CHURCH CROOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Full Council Meeting

Init: ________

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Church Crookham Parish Council.
Date and Time: Monday 22 January 2024 from 7.45pm
Place: Acorn Hall, Church Crookham Community Centre

Present:
Councillors: Gareth Saunders (GS); Debbie Moss (DM), Alan Jones (AJ), Nick Baskett (NB), Peter Collings (PC), John Ford (JF).

Also: Claire Inglis (Clerk)
HDC Cllr Chris Axam
HCC Cllr Stephen Parker
There were 0 member(s) of the public present.
Meeting commenced at 8.02pm

24/001	**Apologies for absence** Apologies were received from Cllrs Bulgin, Burford, Whibley and Thomas.
24/002	**To approve minutes of previous meetings** To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 27th November 2023 To receive the minutes and accept recommendations of the following committee meetings and to return to committees any issues for reconsideration: Planning Committee Meetings - 11th December 2023 and 8th January 2024 Finance & Policy Committee 8th January 2024 **It was resolved to approve minutes of Full Council of 27th November, Planning Committee meetings of 11th December and 8th January and Finance & Policy Committee of 8th January** **Proposed GS, Seconded DM, all in favour.**
24/003	**Dispensations** To receive any written requests for disclosable pecuniary interest dispensations from members None received.
24/004	**Declaration of interest** relating to any item on the agenda. None received.
24/005	**Chairs announcements** The Chair expressed his thanks to the staff for all the work involved in preparing the grounds maintenance tender documentation. Thanks were also extended to County Councillor Parker following the QEB Steering committee meeting held 22nd January which concluded that a crossing on Sandy Lane will be included as a project for the

	QEB monies and Chair confirmed he would write to County Executive Officer to request assistance to progress the project.
24/006	**Public session** This is an opportunity for members of the public to bring matters relating to items on the agenda to the attention of the committee. Cllr Parker January report – See Addendum 1 below
24/007	**External Audit 2022/ 2023 Conclusion report** To receive and approve the conclusion of external audit report 2022/2023 The Notice of Conclusion report was received from the External Auditor on 21st September. The notice of conclusion was published via the website from that date. The external auditor found no areas of concern to report, only raising a comment about the internal audit review to be discussed with IAC Ltd. "Except for the matters reported below on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met." **It was resolved to approve the Conclusion of External Audit Report 2022/2023** **Proposed GS, seconded DM, all in favour.**
24/008	**Internal Interim Audit 2023/2024 report** To receive and approve interim internal audit report 2023/2024 The interim audit 2023/24 took place on 10th January undertaken by Kevin Rose of IAC Ltd. The internal audit report raised the following observations to which the proposed responses have been provided: 1) Has the Council complied with the requirements of the Public Contract Regulations? Yes It was noted that the Council has procured work through the Contracts Finder website but has not posted the details of the awarded contracts on the portal as required. The Council to ensure that details of awarded contracts are posted on the Contracts Finder web portal. Medium priority **Response: Council will ensure that awarded contracts are posted on Contract finder in future.** 2) The Council has reviewed any points raised by the External Auditor as required. No As at the date of the Interim Audit the Council had not formally reviewed the report of the External Auditor which was dated 19th September 2023. It is understood that this will be on the Agenda of the January 2024 Full Council meeting. Council to note. Medium priority **Response: To be reviewed Full Council Jan 2024 meeting**

