

MINUTES OF THE MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at East Stratton Village Hall, Church Bank Road, East Stratton.
at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th May 2026

Councillors present: Cllr William Helen, Cllr David Wandless, Cllr Nick Greenwood, Cllr Graham Foot, Cllr Andrew Adams, Cllr Lynn Drury, Cllr Peter O’Keefe (from 8.00pm).
In attendance: DCllr Stephen Godfrey.
Public: 1
Apologies: Cllr Olly Bramley, Cllr Suzanne Findley, Cllr Roger Townsend, DCllr Caroline Horrill.

665 CODE OF CONDUCT Cllr Helen – ESVH (NPI), Cllr O’Keefe – Northbrook Hall (NPI), Cllr Greenwood – ESVH (NPI), Cllr Adams – Warren Centre (NPI).

666 MINUTES of the meeting of 1st April 2026 and the Parish Assembly of 22nd April 2026 were **agreed** and signed by the Chairman.

667 MATTERS ARISING from the minutes

- 667.1 656.1 Village Clock The costs of further bat surveys were discussed and it was **agreed** to only automate the clock and to make no alterations to the clock tower.
- 667.2 656.2 Southbrook Development (Hobbs View) A skip and haras fencing has appeared in the Lord Rank car park without permission having been requested from the Parish Council. It is thought to be linked to the WCC retro-fit work taking place in Southbrook Cottages. DCllr Godfrey will investigate further.
- 667.3 656.3 Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation See 668.1 below.
- 667.4 656.4 Micheldever Water Treatment Plant Martin Miles has continued to undertake water testing. Cllr Drury will provide an item for the Dever this month to update residents.

668 CORRESPONDENCE

Hampshire Forest Partnership	Mini Forest Handbook available and potential sites can be proposed.	Noted.
Mayor’s Sunday Morning Service	24 th May 2026.	Cllr O’Keefe will attend.
WCC	Parish Liaison Meeting, 25 th June 2026.	The agenda will be circulated.

The meeting adjourned for reports and questions from the public

669 REPORTS

669.1 DCllr Stephen Godfrey noted that tomorrow is election day. These will be the last city and county elections before local government reorganisation. No decisions are being made in the pre-election period. Since March councils have been dealing with a number of questions and requests for information from Government. Eight to ten officers are working on the reorganisation. The grant of £540,000 made to Hampshire for re-organisation costs pays for roughly one member of staff per council and WCC are using £1.5 million of reserves to meet the cost of re-organisation. The staff hours spent on this will also limit resources available in other areas. In September an order will formally enforce the re-organisation and restrict spending by councils in other areas. DCllr Godfrey confirmed that he will contact Housing Services about the skip in the LRPF car park and advise Darren Lewis that the reed bed at the water treatment plant is not growing.

670 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

670.1 A resident thanked the Parish Council for encouraging residents to respond to the Basingstoke and Deane application for the ‘Popham Logistics Park’. There are currently over 110 objections on the Basingstoke and Deane website.

The meeting resumed

Chairman’s initials Date

671 PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

671.1 <u>New Applications</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Draft comments</u>
697 Land near Coxford Farm, Overton Road, M.Station	Change of use from agricultural to commercial B8 (retrospective).	Neutral – request condition re traffic routes.

- 698 Orchard Cottage, 121 Duke St, Micheldever First floor side extension and wrap around single storey extension. **Neutral** request condition that garage remains ancillary to main house.
Replace garage with larger 3 bay garage in alternative position.
- 699 Norsebury House, Hunton Lane, Stoke Charity. Replace pool house roof. Demolish car port and replace with new garage. **No comment.**

The comments on 697 to 699 were **agreed**.

671.2 660.2 Affordable Housing & Exception Sites

Barron Close No further update has been received in respect of the land ownership. DCllr Godfrey noted that there is no funding at present to add further sites to WCC's list for development.

671.3 660.3 Local Plans, New Towns & Popham It was noted that the comments date for the Popham Infrastructure Park application has been extended to 28th May 2026. Popham are hosting a meeting on 13th May, from 6.30pm at Popham Court. Councillors Helen, Wandless and Greenwood will attend, together with DCllr Godfrey.

671.4 660.4 Carousel Park The Parish Council have submitted a response in respect of the current planning Application. In response to a question, DCllr Godfrey noted that if the current planning application is refused an appeal is likely to follow and the Planning Inspector would then determine what is acceptable.

671.5 660.5 Climate Change & Environment No report.

672 PARISH SERVICES

672.1 661.1 Highways It was noted that further speed enforcement, by the Police, is being carried out on Overton Road this evening.

672.2 661.2 Network Rail No new issues have been reported this month.

672.3 661.3 SID & Community Funded Initiatives See 672.1 above.

673 SPORTS & RECREATION

673.1 662.1 Warren Field & Play Area Reports have been received of rabbit holes on Warren Field. The Clerk will liaise with Councillor Townsend to see if any action can be taken.

673.2 662.2 LRPF Pavilion & Play Area The possibility of having CCTV at the pavilion was discussed and will be added as an agenda item for the June meeting.

674 FINANCE

674.1 Accounts for payment were **agreed**.

		Total	VAT	Net
HALC	Affiliation fees & NALC levy 26/27	528.00	0.00	528.00
Lightatouch	Internal audit fee	450.00	0.00	450.00
WCC	Dog bins (Jan-March'26)	130.00	0.00	130.00
Nick Greenwood	Parish assembly wine	29.75	0.00	29.75
Jocelyn Jenkins	April expenses	244.82	10.63	234.19
Jocelyn Jenkins	April salary	996.02	0.00	996.02
NEST	April pension contributions	227.72	0.00	227.72

RFO's Report

674.2 663.2 Balances & Bank reconciliation Balances report at 31st March 2026.

Cash held: £64,732.56 Reserves: Earmarked: £46,567. General: £18,166.

674.3 663.3 Bank Accounts The transfer from RBS to Unity Trust Bank is ongoing

674.4 663.4 Risk No new areas of risk were identified.

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

Chairman's initials Date

674.5 663.8 SSE Arrears billing Revised invoices have still not been received from SSE and a further email has been sent to the Complaints Department.

674.6 New Annual Return 2025/26 - Section 1 Annual Governance Statement It was **agreed** to accept the Annual Governance Statement and this was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

674.7 New Annual Return 2025/25 – Section 2 Accounting Statements It was **agreed** to accept the Accounting Statements and these were signed by the Chairman.

674.8 New Internal audit 2025/26 The Internal Auditor's letter, which was circulated prior to the meeting, was considered and it was **agreed** to accept the points made. It was noted that a data audit is required in

2026/27 and that data compliance training is recommended for staff and councillors.

674.9 New Exercise of Public Rights 2025/26 The dates for the Exercise of Public Rights of 3rd June to 14th July 2026 were **agreed**.

675 OTHER COMMITTEES

675.1 664.1 Northbrook Hall The hall is being used as a polling station tomorrow. The new windows have been ordered.

675.2 664.2 The Warren Centre Options for heating are being considered. A fete/festival of transport is being held on Saturday 4th July.

675.3 664.3 East Stratton Village Hall No report.

675.4 664.4 Allotments Three vacant plots are being allocated.

675.5 664.5 Media and Broadband No report.

675.6 664.6 Monthly Dever item Update on the parish election.

675.7 Other Council matters None.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35 pm

Annual Meeting (AGM): 7.30pm Monday 11th May 2026 at East Stratton Village Hall, Church Bank Road, East Stratton.

Next ordinary meeting: 7.30pm Wednesday 3rd June 2026 at Northbrook Hall, Duke Street, Micheldever.

Chairman's signature Date