CHINEHAM PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of the Meeting of the Council



Date: Monday 13th January 2025

Time: 7:45pm

Place: Community Rooms, Chineham Village Hall

Present: Cllr. Paul Miller, Cllr. Marian Adams, Cllr. Richard Green, Cllr. Nigel Rose, Cllr. Tom Brine, Cllr. Ruth Kellaway.

Apologies: Cllr. Sue Fuller & Cllr. Neha Sompura.

Absent: Cllr. Oratokhai.

Also present: Ellen Harmon (Assistant Clerk), Phil Walker (Rapid Response Warden), Borough Councillors Jenny Vaux

& Jonathan Jenkin & no members of the public.

Councillor Miller welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were **RECEIVED** and **ACCEPTED** from Councillors Sompura, & Fuller.

2. To receive declarations of interest relevant to items on the agenda.

No declarations of interest were received.

3. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 11th November.

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 9th December 2024 were **AGREED** and will be signed by the Chair at the next meeting.

4. Public Participation.

None.

5. To receive reports from:

All reports can be found at APPENDIX A.

Borough & County Councillors | CVHMC Representative | RRW Borough Councillors:

Borough Councillor Miller noted Cllr. Still's report and wanted to divulge further into the latter part of the report, in respect to the message issued by the Leader of the Hampshire County Council and what this may mean going forward. Cllr. Miller read a small segment of the message, touching on the fact that Hampshire County Council are one of 12/13 County Councils that have opted to apply for a fast track to devolution. If the devolution fast track proceeds as planned, it will be likely that the 2025 elections will be postponed, and in place of this an election for a Mayor will be held in May 2026. Cllr. Miller wanted to discuss this further as it raises the question as to 'what will happen to Parish Councils?' currently this remains unknown, and we will not have any answers for at least another 12 months-time due to the ongoing process behind the changes happening. However, Cllr. Miller outlined that there could be one of three potential outcomes based off of research he has done:

- The Parish Council continues to operate as normal and will fit in where it can within the new government structure.
- The Parish Council could potentially absorb further responsibilities from the Local Council that impact our boundaries – this could be through the transfer of assets or land.
- We could become null and void as a lower-level local government body and disappear completely.

Cllr. Miller's parting comments were to avoid any speculation whilst we await answers and to keep an eye on official statements/news releases only. All Borough Councillor's will closely follow any updates and gather information to pass on where available, but for now the message released by the Leader of Hampshire County Council can be found within the public domain.

Borough Councillor Jenkin noted that the biggest point of discussion as of late has been the discussion of potential devolution but had nothing further to add on the subject. He did add that the bin collections have officially returned to their usual schedules as of this week. Cllr. Adam's queried when the new fortnightly grey bin collections will come

Signed			

into effect, which raised the topic of the new 'food waste' bins. It is believed that the new food waste bins will come into practice as of October 2025 and changes to waste collection will be phased. To the best of our understanding, food waste collection will be on a weekly basis, as will grey bins, which will then be phased into fortnightly collections along with green bins sometime in the future. There will be more information this closer to the time.

Borough Councillor Vaux wanted to touch on the fact that as far as she knows, Parish Councils and their boundaries will not be affected by devolution – in order to change the Parish Council boundaries there would have to be a referendum, and these such changes are currently not in the plan.

The main potential impact to the Parish Councils will be to their responsibilities dependant on what occurs after the Borough Council is dissolved, as when this occurs the Borough Council will then have to decide where their assets go, which could be to the new unitary council that will be created, or they may choose send them to Parish Councils. So, whilst at the moment there are no changes to the Parish Councils and their boundaries, there is potential for there to be changes to their responsibilities in future.

Cllr. Vaux also discussed the current proposal that Hampshire County Council has put forward is to have a combined authority across Southampton, Portsmouth, and IOW with an elected Mayor. If this proposal is successful in its application, the mayor will be elected in May of 2026. A benefit of electing a mayor is that they will be able to make key decisions in respect of major infrastructure and things such as solar & wind farms and associated power cable routes, sites for prisons, new towns, reservoirs or sewage works.

RRW

The Rapid Response Warden report can be found at APPENDIX A.

6. To receive an update from the Parish Newsletter working group.

Councillor Miller offers his apologies as due to a number of mitigating factors; he has been unable to dedicate any time to this project and would like to revisit it at the February meeting.