	3) When preparing the budget, and subsequent precept demand, did the Council specifically consider the level of its General Reserve and whether the level of the General Reserve was adequate and not excessive? No The Council did not formally consider the level of its General Reserve when setting the budget and precept for the year. When setting the budget the Council should specifically consider the level of its General Reserve. The Council should set the level of its General Reserve in line with the guidance set out in the Practitioner's Guide paragraphs 5.32 - 5.36 (in particular paragraph 5.34). High priority **Response: CCPC considered the level of general reserves at its Finance & Policy meeting held January 8th as part of the budget setting process, but will explicitly confirm its consideration at Full Council January 2024, to state that general reserves remain in line with the council's calculation of appropriate general reserves in its Treasury & Investment Policy, and in future to be reviewed at F&Ps budget setting meeting in October.** 4) Is income due on investments subject to regular check and verification? (Is investment performance regularly reported to Council?) Yes It was noted that the Council reviews investment performance quarterly. The CCLA investment is currently valued at significantly less than the original investment cost. The current practice at the Council is for income from the CCLA Property fund to be credited as income to the General Reserve. The annual value of the CCLA income is very significant compared to the value of the Precept raised (current year precept is £234,769) . Similarly the deficit on the CCL fund (£129,416 as at 31st December 2023) is very significant compared to the value of the precept. It is not clear that the Council has formally considered the need for the Council to set aside funds to meet any potential deficit that may arise from the decline in capital value of the CCLA investment. The Council should consider how it intends to mitigate the financial impact of any potential capital loss on the value of the CCLA investment. The Council may wish to consider whether it is prudent to set aside, in an Earmarked Reserve, an element of the income earned on the CCLA investment, to compensate or mitigate the impact of the decline in capital value of the fund. High priority **Response: As per F&P recommendation to Full Council Jan 2024 which states "from 24/25 any further shortfall of the capital sum may be mitigated by existing EMR S106 Int Received plus further additions."** 5) Has the Investment Strategy been subject to annual review? Yes The Council has quite complex long term financing commitments in place in respect of S106 agreements. These funds are held in a mix of current (< 1 year maturity), long terms (> 1year) cash and bank, and in the CCLA LAPF. It is not clear that the Council has a formal strategy in place to set out how the future S106 expenditure funding and the cash and investments holdings relate to each other. When reviewing its investment strategy the Council should consider setting out how it intends to match the planned funding of S106 expenditure with the investment funds held in the Flagstone portal and CCLA LAPF. High priority **Response: Whilst CCPC is confident that it has planned for the S106 commitments this has been set out clearly in the Finance & policy minutes of the 8th January and the F&P recommendation to Full Council Jan 2024 confirms how these commitments will be met over the coming years.**

	6) There a bank reconciliation for each account (Interim) Yes It was noted that a small balance held on the HSBC account with Flagstone is not currently recorded as a cash book balance. The Council to review of it records the cash balance held in the Flagstone HSBC account. Medium priority **Response: Cash book added to accounts from Jan 2024** **Subsequent to the audit Flagstone confirmed that it will no longer be charging annual management fees so the balance referred to under 6 will no longer be an issue and will be recorded as part of the investment profile. Therefore the cashbook will be closed.** 7) The Council has published the unaudited Statement of Accounts (Section 2 of the Annual Return) in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 15 (2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations Yes The Council has published the AGAR documents, as required, but has redacted the signatures on these documents. The Council to note that the signed AGAR forms are a legal requirement and must be published unredacted - this is an issue commonly raised by the External Auditor. (If concerned about publication of signatures, signatories should amend the signature used on the forms.) High priority **Response: Amended signatures to be used going forward.** **It was resolved to approve the internal audit report and the above responses to be returned to the auditor.** **Proposed GS, seconded DM, all in favour.**
24/009	**Internal Audit** To review the effectiveness of internal audit and agree any changes Town and Parish Councils in England, and Community Councils in Wales, are required to maintain an Internal Audit. This requirement is set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which states; "A relevant authority must undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes" In England further Guidance on Internal Audit is contained within Part 4 of The Practitioners Guide issued by JPAG. - Scope of internal audit – covers all financial records, parish council and committee minutes, policy documents. The audits are carried out using a standard Internal Audit checklist, which has been compiled with reference to the requirements of the Annual Internal Audit Report, the Practitioners Guide, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations. The checklist is subject to regular review to reflect any changes in requirements and consists of around 180 individuals checks, some of which will not be applicable in every circumstance. A response is made to every item on the checklist. If exceptions are identified, then these would be subject to more detailed review and may give rise to an Audit Observation and Recommendation. A summary of the Audit Observations is provided to the Council for the Clerks review and agreement. Once agreed, the Observations, Internal Audit Summary and cover letter are submitted for subsequent review by Council. - Independence of internal auditor – Totally independent no links to the Parish Council other than for internal audit. - Competence of internal auditor - Kevin Rose and his team at IAC Audit are well qualified. - Relationships – not related to any member of the Parish Council. - Audit planning and reporting – audit is carried out following advice originally set out by the audit commission. IAC have been appointed as internal auditors and will be carrying out an interim audit on

