

TICHBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Tichborne Parish Council held at the Alresford Golf Club Tichborne at 6.30pm on Thursday 9th January 2025.

25/41) Apologies.

Mr R Foot	Councillor
Mr A Stewart	Councillor
Mr N Bolton	District Councillor
Mr J Williams	County Councillor

Present.

Mr N Kinder	Chairman
Mr A McWhirter	Councillor
Ms M Phillibert	Councillor
Ms L Robbins	Councillor
Mr C Spicer	Councillor
Mr J Pett	District Councillor
Mr B Gibbs	Clerk

25/42) Declarations of Interest.

a) None recorded at this time.

25/43) To approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council of Tichborne held on 14th November 2024

The Clerk apologised for his failure to produce the minutes on time.

25/44) Public Session

There were no members of the public present.

20/45) Reports by the County and District Councillors.

Cllr Pett presented his report.

There has been much discussion recently about the prospect of devolution for, and local government re-organisation in, Hampshire. Devolution is likely to be a beneficial move for Hampshire as Devolution means moving powers, and the money to enact them, from Central Government to a more local level. These powers would be devolved to a Combined Authority, in our case covering Hampshire and the Solent (including Southampton, Portsmouth, and the Isle of Wight), and overseen by an elected mayor.

The County Council hopes to have a strong voice in these discussions to represent our residents' interests. A Full County Council meeting on the 9th January agreed we will request to be part of the priority list; the government will determine by late January whether the 2025 County elections will be postponed.

If Hampshire is accepted as a priority area, the authorities will need to submit our proposals for new Council areas by the autumn.

Councils across Hampshire employ thousands of staff and contract with thousands more partners and businesses, all of whom rely on the County Council for their livelihoods. More importantly, tens of thousands of people rely on their local Council for support and assistance. These people must be at the forefront of the decision-making.

Chairman's signature

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The revised National Planning Policy Framework and other supporting guidance documents were published on 12th December, following a consultation that ran through the Autumn. A key point of contention for authorities such as Winchester was the methodology for determining housing targets where a significant part of their area falls within a National Park. This has been recognised and addressed in para 14 of the revised guidance for determining housing and economic needs. This allows for a “locally determined system” to be used that should include consideration of the proportion of the Authority’s area that falls within a National Park. How this will work in practice is, of course, yet to be tested.

Local parishes may recall that the last Government’s 2023 Levelling Up and Regeneration Act included the strengthening of Local Authorities’ duty towards National Parks’ purposes from being required to “have regard to” to “to promote”. The long-awaited guidance on how this should apply in practice has now been published by DEFRA as the Protected Landscapes Duty. This may have quite some impact on decision making in Winchester City Council but its implications are yet to be fully digested. Again, we will follow up with further detail when it is known.

Natural England has designated the Meon as a “compensatory habitat” to mitigate the effects of Southern Water’s need to increase its abstraction from the Itchen in times of drought. Given that these periods of drought cannot be accurately predicted, Natural England has to assume the worst case: that they will occur. It is therefore their intent that Southern Water should enable work on the Meon to bring it up to a similar standard of habitat to that currently required on the Itchen.

By doing so, should the quality of the Itchen’s habitat be compromised, a compensatory habitat will be found in the Meon. This should see significant benefit to the quality of both the water in the Meon and its surrounding habitats.

The draft Local Plan Review having been voted through by the South Downs National Park Authority on 10th December. The consultation on the “Regulation 18 Draft” should go live on Monday 20th January. It is not a total revision but rather an opportunity to update and improve some of the existing plan’s policies and identify some further candidate development sites.

Many of the changes are a welcome tightening of policies to further the Park’s purposes but the plan does not include specific housing targets. Instead, the SDNPA is encouraging consultees to suggest required levels of development in their areas and identify other sites that could be included in a later draft. Given the strong need for more affordable housing locally this seems a missed opportunity to set clear targets, whatever those targets might be, for the new homes that are needed in our communities.

There will be further meetings between Winchester City Council and the NPA during the consultation period and beyond to determine the approach to housing targets in the next iteration of the draft.

Whilst it is understood that a new planning application at the Matterley Bowl has been submitted it is yet to be validated and placed on the SDNPA website. Meanwhile, Boomtown has submitted, and had accepted, an Ecological Management Plan Implementation Report showing the outcome of their previously planned ecological mitigations.

25/46) Finance and Orders for Payment.

a) The Clerk proposed the following orders for payment as follows:

BT37 Hugo Fox INV-9718 HF Silver Subs £23.99
BT38 Brendan V Gibbs Salary November 2024 £113.70
BT39 Hugo Fox INV-10467 HF Silver Sub £23.99
BT40 Brendan V Gibbs Salary December 2024 113.70
BT41 Alresford Golf Club Room Hire £25.00
BT42 Bakeland Gardens Residents Association Ltd. Boomtown Community Grant £400.00

The Parish Council **resolved** to approve these orders for payment.

b) Titchborne Parish Council Budget 2025-26.

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The Clerk provided the following statements prior to the discussion of the 2025-26 budget for the benefit of all present.

The following sums of money are earmarked for a specific purpose and do not sit within the general reserve.

£1,000 for a potential contested parish election in May 2026.

£1,200 for potential repairs to the two bus shelters at Ladycroft crossroads.

£100 for potential defibrillator repairs and renewals.

