



Wickham and Knowle Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the above Council held at Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham PO17 5AL on Thursday 26th September 2024 at 7pm.

Present: Councillors: Craig Manuel (Chair), Malc Burt, Sheila Chambers, David Evans, Leah Greenbank, Kathryn Holladay (Vice-Chair), Nic Holladay, Sandy Phillips-Lee, Ben Sawyers

In attendance: County Councillor Patricia Stallard, 2 members of the public, Parish Clerk Sophie Thorogood

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Councillor Robert Broad, Councillor Loraine Rappé, District Councillor Chris Chamberlain, District Councillor Angela Clear, District Councillor Neil Cutler
- 2. Declarations of interest:** Cllr Sawyers declared an interest in item 15 as a member of Wickham Chamber of Trade. Cllr Greenbank declared an interested in item 15 as a member of Team Wickham. Cllr Burt declared an interest in items 11.4 and 11.5 as a member of the Wickham Dynamos Football Club.
- 3. Public Session:** None.
- 4. Report from County Councillor:** Cllr Stallard's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Stallard gave a brief explanation to everyone present that Hampshire County Council (HCC) along with Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and Isle of Wight Council have attended meetings at Westminster to have discussions on devolution. Westminster have made it clear that big Councils will not receive any funding unless they become one large Council. They have met and agreed outlined terms, which would be a consortium Council and have a registered an expression of interest with Westminster

By April 2025, HCC will have a deficit of £82million, mainly due to adult social care and children's services costs. The bill for adult social care is over £500m a year, and school transport bill is £91m.

The only way to receive funding is to amalgamate in some way. The Government have made it clear that any Councils wanting to amalgamate would have to have an elected mayor. This is something that has always been fought, how the Councils involved cannot afford **not** to go down that route. If this amalgamation goes through, the elected mayor would be at the top, followed by a senate of the leaders of the 4 Councils. When money is devolved down, the money would go to the senate. Each Council would continue to operate separately.

The plan at this present time would be that HCC be a two tier authority: would have District & Borough Councils, then Parish and Town Councils and would **have** to have an elected mayor

Cllr Stallard also highlighted that there are applications submitted by SLR Consulting for Titchfield lane, and that she has attend meetings with Grenergy and Conrad Energy for

their applications. From a traffic and highways point of view, all three applications are a horror.

Cllr Manuel asked Cllr Stallard questions regarding if the residents of Hampshire would be consulted about the “Solent City” Council option, also highlighting resident’s concerns over the planned road closures for Knowle Road in October and December as HCC had not yet approved the alternative route. Cllr Stallard replied that as far as she was concerned, the alternative route was already approved, **ACTION:** Clerk to email Cllr Stallard to confirm this route approval.

Cllr Manuel also asked Cllr Stallard about the proposed adoption of the Wickham Shell roundabout. The weeds are very high at present and whilst WKPC understand that adoption is not possible and are exploring the licence application to maintain the roundabout instead, please can the high weeds be cut down **ACTION:** Clerk to email Cllr Stallard about the lack of maintenance to the roundabout.

5. Reports from District Councillors:

No District Councillors were in attendance.

6. Chairmans’s announcements: None.

7. Minutes of 27th June 2024 and 30th July 2024

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved and signed as true record, as proposed by Cllr Manuel, seconded by Cllr N Holladay and carried with abstentions from Cllr Sawyers and Cllr Evans.

8. Clerk’s update: Noted

9. Finance Committee (Cllr Manuel)

9.1. Minutes of the meeting held 13th June 2024: received and noted

9.2. Recommendation to award following grants:

- **1st Wickham Scouts - £2,000**
- **Meon Valley Food Bank - £500**
- **Citizen’s Advice Bureau - £250**
- **Homestart Hampshire - £250**

RESOLVED: to approve the recommendation to award the grants as detailed above, as proposed by Cllr Manuel, seconded by Cllr N Holladay and carried.

