

Wherwell Parish Council



**A meeting of the Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 6:30 pm, at the Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall.**

Minutes

- 1. Invited Speakers:** Sarah Hughes, Borough Planning Officer from TVBC attended to discuss how TVBC could contribute to the process of developing a Neighborhood Plan (NP).

The main points included:

- Now is the time to develop a NP. The village will have an agreed and documented plan at a time when higher authorities are undergoing changes to move towards Unitary Authorities and there will likely be a period of uncertainty around planning. A NP is more than just guidance, it becomes policy for borough planning and so has significant teeth.
- Sarah Hughes and Tim Goodridge at TVBC are available to help, e.g, with advice and mapping services, which can help minimize consultancy costs.
- Sarah Hughes and Tim Goodridge are available to attend PC meetings as well as steering group meetings.
- There is a Community Planning toolkit available on the TVBC website, which explains the different types of plans (NP, CCP, PP) and how to go about producing them.
- Link to public sector geospatial mapping software including layering for flooding, listed buildings etc
- All submissions need to come from the PC as the qualifying body, so and steering group should be a committee of the PC. The steering group needs to be recruited more widely from the community though so that it is a Neighborhood plan rather than a PC plan.
- There should be a questionnaire to the village to determine what villagers want to see in the village and what is their vision for the next 10-20 years (housing, education, traffic etc). Jenny Brain and the TVBC Community Engagement team can help with Community engagement events etc to garner local involvement & support.
- NP is principally a land use document so planning & homes are key issues to address. PC should produce an updated Housing Needs Survey (HNS) with TVBC help to inform the Housing Needs Policies in the NP. HNS are usually for affordable housing, but should be widened with extra questions for the NP.
- Issues are broadly similar in many villages, so the guidance has a lot of generic proformas that can be used. Process = determine a vision, then objectives, then policies on how the vision can be delivered.
- Limiting the number of policies developed will keep the NP more focused, and considerably reduce the costs of producing the document. Lots of policies are already in National guidance and don't need duplicating.
- What properties look like and how they fit in to a local environment is important, and so there should be a local specific design policy.
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- 2. Sarah Hughes left the meeting and the Parish Council Meeting proper commenced at 7:00 pm.**

3. **Present:** Cllrs Sean Hutton (chair), Sue Blazdell (vice chair), Peter Bryant, Diane Newell, Ali Young and District Cllr David Drew plus Philip Warner (clerk).
4. **Apologies for absence:** Lizzie Broadbent and Stewart Oliver.
5. **Public Participation:** Peter Cresswell attended to raise ongoing concerns about his perceived wrongdoings in the process of the assessment of the Solar Farm planning application by TVBC planning. Requests for documents under Freedom of Information (FOI) applications have still not been forthcoming, and complaints raised were ignored at the planning meeting of 13th January at which the application was approved. The PC noted that they have no capacity to push for a judicial review, but a member of the public could complain to the Information Commissioner and the PC would complain to the Ombudsman.
6. **Declaration of Interests:** There were none.
7. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2025, and the minutes of the Planning Meeting of 10th of February 2025 (to discuss the Solar Farm) were both agreed & signed as true & accurate records by the chair.
8. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.
9. **Finance:**
 - There were no significant changes to the accounts since the last meeting to report.
 - David Etchells has confirmed to the Clerk that he is unable to continue as Internal Auditor. The Clerk has approached other local PC's for advice/support and been recommended the services of Eleanor Greene from DoTheNumbers Ltd, who would act as WPC Internal Auditor for a fee of £200. The PC agreed to approach a couple of other local contacts first.
 - Under the requirements of the Public Sector Transparency code - WPC website needs updating with five years of AGAR forms published on the website. The Clerk has had problems accessing and updating the website and Cllr Young agreed to look into this.
 - Cllr Blazdell informed the PC that Elan City have a special offer of 2 Speed Indicator Devices (SID) for £4,495 and requested authority to proceed with purchasing them. The Clerk/RFO confirmed that there are sufficient funds held in reserves on top of those restricted to the War Memorial restoration to proceed with the SID project.
10. **Planning Matters:** the following planning matters were discussed –

Applications Withdrawn		
The Old Malt House	24/02893/CLLBN	Certificate of lawfulness of proposed works for the cleaning and restoration of the internal beams
Riverside House	24/02820/FULLN	Alterations to existing annexe building; cladding and new fenestration, alteration to roof form, new roof tiles, and car port
Applications Refused		
Fullerton House	24/02966/FULLN	Erection of single storey car garage; orangery; swimming pool with patio area

Permissions granted by TVBC

Land West of Winchester Rd	23/02225/FULLN	Solar farm , ancillary infrastructure, security fence, access, and landscaping
Oakwood, Longparish Road	24/02462/TREEN	"T1 Cherry - Reduce 2 stem back to main stem T2 Oak, T3 Oak, T4 Oak - Side prune as necessary to gain 1 m clear from power lines
White Lion	24/02704/FULLN	Refurbishment and extensions to Public House and barn buildings with landscaping and altered access to car park
Mount Cottage	24/02716/FULLN	Demolish and replace single storey rear and side extensions, create terrace at rear, install steps, and landscaping works to form parking area
Wherwell Priory	25/00032/TREEN	Works as per submitted Tree Survey Report within the landholding of the Wherwell Priory

The PC confirmed that it has signed the Community Benefit Fund agreement with the Solar Farm development company (Wherwell Solar Ltd) and despite reservations about the application process by TVBC that they would not push for a judicial review.

It was noted that there was relief that the White Lion renovations have been approved, and that work would be starting shortly.

The work on Mount Cottage is progressing with considerable cutting back of the bank behind the cottage to accommodate the new extension.

Applications received since the last WPC meeting.

Freelands	25/00291/TREEN	Carry out tree works as detailed on Application Form
Springfield, Fullerton Road	25/00397/TREEN	T1 - Macrocarpa - Remove two lowest boughs
Wherwell Priory	25/00435/FULLN	Demolish single storey extensions, erect single storey link and covered walkway, create terrace and associated landscaping

The PC discussed these applications and had no objections.

11. Special Projects & Portfolios

1. **Speed Indicator Device** – Discussed under budget/precepts.
2. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Discussed at start.
3. **War Memorial** – Cllr Bryant met with Blackwell & Moody Ltd who will prepare a quote and a method statement to present to TVBC in support of a new planning application. Cllr Young has spoken to Stone Circle, who have made recommendations on recutting the lettering and/or refacing with new stone for new lettering.

4. **Pan Parish River Pollution Forum** – Cllr Newell reported that Southern Water will be fund/supply 15 river pollution monitoring stations, including one near the junction of the Test/Anton by the Mayfly.
5. **Cllr Bryant** noted that Ater should clean/repair the retaining wall at chant Close, and Cllr Hutton offered to write to them.
6. **Cllr Blazdell** reported that an application is being made to Veolia for an environmental grant for solar panels and new electric heating at WPF pavilion, and that a flyer would be produced to seek feedback, support and contributions from the community.

12. Report from County & District Councilor Drew: Cllr Drew presented his briefing.

- Hampshire County Council
 - HCC's portion of Council tax will increase by 5%
 - A consultation is underway on Devolution for Hampshire
- TVBC
 - Plans to demolish and redevelop the teratre in Andover have been approved, and will be supported with £18m central govt redevelopment funds, plus similar amount from TVBC

13. Correspondence. None.

14. Date of next scheduled Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 6:30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:05 pm.

These minutes are a true representation of the meeting.

Signed:

Date: