

ITCHEN STOKE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Full Meeting of the Council held on
Wednesday 21st February 2024
At The Lodge, Hampage Farm, Ovington, SO24 0HY
at 7.30pm**

These minutes are draft until resolved as accurate at, usually, the following Council meeting

Council Members Present:

Cllr David Cook Chairman Cllr John Harvey Vice-Chairman Cllr Barry Norgate	Cllr Philip Cartwright Cllr James Collins Cllr Bruce	
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Also in Attendance: Cllrs Porter and Gordon-Smith

23.60	Apologies – Cllrs Isaac and Power	
23.61	Declaration of Interests None	
23.62	Adjournment for Public Participation – no members of the public present	
23.63	Matters Arising from the Minutes if not addressed in this Agenda – Min 23.57 Following our initial meeting on 5 th December 2023, Cllr Cook met Sarah Pocock (HCC Forest Partnership), Lord Ashburton (landowner) and Mark Lister (Lord Ashburton’s Estate Manager) to walk the proposed sites for replacing dead ash trees and planting a new hedgerow. It was decided to plant the hedgerow in March 2024 at the approved site. The mature dying/dead ash trees would be felled and replacement trees, to include English oak, elm and alder would likely be planted in autumn 2024.	
23.64	To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th December 2023 PROPOSED: Proposed by Cllr Cartwright and seconded by Cllr Norgate RESOLVED: All Members present agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the above meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman	
23.65	Councillor Updates (a) Cllr Norgate – Bus Shelters/Notice Boards Refurbishment Cllr Norgate reported that refurbishment of the bus shelter had been completed. (b) Cllr Harvey has assumed responsibility for notice board refurbishment. Work will commence later in the year when ambient temperature is more conducive (temperature consistently greater than 10 degrees C)	

23.66	Planning (to ratify the decisions of the Council) None to report	
23.67	Finance (a) To Approve Payments made/to be made since the last meeting (Appendix A) (b) To Approve and sign the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st January 2024 (Appendix B) PROPOSED: Cllr Cartwright and seconded by Cllr Cook. All agreed.	
23.68	Assets Checks update from councillors (standing item) It was confirmed by Cllr Cook that during the week prior to the meeting, the benches, defibrillator and the traffic speed sign with the associated laptop had been checked and were working. The bus shelter has been refurbished as reported. The marquee has not been used.	
23.69	To note the resignation of the Clerk in December and discuss recruitment All councillors noted with deep regret the resignation of the Parish Clerk & RFO Sara Sawyer and agreed she had provided outstanding service on behalf of the Parish and its Offices. Everyone wished her well for the future. Chairman Cook advised councillors that he had asked Sara if she would be prepared to support the Council remotely until the year end had been closed in the event a replacement could not be found. Sara agreed to do so. The Chairman further reported conversation with a current serving Clerk/RFO in the hope that their portfolio of councils could also include Itchen Stoke & Ovington. Unfortunately this proved to be a non-starter. The Chairman also reported his contact with HALC and the hope that a list of Locum Clerks would be forthcoming. At the time of the meeting no response had been received. An advertisement for a Clerk/RFO remains with HALC until 31 st March 2024. The Chair has also placed an advertisement in The Itchen List. During the discussion Cllr Porter offered to speak to three serving parish clerks who might feel they could fit the Council into their portfolio. The three were also known to Cllr Gordon-Smith.	
23.70	Correspondence (previously circulated) (a) Letter of thanks from Citizens Advice for grant (b) SDNPA – Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan – Partial Update – Regulation 19 (c) HCC – Future Services Consultation (d) Hampshire Police – introduction of new Dedicated Neighbourhood Officer Cllrs noted all correspondences before them. Re item (d) Cllr Cook agreed to contact the new officer.	Cllr Cook
23.71	Speedwatch Update – Cllr Cook Nothing to report. Cllr Cook advised that there was clearly a recent increase in observed speeding and that new energy and volunteers were needed to re-engage the Community Speedwatch Team.	Cllr Cook
23.72	County, Ward and District Councillors Reports (Previously Circulated) Reports circulated and taken as read. In response to questions, Cllr Porter advised the Council and individual councillors forward objection to HCC in	

	respect of the plan to close Alresford Waste Recycling Centre. Cllr Cook will forward the Council objection to HCC: Future Services. The email address is hants.gov.uk@futureservices .	Cllr Cook
23.73	<p>Members Questions – Cllr Harvey reported that the step down from the bridge at Water Lane, Itchen Stoke to the river path was now dangerous and needed urgent attention. Cllrs Harvey and Cook also felt that the path between the two bridges over the River Itchen to the west of Itchen Stoke and on to the bridge path leading to Avington Lane, was always a deep quagmire and needed some permanent engineering/structural solution. Cllr Porter to forward to Chairman Cook the contact details of HCC’s Countryside Services head.</p> <p>Boomtown: Cllr Bruce asked if Council would consider his attendance during discussion on matters Boomtown. Previously Cllr Bruce has not attended due to conflict of interest issues. However he felt he could bring significant added value to the subject. All the councillors agreed Cllr Bruce could attend during Boomtown-related discussions with the Chairman exercising the right of exclusion in part should the need arise.</p> <p>D-Day beacon: Cllr Bruce advised a beacon would be lit on Cheesefoot Head at 9.30 pm on 4th June 2024. Additionally he forwarded details on a special D-Day Flag which the Council could choose to purchase and raise if wished.</p>	Cllr Porter Cllr Cook
23.74	Date of Next Meeting – TBA between 8 th May, 15 th May or 29 th May subject to availability of the Lodge [Post-meeting note: arranged for 15 th May]	Clerk
23.75	Close of Meeting – There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.	

Confirmed as a true record:

Signed by David Cook (Chairman).....

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