees (to replace derelict ones near the water feature) and bulbs have been planted in a corner plot
- Heritage bollards are planned for Church Green to replace the wooden dragons' teeth, along with some necessary tree works highlighted by recent tree inspections
- Minor tree works are planned at Broadview, as highlighted in a tree inspection

Cllr Hallisey also expressed her thanks to the R&A committee, MRS Services, Green Smile and the Clerks.

#### Planning and Highways

Cllr Gordon presented his report. See attached. Points of note included:

- Large numbers of planning applications this year, the majority of which have been for extensions, however there have been some large applications e.g. Bourne Rise.
- Particular attention has been given to garage conversions and the 'knock on' effect on local parking that these may have.
- P&H have worked to improve the Parish's relationship with Winchester City Council planners regarding applications in the local area and to help to prevent over-development.
- Flood alleviation works are going ahead, with other sites earmarked under the A34 bridge and in Church Lane.
- Ecogen, who have applied to double their HGV movements. The Parish are objecting on the basis of the negative impact on the local residents and also the environment. Cllr Gordon thanked Cllr Waters for speaking to Ecogen.

Cllr Gordon expressed his thanks to the other members of the committee, Cllr Cossburn the Vice-Chair and the clerks for their help in sharing the workload.

## **APM/21/08 – Public Participation and Question Time**

Q. What impact have the solar panels had at Tubbs Hall – and have the advantages been shared with the public?

A. During an exceptional year in which Tubbs Hall hasn't been consistently used and occupied, the solar panel output hasn't been closely monitored. However, these figures can be collated and put into the next Comms. This will hopefully encourage others to consider installing solar panels.

Cllr Lawlor commended Cllr Smith on doing a great job with the monthly Comms.

There was a short discussion on the closure of Lovedon Lane by Open Reach from 10<sup>th</sup> June.

The issue of dog fouling at Eversley Park was raised. Cllrs highlighted the Parish Council had made provision of dog bins and, latterly, dog waste bags so there was no excuse for people not to pick up after their dogs.

**Meeting Closed at 20:32**

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**Signed:**

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**Date:**



## **Cllr. Jackie Porter's County Council Annual Report for Parish and Town Councils Spring 2021**

This year has been very difficult for us all, but as we become a vaccinated population, daily life is starting to return again. Many of the operating teams (eg Highways) have had to pull off site at one time or another because of Covid-19 or self-isolation. Just as in the NHS, the changing workforce with its own pressures has reduced speed of response. But it wasn't all about food, prescriptions and health needs. The County's other roles were vital too.

**Meetings soon went on line** and after a few 'quiet weeks', everything and everyone fell back into place, albeit working from a bedroom or even a garden shed, often with children studying at home too.

I feel that as we return to a 'new normal' there is a lot to do to reverse the inevitable inertia that has set in as a result of a disparate team in all departments, tinged with illness and anxiety as families are all working from home.

I hope that the **new working practices can bring vitality back into the work of the County Council**, whilst at the same time, preserving work life balance and conserving our county's assets, and **tackling the climate crisis** that we all must face and act upon. Initiatives on verge trials, EV charging and energy generation, school insulation and solar panels are all initiatives that are in progress now.

I was pleased to be fully involved with the **Social Prescribing teams**, liaising between Public Health, the NHS, volunteer groups, the county and city officers. It proved to be a new but vital link, and one which is agreed should, and will, continue.

### **Several areas where the County has supported residents:**

**A Covid19 helpline was set up** to offer direct support for any matter from the general public relating to Covid 19 as it was realised that lockdown would last longer than initially expected.

**The number is still in operation 0333 370 4000** (mainly from 9-4.30pm). It offers a triage service: HCC deal with adult and children's social care issues, before referring other callers to local authorities. This has been used extensively, and continues to deal with daily needs, and concerns, including prescription collection, and mental health needs. **Unfortunately, there was a period with no County telephone lines at all** for general enquiries, and it was only restored after 6 months after pressure from several of us.

School 'closures'. **Schools were not closed and staff operated both for key children who remained at school**, and for children who receiving schooling, but at home. (For example, in the school where I am a Governor, 150 children were in school daily, and 280 were being educated in their own homes.) This continued through the Easter holidays last year, but not through other breaks. However, at Christmas, public opinion forced the Government to support parents with vouchers for food during the holidays too, and this will be continuing through the Summer of 2021. This funding programme is being distributed by HCC.