FINANCE

7. To note the current financial situation.

The current financial situation and the bank reconciliation were **NOTED** with the bank balance on 7th January 2025 being £116,016.88. The bank reconciliation can be found at **APPENDIX B**.

8. To authorise any requests for payment.

Payment requests for January were **NOTED** and **AUTHORISED** with Cllr. Brine proposing, Cllr. Green seconded and the motion being agreed unanimously by all Councillor's present.

January Payment Requests										
From	Item	Invoice Number	Amount							
Staff	Salary	January	£770.64							
Staff	Salary	January	£919.15							
Staff	Salary	January	£132.90							
Staff	Expenses		£30.80							
HMRC	Tax & NI		£386.25							
Aviva	Pension		£138.01							
Aviva	Pension		£33.00							
Royal Mail	PO Box – 2025	Inv 9071975955	£424.20							
Viking	Stationery	Inv 5276679	£59.81							
DM Payroll	Payroll Admin Oct 24 - Mar 25	Inv 4104	£72.00							
Source for Business	Allotment Water Jul - Dec 24	5088552877	£625.19							
	To	otal	£3,591.95							

Signed

9. To consider the precept for 2025 / 2026.

Cllr. Miller notes that we have maintained the precept over the past few years and would like to recommend that we maintain the precept as is. Due to our current balance, we are confident we have enough in our reserves to confidently cover ongoing financial responsibilities for the next couple of years, based off of the previous 2 years expenditure.

The motion was carried to agree the precept at £38,450.00 with Cllr. Miller proposing, Cllr. Rose seconding and a vote of 5 **FOR** and 1 **ABSTENTION**.

10. To agree the budget for 2025/2026.

The budget was discussed at the December meeting with some amendments suggested by the Councillors. The Clerk made these amendments which were **NOTED.**

Cllr. Miller proposes that the budget for 2025 / 2026 is agreed, Cllr. Brine seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

The 2025 / 2026 budget can be found at APPENDIX C.

RECREATION

11. To receive an update from the Chair of the Recreation Committee.

The Assistant Clerk addressed the meeting and provided an update with regards to the following:

- Meeting with a contractor to discuss the repair of four further benches. We are currently awaiting a quotation which will be put to the Full Council in the February meeting
- The allotments will be undergoing a new plot numbering system, so they make more numerical sense as you come into the allotments, with new plot numbers having been ordered to distribute to plot holders accordingly. The Assistant Clerk hopes to coincide the new plot numbers with the invoice distribution in April of 2025, with plot holders signing their rental agreements with their new numbers for our records.
- The Clerks will be moving over to a new software in due course, which will streamline the running of the allotments and how things will work. More information will be distributed to the plot holders once the Assistant Clerk has received full training in this software.

PLANNING

12. To receive an update from the Chair of the Planning Committee.

Cllr. Miller noted that there was one application which went to Development Control Committee where Cllr. Vaux presented the case as Cllr. Miller had to declare an interest in the application due to his position within the Chineham Parish Council Planning Committee. This application was approved.

13. To note the minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on Monday 11th November & Monday 9th December. The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on Monday 9th December were noted.

ADMINISTRATION

14. To consider the date for the Parish Assembly 2025.

The Parish Council narrowed down the dates to the week beginning 19th of May, with the Clerk to check for availability for the 20th or 22nd in particular. The date will be confirmed by the next Full Council meeting scheduled for February.

Councillors were asked to brainstorm and come up with potential visitors we can invite to speak at the Parish Assembly – potential ideas being someone from Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance Service, someone from the Archaeological Society to do a talk about the Roman Road that runs through Chineham or potentially someone from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The Clerks will contact the above organisations and try to make this happen.

15. To agree the date of the next meeting as Monday 10th February 2025

The date of the next meeting was **AGREED** as Monday 10th February 2025.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:33.

Signed	

APPENDIX A

Report from Elaine Still - HCC

Salt Bins

HCC's network of blue and yellow community salt bins has been refilled ready for the coming months, making salt freely available for anyone to spread on local roads and pavements – useful to 'join up' with the salting on main roads by our gritters.

A little salt goes a long way, you'll only need one tablespoon to treat up to a square metre of road or pavement.

If you're able to, salting your local roads when it's forecast to be icy can be a big help for your community, reducing the risk of incident and injury, especially for those who are less mobile.

You can report salt bins needing re-filling, those that are damaged or request one for your area

here: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes

Tree/hedge problems:

https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge

Flooding/drainage issues:

https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding

Pavement problems:

https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving

Problems with rights of way:

https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

Message From The Leader Of Hampshire County Council.

