

WEST HANNEY REGULAR PARISH MEETING
Held on Tuesday 5th September 2023
at The Olde Hanney Room HWMH

PRESENT: Cllrs D Corps (Chairman), G Garner, P Packham, V Ruston
and B Martin (Parish Clerk)

Attendees: J Stagg, A Wilkinson, B Haines, T Brettell & D Green (EHPC)

39/23 - Apologies – A Farrag

40/23 - Declarations of Interest – Cllr P Packham – Allotment Holder

41/23 - Public Participation

B Haines asked if anything could be done to restrict car parking on Church Street which has made exiting and entering her property quite hazardous. The Chairman stated there were no parking restrictions in Church Street and none were planned. If inconsiderate parking caused an obstruction perhaps a Polite Notice on the car's windscreen could be tried.

In response to a question about parking on West Hanney Green, the Chairman stated that the Parish Clerk should be contacted in advance to seek permission to use the Green for parking. Vehicles parked on the Village Green recently were thought to be people attending a funeral at St James, permission had not been sought.

A Wilkinson asked about the emptying of the dog waste bin on Main Street and an email had also been received from M Heyes. The Chairman thought because the bin was partially concealed by vegetation and this may have contributed to it being overlooked by the VWHDC. The Chairman asked if A Wilkinson was able to trim back the vegetation, and the council would investigate the regular emptying of this bin.

Mr Wilkinson also asked about the state of the churchyard, he was concerned that the grass was not being cut on a regular basis making the churchyard look unkempt and the spoil heap at the eastern end of the churchyard had been getting bigger. He asked if it was possible for the Parish Council to take over the maintenance of the churchyard from St James. The Chairman explained St James PCC were responsible for the churchyard and both Parish Councils contributed towards the upkeep of the churchyard to the front of St James. The Chairman suggested A Wilkinson contact the Church Wardens about his concerns.

42/23 - Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the Last Meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

43/23 – Matters Arising from Minutes of Last Meeting

There were no matters arising.

44/23 – Chairman's Announcements

Cllr Packham, P Sayers and the Chairman met with Jonny Ackroyd of Beaumont Rivers on the 12th July to look at possible sites to restore ponds and construct new ponds. This will be discussed under item 15 of the agenda.

The Chairman said he was pleased to announce that Cllr Farrag has agreed to co-ordinate the West Hanney Community Speedwatch Group to help monitor and support the new 20mph speed limit, this will be considered under item 9 on the agenda.

A List of Councillors' areas of interest has been confirmed and published in the Hanney News as follows: -

Planning applications & new developments	Peter Packham/Ahmed Farrag
Planning enforcement	Peter Packham/Ahmed Farrag
Village environment, landscape & biodiversity	Peter Packham
Playing Fields and Village Green	Vicki Ruston
Roads, verges, drainage ditches & footpath	Vicki Ruston
Community woodland, meadow & orchard	David Corps
Tree maintenance	David Corps
West Hanney allotment gardens	David Corps
Community defibrillator guardian	David Corps
SID's maintenance & analysis of data	Graham Garner
Website maintenance & upgrades	Graham Garner/Ahmed Farrag
Community Speedwatch co-ordinator	Ahmed Farrag

Two vacant allotment plots have been let, which leaves a single very large or 3 smaller plots vacant. The Chairman suggested we could consider installing a number of raised beds on this plot for rent.

The Chairman reported on Fix My Street on 28th July 2023 the overgrown vegetation that is obstructing the footpath on Church Street at the junction with Monks Close. This report was then passed to the relevant department, but no other action has yet been taken.

The Chairman replaced the pads on the community defibrillator opposite the Plough, which were about to expire. The replacement pads expire in January 2026.

The high security padlock on the entry gate to the playing field by the tennis clubhouse has been replaced with a high security combination lock by EHPC.

45/23 – Financial Report

The Clerk presented the Income and Expenditure account for the period 4th July 2023 to 4th September 2023. This was approved by the council.

Cllr Garner gave the clerk the name of the person in charge of S106 funding, David Cookson.

It was resolved to move £20k from the current account to the savings account, this includes S106 and CIL contributions already received.

46/23 - Planning Applications

P21/V1620/FUL – Denes Farm – Refurbish Farmhouse, convert and extend existing barn as a single dwelling and erect 7 new dwellings – Cllr Packham reported bat boxes and bird boxes have now been installed. The new pond is collecting water, but Cllr Packham unsure where it drains to. There is an important ditch to the east of the development which flows towards Main Street that needs to be kept clear of obstructions. Road repairs to Church Street have been delayed

P23/V0706/FUL – Deans Farm – Demolition of existing barn. Erection of new 3-bedroom dwelling and associated works in place of demolished barn.