9.3. Financial Risk Assessment:

RESOLVED: to approve the recommendation to adopt the Financial Risk Assessment, as proposed by Cllr Manuel, seconded by Cllr Greenbank and carried

10. Planning & Highways Committee (Cllr Rappé)

10.1. Minutes of the meetings held 13th June and 18th July 2024: received and noted

10.2. Regulation 19 Local Plan Representation:

Verbal representation given at the last Committee meeting from another developer. It was hoped to have had written confirmation from the developer of the number of intended dwellings and planned community benefits if the Parish Council supported this site.

The Councillors were concerned if the Council support the site without written confirmation, the number of dwellings could increase and the Council may then support a site.

It was agreed to hold a short Full Council meeting on 10th October before the rearranged General Purposes Committee meeting to discuss and agree the representation. **ACTION:** Locum Clerk to write two draft representations, one supporting the Macra site, one supporting all 100 homes to be placed on the Glebe. Locum Clerk to also pursue written confirmation of the community benefits of supporting the Macra site ready for a decision to be made at this extra Full Council meeting over which representation would be submitted.

RESOLVED: to approve the Committee's amended terms of reference, as proposed by Cllr Rappé, seconded by Cllr Phillips-Lee and carried.

10.3 Conrad Energy Consultation:

RESOLVED: To approve the following recommendation to the Consultation, as proposed by Cllr Manuel, seconded by Cllr Phillips-Lee and carried.

Wickham and Knowle Parish Council is sympathetic to the project, however it would be contingent on identifying and agreeing community benefits.

11. Recreation Committee (Cllr N Holladay)

11.1. Minutes of the meetings held 20th June 2024 and 1st August 2024: received and noted

11.2. New lighting bollard

RESOLVED: to approve the recommendation to accept the quote of £688 plus VAT to install one new lighting bollard in the Knowle Village Hall car park, as proposed by Cllr N Holladay, seconded by Cllr K Holladay and carried.

11.3 Wickham Recreation Pavilion S106:

RESOLVED: to approve the recommendation to draw down on the S106 funding for the Wickham Recreation Pavilion project on a staged basis and make a request of £25,000 to WCC, as proposed by Cllr N Holladay, seconded by Cllr Manuel and carried

11.4 Mill Lane briefing document:

RESOLVED: to approve a recommendation to submit a business case to WCC for the reasons against artificial pitches at Mill Lane, and delegate to Cllr N Holladay, Cllr Manuel and the Clerk to finalise the report, as proposed by Cllr N Holladay, seconded by Cllr Manuel and carried

11.5 WCC Sports Consultation response: The Councillors had been discussing some amendments needed to the draft response agreed by the Recreation Committee.

RESOLVED: To approve to delegate the final response to Cllr N Holladay as Chair of Recreation, supported by Cllr Burt and Cllr Manuel, with the final version to be agreed by 12pm on 30th September and submitted by the Clerk, as proposed by Cllr N Holladay, seconded by Cllr Sawyers and carried.

12. External Auditor's Opinion on 2023/24 accounts: Received and noted

13. Review Committee membership: Previous Committee membership and changes needed are detailed below:

Recreation Committee

Chair – Councillor N Holladay

Members: Councillors; Manuel, Rappé, K Holladay, Burt (Vice-Chair), Chambers, Phillips-Lee

CHANGES: Add Cllr Evans and Cllr Sawyers

Planning and Highways Committee

Chair – Councillor Rappé

Members: Councillors; Chambers, N Holladay, K Holladay, Manuel, Phillips-Lee, Broad (Vice-Chair)
CHANGES: Remove Cllr Chambers

General Purposes Committee

Chair – Councillor Phillips-Lee

Members: Councillors; Manuel, K Holladay (Vice-Chair), N Holladay, Chambers, Greenbank, Rappé

