

Wherwell Parish Council



**A meeting of the Parish Council took place on
Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 6:30 pm, at the Colonel Jenkins Memorial Hall.**

Minutes

- 1. Invited Speakers:** Liz Bourne and Becky Hopkinson from the consultancy firm Plan-et attended to explain what they could contribute to the process of developing a Neighborhood Plan (NP). Their main points included:
 - WPC has previously worked on a Parish Plan (PP), though this has not been completed
 - WPC has also worked on a Village Design Statement (VDS)
 - WPC has recently become aware that the village could become vulnerable to unwelcome development without a NP. By having a NP we can have a voice in saying what developments in the village would be suitable. Once a NP is accepted with local housing targets, then TVBC would likely look elsewhere for any additional housing needs, especially to any PC's without a NP.
 - TVBC have recently had their house building target increased by central government from 5024 to 9021 houses per year so there will be more pressure on development.
 - A NP has a legal basis and must be considered by local planning authority, unlike a PP or a VDS. It cannot however be designed and used to purely try and stop development.
 - The NP has a broad remit, not just for housing and can cover areas such as design, conservation, history etc.
 - Development of a NP is a long involved and costly process, however there are government grants available to support this. (Basic grant of £10k plus additional £8k available)
 - Plan-et can help with writing the grant application and then help develop and write the NP – though the main work on what the content of the NP includes must be done locally by a local steering group. The steering group would lead the NP project with Plan-et providing technical guidance and drafting the technical and policy aspects.
 - After the 2 Plan-et members left, the PC had a brief discussion and agreed to proceed with developing a NP and commissioning Plan-et to assist initially with the grant application.
- 2. Cllr Newel left the meeting to attend a PPRP meeting and the Parish Council Meeting proper commenced at 7:00 pm.**
- 3. Present:** Cllrs Sean Hutton (chair), Sue Blazdell (vice chair), Peter Bryant, Stuart Oliver, Ali Young and District Cllr David Drew plus Philip Warner (clerk).
- 4. Apologies for absence:** Lizzie Broadbent and Diane Newell (for part).
- 5. Public Participation:** There were no members of the public in attendance.
- 6. Declaration of Interests:** There were none.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th November 2024 were agreed & signed as a true & accurate record by the chair.

8. Matters arising: The damage to the fence on the old railway bridge at Purvers Patch has been fixed.

9. Finance:

- Grant applications from Wherwell PCC and Wherwell school PTA for the 2025/26 year were discussed by the PC and approved to the sum of £750 each.
- A budget proposal was presented by the RFO for 2025/26. This was discussed by the PC and approved as proposed, including an RPI based uplift to key expenses (Insurance and Clerks costs) – funded by a 3% uplift to the precept to £10,815.
- The issue of funding a Speed Indicator Device was discussed. Somewhere in the region of £5k would be needed to purchase an SID, and it had previously been agreed at the November meeting that a £5k increase in the precept would be too great without going through the process of a whole village consultation first. The RFO suggested that the £5k needed could initially be met from existing reserves, which could then be recovered by grants/fundraising and a modest additional £1k increase to the precept to £11,815. Cllr Hutton suggested rounding this up to a £12,000 precept figure, which was unanimously accepted. District Cllr Drew suggested contacting Jenny Brain at TVBC for potential grant funding for an SID
- Clerk to approach David Etchels to ask if he will still act as WPC auditor even though he has left the village.

10. Planning Matters: the following planning matters were noted –

Applications Withdrawn

The application to build a Biogas plant (anaerobic digestion facility) in Wherwell has been withdrawn. District Cllr Drew offered that this was because a new revised application is being prepared for submission that addresses some of the issues raised by planning.

Permissions granted by TVBC that WPC have already approved

23 High Street	24/00292/FULLN	Convert ground floor Class E space to residential C3 and link to first floor residential to make a single dwelling
Abbey Oak	24/01670/TPON	T1 (referred to in the accompanying Rowden's Arboricultural Assessment as T14) - Beech - Fell
The Old Malt House	24/01739/LBWN	Damp proofing course
Old Farm House	24/01685/LBWN	Application to regularise removal of porch, and replacement of front door, 11 casement windows and internal doors
Mount Cottage	24/01789/FULLN	Demolish and replace single storey rear and side extensions, create terrace at rear, install steps, and landscaping works to form parking area
Fullerton Farm	24/02174/FULLN	Construction of new parking area to serve treehouse development approved under 21/02701/FULLN and the wider farm estate and use of existing access route to Longstock Road

Applications received since the last PC meeting

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
Old Railway Cottages	24/02572/FULLN	Erect garage to be used ancillary to main dwelling, convert outbuilding from workshop/storage to tourist accommodation with alterations to windows and doors and separate access south of main dwelling
Riverside House	24/02820/FULLN	Alterations to existing annexe building; cladding and new fenestration, alteration to roof form, new roof tiles, and car port"
The Old Malt House	24/02893/CLLBN	Certificate of lawfulness of proposed works for The cleaning and restoration of the internal beams
Fullerton House	24/02966/FULLN	Erection of single storey car garage; orangery; swimming pool with patio area
Kingsmill Cottages	24/02981/TREEN	T1 - Birch trees - reduce whole crown back to previous cuts T2 Maple - cut back overhanging limbs to near previous cuts, T3 Goat Willow cut back overhanging limbs to near previous cuts, T4 Field Maple - reduce whole crown back to near old cuts, T5 Weeping willow - re-pollard whole crown back to near previous cuts.
Wherwell Priory	25/00032/TREEN	Works as per submitted Tree Survey Report within the landholding of the Wherwell Priory

The PC discussed these applications and supported them.

11. Special Projects & Portfolios

1. **Speed Indicator Device** – Discussed under budget/precepts.
2. **Neighbourhood Plan** – Discussed at start.
3. **War Memorial** – As TVBC have turned down the PC's approach to adding additional memorial stone next to the War Memorial with the names clearly carved, it was decided to try again to renovate the memorial and engage new specialist stone masons to give advice and quotes. Cllr Young agreed to approach a contact at Stone Circle, and Cllr Bryant agreed to approach a company in Winchester.

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

The main topic of his presentation was -

- Hampshire County Council could be one of the local authorities to apply for inclusion in the Government's Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) – for the delegation of central Government decision making powers and additional funding to local councils to give them more local control over certain areas such as education, transportation, and health services.

13. Other Matters – The Clerk to ask the Solar Farm developer for dates when they could meet with the PC to discuss the planning application.

14. Correspondence. None.

15. Date of next scheduled Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 6:30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:20 pm.

These minutes are a true representation of the meeting.

Signed:

Date: