

MINUTES OF THE MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at Northbrook Hall, Duke Street, Micheldever.
at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th February 2025

Councillors present: David Wandless (Chairman of the meeting), Peter O’Keefe, Roger Townsend, Olly Bramley, Lynn Drury, Nick Greenwood, Suzy Findley, Andy Adams (from 7.35pm).
In attendance: DCllr Stephen Godfrey, DCllr Caroline Horrill.
Public: 5
Apologies: Cllr William Helen, Cllr Graham Foot, HCCllr Jackie Porter.

511 CODE OF CONDUCT Cllr Olly Bramley – ESVH (NPI), Cllr Peter O’Keefe – Northbrook Hall (NPI), Cllr Nick Greenwood – ESVH (NPI), Cllr Andrew Adams – Warren Centre (NPI).

512 MINUTES of the meeting of 8th January 2025 were **agreed** and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

513 MATTERS ARISING from the minutes

513.1 502.1 Village Clock A bat survey is scheduled for March or April 2025.

513.2 502.2 Southbrook Development (Hobbs View) DCllr Horrill advised that WCC are to carry out a review of the Southbrook development, from the start through to completion. DCllr Horrill will continue to liaise with the contractors about the car park damage and other outstanding matters.

513.3 502.3 The Dove Inn and Half Moon, Assets of Community Value It is understood that The Dove Inn is still scheduled to re-open at the end of March. No further update has been received in respect of The Half Moon.

The meeting adjourned for reports and questions from the public

514 REPORTS

514.1 HCCllr Porter was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report (Appendix 1) which draws attention to ongoing consultations which can be accessed via the ‘Have your say’ icon on the HCC website. She also noted that HCC will only be able to raise Council Tax by 4.99%, having had a request for a 15% increase rejected by Whitehall.

514.2 DCllr Godfrey noted that Winchester City Council intend to raise Council Tax by 2.7%. No response has yet been received from the agent acting for Carousel Park residents. The deadline for a response has not yet been reached but officers are considering what to do if the deadline is not met. Cllr Wandless asked about the camera promised by the Police and Crime Commissioner. DCllr Godfrey advised that no agreement has been reached between the City Council and the Police on the deployment of the camera and that the new Police Commander does not see it as part of her plan. DCllr Horrill will request a definitive response on the deployment of the camera.

514.3 DCllr Caroline Horrill noted that she had arranged for the cutting of the WCC hedge in East Stratton and that she has asked that it be put back on the regular cutting schedule. DCllr Horrill discussed the application by HCC, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight for inclusion in the early devolution programme. This has been approved today by the Government and will lead to there being an elected mayor from May 2026. The elected mayor will also replace the Police and Crime Commissioner. Residents will be consulted on devolution. Local Government reorganisation will follow devolution and HCC will be dissolved. Southampton and Portsmouth are both too small to be unitary authorities and will need to include a larger area. It is thought that, although too small, the Isle of Wight will be allowed to remain as a unitary authority. It is currently thought that the division (of Hampshire) into three authorities would make them too large and that four might be better. Parish Councils could potentially have more powers following reorganisation. Assets owned by the City Council (such as play areas and recreation grounds) may be transferred to parishes. Some parishes may possibly join together to have, for example, one full time Clerk.

Chairman’s initials Date

WCC need to have a plan in place by the Autumn and this would include how to parish Winchester eg by becoming a Town Council.

The Government is not keen to have boundary changes as this would slow the process of change.

The May 2025 County Council elections have been cancelled except for any necessary by elections.

515 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- 515.1 A resident attended the meeting to express concern about damage caused at Coffin Walk and towards Weston Colley (from the railway arch) by weed spraying and hedge cutting. It was noted that damage to the bridleway should be reported to HCC Countryside Services via the ‘Report it’ facility on the HCC website. The hedge is the property of the farmer.
- 515.2 A resident of Micheldever Station asked about progress on the grant application for funds towards the pavement extension project. South Western Railway have advised that a response to the grant application will be made in April.

The meeting resumed

516 CORRESPONDENCE received by the Clerk in the past month:

WCC	Mayor of Winchester’s Community Awards 2025. Nominations due by 16 th February 2025.	To be circulated to all councillors.
Micheldever Youth Club	Request for a Parish Council representative to attend a meeting to discuss the future of the Youth Club.	Cllr Findley will attend.

