MINUTES OF THE 130TH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD

13 MARCH 2025

Councillors Present: Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Helen Corben, Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Jim Mitchell, Cllr Ron Nichols,

In attendance:
Brett Athow – Operations Manager
Carolyn Badman – Office Manager
Members of the public

PM36 Apologies: Cllr Maggie Allingham**,** Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Tonia Craig, Cllr Keith House, Cllr Lucy Jurd, Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Derek Pretty, Cllr Jane Welsh, Ross McClean – Local Area Manager, Nigel Patterson - KCC

PM37 Retiring Town Council Chairman's Report
Cllr Jim Mitchell welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the housekeeping rules.

As I stand before you tonight for the last time as Chairman of Hedge End Town Council, I want to express what a genuine honour it has been to serve in this role over the past year.

Beyond our regular monthly meetings, it has been a privilege to represent the wonderful people of Hedge End at several special events. Notably, I was deeply honoured to attend the 150th Anniversary celebrations of St John's Church—a true milestone in our town's cherished history.

Another particularly meaningful occasion was participating in our Remembrance Day service. Standing with our community, paying tribute to those who sacrificed so much, is an experience that has touched me deeply and will remain with me forever. None of these experiences would have been possible without the exceptional support of the Hedge End Town Council team. To all the dedicated staff and my fellow councillors, thank you for your tireless support and guidance. I'd especially like to extend my gratitude to Councillor John Shepherd, who fittingly shepherded me through the Remembrance Day proceedings with kindness and reassurance.

One of the greatest joys this year has been meeting so many generous and community-spirited individuals—like those we're celebrating tonight. Your commitment, kindness, and tireless contributions embody the spirit of Hedge End, and your awards for community service tonight are richly deserved.

As I step down from this role, I carry with me warm memories, lasting friendships, and deep appreciation for this vibrant community. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve—it truly has been an honour.

Thank you

PM38 Town Council Financial Report
Cllr Ron Nichols on behalf of Cllr Derek Pretty, Chair of Policy & Resources Committee.

Every year the Council are required to prepare and present the audited accounts of the council; they represent the financial activities of the previous year. The Accounts are prepared by accountants and then independently audited by external auditors.

In the financial year 23/24 we reviewed leases ensuring that they were up to date. This resulted in transferring the maintenance of the bowling green to the bowling club whilst retaining and income on the building. In addition, projects undertaken include, resurfacing the paddling pool, replacement of the artificial wicket at Turnpike Recreation Ground, renewing white lining in car parks, installation of height barriers at Greta Park and Woodhouse Lane. Provided a safety handrail at Old School House and renewed the website.

Going forward the Council is now responsible for Berrywood Fields. With the support of HEWEB we will be replacing the play areas at Nelsons Gardens and Locke Road. There will also be works on the footpaths in the Wildern Local Nature Reserve. We are converting the empty space at the Old School House into residential accommodation.

The Council remains responsible for providing several services including sports, playing fields, play areas, community buildings, allotments and the cemetery.

PM39 HEWEB Local Area Committee Chairs 2023/24 Report
Cllr Cynthia Garton as Chair of the Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Local Area Committee (LAC) opened with thanks for the opportunity to share some of the successes over the past year this evening.

<u>Grant Funding</u>

Really pleased to have seen some excellent business cases which have been awarded a total of £435,356, with £208,800 to Hedge End to fund replacement of two play areas and the footpath works at Wildern Local Nature Reserve.

<u>Itchen Valley Country Park</u>

The major investment programme is coming to an end. These significant improvements have future proofed the park, improved accessibility, and enhanced this much-loved community facility.

<u>Refurbishment of Wildern Leisure Centre</u>

A grant was awarded by HEWEB LAC for £85,952 to refurbish the fitness suite and install a mezzanine level to create greater capacity. the Trust match funded the investment by purchasing new fitness equipment for the suite.

Public Art Vision for HEWEB

The Vision for Public Art in Hedge End, West End and Botley was commissioned and delivered on time by artist consultants Cara Courage and Richard Wolfstrome who consulted with hundreds of people across all three parishes at in person events, walks, workshops and through an online survey. The Vision proposes a suite of projects which can be delivered by Councils and Community Groups over the next ten years.

Community & Youth Grants

In January we awarded 11 applicants a total of £8,242 to deliver local projects in the community. We received 23 applications relating to youth grants and awarded 10 applicants a total of £5,160 to deliver youth projects in HEWEB.

Utilita Bowl

Since the introduction of multi-agency review meetings with the Utilita Bowl staff, we have seen a marked improvement in the Utilita Bowl being better neighbours with our residents in West End.

Telegraph Woods

£47,000 of funding has been allocated to the project which includes a tree health survey, a woodland management plan, feasibility works on a perimeter route, wayfinder markers and protecting ecologically sensitive areas.

Partnership Working

Many of the successes that have been achieved in Hedge End, West End and Botley have been achieved through close working with key partners in the area, particularly Hedge End Town Council, West End Parish Council and Botley Parish Council. We are grateful to everyone involved with these organisations for their hard work and dedication.

The Local Area Committee enables local decisions to be made at a local level. However, we could not carry out our work without the help of our partners, staff, local organisations, and volunteers – you have the gratitude of the Committee, and we look forward to continuing to work with you this coming year. I would also like to thank the Local Area Manager, Ross Maclean and Assistant Local Area Manager Keeley Mitchell for the help and support they give to the Chair, Committee, Town and Parish Councils, local groups, organisations, and residents.

PM40 Reports from Local Organisations

There was a written report from Kings Community Church which is appended to the minutes.

There were no other local organisation reports.

PM41 Presentations of 'Serving the Community' Awards

Cllr Jim Mitchell read the citations for the nominees outlining their achievements and the reasons for the nominations of the award.

Unfortunately, Margot Bullwinkle the recipient of this year's award was unable to attend the evening. Cllr Jim Mitchell read out the citation for Margot

Cllr Jim Mitchell read the citation for this year's Young People Serving the Community Awards with the recipient Alisha Butts.

Alisha thanked everyone for this award and recognising that work that goes into the youth Club and the support that I've given to the young people. David the youth Team leader whilst not here deserves a mention for all the kindness and support he has shown over the past year.

PM42 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

There being no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 19.46 hours.