

MINUTES of the MICHELDEVER PARISH ASSEMBLY

Held at Northbrook Hall, Duke Street, Micheldever.

At 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th April 2025

Present: Parish Cllrs: William Helen (Chairman), David Wandless, Olly Bramley, Roger Townsend, Peter O’Keefe, Graham Foot, Suzanne Findley, Andrew Adams, Nick Greenwood, Lynn Drury.

Residents: 22

County Cllr: Jackie Porter.

District Cllrs: Stephen Godfrey.

Apologies: District Cllr Caroline Horrill, Sue Bell.

Minutes: Jocelyn Jenkins (PC Clerk).

1 CHAIRMAN William Helen, Parish Council Chairman, welcomed residents to the meeting, and thanked them for their attendance and support. He noted that the Parish Assembly is an opportunity to meet residents and to provide an account of the Parish Council’s activities during the past year.

2 MINUTES The Minutes of the Parish Assembly of 17th April 2024 were **agreed** and signed.

3 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT The Chairman provided a summary of the major matters that have been occurring, and with which the Parish Council have been involved, during the past year.

Winchester Local Plan The independent inspection of the Winchester Local Plan is about to commence. No housing allocation has been made for Micheldever in this plan.

Separate to this, the Micheldever New Town proposal has been made to the Government’s New Town Task Force and Tessa Robinson, Chair of the Dever Society, spoke further on this after the Chairman’s report.

Carousel Park The Planning Inquiry concluded in 2019, with the report published at the end of that year. The City Council, following delays during the pandemic, were then able to commence enforcement action and issued Planning Contravention Notices in October 2021 and then Penalty Enforcement in March 2022. Appeals were made to these and a new decision was issued last year. The Planning Inspector gave planning permission for the site to become a Gypsy and Traveller site with 24 pitches, subject to a number of planning conditions. Under the new planning conditions, a plan had to be submitted and agreed within 11 months. No agreement has been reached on the new management plan or nutrients within this deadline and Winchester have therefore issued an application refused

letter. This has been appealed and the appeal has gone to the Planning Inspector. This will be an appeal in writing rather than in person and will hopefully be completed within a few months. It was noted that there are also issues with the bund around the site.

Speed Indication Devices All three devices are now operational. Thank you to the volunteers who are operating these and to councillors Wandless and Foot for carrying out the training. Additional posts have been purchased this year to make it easier to move the devices. It is still difficult, however, to get the Police to carry out any enforcement action, even with the data from the devices.

Community Emergency Planning The Parish Council are seeking to have an emergency plan in place. Volunteers are still being sought and please see Councillor Adams if you think that you could help.

Grants Grants have been made this year towards the mural installed at the station, to the Warren Centre for the refurbishment of their wooden floor, to Citizens Advice, the Churches in the Parish and towards the village website costs.

Potholes These are a constant challenge. If the grips designed to take water off the roads are kept clear this would reduce the risk of potholes developing.

Lengthsman The Lengthsman has worked in the Parish clearing around road signs and cleaning them, clearing ditches etc

Parking consultations These are to take place in Micheldever and East Stratton to attempt to stop dangerous or obstructive parking.

Micheldever Station pavement to the bridge HCC now have the opportunity to purchase sufficient land to install a footpath to the bridge. It is a long overdue but very expensive project. The Parish Council have applied for a grant from the railway and HCC do now seem prepared to commit some funding to the project.

East Stratton The trees on the open space have been reduced and the neighbours hedge has now been cut, to improve light into the hall.

The Chairman concluded his report by offering his thanks to:

Hampshire County Councillor, City Councillors and Parish Councillors.

Lynsey and Nigel of the Rights of Way Volunteers.

Jill Lee for carrying out the monthly play area inspection at the LRPF and Councillor Foot for carrying out repairs.

The volunteers who move the speed indication devices and the councillors who have assisted in training them.

The Upper Dever Benefice and Church Wardens who look after the community.

Residents who voluntarily litter pick or carry out other tasks in the parish, helping to maintain the appearances of the villages.

The Clerk.

The Chairman then introduced the two guest speakers, Tessa Robinson, Chair of the Dever Society, and District Councillor Stephen Godfrey and thanked them for attending and speaking at the meeting.

4. Tessa Robinson, Chair of the Dever Society

In 1990 the first proposal, from Eagle Star, was made for 5,000 homes at Micheldever Station. This led to the setting up of the Dever Society. The number of homes proposed has varied over the years. The current submission is for 15-20 thousand homes. Details of the current proposal were received (by the Dever Society) from an Irish journalist. Around 100 submissions have been received by the Government's New Town Task Force who are looking for the establishment of 12 new towns. There is no transparency and this is all being done without any information being shared with the public. The terms of reference of the task force do say that there should be engagement with local councils and that proposals should ideally have the support of the local community. Danny Chambers, our MP, has asked a couple of parliamentary questions about clarity on the consultation process. This proposal would be a huge development with a significant impact on surrounding areas. If not chosen as one of the 12 new town sites, the proposal will not go away. Housing targets for the Winchester District in the next local plan have greatly increased (around 63% increase) which will lead to increased pressure for sites. Magners are making submissions to the current review of the Local Plan and seeking to have it found unsound.

Questions from residents:

1. Do the New Town Task Force have to engage before or after a decision is made?
Before but it is a 'should' engage, not a 'must'.
2. Would the new hospital make it easier to argue that more homes are needed?
Funding for the hospital is in the 2037-39 plan so too late to be a lever in respect of the new town.
3. Is there any connection with the proposed development at Popham?
The O'Flynn Group have said they would be prepared to share infrastructure (trying perhaps to appeal more to Basingstoke). Popham was dropped from the Basingstoke local plan but there is no guarantee that it won't go into the next plan as Basingstoke are struggling to find sites.

It was noted by Tessa that the proposed new town would be in addition to Winchester's housing target.

The majority of submissions to the New Town Task Force are in the south east. Building costs are similar throughout the country but it is much more profitable to sell homes in the south and it is therefore preferred by builders.

5 Winchester City Councillor Stephen Godfrey

The Government is introducing devolution so that all areas of the country have an elected mayor. Hampshire have pushed for devolved government for many years and have been

included in a fast-track stream for a strategic mayor responsible, amongst other things, for Police, transport and strategic planning.

There are almost 2 million residents in Hampshire, more than in Birmingham, Manchester or Northern Ireland and the county makes a significant contribution to GDP. Devolution should improve productivity, efficiency and jobs. It will give Hampshire a seat at the table with the other elected mayors.

Alongside devolution, local authorities (15 in total) must merge into a smaller number of unitary authorities (3, 4 or 5) over the next 3 years.

The new unitary authorities will takeover adult and children's social care, housing, highways and planning.

Discussions between the 15 current authorities are ongoing, with each authority having its own views and ideas. A lot of analysis work is necessary to inform the discussions. The guidance suggest that the new unitary authorities should have half to one million residents each. There is understood to be very little agreement between the authorities as yet. There are 3 months left before an agreement needs to be reached, consulted upon with the public, and presented to the Government in September.

The impact on Parish Councils' is not currently known. Winchester City Council currently works with parishes. Reorganisation may require parishes to take on more responsibilities or possibly combine to share or provide services.

The Chairman thanked both speakers again on behalf of residents.

Councillor David Wandless, the Vice-Chairman, proposed thanks to the Chairman.

The Chairman closed the meeting at about 8.25pm and refreshments followed.

1) *Chairman's signature at MPC meeting* *Date*
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2) *Chairman's signature at 2023 Parish Assembly* *Date*
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