

Hannington Parish Council, – Draft Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held on Wednesday 26th February 2025

PARISH COUNCIL OF HANNINGTON, HAMPSHIRE

Date and time of Meeting: 7.00pm, Wednesday 26th February 2025

Present: Chair, Cllr. Alex Lowrie (AL),
Cllr. Judy Henry (JH)
Cllr. Pat Coneley (PC)
Cllr. Nick Joslin (NJ)

Apologies: Cllr. Jon Whitfield (JW)

Clerk: Sue Wright

BDBC & HCC Cllrs. Cllr. Rhydian Vaughan HCC(RV)
Cllr Kerry Morrow – BDBC (KM)

Guest Speaker: None for this meeting.

Members of the One.

Public/Audience:

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.

AL opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees, noting that Cllr. Jon Whitfield was unable to attend and sent their apologies. SW confirmed the declarations of interest to be up to date – and nothing additional was being made for the purposes of the quarterly meeting.

2. Borough Councillor

AL welcomed KM to the meeting and invited him to provide an update on BDBC's work.

KM reported:

- there had been success in securing a new lease for 24 Swan Street in Kingsclere. The building is borough-owned, of historical interest and considerable community benefit – and a campaign to ensure these qualities are maintained, was successful. The building is now to be run by a *Community Interest Company* which has signed a lease with BDBC for 25 years, thus securing the building's future.
- the results of BDBC's customer satisfaction surveys, which are completed annually, show a slight drop in overall satisfaction with the performance of the BDBC – but that relative to other Borough councils, the council is still performing well.
- the Borough was doing more to promote live music and other performing arts events at locations around the Borough, mentioning the upcoming events schedule for *Central Studio at QMC College*, in particular. More information about the venue's events can be found here: <https://www.qmleisure.co.uk/central-studio/whats-on>
- in the upcoming full council meeting to be held on *Thursday 27th February*, the Council was proposing to invest a further £1M in frontline services, including grounds maintenance, play areas and introducing free night-time parking in council-owned car parks.

JH commented that BDBC should investigate increasing the budget for litter-picking around the Borough – as certain parts and roads were heavily littered including a large stretch of the A339 out of Basingstoke.

AL noted that Hannington Village relied on a local voluntary group to take care of most of the Parish' litter-picking, as we rarely see anyone from the Borough – unless it is to do with fly-tipping, of which there had been an increase in recent months.

KM noted the comment and requested that a What3Words location for flytipping, is referenced when reporting fly tipped rubbish via the BDBC website, as this will help to speed up removal. **Action: SW to add link to BDBC Refuse & Recycling information to Parish Council website.**

3. County Councillor

AL welcomed RV to the meeting and invited him to provide an update on HCC work

RV confirmed:

- there is to be no election in May for his constituency this year, after he successfully secured the re-nomination of his party.
- The topic of devolution is high on the HCC Agenda, following the government's recent announcement, noting that HCC is pro-devolution and was successfully selected as one of the largest county councils in the area, to become a unitary authority and benefit from devolved power (assuming government plans go ahead).
- Devolution should mean HCC has a greater control over its services – so HCC is very supportive.
- HCC is not going bust – RV noted there had been several rumours circulating on certain news/media channels that HCC was about to 'go bust', which are not true, reassuring all those present that county has over £600M in reserves.
- RV further noted that County spends most on Adult and Child Social Care services, including care homes and social services. Services which fall under this umbrella include the *Home to School bus service*, (currently costs over £150M per annum) which is to be changed so that it is means-tested. RV noted that Devolution gives HCC a lot of opportunity to review all these types of services and to reshape them so that they meet local needs better.
- In terms of what a Devolved Authority might look like: an elected mayor would represent a single, unitary authority, which for example, might mean that Basingstoke, Hart and Rushmoor borough councils would all be combined. The Isle of Wight would be a single, unitary authority.
- For Parishes: in theory for the bigger, town, parishes, devolution represents an opportunity to have more control over services. RV confirmed there were no plans to merge smaller parishes, (like Hannington) into nearby town, parishes.
- Requested from RV and KM (and also the PC members present) that the Parish consider looking at different days of the week to meet as Mondays and Tuesdays in particular, mean both are not able to attend.... whereas Wednesdays are much better.

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- RV asked if Hannington had any special events planned to mark VE day – AL confirmed none had been organised – RV noted that the parish were welcome to join in the events being planned by neighbouring Town parishes, including Kingsclere and Tadley.

Actions SW: to post link to HCC Devolution Consultation to the Parish Website and to investigate alternative dates for upcoming Parish meetings.

AL thanked KM and RV for their participation and attendance.

4. Open Forum

Roads Bridleways and Footpaths

- Continuing the discussion from the previous meeting, Frances (in her British Horse Society, capacity), reported she had contacted County to query the status of the 2018 Bridleway Reinstatement Application – but had not yet received a response. Frances confirmed she would keep chasing to establish its status.
- AL noted that JW is to confirm a schedule of maintenance with the Lengthsman for 8 visits for the year for parish footpaths and bridleways and once agreed, this would be published on the parish council website. AL also noted that the parish *may* be able towards the cost of additional maintenance required, if the private landowners were not forthcoming.
- SW confirmed the Parish website had been updated with new information for footpaths and bridleways and in particular; how to report any issues. Parish website page is here: <https://www.hannington-hants-pc.gov.uk/community/hannington-parish-council-hampshire-7641/footpaths--bridleways/>

Any other matters. None were raised.