We are on the brink of a transformative journey for Hampshire, and the vehicle driving us forward is devolution. Our goal is a Hampshire & Solent where decisions, big and small, are made close to the people they affect; where less bureaucracy means quicker, simpler processes; and where councils can deliver even better value for money to residents and businesses.

There has been much discussion recently about the prospect of devolution for, and local government reorganisation in, Hampshire. I therefore wanted to provide you with some clarity about the current situation.

I believe devolution would be a beneficial move for Hampshire. Devolution means moving powers, and the money to enact them, from Central Government to a more local level. These powers would be devolved to a Combined Authority, in our case covering Hampshire and the Solent (including Southampton, Portsmouth, and the Isle of Wight), overseen by an elected mayor. The new government wants us to be one of their priority areas, targeting implementation by May 2026..

While I welcome devolution I have strong concerns about Local Government Reorganisation, which the Labour Government is closely linking to the devolution process.

Let me be clear, this journey is one the Labour Government is requiring Hampshire to take. There is no alternative, and I liken it to travelling in a vehicle where the Government controls the accelerator and the brakes, better therefore that we have control of the steering wheel rather than leave the route and destination to chance

It's crucial for the County Council to have a strong voice in these discussions to represent our residents' interests. A Full Council meeting has been called for 9th January to decide the best way forward, with Cabinet ratification of the

Council's decision the following day. If we proceed with the priority list, the government will determine by late January whether the 2025 County elections will be postponed.

Why would elections be postponed? The Government must carry out a full consultation on their devolution proposals. They aim to complete this and conclude any negotiations by Summer. The uncertainty of an election, and the inability to complete a consultation during the pre-election period, would disrupt the consultation and negotiation process too greatly. Hence, the Government expects those on the Priority Programme to request their elections be postponed.

If Hampshire is accepted as a priority area, we will need to submit our proposals for new Council areas by the autumn. If we do not enter the priority programme, then the Government expects proposals for new Councils to be submitted by May.

Before Christmas local leaders met with Local Government Minister Baroness Taylor and several important principles were clarified:

- The size of new Unitary authorities: populations of at least 500,000 but less than 1.2 million: Hampshire is too large to become a single unitary authority.
- Southampton and Portsmouth must expand and cannot remain unchanged.
- Existing district and borough boundaries should be retained as much as possible when creating new Unitary Councils.
- A decision on the proposed way forward must be submitted to the Government by January 10, 2025.

As this situation evolves, I am clear the focus must be on ensuring reforms deliver benefits such as:

- cost reductions for residents,
- service protection and simplification, and
- safeguarding frontline staff.

Councils across Hampshire employ thousands of staff and contract with thousands more partners and businesses, all of whom rely on us for their livelihoods. More importantly, tens of thousands of people rely on their local Council for support and assistance. These people must be at the forefront of our decision-making. We should and must only move forward with reform if the outcome for our residents is an improvement on the services and support they currently receive.

While devolution presents a promising path forward for Hampshire, it's essential to navigate the associated local government reforms carefully, ensuring they truly benefit the residents and communities they aim to serve.

I remain positive and hopeful as we enter this New Year, the path ahead is difficult and full of challenge. Working alongside my colleagues of all political colours I am sure we will, together, find the best way forward, one that will result in a positive improvement for all of us who live in our wonderful County.

Devolution & Local Government Reform – the options open to us.

In addition to the above, this note hopefully helps explain the options open to the County Council when we make our decision later this week:

There are three options before us:

1. We agree to progress devolution (the elected mayor and creation of a Combined Authority) in order that it can be introduced in April 2026 with the mayoral election in May 2026. We would have to postpone this year's elections in order for the necessary processes to be completed in time, as a pre election period would take too much time out of the schedule to enable the process of consulting on, negotiating, drafting and passing the legislation in Parliament and establishing the Combined Authority itself to be completed in a year.

We then have to submit our plans for new unitary councils by the 'autumn', this is undefined by Government but we assume this means the end of the year.

2. We agree to progress Local Government Reform (LGR) as a priority, agreeing to submit new Council proposals by September at the latest. These would be established by 2026 with it being likely we would have elections to 'Shadow' authorities, (the new Councils we would have to create – electing councillors who could begin the process of setting up, creating administrations and hiring senior staff for them) in May 2026 and elections to the new Councils which would be fully created in May 2027.