The Parish Council has received the following sums of money from the Boomtown Community Fund since 2016.

Boomtown Fair 2016 £2,000

Boomtown Fair 2017 £700

Boomtown Fair 2018 £700

Boomtown Fair 2019 £700

Boomtown Fair 2022 £2,500

Boomtown Fair 2023 £2,000

Boomtown Fair 2024 £2,500

So far, the Parish Council has spent £1,000 as a contribution to the Cheriton Play Area, £1,000 as a contribution to the community defibrillator and £400 towards the refurbishment of the Bakeland Gardens play area.

This leaves a sum of £8,700 held by the Parish Council on behalf of the Boomtown Community Fund.

There is also an earmarked sum of £300 from the Boomtown Community Fund allocated towards the Cheriton Play Area sink fund for its future maintenance, repairs and renewals.

The Parish Council also holds the sum of £2,944.63 as a CIL contribution from the South Downs National Park Authority.

In total the Parish Council holds a total of £13,944.63 that sits outside of its general reserve.

It was noted that the Clerk's salary was £1,705.20 in 2023-24 with the salary costs being calculated at a rate of £14.31 per hour (SCP 14 1st April 2023) with up to 10 hours work each month. The Parish Council follows the NJC agreement each year. The Clerk informed the meeting that there was an outstanding pay award to be dealt with.

The 2024-25 award was published in November 2024 and was backdated to 1st April 2024. From 1st April 2024 the pay scales changed from a rate of £14.21 per hour to that of £14.84 per hour.

It was **resolved** to set the Clerk's salary budget as £1,820 for the year 2025-26 to cover any back pay that will be due.

The Parish Council agreed to finalise the Clerk's pay agreement at its next meeting.

It was agreed to allocate a budget of £250 to cover the cost of the Parish Council's Internal Audit for the 2024-25 financial year.

Other expenses that would normally to be considered are the room hire costs for each meeting, the fees relating to membership of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) annual registration fee. Consequently, the figures £180 for the HALC fee and £35 for the ICO fee (now paid as a direct debit) were allocated to each of these items.

Following a full review and re-valuation of the Fixed Asset Register it was agreed to allocate a budget of £380 to cover the cost of the Parish Council's insurance policy in 2024-25 to cater for a 7% rise in the premium,

Chairman's signature

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The Chairman's Fund is used to cover the costs of refreshments at the Annual Parish Assembly and other sundry items. It was agreed that this figure would remain at a level of £250 for 2025-26.

The following organisations were allocated a total of £300 (three hundred pounds) each in grant funding for 2025-26: Tichborne Park Cricket Club, The Oliver Branch Christian Counselling Service, the Alresford & District Agricultural Show, The Perins School.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Victim Support was allocated a sum of £100.

The Winchester District Citizen's Advice was allocated the sum of £350.

In addition, a discussion took place about the level of support provided for the maintenance of St Andrew's Churchyard. As a result of this discussion, it was agreed to allocate a sum of £400 to the St Andrew's Church PCC for 2025-26.

It was proposed by Cllr Kinder and seconded by Cllr Robbins that Tichborne Parish Council approves a working budget of £6,250 for the year 2025-26.

It was **resolved** to accept the budget for 2025-26 with a total planned expenditure of £6,250.

c) Tichborne Parish Precept 2025-26.

The Clerk began the precept discussion by reminding members that the Parish Council had received a total sum of £4,343 from Winchester City Council in 2024-25 as its parish precept.

For information a spreadsheet was circulated that showed the tax base for Tichborne in 2024-25 had been 121.08 and the Band D rate had been £35.87.

It was proposed by Cllr Kinder and seconded by Cllr Robbins that Tichborne Parish Council would like to see a slight increase in the Band D rate of 3% from 1st April 2025 to provide for an increase in the staffing budget as well as extra financial support for the St Andrew's PCC.

This would result in an increase of the Band D rate to £36.93 and would result in total precept of £4,439 for 2025-26.

25/47) Planning & Licensing.

a) Planning applications and decisions received from the South Downs National Park Authority.

There were no planning applications to receive.

b) Planning applications and decisions received from Winchester City Council.

There were no planning applications to receive.

23/48) Environment, Highways & Transport.

a) Parish Lengthsman Scheme.

The Lengthsman will visit the village on February 6th. A work sheet will be sent in due course.

23/49) Councillor Roles and Responsibilities.

The following councillor responsibilities were agreed.

Lengthsman scheme: Cllr Robbins

Legal: Cllr McWhirter

Highways: Cllr Kinder & the Clerk

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Longwood: Cllr Foot
Tichborne Park Cricket Club: Cllr Foot
Bakeland Gardens: Cllr Phillibert
Planning: Cllrs Kinder and McWhirter
Website and Broadband: Cllr Kinder & the Clerk
Alresford Show: Vacant
St Andrew's Church: Cllr Foot & the Clerk.

23/50) Correspondence.

a) The Pensions Regulator has issued a renewal notice as the Parish Council needs to go through its three-year re-enrol process before July 2025.

25/51) Any other reports that the Chairman deems urgent – NO DECISIONS to be made.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7.54pm

Members of the Tichborne Parish Council are summoned to the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on the 15th April 2025 at Alresford Golf Club.

Brendan Gibbs,
Clerk to the Parish Council of Tichborne.

Chairman's signature

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