Permission Granted 10/08/2022

P22/V2599/SCR – EIA Screening Opinion for a proposed Solar Photovoltaic Farm at Manor Farm, east of Denchworth, in the Parish of West Hanney

Environmental Impact Assessment required on 8th December 2022

P23/V0126/FUL – Ploughley Farm – Residential occupation of a static caravan
Application under consideration

P23/V1843/LB – Rose Cottage - Replacement of 12 Windows
No objection

P23/V1994/HH – Grange Farm North Denchworth
No objection

Planning Enforcement Actions

P21/V1095/FUL – Land off School Road – Erection of 15 dwellings and associated works
Cllr Packham reported that the landscaping and boundary treatments are still to be completed as specified in the Conditions in the Planning Permission. This has now been escalated to enforcement action with VWHDC

P20/V0057/FUL – Tractor and implement shed with apron
Planning Officer confirmed this Planning Permission expired on 3rd March 2023. The untidy condition of this land and its apparent non-agricultural use is under investigation.

47/23 – 20mph speed limit throughout West Hanney

Cllr Garner reported that after a software update from Elan City he was able to download the data from our 3 SID's but the text is now in French. This data indicates following the introduction of the 20mph speed limit there has been a very marginal decrease in the average speed recorded. Further analysis of the data may reveal if excessively high speeds have been reduced. Cllr Ruston suggested that similar periods of time should be used when comparing the data.

A joint East Hanney & West Hanney Community Speedwatch Group co-ordinated by Cllr Green EHPC and Cllr Farrag WHPC has been formed. Community Speedwatch signs are required on the village gates. The meeting approved the purchase of the signs and their installation.

The new Speedwatch group will be able to apply for Police & Crime Commissioner funded starter kit which include a handheld speed device.

48/23 - Parking restrictions along School Road

The new car park extension at HWMH has been completed with an additional 32 parking places. Yellow lines are due to be painted along School Road, hopefully by the end of September. Parking enforcement will be by a private contractor.

49/23 - Nigel Eady Community Woodland, Church Farm Meadow, and the New Orchard

Woodland working parties will be held on the 4th Saturday of each month starting in September. However, the working party on the 30th September coincides with the Michaelmas Fayre and will be held instead on Saturday 7th October. The community meadow is due to be cut and the hay baled on Wednesday 6th September. Thank you to Alan Cottrell for doing this for us. There are no plans to plant fruit trees this autumn in the New Orchard.

50/23 – Maintenance of Verges, Greens, Hedges, Ditches and Footpaths in West Hanney

Some tree work is required. Three mature ash trees at Headings Pond are showing signs of ash die back and may need to be felled, although the trunks could be left standing as potential habitats for beetles, birds and bats. The willow trees outside Jubilee Cottage may require pollarding. There is some dead wood on 2 pseudo acacias on our land near the village hall.

The Chairman will seek some quotes for the tree work required.

A big thank you to the Hanney Flood Group volunteers for clearing out the main drainage ditch in Winter Lane, as well as trimming back the overhanging vegetation and grassy banks. The HFG

meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

A report was received from OCC Countryside Access stating that Footpath No 4 through our community woodland was obstructed. This proved to be incorrect. Cllr Corps believes that the complaint may have been referring to the access along the West Hanney BOAT number 2 and the Restricted Byway to the east of the community woodland. Cllr Corps is going to arrange to meet with Arthur McEwan-James, Countryside Access Officer, towards the end of September to review the situation. Meanwhile he suggests that we contact Beaumont Developments to request that they cut back the overgrown hedge along their boundary with the BOAT.

51/23 – Ownership and Maintenance of the Unrecorded Roads crossing West Hanney Green

These roads were used for contractor parking when Main Street and Winter Lane were resurfaced, but no further work was done on these roads. Some resurfacing work has been completed in Church Street, with some still to be done outside Deans Farm development. Temporary Road Closure notice is in place for Michaelmas Fayre in September.

52/23 – Public Art in Development

Cllr Packham reported that some of the residents of Meadow Way had a meeting with the VWHDC Arts Officer, who gave them some indication as to what they could possibly do in the way of a public art installation on their development. The Arts Officer also met with Lagan Homes.

53/23 - Proposal for Feasibility study into Restoring Ponds in West Hanney

Cllr Packham, P Sayers and the Chairman met with Jonny Ackroyd of Beaumont Rivers on the 12th July to look at possible sites to restore ponds at North Green and Headings Pond and create a new pond and wetland area in the Nigel Eady Community Woodland. Following this visit WHPC received a proposal for a feasibility study by Beaumont Rivers for West Hanney Village Pond Restoration that had been circulated to councillors. Councillors had several questions about the proposal and it was resolved to hold an Extraordinary Meeting to consider the proposal for a feasibility study in greater detail.

54/23 – Michaelmas Fayre

The council resolved a grant of £250 to help with the costs of the Michaelmas Fayre 2023.

55/23 - Projects to Enhance the Community and Environment of West Hanney

Replacement of the 'Carol Singers' bench overlooking the Buttercross. It was suggested this could be in conjunction with any public art that is commissioned for Meadow Way. Cllr Packham will mention this to the Arts Officer.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Olde Hanney Room
HWMH

Signed  Chairman

Date 03/10/23