

Wherwell Parish Council



A meeting of the Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 6.30pm, at the Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall

Minutes

1. **Present:** Cllrs Sean Hutton (chair), Sue Blazdell (vice chair), Peter Bryant, Diane Newell, Ali Young and plus Philip Warner (clerk).
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Barnes sent her apologies.
3. **Public Participation:** two member of the public attended and raised concerns about water runoff/flooding of the B3042 Winchester Rd road by Windwhistle. Cllrs noted that this is a HCC and/or local landowner issue and not one the PC can address.
4. **Declaration of Interests –**
 - a. there were none reported for this meeting.
 - b. for the annual review of Declarations of Interests, Parish Councilors all reported that there was no change to the declarations previously made.
5. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2026 were signed as a true record.
 - b. There were no matters arising.
6. **Casual Vacancy update –** The Clerk reported that posting of the casual vacancy notice had been delayed. It will expire on 19th March after which the Returning Officer will notify if there is to be an election or if the PC can co-opt a new Cllr.
7. **Finance:**
 - a. The RFO presented the finance report to February. The only material variance from budget being the overspend on repairs to the playground equipment (part funded by S106 grant)
 - b. Cllrs discussed the budget for 2026/27 in respect of the unallocated £1,500 contingency. They considered options to
 - i. increase the S137 grants (as proposed in the RFO paper)
 - ii. the unexpectedly high costs (£1,892) that HCC has quoted to move/uprate sign posts for mounting the SID's.It was agreed to spend £1,892 to progress the SID program, and to increase the S137 grants in next year's budget.
It was also agreed that the PC look at lease options for Defibrillators for future years.
Action – RFO to return to HCC re the SIDs and to investigate Defib Leasing.

- c. Re banking arrangements and signatories, Cllr Young is progressing an application to Lloyds with the RFO.
- d. Clerk & Chair updated Cllrs on recent maintenance of the Defibrillators. All now have in date batteries checked and new pads.

8. Planning Matters: Update on planning applications since last meeting including -

a. Permissions granted by TVBC that WPC has already supported/raised no objection

- i. Land At Popple Hill Copse 22/00778/FULLN
Change of use of land to wedding venue and retention of extension and creation of glade camping (Retrospective)
- ii. War Memorial 25/01311/LBWN
Clean, re-enamel and re-cut lettering, replace stone, and repoint

b. Applications received since the last WPC meeting.

- i. Riverside House 26/00293/TREEN
T1 - Yew - reduce crown by 4m, T2 - Yew - Reduce overhang from property by 2m, T3 - Horse Chestnut - Dismantled by section to ground level

The PC objected to such severe reductions to the Yew trees on the grounds that this would disrupt the streetscape in this area which is predominantly a long row of mature Yew, and that such excessive pruning would be a potential risk to the health of the tree.

Action – Clerk to register objection with TVBC

9. Traffic through the Village:

- a. Winchester Corner bridge and White Lion Traffic Lights – HCC have shown little interest in addressing the problems of HGVs through the village. Cllrs recognised that WPC will need to see what they can do locally including contacting the drivers/owners of any HGVs seen trying to negotiate problem junctions in the village.
- b. Cllrs discussed the planning decision notice 22/02668/FULLN which states construction vehicles for 5 new residences in Chilbolton to be routed from A303 south along B3048 towards Chilbolton for approx. 2 miles before turning left onto Little Drove Road, presumably along Fullerton road via Wherwell. This will cause further problems with HGVs trying to negotiate Winchester Corner. It was agreed that the PC should object to TVBC.

Action – Clerk to respond with objection to TVBC.

10. Special Projects: To receive updates on progress with special projects.

- a. **War Memorial:** Cllr Bryant reported that although TVBC have approved the planning application to restore the war memorial they require additional detail in the form of CAD scale renditions before works can progress which Cllr Bryant will arrange.
- b. **Speed Indicator Devices:** - this item was substantively discussed under item 7.b (Finance) with Cllrs agreeing to progress reluctantly with the quotes for HCC of £1,892 and agreed that any extra funding or grant towards this would help.

Action – Cllr Blazdell will research & apply for any available grants from HCC/TVBC.

11. Updates on Councilors' portfolios:

- a. Cllrs discussed updating the PC website, and Cllr Young agreed to lead on an initial review with Cllr Newell who will also contact website builder HugoFox.
- b. The chair reported that he had made repairs to the noticeboard to improve safety of use.
- c. No progress was reported on the use of the old Bus Shelter.

Actions –

Cllr Young will report back on Website and Cllr Newell will contact HugoFox.

Chair will progress the potential Bus Shelter use by the History Group.

12. To receive report from County & District Councillor Drew:

Cllr Drew was unable to attend, but sent his report by email.

13. Parish Administration & Correspondence:

- a. Cllrs discussed the email from Andover Trees United regarding opportunities to support Schools' Tree Planting Initiatives. The chair agreed to approach local landowners regarding suitable sites where Wherwell primary school pupils could plant trees.
- b. The Clerk reported that Alison Helyer (Community Engagement Ranger HCC) is booked to attend the WPC meeting on 14th April.
- c. Cllrs discussed the responses to magazine appeal and agreed that as a PC the supported the magazine and that Cllr Newell as a member of the magazine team should report this back.
- d. Cllrs noted that they do regular litter picking around the village, and would not be taking part in the Keep Britain Tidy organized litter picking events of 13-29 March

14. Other business:

- a. The chair drew attention to the following events
 - i. 4th May – Harewood Run supporting WPF and school
 - ii. 31st May – Flower Fair to raise funds to repair the church clock chimes
 - iii. 1st Aug – Colour Run supporting Hampshire Hospitals Trust Charity
 - iv. 2nd Nov – Laser show at WPF (in lieu of fireworks for safety in a largely thatched village) supporting WPF and school

b. Cllrs noted the sad passing of Denise Hall, Wherwell School Administration Officer since 2017 who died on 18th February. The school will be planting a tree and spring bulbs in her memory.

- c. Cllrs agreed to investigate holding public drop-in surgeries, possibly at the village hall during the coffee mornings.
- d. Cllrs agreed to review their portfolios at the next meeting.
- e. Cllrs discussed the need to work more collaboratively with other PC's after any changes resulting from the Local Government Reorganisation.
- f. Cllr Young raised concerns about the risks of unattended bonfires.

Actions

Cllrs Newell will report back to next PC meeting on collaboration with other PC's

Cllr Young will distribute an email to Cllrs to review before posting on village webmaster.

15. **Date of next scheduled Meeting:** Tuesday 14th April 2025.
There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:35pm.

These minutes are signed as a true representation of the meeting.

Signed: **Role:** **Date:**
