

Hursley Parish Council (HPC)

An overview of HPC for use by councillors.

Introduction

This document is intended to be an aid to newly elected or co-opted members of the Parish council. It is not exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with other documents such as “The good councillor’s guide” and “The code of conduct” both of which are available from the Clerk.

Role of the HPC

Local people are more in touch with what their local community or neighbourhood needs or wants than central government. Town and parish councillors are an important part of the fabric of their communities and with the support of local people, can bring to life the local changes they wish to see. The parish council is also non-political.

Hursley Parish

Hursley parish is largely rural extending to Ladwell in the south and Pitt in the north. The eastern boundary is Silkstead and stretches to the west as far as Farley Chamberlayne. Population in 2023 was c.1,200. Being a largely rural parish the input of councillors who are local farmers is valued. Being so close to Winchester, planning matters are also important especially this year as Winchester City Council (WCC) is part way through a Local Planning process. Recently the community has successfully opposed plans for a very large development (Royaldown) that would have seen Hursley become part of the Winchester urbanisation and the green gap between Winchester and Hursley would have disappeared.

Meetings

The councillors ‘meetings in public’ are held bi-monthly. The clerk will provide an agenda and make notes producing minutes. Action points are noted. Minutes are agreed at the next meeting. Councillors should be prepared to spend some time and with a ‘hand-on’ approach.

Village assets

There are a number of important assets that are owned by the community that the HPC has responsibility for. These include:

- **The Hursley Village Hall.** An important community asset. It is managed by a separate committee; The Hursley Parish Hall committee with oversight by HPC.
- **Recreation ground.** HPC organises the care of this asset to see that it is well maintained. This includes the playground equipment which is subject to regular safety checks. Periodic tree surveys are also undertaken.
- **Cemetery and allotments.** Care and maintenance of the Cemetery is overseen by HPC. A councillor will also keep a watchful eye on the allotments to see that they are in good order and that any falling into disuse are made available to others seeking to lease an allotment.
- **Traffic speed signs.** HPC arranged for the purchase and installation of several flashing speed signs to control traffic speed through the village. These are regularly moved and maintained.
- **Other assets.** HPC also takes responsibility for a number of other assets such as: Glebelands Path where it recently installed pathway lighting; Bus Shelters, ensuring there are clean and in good repair and village notice boards. The village works with other local parishes to employ lengthsman

to visit 3 times a year to undertake a number of tasks such as litter picking, cleaning of traffic signs, tidying pavements etc.

- The Parish Council also works closely with the Church, IBM, Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council, neighbouring parish councils, Hampshire Roads, Sothern Water, OVO Energy (Electric), Openreach, WINACC (Winchester Action for Climate Change), CPRE (Committee for the protection of rural England), WVT (Winchester Villages Trust), HALC (Hampshire Association of Local Councils and WDALC (Winchester District Association of Local Councils).

Planning

Hursley Village sits in a Conservation area. Planning applications within the parish will be presented to HPC for their comments. Whilst such comments are not binding they do help WCC in deciding planning applications. Parishioners seeking to make planning applications are encouraged to discuss their plans with HPC at an early stage.

HPC already has an adopted Parish Plan and is creating a Hursley Neighbourhood plan. Neighbourhood planning is a way for communities to have a say in the future of the places where they live and work. It gives them the power to produce a plan with some legal weight that directs development in your local area. It helps you:

- choose where you want new homes, shops and offices to be built
- have your say on what those new buildings should look like

Funding and banking

HPC runs its own bank account and is funded by a precept. HPC produces an annual budget that forecasts its funding needs for the coming year. The precept required by the parish council is then collected by WCC as part of the council tax levied on tax payers in the parish.

Community events

HPC will help the community stage community events such as Queen's jubilee celebrations, Coronation street parties, Remembrance Day events etc. They will also work in conjunction with other community based groups such as the Hursley Village Community Association and the Village Shop.

Councillors

The current councillor's (as at Feb 2023) are:

- David Killeen – Chair
 - Angus Lang– Finance
 - Eleanor Bell – Planning
 - George Rees - Farming
 - Jerry Barnes - Charities
 - John O'Sullivan – Finance
 - Martin Waldron – Cemeteries, Allotments and Recreation Ground
 - Sam Burge – Farming
 - Toby Guest – Parish Hall Committee
- Supported by Elizabeth Billingham – Clerk and RFO

