



Minutes of the Highclere Parish Council Meeting

Highclere Village Hall

Tuesday 08 October 2024 at 7.30pm

Members Present: Cllr Norton (Chair), Cllr York, Cllr Bartholomew, Cllr Maclver, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Easton

Clerk: Amy White

1. 52/24 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Thacker and Cllr Izett were absent.

2. 53/24 Declarations of Interest

None

3. 54/24 To agree Minutes of Meeting held on 10 September 2024

The Minutes of 10 September 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. 55/24 Matters arising from Meeting held on 10 September 2024

Number	Action	Person
36/24	Cllr Maclver will investigate other savings accounts rather than CCLA. Actioned. Cllr Maclver presented options for the council to consider for a saving account. <i>Full council agreed to open a Unity 6 month access account at an interest rate of 4%.</i>	Cllr Maclver
43/24	Cllr York to draft a letter to the BDBC enforcement team regarding the potential planning breaches on land at Church Lane. Actioned. No further information has been received. Clerk to add information on the green/black bins (alternate weeks from 2026) and new food waste recycling (weekly). Actioned.	Cllr York Clerk

5. 56/24 Public participation

No one was present.

6. 57/24 Reports from County and Borough Councillors

No one was present.

7. 58/24 Current and future direction of HPC

Cllr Bartholomew is actively recruiting new members.
Ideas discussed (no decisions made):

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr York reminded the council of the importance of this; there is still a long way to go before the Plan is 'Made' but there needs to be a push on this to help protect Highclere Parish from unwanted/unsuitable development. Therefore a strong planning working group is very important. Cllr Easton has attended a planning training session and another is planned for November.

Website: this was identified as requiring completion in this financial year. Council discussed having an FAQ section, or an information page of what a parish council, Hampshire County Council and BDBC can do/are responsible for.

Penwood: this is an important area of land in Highclere; it was felt that communication was the key factor missing from the National Forestry Commission when work is undertaken.

Pride in Highclere: this idea could be revisited, to improve the general look and tidiness of the parish.

Communication: needs to improve; it was suggested that having a stall at the Highclere village market was a good way to get views from a wider audience.

The Glebe: discussed as a possibility for the PC to rent.

Action: All councillors to write to Clerk in advance of next meeting for specific agenda item on HPC projects.

8. 59/24 Planning

- 24/02159/HSE The Coach House Andover Road (Deadline 18 October): Planning working group is waiting for more information from Cllr Sam Carr before submitting their response.
- 24/02206/HSE Apple Tree Cottage Star Lane (Response sent: No comment)

9. 60/24 Neighbourhood Plan

Colin Wall provided the following update:

As reported last month the Screening draft of the NP was sent to Basingstoke on June 24th, and on Sep 6th I was informed by Basingstoke that the consultation response from Natural England had not been received. Basingstoke have not responded (this week) to my further enquiry so the position remains the same as far as I can determine.

The Basingstoke content in draft was reviewed by PlanET who agreed that it contained nothing significant.

We were later offered a draft of the Final report without the Natural England content which has most capacity to deliver roadblocks but we're confident that there are no major issues from Heritage or Habitats so not of much use.

PlanET maintain their position that amendments to the Plan should wait until the full report of the Screening consultation is received to avoid nugatory work.

I spoke to our NP liaison officer, Jessica Wells, at Basingstoke on Friday Oct 4th who relayed that she has been frustrated by the poor service from Natural England which they are now rectifying, and hopes to have their final response w/b Oct 7th.

Moving forward:

We will apply for the SEA ASAP and ask PlanET to assess the decisions we need to take and the evidence we need to gather to move us to our Reg 14 Local Consultation, as well as identifying the changes they need to make.

10. 61/24 SID

Cllr Easton reported that the SID battery appears to be faulty and the unit will need to be returned to the manufacturer for repair.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Easton to organise the repair of the SID and/or battery.

11. 62/24 Footpaths

Footpath 736 has still not been cut back satisfactorily. If required, the Clerk can send a letter from HCC to the landowner to ask that it is cut right back.

On footpath 734 from Pantings Lane to the first gate of the landowner, there is a dead ash which requires removal. It was agreed to get the tree cut down.

Action: Clerk to speak to tree contractor to get Ash tree cut down at the top of footpath 734.

Overgrowth on Tubbs Lane: A discussion was held on the reduced visibility for cars along Tubbs Lane due to overgrowth, particularly at junctions.

Action: Clerk to ask Neighbourhood Watch lead to send email to Tubbs Lane residents requesting owners to cut back any overgrowth.

12. 63/24 Finance update

- a) The Clerk presented items for payment for October, added at the end of the Minutes.

Unity Bank Balance at 30 September 2024: £60979.84.

The Clerk presented the Q2 update on receipts and payments (see attachment at end of Minutes).

- Administration budget to spend is on track, data appears skewed due to repayment of Groundworks grant (Neighbourhood Plan). Overspend in the admin/website line is due to the upgrade of both HPC and Highclere Society websites.
- 2nd tranche of precept has been received.
- Current underspend in Maintenance and Grants.

13. 64/24 Items to take forward to subsequent meeting

Priority list for future. Website update.

(Lengthsman task list incl. Church Lane flooding, A343 milestones cleaning).

Date of next Meeting Tuesday 12 November, Westridge Studio 7:30pm

Signed _____ Position _____ Date _____

Actions from 08 October 2024 Meeting

Number	Action	Person
58/24	All councillors to write to Clerk in advance of next meeting for specific agenda item on HPC projects.	All Cllrs
61/24	Clerk and Cllr Easton to organise the repair of the SID and/or battery.	Clerk/cllr Easton
62/24	Clerk to speak to tree contractor to get Ash tree cut down at the top of footpath 734.	Clerk
62/24	Clerk to ask Neighbourhood Watch lead to send email to Tubbs Lane residents requesting owners to cut back any overgrowth.	Clerk