5. Draft Minutes of the Quarterly meetings held on 10th December 2024.

The draft minutes for the Quarterly meeting held on 10th December 2024, prior circulated, were Approved and signed. **Action: SW to upload final version of minutes to website.**

6. Matters Arising

- a. **Noticeboard and bench Installation** – SW reported the delivery of the new noticeboards and bench is imminent – but that she was still awaiting an exact date. **Action: SW to speak to GE Views (Manufacturer) to confirm a date and to Shaun re the quote for installation. (done).**
- b. **Website Update** – SW reported that work to update the website with new information re Parish footpaths and bridleways, with links to HCC, CER and Countryside Access services had been completed. (Link to the new page is as above in 4.).

7. Finance

a. Payments for Approval:

- (Bailiffs Invoice for Michaels Field for £960.00 – approved by Members by email and paid in December, 2024. Retrospective meeting approval, for the record).
- (GE Views Invoice - £ 3,765.42 – approved by Members by email and paid in December, 2024. Retrospective meeting approval, for the record).
- Clerk's Fees: for the period 01/01/25 – 31/03/25 £1000.00.

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- ICO Renewal Notice) £52.00 paid online by AL – AL to be reimbursed. AL noticed that the ICO renewal fee had increased, which means there will be a slight discrepancy with the amount budgeted (£40).
AL circulated copies of the invoices for Members approval and countersignature. All payments approved. **Action: AL to login to Lloyds online banking and create payment instructions to pay all the invoices which are due for payment, before the Christmas break. SW to chase Maggie re invoices for the Hall hire.**
 - b. **Bank Reconciliation** – AL provided copies of the cashbook summary for 01/12/24 – through 26/02/25 reconciling outgoings with our stated budget. The only payment which went out in January, was the prior approved payment for the Bailiffs for Michael’s Field. Current bank balance is £15,728.92. **Approved.** PC and JH signed on behalf of the council as a true record of the council’s accounts. SW noted that copies of all the council’s financial documents, including monthly bank statements and copies of the cashbook summaries – were available to view on the website under the ‘Financials’ tab for 2024 and that she had created a new tab for ‘2025’. **Action: SW to upload copies of the Cashbook to the website.**
 - c. **VAT Reclaim 2024** – AL confirmed that the VAT reclaim for 2024 had been completed and the amount of VAT refund had already been received, totalling £408.66. Next VAT reclaim is due to be processed at the end of March 2025.
 - d. **BDBC Precept Application for 2025** – AL confirmed the BDBC Precept Application for the total sum of £7344.00 was submitted to BDBC before the end of January 2025, deadline.
 - e. **Annual Audit** – In a small change to the published Agenda, AL added a note to say the Annual Audit for 2025, would be coming up soon and that by the time of our next meeting, we will have needed to have compiled the relevant information to support the process, (notwithstanding most of it is already published and available on the Parish website and the Parish continues to qualify for an exemption). **Action AL and SW, to begin gathering the required information and to report back on progress at the next meeting in May.**
 - f. **Draft Budget** – AL tabled an updated draft budget for the 2025/2026 period, noting that expected total income is £18541.00 and the figure for total expected outgoings would be finalised shortly, pending an estimate for the village green lawn mowing. Changes to previous budgets include a small increase to the amount earmarked for ‘reserves’ (up from £6500 to £7500) which is keeping with the prior agreed plan to gradually increase the amount of reserves over time, to pay for future road maintenance around the village green. No change to the amount in fees to the locum clerk – AL also noted that there had been no progress in finding a cost-effective way to employ a single employee, (due to lack of reasonably priced payroll services), so the current temporary arrangement would need to continue for the time being. New savings account opened to take advantage of interest rates. AL to move existing savings account-funds of £12,000 into the new account. **Approved. Draft budget approved as final budget and signed by those present.**
8. **Policy Review:**
- a. **Financial Risk / Asset Register** – AL proposed that the policy be reviewed and updated **if need-be**, after the installation of the new noticeboards and bench.
 - b. **Any other policy matters arising.** SW noted that the annual review of the main governance policies would commence in April/May.

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9. **Matters Arising** – nothing additional to report.
10. **AOB.** AL/SW to follow up with GE Views (manufacturer of the new noticeboards and bench), to understand what fixings are required to anchor these items to the ground, in advance of the installation.

11. **Proposed Dates of meetings for 2025:**

AL tabled moving future meeting dates to a Wednesday to accommodate the attendance of both County and Borough Cllrs – and to reflect that Wednesday is a more popular choice among those present. **Approved. Action SW to contact Village Hall to check availability and advise all invitees / update website re any meeting-date changes. (Done).**

Wednesday 14th May 2025 - Annual and Quarterly Meetings), 7.00pm

Wednesday 17th September 2025 – Quarterly Meeting, 7.00pm

Wednesday 17th December 2025 – Quarterly Meeting, 7.00pm.

Approved at the Quarterly meeting of the Parish Council, held on Wednesday 26th February 2025

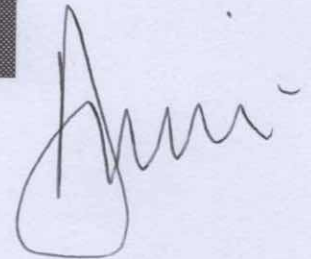
Signed:
Cllr. Alex Lowrie

Chair, Hannington Parish Council

Dated:

SIGNATURE REDACTED

Wednesday 26th February
2025.



End.