Special schools were fully open throughout the last lockdown, even though some parents were reluctant to send children to school. In reality, few primary schools have had serious outbreaks (though three have had suspected cases in my division), but more have occurred in secondary schools. **The situation is reported to me direct so that I can inform**

**communities if the situation becomes more serious.** At Perins school , the school was wisely closed for two weeks to clear the school of infections just before Christmas.

The County provided support to schools for PPE, guidance about returners, isolators, and children with mental health issues. A help line was set up for schools and parents.

**Child safeguarding reports dropped to very low levels at the first lockdown**, but returned with a vengeance, at higher levels, and with more cases of domestic abuse and child safeguarding reported by the Police which showed the escalated levels of need. The County Council receives several thousand calls a month for children alone.

The inclusion team is now working with families who are reluctant to send their children back to school. If you are concerned in this way, please call the Covid helpline and you will be referred to that team.

**County Lines reports** also dropped initially, but soon returned. The Willow team work in partnership with the Police on this, and achieved some successful break ups of Lines, resulting in protection of the children involved, who are themselves exploited.

I also dealt with **several issues on Traveller and Showperson's sites** which included a visit accompanied by the Police. I had hoped to follow this up, but new lockdown prevented this.

**Hampshire Outbreak Board, and Engagement board.** There was clearly a need not just for general public information regarding the 'state of play' in Hampshire, but also a need to identify areas where the deprivation is worse, and hence the case rate was greater, and act with additional public information and work with that authority. Mercifully, Winchester was mostly in the 'lower categories'.

**The Director of Public Health** sits within the Directorate at the County Council, and led operations, which included tracing, and working with the NHS and Government over lockdown decisions. (do you recall Tier 2, 3, 4 etc?) This also included decisions about public events. There was much criticism over last minute decisions to stop events happening (eg the Fair in Alresford, and less urgently, Boomtown in both 2020 and 2021) but the overriding opinion of the Engagement (politicians) board and the Outbreak board officer group that public contagion had to be stopped at that time, and that a mass event threatened mass infection.

Now the rates are low, these boards continue to operate to monitor infections, health and vaccinations.

And in the midst of all this, there was flash **flooding in Autumn 2020** which is being worked through by HCC officers (though WCC cleared most of it up at the time), and planned Operation Resilience (resurfacing) work to underbridges and longstanding flooded areas, including to single and groups of homes who were disastrously flooded. Work is ongoing on these areas in much of my division.

As you can see at present, one flood alleviation scheme rose to the top of the list in this year: the Worthys. Sutton Scotney is next on the list.

I am really pleased to see this: this is the result of meetings every three months; sometime it felt like groundhog day, but importantly, Worthys flooding alleviation works (part 1) are being carried out now. A funding bid was submitted to DefRA Part 2 . If successful, the work will be completed in 2022.

Sutton Scotney investigations started some time ago. For clarity , it was left with the city councillor who chaired the Flood Action Group to follow through. I have now taken a more direct interest, and expect to see progress before next Autumn.

## **County Council involvement in Planning applications:-**

**Highways: M3 Junction 9.** (An NSIP.HCC 'a host authority'). The initial re-design was rejected by the public on the grounds of safety (A33) and the failure to address the SpitfireLink congestion. I expect to see a new design go out to consultation in Summer 2021.

**Southampton Airport.** (An Eastleigh BC application). Although SDNPA and WCC opposed the application, HCC supported the application. The decision to approve is being challenged.

**Inert waste recycling plant at Three Maids Hill.** (An application to HCC) I opposed this in conjunction with fellow councillors. It was rejected, principally on the grounds of loss of facility at the stables, dust and congestion. A second plant (enforcement) in that area was withdrawn. I await that resubmission.

**Candover Valley Water Augmentation scheme: (application to HCC)** I was in close liaison with the residents and SDNOPA and the HCC officer on this ridiculous scheme and was pleased when Southern Water accepted criticisms and withdrew it.

