



Full Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held in the Burge Room of Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall on

Thursday 24th April 2025 at 7.00pm.

Presentation before the meeting:

Prior to the start of the formal meeting Cllr John Beresford gave a detailed presentation on the background and up to date progress on the project to develop the playing fields at Couch Green. This has always been a recreational facility for the community and the proposed development will be returning the site to football pitches alongside creating “an accessible to all pathway” from the car park to The Watercress Way and increasing the size of the car park. Questions and Answers with members of the public followed. Topics included environmental concerns, additional car park spaces and inclusion of additional recreational activities. Cllr Beresford detailed the next stages, which involve planning application, grant funding and further consultation with Valley residents as well as local football clubs.

Members Attending:

Cllr Appleby (Chairman), Cllr Andrews, Cllr Jeffes, Cllr Moffatt, Cllr Wolfe, Cllr Langford, Cllr Johnston, Cllr Beresford.

In Attendance:

Twelve residents of the Parish,
Hampshire County Council (HCC) Cllr Porter, Winchester City Council (WCC) Cllr Power, Victoria Richardson (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer).

The meeting was opened at 7.52 p.m.

1. Apologies Received:

Itchen Valley Parish Council (IVPC) Cllr Swinstead, WCC Cllrs Pinniger and Gordon-Smith.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 2024

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 25^h April 2024 were approved by all members that were present at that meeting as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Wolfe, seconded by Cllr Johnston. The Chairman signed the minutes.

3. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman’s Report was distributed. The report was noted and discussed.

Topics raised and discussed included:

- a) The Old School Field Easton has been confirmed by lawyers that IVPC own the land



and not The Macpherson- Easton School Field Trust. IVPC will be funding a topographical survey on the piece of land known as the “Ransom Strip” to enable the two pieces of land to be integrated. IVPC have supported The Macpherson-Easton School Field Trust in declining an offer from a Valley resident to purchase the strip of land.

- b) Additional multipurpose green bins and additional Speed Indication Device placements are still being pursued by IVPC. A resident asked about frequency of the emptying of existing multipurpose green bins. Cllr Power confirmed that emptying of these bins is operated by Idverde on specific vans and not at the same timetable as the residential bin waste services. The Chairman encouraged residents to report their mis-use.
- c) The meeting thanked Cllr Jeffes for his work with the ride on mower keeping more footpaths in better condition and open than previous years.

4. Financial Report

The unaudited financial accounts were distributed.

Cllr Andrews thanked everyone for attending and thanked the new Clerk for getting up to speed on accounts. Cllr Andrews noted income and expenditure for 2024/25 and stated that IVPC is in good financial health.

A resident raised questions regarding increased lengthsman payments. The Chairman explained that lengthsman scheme is paid for by HCC and since its inception IVPC had managed the scheme on behalf of 12 other parish councils. The income and expenditure was included in our own finances. When the previous Clerk left IVPC in January 2025 it was agreed by IVPC that the management of the scheme and reserve funds be transferred to Old Alresford Parish Council who had agreed to take on this role. The reserve was needed as funding of the lengthsman scheme operated on the calendar year whereas parish councils operated on a similar basis to the financial year.

A resident asked about Boomtown income and it was noted that IVPC will shortly be inviting organisations to apply for funding.

5. City & County Councillor Reports

Cllr Porter outlined ongoing discussions with National Highways regarding Cart and Horses Junction which they have confirmed is not part of the M3/J9 improvement scheme. HCC have produced a letter for Danny Chambers MP to present to the government to get confirmation of who is to pay for the Cart and Horses Junction improvement. Cllr Porter discussed potholes and correct way to apply for claim. She also noted continuing discussions on bridge repairs at Avington, discussions with Southern Water regarding Avington plan and requests for improved bus services to the Valley.



Cllr Power thanked the Parish Councillors for their services and being an active council. Cllr Power outlined that there is still £500,000 of available grant funding from WCC for rural businesses to apply for with regard to environmental projects. Application deadlines are 27th May and 11th June 2025.

She also told the meeting that under Local Government Reorganisation plans WCC will not exist after 2028 but are still continuing with capital projects such as building council houses and reducing their carbon footprint.

A resident asked about changing responsibilities for Parish Councils under Reorganisation of Local Government. Cllr Power explained that thirteen parishes will be represented by two unitary councillors so there will be a potential gap in communication lines and that some parishes are in discussion with each other to look for ways forward.

The Chairman confirmed that he has contacted some Abbots Worthy residents and Itchen Stoke & Ovington Parish Council to seek their views.

6. Questions & Discussions

A resident commented that he was unable to access pages on website and it was explained that our new website had to be used.
(<https://itchenvalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk>)

A resident of Itchen Abbas thanked the Parish Council for their hard work especially noting footpaths. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Jeffes and former Cllr Denise Rosewell for their work on maintaining and improving Rights of Way in the Parish.

The same resident also expressed thanks for the return of repaired noticeboard to Itchen Abbas and to Cllr Langford and Nic Roach for their prompt response to his request to repair a broken bench in Avington.

The Chairman noted that the Parish Council still have one unfilled post which would ideally be filled by a resident of Easton to maintain a balance of representation across the Valley. He also thanked the public for coming to the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.