

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at East Stratton Village Hall, Church Bank Road, East Stratton.
at 7.45pm on Wednesday 7th May 2025

Councillors present: William Helen (Chairman), David Wandless, Peter O’Keefe, Roger Townsend, Nick Greenwood, Graham Foot, Suzanne Findley, Andrew Adams.
In attendance: DCllr Stephen Godfrey.
Public: 2
Apologies: Cllr Olly Bramley, Cllr Lynn Drury, DCllr Caroline Horill.

544 CODE OF CONDUCT Cllr William Helen – ESVH (NPI), Cllr Peter O’Keefe – Northbrook Hall (NPI), Cllr Wandless – planning application 671 (below), Cllr Adams – Warren Centre (NPI).

545 MINUTES of the meeting of 2nd April 2025 and the Parish Assembly of 16th April 2025 were **agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

546 MATTERS ARISING from the minutes

546.1 535.1 Village Clock The bat surveys are scheduled for 21st May and 18th June 2025.

546.2 535.2 Southbrook Development (Hobbs View) DCllr Horill is continuing to liaise with the builder in respect of the car park and other unfinished work.

546.3 535.4 Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation See 547.1 below.

The meeting adjourned for reports and questions from the public

547 REPORTS

547.1 DCllr Godfrey noted that money is available from the Government’s Prosperity Fund which aims to support businesses and communities, particularly in rural areas. Details are on the WCC website.

The WCC Small Grant scheme is due to re-start soon,

The Local Plan inspection is continuing and is due to run until early June. Some consideration is being given to a re-setting of the dates of the Plan which may lead to higher allocations.

The New Towns Task Force have still not contacted any Hampshire bodies as far as WCC are aware,

Under the re-organisation of local government, Hampshire submitted their draft plan in March but no formal response has yet been received from Government. The detailed plan is due to be submitted in September after public consultation.

A resident of Hobbs View has noted poor sound insulation between the flats.

548 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

548.1 Andrew Dawson, HCC Community Engagement Ranger Andrew is the new Community Engagement Ranger covering Rights of Way in this area. He liaises with the Micheldever Rights of Way Volunteers and attended the meeting to introduce himself to the Council and residents.

In response to a question, Andrew noted that the ‘Miles Without Stiles’ scheme relies on landowners assisting with funding and this makes it difficult to justify replacing stiles if they are in good condition.

Andrew also advised that HCC are responsible for by-ways except where there is access by a landowner who may then be responsible.

The meeting resumed

549 CORRESPONDENCE received by the Clerk in the past month:

MStn. Heritage Weekend Request for grant support towards cost of brass **Agreed** and agreed for payment to be made when invoice received.

WCC re Community Assets The 6 month moratorium period for the Half Moon ended on 19th March 2025. Noted.

Chairman’s initials Date

550 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

550.1 <u>New Applications</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Draft comments</u>
670 Flint Cottage, Church Street,	Demolish porch and replace with new	No comment.

Micheldever. 671 Glendale, Overton Road, Micheldever Station.	linking house to garage. Demolish garage and erect new with hobby room & side carport. New front porch.	No comment.
672 Manor Farm Cottage, Sloe Lane, Micheldever.	Maple to remove at ground level.	No comment.

550.2 The comments on 670 to 672 were **agreed**. Cllr Wandless declared an interest (as a close neighbour) in 671 and did not participate in the discussion or the decision on this application.

550.3 539.3 Affordable Housing & Exception Sites

Barron Close The land at Barron Close was given, under a covenant, by Lord Rank for the provision of low-cost housing. WCC are the registered owner and, following local government reorganisation, ownership could pass to the new unitary authority or, possibly, to the Parish Council. The terms of the covenant would continue after the ownership is transferred. It was **agreed** to write to Gareth John, Director of Legal at WCC, for confirmation that this is the case.

550.4 539.4 Winchester Local Plan See 547.1 above.

550.5 539.5 Carousel Park The new written appeal is awaited.

550.6 539.6 Community Greening Campaign & Climate Emergency Cllr O'Keefe drew attention to the new home energy project, 'My Home Made Better', which is providing free, independent advice on how a home can be made more energy efficient and low carbon. Details are in the Dever this month.

551 PARISH SERVICES

551.1 540.1 Highways Matters No further update has been received on the parking consultations in Micheldever and East Stratton.

551.2 540.2 Network Rail It was noted that there have been a lot of parked vehicles but no new reports of issues have been received this month.

551.3 540.3 SID & Community Funded Initiatives No issues have been raised this month.

551.4 New Bench at river, Northbrook Repairs have been made to the bench. The concrete is currently safe and regular reviews will be undertaken. Off agenda.