**Ecogen expansion.** (An application to HCC) This site is affecting parishes of both Wonston and Kings Worthy. I will be objecting, and have sought clear no HGV signage for Sutton Scotney with urgent effect.

**Kings Barton:** The S106 and S278 works for this site are in conjunction with HCC. I have met with HCC officers on many occasions to try to progress this – but it is going extremely slowly, at Cala's own admittance.

**Hospital re-organisation and building** (HHFT plans) I have a role on the PSSAG as a Winchester councillor, and attend the special County HSC meetings to examine the implications of the proposals. The PSSAG work will cease after May as I am only seeking re-election as a county councillor to concentrate on the wide number of issues that exist in this division. I will continue to take a keen interest in the HASC

**In my role as shadow Children's Spokesperson at HCC** , I have consistently supported school transport, and worked with many families to achieve it.

The terrible bus crash in this division was a shock to us all, and the Officer and Executive member promised great improvements at Wellhouse Lane bridge, but so far, very little has been done by HCC. The driver is being prosecuted for his actions.

Meanwhile **reception children** have been denied the right to use a school bus for free (as other children do) if the journey is greater than 2 miles. I have challenged this many times at the council, and will continue to do so.

My **motion to the Council on School streets for safer, less congested areas** outside schools to encourage children to ride then stride the last few hundred metres at least, was successful, and three schools are piloting plans this Summer.

In this same role, I have demanded better performance for Education Health and Care Plans, and assessment of autism. Children's Services scrutiny now receives updates on progress at every meeting, and more funding has been assigned to this work which was falling behind month by month until this intervention.

## **Broadband.**

Having consistently campaigned for faster broadband, the new Gigabit scheme proposed by Government, and in this area, principally operated by Openreach seemed very cumbersome but too good to be true. HCC agreed to top up the fund by £1m, which didn't seem so much money, but as most schemes could be purely funded by Openreach it looked as if rural

communities were finally getting the broadband they so desperately needed, particularly as the whole world went online during the pandemic.

But Openreach delays in processing Community Fibre Partnerships has been a great frustration to their organisers. The Top up money is running out and the Government chose not to continue the roll out, but close and reopen a new scheme. A few fellow councillors and I are trying to persuade the County Council to divert funds for another top up scheme for 21/22. The Itchen Valley division certainly needs it.

**All this extra activity has cost a lot of money.** At one time, HCC reckoned it would be £80m short of the sums refunded, but at the last count, Government had refunded all but less than £5m, including the cost of the Brexit checkpoint works (iro £2.6m). The checkpoint works were constructed in the summer, set up pre-Christmas 2020, and the checkpoint opened to low numbers of users on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, so after our pressure, it taken down by March. What an unnecessary expense.

The best thing about the works is that, at my request, whilst the road is being restored back to more like its original state, the A31 layby is being restored with a road side verge and a more attractive entrance for the home and business at last.

The Cart and Horses junction cameras are still deployed- I have viewed the CCTV again recently and I know this information informs officers in consideration of future designs if there is an opportunity to do more there.

I am grateful to officers concerned for all projects in progress or completed this year. Their keenness to help wherever they can is greatly appreciated.

You can continue to contact me at [jackie@jackieporter.co.uk](mailto:jackie@jackieporter.co.uk) or telephone 01962 791054.

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## **2021 Annual Report to Kings Worthy Parish Council from City Councillors.**

This has of course been an unprecedented year, with the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic affecting every single element of everyday life. We would firstly like to pay tribute to the very many members of our communities who stepped up to help, especially during the first lockdown. The networks of neighbourly support which were initiated last March have in most cases continued to offer help and support in our communities all year and all those concerned are to be congratulated. In particular, the Parish Council has offered not only continued advice and support where necessary but also taken on board the new ways of working, with online meetings and consultations, enabling not only councillors to continue to meet but also members of the public to continue to play their part in local democracy.

The City Council too has had to adapt to the 'new normal', with officers working from home and councillors attending meetings virtually. The pandemic has affected everything, but for the City Council the work became so much more and again we would like to commend our officers for the huge efforts they have made over the past year to support the wider District,

by allocating Government grants, supporting local businesses with information and advice, and through it all still getting the bins collected!

