

**MINUTES OF THE MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held at East Stratton Village Hall, Church Bank Road, East Stratton.**  
**at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Councillors present: Cllr William Helen (Chairman), Cllr David Wandless, Cllr Roger Townsend, Cllr Graham Foot,  
Cllr Olive Bramley, Cllr Peter O'Keefe, Cllr Nick Greenwood.  
In attendance: DCllr Stephen Godfrey, DCllr Caroline Horrill.  
Public: 1  
Apologies: Cllr Lynn Drury, Cllr Suzanne Findley, Cllr Andrew Adams, HCCllr Jackie Porter.

**643 CODE OF CONDUCT** Cllr Helen – ESVH (NPI), Cllr Olly Bramley – ESVH (NPI),  
Cllr O'Keefe – Northbrook Hall (NPI), Cllr Greenwood – ESVH (NPI).

**644 MINUTES** of the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were **agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

**645 MATTERS ARISING** from the minutes

645.1 634.1 Village Clock The report on the bat surveys indicates that the clock tower is being used as an occasional roost by Pipistrelle and Long Eared Bats but is unsuitable for hibernation. It is therefore recommended that work is undertaken during the winter months to prevent any disturbance to bats. The Clerk will advise the school and Diocese and seek to obtain a Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Works to a Listed Building.

645.2 634.2 Southbrook Development (Hobbs View) DCllr Horrill noted that she has not received a specific reply from WCC in respect to the comments from the Parish Council Chairman. (See 649.2 re WCC search for small sites for development of further council housing).  
It was noted that heras fencing, scaffolding posts etc have been left under the hedge in the LRPF car park. DCllr Horrill will visit to photograph the items and report to WCC.

645.3 634.3 Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation The outcome of the Government consultation is awaited. A decision is due on 17<sup>th</sup> March but if delayed, will then not be until after the May 7<sup>th</sup> elections due to purdah.

645.4 634.4 Micheldever Water Treatment Plant Cllr Drury was unable to attend the meeting but noted that she has checked the treatment plant three times in the last two weeks. The 'arm' was rotating slowly on one occasion but not on the other two visits. No liquid outflow was seen from any of the outlet pipes on any of  
the visits and no smell was detected. The reeds have started to regrow around the edge of the reed bed tank but not in the centre. Martin Miles is continuing to carry out water testing and residents are reminded to report any odours emitting from the plant.

*The meeting adjourned for reports and questions from the public*

**646 REPORTS**

646.1 HCCllr Jackie Porter was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written report (Appendix 1) which will be circulated to councillors.

646.2 DCllr Stephen Godfrey The City Council set their budget last month. There will be a 2.95% increase to Council Tax and other charges will also be increased.  
DCllr Godfrey will be the Deputy Mayor of Winchester from May and then the Mayor in the following year.

646.3 DCllr Caroline Horrill noted that the City Council are waiting for the Planning Inspector to approve the Local Plan so that it can be approved by Cabinet before purdah commences.

The process for the next local plan has already started with a call for sites which has now closed.  
WCC have commented on the Basingstoke and Deane proposals for the Popham development and raised concerns but have not objected. This came as a shock to the Ward councillors. It was noted that this not a full council decision.

The Community Governance Review, to turn Winchester into a parish following Local Government Reorganisation, will go to Cabinet for approval.

The City Council are seeking to move forward with the central Winchester regeneration plans.

Chairman's initials ..... Date .....

**647 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

647.1 A Micheldever Station resident attended the meeting to discuss the Station House, a Grade 2 listed building. The building is in a poor state of repair but buildings no longer serving a useful purpose for the railway can be

regenerated for the benefit of the community. An example of this is in Shawford which has been very successful and, in Romsey, planning permission was granted in February. It was noted that costs are high for the refurbishment of listed buildings.

The Hampshire Community Rail Network have published a book offering guidance and advice. There needs to be a plan to make the building financially sustainable once re-developed and assistance can then be given for the refurbishment.

The local group would like the building redeveloped for community use without detriment to the Warren Centre or pub.

A request was made for a speaker to attend the Parish Assembly and this was **agreed**.

### *The meeting resumed*

#### **648 CORRESPONDENCE**

WCC

Parish Council elections are assumed to still be taking place on 7<sup>th</sup> May unless the Government decide to cancel them. Candidates for election need to make an appointment with WCC Electoral Services. Noted.

#### **649 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT**

##### 649.1 New Applications

Detail

Draft comments

692 Fardels, Duke St, Micheldever Change of material used for roof.

**No comment.**

693 Sweet Briar Cottage, E/Stratton Detached garden room.

**No comment.**

The comments on 692 to 693 were **agreed**.

##### 649.2 638.2 Affordable Housing & Exception Sites

Barron Close WCCllr Horrill noted that WCC are now looking for further small sites to develop for council housing. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council would support development on the remaining land at Barron Close as long as the houses built could not then be sold to residents but would remain as council owned properties.

649.3 638.3 Winchester Local Plan The final plan is awaited. (See also 646.3 above).

Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan The results of the Regulation 18 consultation are awaited.

649.4 638.4 Carousel Park A decision on the latest planning application is awaited.

649.5 638.5 Community Greening Campaign & Climate Emergency Cllr O'Keefe noted that 'Earth Hour' is on March 28<sup>th</sup> and that energy prices will rise due to the current situation in the Middle East.

Cllr O'Keefe has spoken with the WCC officer seeking to promote cycling schemes in parishes.

The issue of premises having extensive external lighting was discussed. WCCllr Godfrey noted that whilst external lighting does not normally require planning permission, bright lights can be considered an environmental protection issue.

#### **650 PARISH SERVICES**

650.1 639.1 Highways Active fly tipping on the road to West Stratton this week was reported to Police and they were responding.

650.2 639.2 Network Rail Inconsiderate parking by contractors has caused damage to the verges at Borough Arch.

650.3 639.3 SID & Community Funded Initiatives A productive meeting was held with Police in Micheldever Station and some enforcement action has been undertaken using a motorcycle. Police at the meeting noted that resources are allocated based on accident records and fixed cameras are too expensive. Some Micheldever Station residents are meeting to consider establishing a Speedwatch group.

#### **651 SPORTS & RECREATION**

651.1 640.1 Warren Field & Play Area The Warren Centre have quoted a 11.8% increase in grass cutting charges. It was **agreed** to ask them to reconsider the size of the increase as the contractor for the LRPF is only increasing charges by 3.5%.

Chairman's initials ..... Date .....

651.2 640.2 LRPF Pavilion & Play Area It was **agreed** to accept the quote for 2026 grass cutting at the LRPF from Grass & Grounds Ltd.

The ROW Volunteers have asked about moving the bins at the LRPF to the opposite end of the car park but this was declined as they would become harder to empty and risk additional damage being caused to the surface of the car park.

The Lengthsman will repair the footbridge (near Holly House) on his 20<sup>th</sup> March visit.

The Village Fete, as per an item in the Dever, is planned to be held on the LRPF but no consent has yet been sought. In addition, a display of cars is planned and the necessity for organisers to carefully risk

assess the access bridge and ensure that they had adequate event insurance was discussed. Councillor Bramley will contact the organisers and advise them of these points.

## 652 FINANCE

### 652.1 Accounts for payment were **agreed**.

		Total	VAT	Net
Toby Bunce Tree Services	Northbrook Hall Trees	1020.00	170.00	850.00
Jocelyn Jenkins	February expenses	85.57	0.00	85.57
Jocelyn Jenkins	February salary	996.02	0.00	996.02
NEST	February pension contributions	227.72	0.00	227.72

### **RFO's Report**

652.2 641.2 Balances & Bank reconciliation Balances report at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

Cash held: £69,946.38 Reserves: Earmarked: £46,559. General: £23,387.

652.3 641.3 Bank Accounts The transfer from RBS to Unity Trust Bank is ongoing

652.4 641.4 Risk Management No new issues were raised. It was **agreed** to accept the 2025/26 Risk Assessment and this was signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

Emergency Plan The plan is complete although further volunteers are still being sought.

652.5 New Data Protection Policy It was **agreed** to adopt the Data Protection Policy.

652.6 New ICO Publication Scheme It was **agreed** to adopt the updated Publication Scheme.

652.7 New 2025/26 Asset Register It was **agreed** to adopt the Asset Register as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

652.8 New SSE Arrears billing The Clerk noted that due to SSE invoicing errors the Parish Council have not been charged since November 2024. A backdated bill has now been issued, which is almost entirely standing charges, and amounts to over £1000. The invoice is being challenged and a compensation offer has been made by SSE but this has not yet been accepted. It was noted that standing charges are leading to costs of around £100 a month in order to have electricity at the pavilion and that alternative options need to be researched as a priority.

## **653 OTHER COMMITTEES**

653.1 642.1 Northbrook Hall The Frankie Foot extension is almost ready for hiring and use. The solar panels are now operational.

653.2 642.2 The Warren Centre Plans are progressing for a fete with a transport theme on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

653.3 642.3 East Stratton Village Hall No issues reported.

653.4 642.4 Allotments Two further plots have become available and new tenants will be sought.

653.5 642.5 Media and Broadband Updates are being made to the website to meet the audit requirements.

653.6 642.6 Monthly Dever item Promotion of Parish Assembly.

653.7 Other Council matters

653.7.1 Parish Assembly It was **agreed** to offer similar refreshments to last year. The Clerk will order sandwich platters and Cllr Greenwood will obtain the wine and soft drinks.

***The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm***

**Next meeting:** 7.30pm Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at East Stratton Village Hall, Church Bank Road, East Stratton.

**Parish Assembly:** 7.30pm Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 at East Stratton Village Hall, Church Bank Rd, E/Stratton.

Chairman's signature ..... Date .....