Again we would postpone elections to allow for the process of consulting on, negotiating, drafting and passing the legislation in Parliament and establishing the plans for new Councils to be completed in a year.

Devolution would then follow, with a mayor being elected in 2027 or 2028.

3. We don't agree to either of these paths. In which case the Government want plans for the new councils lodged by September and, if we do not do that, then they will create the proposals for new Councils themselves and progress with those plans. Probably for elections in 2027 and 2028. In this scenario the elections in May go ahead.

I think devolution is a good thing. It brings power and money from Government and provides a strategic over-view helpful to the entire area.

I am much more concerned about local government reorganisation, particularly if we have to create unitary councils of over 500,000 population. They will be remote from people and we will lose much of the good things both the districts and the county currently do.

So that's why I think Option 1 is the best. It gives us the main prize – devolution. It gives us the longest to think about how LGR might work. And because we would therefore be amongst the last having to submit our plans it might well mean we are at the back of the queue for that reorganisation increasing the chances that we eventually shape new Councils much more in keeping with what we think would work for Hampshire – smaller than 500,000, more centred on the areas people recognise as their 'home community'.

Doing nothing is not an option. Doing nothing in fact brings a much greater chance that we will be 'done unto'. The doing nothing option does include our holding elections this year rather than next, however for me the risks associated with that course are too great.

CPC RRW Report

December 2024

• 8(34) Abandoned shopping trolleys reported via Trolleywise.

Locations include

Long Lane

Binfields Woodland Park

Simons Close

Footpath near Upper Stroud Close

- Printed and posted multiple noticeboard updates
- · Attended CPC meeting.
- Reported 2x sites of potential annexation to B&DBC Planning Dept.
- Reported damaged keep-left bollard on Bowman Rd to HCC.
- Reported potentially abandoned vehicle to B&DBC.
- Reported obscured street lighting on Belvedere Gardens FP to Enerveo.
- Reported overgrown footpath near Meadowlands to HCC.
- Reported additional low-hanging tree on Hanmore Road to HCC.
- Reported rubbish on Great Oaks Chase to B&DBC.
- Reported dilapidated advertising banners to responsible party & subsequently to B&DBC / HCC.

Locations include

Cufaude Lane/Thornhill Way

Mattock Way

Reading Road

- Reported abandoned roadworks sign on Reading Road link to HCC.
- Reported damaged manhole cover on Reading Road to Openreach.
- Reported abandoned chair near Merryfield footpath to B&DBC
- Reported abandoned work-site safety barriers on Hanmore Road to HCC.
- Reported misaligned direction sign on Thornhill Way to HCC.
- Reported broken trees partially obstructing footpath/cycleway to HCC.
 Locations include

Cufaude Lane Pyotts Hill

- Reported broken fences on Lillymill Chine to B&DBC.
- Reported discarded fencing in ditch off Cufaude Lane to B&DBC.
- Attended meeting wrt bench repairs with Assistant clerk and contractor.
- Reported fly-tipped furniture near Longstock Close to B&DBC.
- Reported fly-tipped builders waste near Longstock Close to B&DBC.
- Reported graffiti in Brunel bridge tunnel to Network Rail.

APPENDIX B

Date: 07/01/2025 Time: 10:17	Chineham Parish Council Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31 for Cashbook 3 - Lloyds Treasurer Ac	Page 1 User: AMANDA	
Bank Statement Account Name	(s) Statement Date	_Page	Balances
Lloyds Treasurer Account	31/12/2024		116,016.88
		_	116,016.88
Unpresented Payments (Minus)	-	Amount	
		0.00	
		_	0.00
			116,016.88
Unpresented Receipts (Plus)			
		0.00	
		_	0.00
			116,016.88
	Balance	per Cash Book is :-	116,016.88
		Difference is :-	0.00

APPENDIX C

07/01/2025 Chineham Parish Council
10:20 Annual Budget - By Centre

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		2023 /	2024	2024 / 2025						2025 / 2026		
		Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
100	Income											
1076	Precept	38,450	38,450	0	0	38,450	0	38,450	38,450	38,450	0	0
1078	Parish Funding (With Precept)	0	0	0	0	639	0	639	646	646	0	0
1085	Grants & Donations Received	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	3,476	0	0	0
1999	Other Income	0	1,561	0	0	0	0	0	3,561	0	0	0
	Total Income	38,450	41,011	0	0	39,089	0	39,089	46,132	39,096	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	38,450	41,011			39,089		39,089	46,132	39,096		
200	Staff Costs											
4000	Staff Costs	21,100	23,619	0	0	25,000	0	25,000	19,217	25,000	0	0
4005	HMRC (Tax & NI)	2,500	2,263	0	0	2,800	0	2,800	2,489	3,881	0	0
4010	Pension	1,850	2,386	0	0	1,930	0	1,930	1,638	1,930	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	25,450	28,268	0	0	29,730	0	29,730	23,344	30,811	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(25,450)	(28,268)			(29,730)	-	(29,730)	(23,344)	(30,811)		
250	Administration											
4100	Audit Fees	375	450	0	0	500	0	500	460	500	0	0
4105	Bank Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	0
4110	Payroll Services	139	216	0	0	150	0	150	72	150	0	0
4120	Insurance	1,471	1,727	0	0	1,800	0	1,800	1,746	1,920	0	0
4130	Mileage	0	0	0	0	25	0	25	0	25	0	0
4140	Subscriptions	1,669	1,539	0	0	1,600	0	1,600	2,397	3,700	0	0
4150	Grass Cutting	776	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4160	Office Expenses	535	672	0	0	600	0	600	243	400	0	0
4165	Defibrillator	0	0	0	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	0

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07/01/2025 Chineham Parish Council
10:20 Annual Budget - By Centre

		2023 /	2024	2024 / 2025								
		Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
4180	Telephone & Broadband	1,926	1,023	0	0	1,200	0	1,200	810	480	0	0
4190	Training & Seminars	107	0	0	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	0
4200	IT	268	1,362	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	14	250	0	0
4210	PO Boxes	375	330	0	0	375	0	375	0	380	0	0
4220	Website/email Maintenance	535	0	0	0	0	0	0	538	600	0	0
4230	One Drive / Zoom	161	0	0	0	80	0	80	0	80	0	0
4299	Sundry Expenditure	268	221	0	0	250	0	250	28	250	0	0
4305	Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	170	250	0	0
4307	Misc	0	269	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4310	Apple Orchard Maintenance	0	196	0	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	8,605	8,005	0	0	7,880	0	7,880	6,478	9,336	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(8,605)	(8,005)			(7,880)		(7,880)	(6,478)	(9,336)		
300	Allotments											
1000	Allotment Rental Income	0	1,440	0	0	1,360	0	1,360	1,250	1,360	0	0
1050	Allotment Deposit Income	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Income	0	1,445	0	0	1,360	0	1,360	1,250	1,360	0	0
4155	Allotment Deposit Return	0	120	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	0	0
4300	Water	0	85	0	0	100	0	100	792	900	0	0
4305	Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000	14,814	2,000	0	0
4307	Misc	0	1,150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4450	Allotments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	144	0	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	0	1,355	0	0	2,100	0	2,100	15,809	2,900	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	0	90			(740)		(740)	(14,559)	(1,540)		

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07/01/2025 Chineham Parish Council 10:20

Annual Budget - By Centre

		2023 /	2024		2024 / 2025					2025 / 2026		
		Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
400	Council Activities											
4305	Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	998	0	0	0
4307	Misc	0	1,080	0	0	0	0	0	142	200	0	0
4400	Section 137 Grants	2,140	4,763	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	2,099	1,500	0	0
4405	Grants & Donations Paid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,051	3,000	0	0
4410	Seating Additional Costs	2,140	0	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	940	3,000	0	0
4420	Bulb Planting	2,140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4430	Bus Shelter Cleaning	107	0	0	0	200	0	200	640	1,000	0	0
4440	Four Lanes Fete	134	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	243	300	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	6,661	5,843	0	0	7,200	0	7,200	12,113	9,000	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(6,661)	(5,843)		,	(7,200)		(7,200)	(12,113)	(9,000)		
999	VAT Data											
115	VAT on Receipts	0	1,834	0	0	0	0	0	3,237	0	0	0
	Total Income	0	1,834	0	0	0	0	0	3,237	0	0	0
515	VAT on Payments	0	977	0	0	0	0	0	3,344	3,000	0	0
	Overhead Expenditure	0	977	0	0	0	0	0	3,344	3,000	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	0	857		,	0		0	(108)	(3,000)		
	Total Budget Income	38,450	44,290	0	0	40,449	0	40,449	50,619	40,456	0	0
	Expenditure	40,716	44,449	0	0	46,910	0	46,910	61,088	55,047	0	0
	Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(2,266)	(159)		,	(6,461)		(6,461)	(10,469)	(14,591)		

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