Cllr Prince is pleased to report that the new Sport and Leisure Park will be opening on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May. We are pleased to see that the new affordable homes at Top Field – or King's Meadow as they are being marketed! – will be available soon, and anybody interested in the shared ownership homes should let us know straight away. The City Council under the control of the Liberal Democrats is well on the way to providing 1000 new council homes within the next ten years.

Plans are progressing quickly for the regeneration of central Winchester. The first steps include a green park area following the river on the former Friarsgate Surgery area, which will soon be demolished, and a significant upgrade to the Kings Walk area. Many will have seen the extended open air seating areas for cafés across Winchester City and the market towns in the District. This now includes the complete closure at weekends of The Square to through traffic, creating a pleasant continental style al fresco dining area, much appreciated by visitors and local residents alike.

Cllr Porter hopes that everyone has contributed to the public consultation on the new Local Plan. Over 2,000 people have responded to the online consultation. Whilst having to conform to Government edicts on housing numbers and quality, this is our opportunity to decide at a local level what sort of housing we need and where it should best be built, and this new Local Plan will cover the next fifteen years.

All three city Councillors have written to Hampshire County Council to object to the proposal to increase the amount of waste transferred at the Ecogen plant off Stoke Charity Road. Whilst we all support recycling, the waste should not be transported so far, and this site is clearly unsuitable for a bigger operation. In any event no recycling as such takes place here, but merely a collection and transfer onwards of mostly cardboard to another plant that actually does the recycling. We continue to press HCC for a 40mph limit along the length of Lovedon Lane, and that the two dangerous 'pinch points' be addressed.

We are pleased to see that flood mitigation works have finally commenced along Springvale Road, and hope that the minor inconveniences of rolling road closures will be made up for in future wet winters if flooding is thereby avoided.

We continue to call for changes to the Cart & Horses junction, which, despite the reduction in speed limit to 40mph, continues to see regular accidents and is avoided by many local drivers. There may be an opportunity to link improvements here to the work being considered for the M3/J9, which we are investigating. We are pleased that Cllr Porter has persuaded the County Highways department to continue close monitoring of this junction. It is concerning that the County has so far refused to consider reducing the speed limit along



the B3047, despite the nasty accident that happened at the junction with Mill Lane and Park Lane recently. We will continue to push for a change here to 30mph.

There has been a significant increasing in recycling levels across the District, following the introduction of doorstep glass recycling. Batteries and smaller household electrical appliances can also now be collected with the usual waste collection service. The introduction of a paid for service for garden waste was effectively forced onto the City Council by changes in the way the County Council charges for waste disposal, but the scheme has been rolled out with remarkably few hiccoughs and the flexibility of the system, allowing households with smaller gardens to share bins and so on, has led to a better-than-expected take-up rate for this new service.

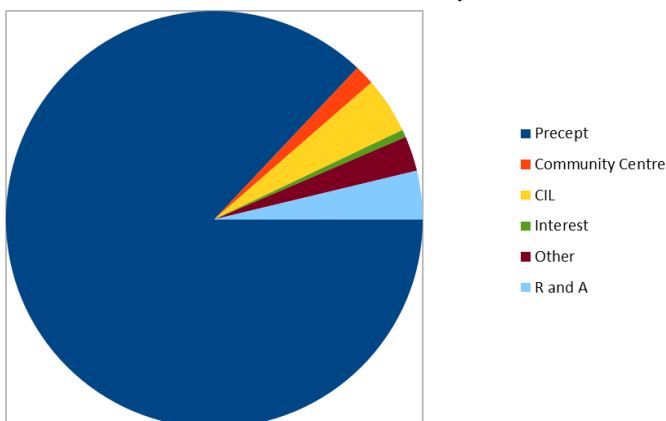
Cllr Jackie Porter, Cllr Malcolm Prince and Cllr Jane Rutter