517 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

- 517.1 New Applications

	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Draft comments</u>
659 2 Stable Ctgs, Church Barns, East Stratton.	Tulip and sweet gum tree to be reduced and shaped.	No comment.
660 Harvest Court, Mill Place, M.Stn.	Beech to reduce and ash to remove basal growth.	No comment.
661 East Stratton Village Hall	2 x limes and 1 x field maple to reduce.	No comment.
662 New Farm, Church Bank Road, East Stratton.	Change of use of agricultural building to C3 dwelling house.	No comment.
663 The Barley House, Sloe Lane, Micheldever.	Installation of 8m x 3m swimming pool pump room and garden room.	No comment.
664 Dever Lodge, Overton Road, Micheldever Station.	Single storey rear and 1 st floor side extension.	Neighbour to be consulted, otherwise no comment.
- 517.2 The comments on 659 to 664 were **agreed**.
- 517.3 506.3 Affordable Housing & Exception Sites Note Southbrook review as at 514.3 above. Barron Close The cost saving review for the site is awaited. DCllr Horrill noted that WCC are currently reviewing the viability of small development projects which are proving to not be affordable. Builders are being sought (by WCC) for two other small projects elsewhere in the district but it is proving to be very difficult to find anyone.
- 517.4 506.4 Winchester Local Plan The independent inspection of the Plan is awaited.
- 517.5 506.5 Carousel Park See 514.2 above.
- 517.6 506.6 Community Greening Campaign & Climate Emergency The January WeCan newsletter, which contains details of a number of events, has been circulated.

518 PARISH SERVICES

- 518.1 507.1 Highways Matters Cllr Bramley will contact HCllr Porter about fingerposts which need repainting and will also obtain a quote for repairs to the second bench at Bilberry Lane which is in a poor condition. The blocked drain at Weston Farm has been reported by Cllr Bramley and HCllr Porter and is now noted as ‘Scheduled’ on the HCC website.

Chairman’s initials Date

Cllr Bramley represented the Parish Council at a meeting with HCllr Porter and the HCC Officer responsible for the parking consultations to be undertaken in East Stratton and Micheldever. Following the meeting, no plans have been shared with the Parish Council and the consultation has not yet been sent to residents.

- 518.2 507.2 Network Rail No new reports received this month.
- 518.3 507.3 SID & Community Funded Initiatives It was **agreed** to order two new SID posts from Stocksigns and to also enquire about speed limit stickers to add to the backing plates.

519 SPORTS & RECREATION

- 519.1 508.1 Warren Field & Play Area The Warren Centre has supplied a quote for grass cutting at Warren Field in 2025. Quotes from Grass and Grounds are awaited. Carried forward to the March meeting.
- 519.2 508.2 LRPF Pavilion & Play Area Cllr Foot has now installed bird deterrent strips on the remaining swings. If effective, the same will be considered for the Warren Field play area.

520 FINANCE

520.1 Accounts for payment were **agreed**.

		Total	VAT	Net	
2946	Business Stream	Allotments water	42.65	0.00	42.65
2947	Warren Centre	Grass cutting (W.Field, Aug-Oct)	1071.00	0.00	1071.00
2948	Jocelyn Jenkins	January expenses	162.17	15.09	147.08
2949	Jocelyn Jenkins	January salary	985.80	0.00	985.80
2950	Olive Bramley	Travel expenses	48.60	0.00	48.60
2951	Micheldever Parish Council	Transfer to Unity Trust account	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00
	DD NEST	January pension contributions	220.57	0.00	220.57

RFO's Report

- 520.2 509.2 Balances & Bank reconciliation Balances report at 31st December 2024.
Cash held: £55,770.90 Reserves: Earmarked: £40,068. General: £15,703.
- 520.3 509.3 Bank Accounts A test BACs payment (to the RBS account) has been made and the Financial Regulations can now be updated to include procedures for future payments by BACs.
The procedure for BACs payments and approvals was discussed and the proposal, subject to it proving effective, is for the Clerk to input BACs payments prior to the monthly meeting and for one of the other signatories to then approve these (via the bank app) at or after the meeting once the monthly payments have been formally approved by the Council.
It was **agreed** to transfer £25,000.00 from the RBS account to Unity Trust to allow BACs payments to be made from Unity Trust.
- 520.4 509.4 Risk Management The Clerk is attending an on-line training session on risk management for parish councils.
Emergency Plan A plan is being written but more volunteers are still needed.

521 OTHER COMMITTEES

- 521.1 510.1 Northbrook Hall The recent pantomime was very successful, a quiz is to be held in March and another 'Play in a Week', for 8-12 year olds.
- 521.2 510.2 The Warren Centre Cllr Adams is assisting with the application for a pitch grant.
- 521.3 510.3 East Stratton Village Hall See tree application 661 at 517.1 above.
- 521.4 510.4 Allotments It was noted that if water costs rise above the rentals received a decision will be needed on whether to raise rentals or disconnect the water supply.
- 521.5 510.5 Media and Broadband The majority of councillors are now able to use their new .gov.uk emails.
- 521.6 510.6 Monthly Dever item New Police contact, reminder that fields are not footpaths.
- 521.7 Other Council matters
- 521.7.1 Portrait of King Charles It was only possible for the Parish Council to claim one free portrait under the Government scheme. Cllr O'Keefe will explore the cost of purchasing two additional portraits so that each village hall can be offered the option to have one if they wish.

Chairman's initials Date

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm

Next meeting: 7.30pm Wednesday 5th March 2025 at East Stratton Village Hall, Church Bank Road, East Stratton.

Chairman's signature Date