552 SPORTS & RECREATION

552.1 541.1 Warren Field & Play Area The annual inspection has noted that the old somersault bars present a moderate risk whilst all other items have been assessed as being of low or very low risk. A quote has already been accepted to remove the remaining parts of the old fitness trail and to level and re-seed the area. Action on this will be chased.

552.2 541.2 LRPF Pavilion & Play Area The annual inspection has noted that the rocking horse presents a moderate risk due to some rotted timber and metal corrosion. All other items have been assessed as being of low or very low risk. The Chairman has contacted a volunteer who may be able to carry out repairs on the rocking horse.

Landscaping of the bin area was carried forward to the June meeting for further consideration.

553 FINANCE

553.1 Accounts for payment were **agreed**.

		Total	VAT	Net
East Stratton Village Hall	Hal rental 24/25	144.00	0.00	144.00
Olive Bramley	Parish Assembly refreshments	58.70	0.00	58.70
Arbor Call Ltd	Emergency tree work (replacement payment)	600.00	100.00	500.00
Lightatouch	Internal audit fee	450.00	0.00	450.00
WCC	Dog bins (Jan – March)	130.00	0.00	130.00
OneTwoTree	Trees on open space at East Stratton	660.00	110.00	500.00

		Total	VAT	Net
	Chairman's initials Date			
HALC	HALC/NALC affiliation fees 25/26	554.00	0.00	554.00
Jocelyn Jenkins	April expenses	212.36	9.48	202.88
Jocelyn Jenkins	April salary	970.42	0.00	970.42
DD NEST	April pension contributions	220.57	0.00	220.57

RFO's Report

553.2 542.2 Balances & Bank reconciliation Balances report at 31st March 2025.

Cash held: £47,154.61 Reserves: Earmarked: £39,643. General: £7512.

553.3 542.3 Bank Accounts BACs payments are now being made. Closure of the RBS accounts to be added to the

June agenda. It was **agreed** to accept the revision to the Financial Regulations in respect of BACs payments.

553.4 542.4 Risk Management Business Stream have noted a higher than usual use of water at the LRPF pavilion. The meter will be checked.

Emergency Plan A new volunteer came forward at the Parish Assembly.

553.5 542.5 Annual Return 2024/25 – Section 1 Annual Governance Statement It was **agreed** to accept the Annual Governance Statement and this was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

553.6 New Annual Return 2024/25 – Section 2 Accounting Statements It was **agreed** to accept the Accounting Statements and these were signed by the Chairman.

553.7 New Internal Audit Report The internal audit was completed on 17th April 2025 and page 3 of the AGAR signed. Comments included in the internal audit review letter were as follows:

- The risk assessment should be signed in the year which it relates to.
- A website accessibility statement needs to be added to the website.
- In accordance with the Transparency Code there are additional documents which need to be added to the website, including AGAR's for some earlier years and the GDPR Privacy Policy.
- From April 2025 an IT Policy should be adopted.

The points were discussed and it was **agreed** to adopt each of these changes as soon as practicable.

It was further **agreed** to ask Tim Light, of Lightatouch, to carry out the internal audit for 2025/26.

553.8 New BDO Conflict of Interest Form The form was signed confirming that none of the councillors, or the Clerk, had a conflict with BDO, the external auditors.

553.9 New Exercise of Public Rights The Clerk proposed that the period for the Exercise of Public Rights be from Tuesday 3rd June to Monday 14th July 2025 and this was **agreed**.

554 OTHER COMMITTEES

554.1 543.1 Northbrook Hall There is a shortage of children attending the Youth Club. Cllr Findley has represented the Parish Council at meetings with the leaders and discussions are ongoing.

'A Wisp of Scotch Mist' is being performed in June.

A meeting is taking place this week to consider renovations and solar panels. A damp survey has been completed and has found some issues at the eastern end of the hall. There is also some woodworm on the stage joists.

554.2 543.2 The Warren Centre The Centre are supporting the railway commemoration event at the weekend.

The pitch funding application is close to being ready for submission.

554.3 543.3 East Stratton Village Hall Re-decorating is taking place.

554.4 543.4 Allotments One plot remains to be allocated.

554.5 543.5 Media and Broadband Consideration of the draft IT policy carried forward to the June meeting.

554.6 543.6 Monthly Dever item/newsletter Potential content and the newsletter were discussed.

554.7 Other Council matters None.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm

Next meeting: 7.30pm Wednesday 4th June 2025 at East Stratton Village Hall, Church Bank Road, East Stratton.

Chairman's signature Date