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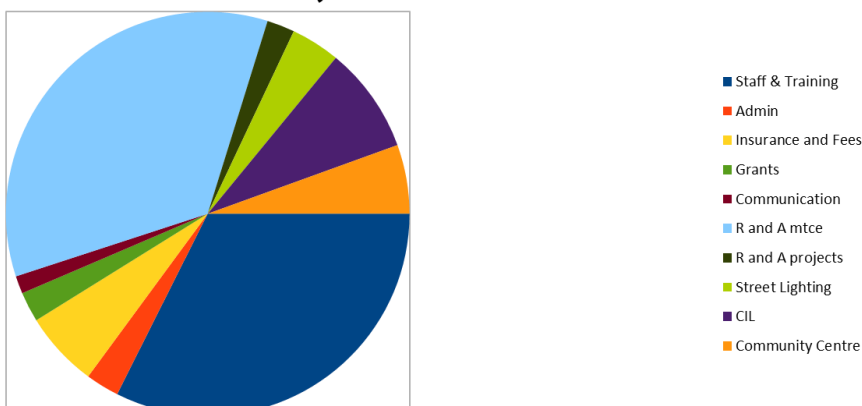
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## **FINANCE AND REMUNERATION REPORT**

# Income £186,168



# EXPENDITURE £173,411



.Income	£186,168
.Expenditure	£174,411
.to Play Area Reserve Account	£ 10,000
 ."Surplus"	 £ 1,757

## Balance Sheet

.Total Assets	£ 135,610
 .Church Green Reserve	 £ 7,675
.Play Area Reserve	£ 34,053
.CIL Reserve	£ 16,968
 .Net Assets	 £ 76,915

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### **PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS REPORT**

It has been a very busy period since our last meeting, it has also been a very difficult period given that all our meetings have been held remotely which has brought pressure not for my fellow councillors who have had to get use to having meetings held vis Zoom our new councillors on the committee have yet to meet us all in the flesh which has also been difficult. I must express on behalf of all the members of the Planning & Highways committee our heartfelt thanks to our clerks Chris & Lucia, they have had to handle all the enquiries from both Councillors and members of the public all being remotely and organise the remote meetings.

We have experienced a large number of planning applications for various types of applications most of which have been for extensions and similar, we have paid particular attention to applications that have been for the conversion of garages into accommodation, not only for its effect on neighbouring properties but also what effect the displacement of a car has on the neighbouring properties. i.e., does the property have sufficient parking on site, many roads in the village are not wide enough to allow on street parking or we find cars are parked on the footpaths.

We have worked to improve our relationship with the City Councils planning officers which has meant that many issues are resolved without the Parish Council having to object or ask for the

relevant application to be heard by the Planning Committee at Winchester City Council. We are now being quite successful in having conditions placed on the application which resolves many issues not only for ourselves but also for the neighbours.

There have been two large applications that have been brought before us, both of which have caused considerable problems. The first is in Borne Rise, here there was an application to demolish two bungalows and build four houses on the site, borne rise is one of the many roads in the village where it is very difficult to park without having to be partly on the footpath. The application was heard by WCC planning committee and was rejected, it went to the planning inspectorate in Bristol where it was rejected, eventually permission was granted for three to be built on the site, only for the developer to sell the site and for us to receive a new application to build four dwellings on the site with very little parking being available. So many of these applications have little or no parking for visitors which is what causes problems for the neighbours who in some cases find themselves blocked in their drive and trying to find which property the vehicle comes from.

The other main large application we are having to consider at present is the application from Ecogen to increase the number of HGV movements from the current 40 vehicles a day to 80 vehicles a day, the Parish Councils position on this application is to object to the proposals on the grounds of safety and the impact it will have on the residents of Lovedon Lane and Stoke Charity Road together with the effect on the occupants of the various roads off Lovedon Lane. We have also had to consider the environmental impact on the village as a whole.

We are now seeing the work being undertaken throughout the village to mitigate the flooding in the village, this work covers the areas from the King Charles including Stoke Charity Road and Lovedon Lane through to and including Headbourne Worthy. I have also learnt that after this mitigation scheme is complete, there are plans to work on the area under the A34 on London Road which floods regularly, also earmarked for investigation is the area at the bottom of Church Lane, which floods regularly due to the amount of water coming down Church Lane which has no drainage. Hopefully when they look at this it will stop pedestrians including children going to school from being soaked unnecessarily by inconsiderate drivers who plough down church lane when there is heavy rain straight through the water running across the road in various parts.

In conclusion I would like to thank all my fellow councillors on the committee who have been so helpful during this time.

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