CHANGES: Remove Cllr Rappé
Add Cllr Evans and Cllr Sawyers

HR Committee

Chair – Councillor Rappé

Members: Councillors: Manuel, N Holladay

CHANGES: Add Cllr Sawyers & Cllr Evans

Open Spaces Committee – deferred

Wickham Water Meadows Committee

Chair – Councillor Manuel

Members: Councillors: K Holladay, Burt, Chambers, Phillips-Lee

CHANGES: Remove Cllr K Holladay, Cllr Phillips-Lee,
Addition: Cllr Greenbank, Cllr Sawyers

Policy & Finance Committee

Chair – Councillor Manuel

Members: Councillors: K Holladay, N Holladay, Rappé, Phillips-Lee (Vice-Chair)

RESOLVED: to approve the Committee membership as detailed above, as proposed by Cllr N Holladay, seconded by Cllr Manuel.

- 14. New Parish website domain ending .gov.uk:** The Council is minded to move to a .gov.uk domain name but this is not being classed as an urgent task for the Clerk due to more urgent project work.

RESOLVED: to apply for a £100 grant towards moving to a .gov.uk domain name, as proposed by Cllr N Holladay, seconded by Cllr Evans and carried.

- 15. Grant for Wickham Christmas Event:** 2 members of public representing Wickham Chamber of Trade to discuss their grant application for a revised Christmas event in Wickham. There is a £5,500 budget in the Wickham Christmas nominal to fund the event. The grant application had been included in the document pack circulated prior to the meeting, and would be a joint Chamber of Trade and Team Wickham organised event, funded by the Parish Council and other grants/sponsorship. The event is being held earlier than normal to enable more traders within the Square to be able to volunteer time to run a larger event and hopefully attract more visitors to the Square in the run up to Christmas. The main hall at Wickham Community Centre would be hired as a contingent plan for bad weather, which would also enable the car park to be used as the event parking. Councillors asked a few questions of the organisers surrounding potential danger of pedestrian crossings at night and concerns following a previous incident of a child going missing. The organisers explained the event would be fully risk assessed, an event management plan created and 2 manned “elf crossings” would be implemented for the event. The Clerk to work with Cllr Sawyers to arrange the Christmas tree and installation of lights around the Square and tree decoration. Invoices relating to the event will be paid by the Parish Council.

As the grant had missed the Policy & Finance Committee meeting, the Chair asked members of that Committee if they were happy to approve the grant.

RESOLVED: to approve a grant for the Wickham Christmas Cracker event, for a total of £5,500 to include costs of installation and decoration of a Christmas tree and installation of lights around the Square, as proposed by Cllr Manuel, seconded by Cllr Phillips-Lee and carried.

16. Payments lists for April-July 2024: The new financial software package is now installed and the Clerk has been working through entering in all backdated transactions. The Councillors asked to have an extra column added for nominal code to be able to tie payments made to budget monitoring reports and understanding how payments were coded.

RESOLVED: To approve the payments lists for April-July 2024, as proposed by Cllr Greenbank, seconded by Cllr N Holladay and carried.

17. To receive correspondence/details of meetings attended:

- 17.1 Cllr K Holladay attended a meeting with Cllr Broad and the Locum Clerk regarding installation of a pedestrian crossing at School Road. This item will be discussed at a future meeting of the Planning & Highways Committee.**
- 17.2 Cllr K Holladay has also been in contact with Wickham Primary School with regards to parking issues around the Community Centre and how the Parish Council might be able to help liaise with both parties to find a solution to the parking issues.**
- 17.3 Cllr N Holladay attended an online training course regarding neighbourhood planning and will forward the slides to the Councillors.**
- 17.4 Cllr Burt expressed concerns that the smart marketing postcards delivered through letterboxes did not make provision for residents who do not have access to technology to be able to reply to the consultation electronically. Feedback to be passed back to the Planning & Highways Committee.**

Meeting closed 9:22pm

Signed.....

Date.....