	10th January 2024. **F&P committee recommendation was made at its meeting held 8th January prior to the internal audit held 10th January at which time it agreed that due to the current auditor having audited for a number of years, 8+, that a change should be implemented as follows:** **It was resolved to recommend that a new internal auditor should be appointed for 2024/2025 and that the council should adopt a policy of appointing a new internal auditor at least every 3 years.** **Proposed GS, Seconded PC, all in favour.**
24/010	**Actual vs Budget April to December 2023** To review the updated actual vs. budget figures for April to December 2023 The Actual vs budget figures and likely year end outturn were reviewed: **REVENUE BUDGET** Currently forecasting a surplus of income over expenditure of £14k as at the year-end **Revenue income:** Football income forecast to exceed budget by £12k due to increased bookings on the five-a-side especially during previously un-booked timeslots and addition of netball. Tennis income also exceeding budget. Interest received and CCLA dividend forecast to exceed budget due to increased interest rates. Sundry income (not included in budget) £4,390 grant from Hart DC for works carried out at Azalea Park in 22/23 plus income from HMRC £3,360 due to the change in the treatment of VAT on sports lettings. **Revenue expenditure:** Overall expenditure is currently forecast to exceed budget by £6.5k. Projects: Project expenditure whilst unbudgeted for, has been funded from EMRs. **S106 Expenditure** £500,000 invested on Flagstone platform is shown as expenditure as now shown on asset register as investment due to its longer term investment. Forecast to spend over £122k budget but may not be realised as GM and General Maintenance not likely to be fully spent, Bridge replacement came under budget and will offset overspend on Tree management in year.
24/011	**Ear Marked Reserves** To consider and approve recommendation of Finance & Policy Committee meeting held 8th January for year-end EMR movements. Finance & Policy committee met and reviewed the Ear Marked reserves held as at the end of December. **It was resolved to approve the recommendation of the Finance & Policy Committee held 8th January to carry out the following year end actions:** **Transfer the balances from the following EMRS to EMR Open Spaces Projects:** **Athletics Track Improvements £1,315** **Grounds Maintenance £2,965 (if not required for new GM contract in 24/25)** **Add any unspent funds from Ground Maintenance and Opens spaces budgets to this EMR and use this EMR for any Open Space projects such as the pitch renovations and the drainage issue at Peter Driver**

	Sports Ground. **Close the Sensory Garden EMR** **Close Azalea Park CCTV project EMR.** **Close Parish Signage & Gateways EMR.** **Surplus of income over expenditure to go to Lynwood Path EMR to a maximum transfer of £10k (Total EMR would be £12.5k)** **Any remaining surplus to add to Open Spaces EMR.** **Proposed GS, seconded AJ, all in favour.**
24/012	**Debtors Report** To receive and review Debtors report at 31st December 2023 As at 31st December outstanding debt was a net figure of £219.22 (£1,803) Credit to football clubs re VAT repaid by HMRC £2022.22 Other debt Other debt by customer type and age: Comm centre £1,754.89 of which £1,529.24 Dec £53.55 Nov £76.50 (Older than Oct Older now paid) Other football £180 Dec Future party events £38.25 Concession £24.48 Nov (On holiday expect payment upon return) Allotment £24.60 older than Oct
24/013	**Direct Debits & Standing Orders** To review and approve direct debits, standing orders, BACs and CHAPS payment **It was resolved to approve the below summarised list of current direct debits in place (variable and fixed amounts per month):** **No standing orders** **Current direct debits (excluding VAT):**

Castle Water	**Water usage at community centre**	**Monthly**	**variable**
Enreach	**Community centre telephone service charge**	**Monthly**	**£36**
Go-Cardless	**Commission on payments taken for annual membership of use of tennis courts and**	**Ad-hoc**	**variable**
Grundon	**Waste collection from community centre and removal of waste collected from all open space sites**	**Monthly**	**variable approx. £350 - £400**
Information Commissioners Office	**Under the Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2018, individuals and organisations that process personal data need to pay a data protection fee to the Information**	**Annual**	**£35**

	Commissioner's Office (ICO), unless they are exempt.		
Lloyds	**Credit card Balance of credit card+ £3 fee**	**Monthly**	**variable**
PEAC	**Community centre telephone system rental**	**Monthly**	**£59**
Square	**Commission on use of on-line payments system**	**Ad-hoc**	**variable**
Stripe	**Commission on payments taken for use of tennis courts**	**Monthly**	**variable**
Tesco Mobile	**Mobile data for grounds maintenance team handset**	**Monthly**	**£11**
Total Gas	**Gas usage at Peter Driver**	**Monthly**	**variable approx. £ 50 - £120 per month**
Unity Trust Bank	**Bank charges**	**Quarterly**	**variable approx. £70 per quarter**
HSBC Bank	**Bank charges**	**Monthly**	**variable approx. £8 per month**
Lloyds Bank	**Bank charges**	**Monthly**	**variable approx. £7 per month**

Proposed GS, seconded PC, all in favour.

24/014 **Schedule of Charges**

To receive and approve recommendation of Finance & Policy Committee meeting held 8th January

Charges for facilities were subject to review by Finance & Policy Committee and the following recommendations were proposed for approval.

It was resolved to approve the following changes to pricing and the terms of conditions of hire:
With effect from 1st April 2024

Football (VAT exempt)

	From	**To**
Grass pitch youth per season	£550	£600
Grass pitch adult per season	£1100	£1200
Grass pitch youth single booking	£40	£43.60
Grass pitch adult single booking	£80	£87.20

Community centre (including VAT):

	From	**To**
Oak Hall private event	£25.50	£30
Oak Hall public class premium time	£15.30	£20
Oak Hall public class non-premium	£15.30	£15.30
Oak Hall reduced rate	£7.66	£7.66

Meeting room	£9.18	£10.50
Acorn Hall private event	£20.40	£22.50
Acorn Hall public class	£15.30	£15.30
Acorn Hall reduced rate	£7.66	£7.66

Other
With effect from 1st April 2025

All VAT exempt	**From**	**To**
5-a-side per hour	£36	£40
5-a-side reduced rate	£24.12	£26.80
Mens Shed per square metre	60p	75p
Allotment per square metre	60p	75p

• Allotments – to include a clause to increase the rent annually at least the equivalent to CPI in the December prior to the increase in the following April.
• Community centre –
a. Include a clause to allow an annual increase to the hire charge at least equivalent to CPI as at the December prior to the increase in the following April.
b. Premium time public class bookings must be contracted for a full year, with no more than two consecutive weeks to be cancelled to a maximum of four periods of two weeks per year of hire. Any other cancellations will be charged at full price relevant to new customers effective from 1st February 2024 (Cancellation charges still apply see Terms & Conditions clause 24)
c. The Vine Church is to be excluded from the increased community centre hire charges in April 2024.
Proposed GS, seconded PC, all in favour.

24/015 **Budget 2023/2024**

To consider and approve recommendation of Finance & Policy Committee meeting held 8th January for 2023/2024 budget

The proposed budget for Revenue and S106 expenditure was presented having been reviewed in detail at the Finance & Policy meeting held on 8th January.
S106 anticipated expenditure in 2024/25 is budgeted to be £108k.
Revenue anticipated income and expenditure before a Precept increase shows a £10k deficit.

The recommendation from Finance & Policy Committee is to increase the precept to reduce this deficit. CCPC confirm that the general reserves currently held are in line with the Treasury and Investment policy, i.e. equivalent to 5 months net revenue expenditure and remain comfortable that they are held at this level. A call may be required on general reserves to cover the cost of rectification of drainage outflow from Quantum Business Park at Peter Driver Sports Ground.
It was agreed that CCPC should create a balanced budget.
Therefore the budget is recommended for approval on the basis that precept is increased to set a balanced budget.
Please see resolution under agenda item 24/016.

24/016	**Precept Request 2024/2025** To confirm and approve the Precept request as per approved budget for 2024/25 The recommendation from Finance & Policy Committee is to increase the precept by 4.5% which would raise the Band D equivalent rate from £57.27 to £59.85, an increase of £2.58 per household. Thus, requesting a precept of £244,678. **It was resolved to approve:** **S106 budget expenditure of £108k.** **To set a balanced Revenue budget with income budgeted at £394k offset by £394k expenditure including EMR movements.** **To increase the precept by 4.5% bringing the Band D equivalent rate from £57.27 to £59.85, an increase of £2.58 per household. This will result in a precept request of £244,678.** **Proposed GS, seconded PC, all in favour.**
24/017	**Quarterly Investment Review** To review the council's investment performance and consider and approve recommendation of Finance & Policy Committee meeting held 8th January regarding maturing fixed term bond Investment performance schedule was provided for review. Further to the investment performance review the council discussed a proposal to deposit the maturing 3 year bond maturing and other available Precept cash, namely the Peter Driver EMR as the cash for this project will not be required for at least 6 months. Summary of proposal Background • Approved Full Council Jan 2022 minute ref: 22/011 - CCPC formally recognises that the 20-year period relating to the use of funds as stated in the S106 agreement between CCPC, Hart DC and Taylor Wimpey (November 2011) will end 2040/41 and from that point there be no distinction between CCPC's S106 and revenue funds. • Approved Full Council Apr 2019 minute ref: 85/19 – CCLA approved as a long term investment for S106 funds. • On the basis that the average expenditure per annum of S106 funds is £100k:

To cover S106 exp in year:	Deposit / Investment	£	Date of maturity
2023/2024	**Proposed:** From Lloyds 3-yr bond maturing 12 March 2024	£114,000	12.03.2024
	Existing deposits:		
2024/2025	Nationwide Building Society Deposit	£100,000	31.12.2024
2025/2026	Aldermore Bank	£100,000	30.06.2025
2026/2027	Sainsburys Bank	£100,000	29.06.2026

2027/2028	Aldermore Bank	£100,000	28.06.2027
2028/2029	Cambridge & Counties Bank	£100,000	25.06.2028
	Proposed:		
2029/2030	Appropriate 5-year FTD	£100,000	March 2029
2030/2031 & 2031/2032	Appropriate 2-year FTD – to be re-invested	£223,000	March 2026
2032/2033 to 2040/2041	Drawdown from CCLA LAPF (from 24/25 any shortfall of the capital sum may be mitigated by existing EMR S106 Int Received plus further additions)		

The parish council has a 3-year Lloyds bond £437,091.92 maturing on 12th March,2024, which is S106 funds.
It was resolved to approve the recommendation as follows:
• Of the £437k Lloyd's bond - retain £114k as cash to reimburse precept funds for S106 expenditure during 2023/2024.
• Invest £100k on Flagstone platform for 5 years.
• Invest the balance on Flagstone platform for 2 years.
• Of the £334k precept cash in Lloyd's deposit account – deposit £300k in Flagstone 6-month deposit account and retain the balance as general reserve.
Proposed GS, seconded DM, all in favour.

24/018 **Policy review**
To receive and approve recommendation of reviewed policies at the Finance & Policy Committee meeting held 8th January

Policy review of the following policies took place at Finance & Policy Committee held 8th January.
Recommendations are as follows:
Food Outlet Policy - Remove clauses relating to Covid
Health & Safety Policy - No changes required
It was resolved to approve the above recommendations
Proposed GS, seconded DM, all in favour.

24/019 **Annual ROSPA reports**
To receive and review the annual playground ROSAP inspections

Annual play park inspections were carried out in November 23 by an independent ROSPA qualified inspector. The individual reports for each play area are provided along with a summary report of the play areas where issues arose from VERY LOW RISK TO MEDIUM RISK.
Any MEDIUM RISK issues identified have now been rectified.

Reports were received.

24/020	**Beekeepers Licence** To consider and approve an extension to the licence to the Fleet and Beekeepers' The licence for the Fleet and District Beekeepers use of land for an apiary at the allotment site has now expired. The Association now set up as a charity has indicated that they wish for the licence to be extended. Reading the existing licence the format is still appropriate and therefore do not suggest a requirement for legal advice to update. The association has been a quiet neighbour for five years and do not consider any issues to prevent recommendation of renewing the licence. A covering letter should update the necessary points, namely: Licence between Church Crookham Parish Council and Graham Read as Trustee of the Incorporated Charity Fleet & District Beekeepers' Association (1188934) Updated Rules and Regulations of Allotment Site Term for five years running from 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2028 **It was resolved to approve renewal of licence to the Fleet & District Beekeepers' Association as above** **Proposed GS, seconded PC, all in favour.**
24/021	**Grounds Maintenance Tender Process** To receive an update on the Grounds Maintenance Tender process and approve the shortlist for interview. The grounds maintenance tender process in underway with the closing date of 12th January. A bid review meeting was held Friday 19th January in attendance: Cllrs Saunders, Bulgin and Collings with Clerk, RFO and Facilities Officer. All participants had reviewed the submitted bids, 5 in total, and scores had been collated against the tender criteria. **A summary was provided to Full Council of the resulting discussions and the working party recommendation is as follows:** **The 2 lowest scoring tender submissions are excluded from the remainder of the process** **The highest scoring tender submission is excluded as the tender contract sum is too high against the contract sum available** **On the basis that post meeting contractor C confirmed that TUPE has been factored into the bid the next 2 highest scoring tender submissions, Company C and Company E will be invited to attend an interview to include Clerk, Facilities Officer and Councillor to be held week commencing 5th Feb.** **Questions will be prepared to clarify any details contained within the bids submitted to facilitate a decision to be brought to February Full Council.** **It was resolved to approve the above recommendations** **Proposed GS, seconded JF, all in favour.**
24/022	**Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation** To consider and approve a response to the Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation **Due to the importance of the consultation it was agreed to defer this agenda item until the February meeting.**
24/023	**Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan: Partial Update Consultation** To consider and approve a response to the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan:Partial Update Consultation **It was further agreed to defer this consultation to the February meeting.**

24/024	**Quotes** To receive and approve quotes for works required 1) Tidy & Co To carry out maintenance of basketball court surface clean and moss treatment £910 S106 Open Space Maintenance 2) Flower displays - Summer displays RFO given details of alternative supplier and 2 quotes provided a) Amethyst (current supplier) - summer displays £7,133 b) WindowFlowers (new offering) – could look to have summer and winter displays for same price as Summer. Good reviews on Clerk forum. summer displays price £3,050 3) General repairs and install dog poo bag dispenser box £195 Treasure fencing 4) Litter picking equipment to include new stock of pickers and rings for bags for organised picks £150 **It was resolved to approve quotes 1, 2(b) Winter displays to be included if feedback from summer displays good, 3 and 4** **Proposed GS, seconded DM, all in favour** 5) Cllr Axam was seeking support for costs towards mounting additional SID on lampposts on Aldershot Road - it was agreed that CCPC would investigate purchase of a up to date model SID for use around the parish to obtain better more detailed data.
24/025	**To approve payment of accounts for December 2023 & January 2024** **It was resolved to approve the payments of accounts for December23 and January 24** **Proposed GS, seconded PC, all in favour.**
24/026	**Clerks report** To receive Clerks report and approve any actions arising Clerk reported: Storm damage – Basketball court high nets have come down (infrastructure still intact) have temporarily closed facility for safety and to prevent further damage through use of facility to nets. Have called company who installed to seek repair quote for. Quarterly bank recs – to be reviewed by a non-signatory councillor. Cllr Collings volunteered Crookham Park Update – disappointing to report no visible progress on site to rectifications with several residents also chasing and seeking overdue resolution. TW contact has been in touch after a number of chase emails and tel call. It was agreed that CCPC should now seek escalation within TW for better / quicker resolutions. Athletics Club – continue to prepare for pavilion building today requested information relating to electrical supply which was set up at time of Crookham Park CCTV project. Details being shared. Final element of garden fence (foxgloves were installed late last week) Butterflies are now work in progress and a mood board was discussed with Ian Parmenter and his glass supplier.

	UK Shared Prosperity Fund information was shared with you and await final outcome of 2 funding bids – Access to Athletics and Caring Community in Crookham. Would seek remainder of budget from grant pot for Caring Community in Crookham if not successful to be determined in March subject to grant apps in remaining 2 months Frontside Skate School is seeking to run skateboard lessons using CCPC skate park. Cllr Ford agreed to meet with the contact to discuss. Following issue of the newsletter residents have submitted suggestions for Chesilton woods so councillors agreed to set up an onsite meeting to discuss.
24/027	**To receive monthly safety reports** As the meeting fell early in the month and due to staff time spent on GM process safety reports will be circulated to councillors upon completion. Weekly safety checks of outdoor spaces have been carried out by the GM team.
24/028	**External committees reports** To report on external bodies committee meetings attended and recommend any action required by the Parish Council Transport Forum - Councillor Collings attended summary here: Asked the question about the bus that was supposed to be travelling through the estate. No answers for that it appears that rural buses (as described by them) is low down on the priority list partly due to low user numbers. Hampshire are consulting on diverse issues regarding transport and I have a copy of the proposals made so far. Something that is happening, but not before 1st April 2025, is HCC funding is being withdrawn completely from, Voluntary services, citizens advice, Rural Communities Fund, Parish and Town councils investment fund, Fleet Connect. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be circulated. Street lighting planned to be dimmed or turned off in areas considered to be safe.. They have got to cut around 170 million from their budget. HDAPTC - Cllr Jones to attend Tuesday 23rd. QEB Steering Committee - Cllrs Saunders and Collings attending meeting held Monday 22nd. As per Chairs announcements pleased to report that a school crossing on Sandy Lane is now included as a project to be assessed for viability. Now looking to get projects moving such as Reading Road south crossings as funding due to expire in May 26. Cllr Parker confirmed that officers at HCC are working hard to get wheels in motion and may employ external consultants to provide manpower to get projects over the line. The available funding is to implement improvements to road infrastructure to reduce impact of Crookham Park development.

24/029	**To agree dates of next meetings** Upcoming meetings 2024: Planning 12th February 7.30pm Planning 26th February 7.30pm followed by Full Council from 7.45pm Planning 11th March 7.30pm Planning 25th March 7.30.pm followed by Full Council from 7.45pm Planning 8th April 7.30pm Finance & Policy 15th April 7.30pm Planning 22nd April 7.30pm followed by Full Council from 7.45pm Annual Parish Meeting 29th April from 7pm Planning 13th May 7.30pm Planning Tuesday 28th May 7.30pm followed by ANNUAL MEETING from 7.45pm

The meeting closed at 10.18pm

Signed: Date:

Addendum 1

Update from Hampshire County Councillor Stephen Parker

January 2024

1. Household DIY waste charges ended

From 1 January 2024, residents using Hampshire County Council Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) will no longer be charged for disposing of their DIY waste - in line with the Government policy changes.
Up to two 50-litre rubble bags, or one bulky item such as a sink or toilet pedestal, will be accepted for free, at a maximum frequency of four visits over four weeks. Anything more than this amount will be chargeable at current rates, as permitted by national legislation, to cover specialist disposal costs. DIY waste can be accepted at all HWRCs in Hampshire except New Alresford due to its restricted size. Customers must also be able to lift, carry and empty out their DIY waste.
The Council estimates that the removal of the charges could impose an additional cost to Hampshire council taxpayers of up to £2 million every year. This is because recycling or disposal of DIY waste, such as soil, rubble, asbestos and gypsum board, requires specialist processing and the fees we currently charge help to cover these expenses. This will need to be taken into account as part of the Council's savings proposals to help meet a £132 million budget shortfall faced by the local authority from April 2025. This will include a review of Hampshire's HWRCs.

2. Schools

Parents with children due to start school or move to a junior school in September 2024 are reminded that they have until **Monday 15 January 2024** to submit their primary school applications. Parents will have the best chance of being offered a place at one of their preferred schools by applying on time and naming three preferences on their applications.

3. **Fire and Rescue Authority Mid-Year Update**

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service has published its mid-year update on their annual performance. This provides useful (and positive) insights as to the activities of the service and is well worth a look. The update can be seen at https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/HIWFRS-2023-24-Mid-Year-Performance-Update-Report.pdf

4. **Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan consultation**

The consultation on the updated plan is expected to start during the week beginning **8 January 2024** and to last for eight weeks. Details can be found at https://www.hants.gov.uk/minerals-waste-update

5. **Climate change and nature recovery**

The Council has published its Climate Change Annual Progress Report which highlights the progress of council backed community initiatives and its own efforts to tackle climate change. One example is the Solar Together scheme - over the past two years, 2,100 households have purchased competitively priced solar panels, resulting in the installation of 7,400kw of rooftop solar power, which has the capacity to save an estimated 46,000 tonnes of carbon emissions.
Separately, the Council is launching a survey asking residents where they would like to see improvements for nature recovery, their views on nature priorities and what action they may be taking locally to help nature in their area. Gathering this information is an important first step in the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which aims to ensure Hampshire's natural environment is protected for today's and future generations. That strategy is intended to create a blueprint for the recovery of nature in Hampshire – outlining what we can do, where the opportunities for doing it are, and considering how it can be delivered alongside wider positive environmental outcomes for people and nature, such as reduced flood risk. It will provide organisations with a framework for developing nature recovery projects and help prioritise funding and investment in Hampshire's nature's recovery. Here is a link to the online survey.

6. Roads

A final report for your perusal, this time the County Council's Highways Service Annual Review for 2022/23 which offers useful insights into the Highways team's activity over what has been an exceptionally busy and challenging period. You can access the review via the link. You will notice the continuing intensive focus on fixing potholes and other road defects following confirmation of the 3-year Stronger Roads Today campaign in July. This has enabled the deployment of significantly more repair teams and specialist equipment with the primary aim of making our roads better, fixing defects more quickly, and addressing the widespread deterioration from last winter's wet and freezing weather. You can find out more about the Stronger Roads Today programme here.

7. **Hampshire Trading Standards prosecutions for sales of vapes to minors**

A recent survey across secondary schools and colleges in Hampshire shows a large increase in the percentage of young people both experimenting with, and using vapes. The survey shows that experimentation with vapes increases from 4% in year 7 to 53% in year 13. Similarly, vape use increases from 7% in year 10, to 18% in year 13. The Council is therefore continuing its clampdown on shops selling vapes illegally to underage buyers. Test purchase operations took place in December 2023, with visits to 17 different premises with teenage volunteers helping officers by going into the businesses to attempt to buy a vape, also known as an e-cigarette. Since September 2023, Trading Standards has prevented the sale of over £200,000 of illegal vapes and e-cigarettes by removing them from shops across Hampshire.

8 Happy New Year

My best wishes to everyone for 2024, I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.