

Post September PC Meeting Summary Report

The most recent meeting of the PC was on Thursday 25 September. It followed shortly after Cllr Jim Goodbourn, Chair of the PC, published a comprehensive mid-year report on all live issues which the PC is currently dealing with. This report can be found in the latest edition of the Parish Magazine (October 2025) and also on the PC website.

At the PC meeting on 25 September there were, in fact, few further updates to Jim's report to note, other than that Hart District Council continue to assure us that they remain committed to trying to resolve all the issues concerning the Wingate/Big Meadow site and are actively engaged in negotiation with the receivers for the development to that end. But we are not there yet. The PC remains in regular contact with Hart. Linked to this and also the challenges presented by the Solar Farm, the PC also met with our local MP, Alex Brewer. Whilst direct intervention in planning issues is not within her gift she has nonetheless asked to be kept informed as matters progress and stated that she would give any support that she can.

Cllr Jonathan Glenn - our local representative on Hampshire County Council - also attended and updated us on county council matters. In particular he mentioned the forthcoming local government reorganisation in Hampshire (due to be implemented in 2028), in which the current two-tier system will be replaced by a strategic authority for the whole county, including the Isle of Wight, headed by an elected mayor, and the current 11 district councils will be merged into a smaller number (3 or 4) larger unitary authorities responsible for providing almost all local services.

Hart DC has, together with other district councils in Hampshire, put forward to Government a proposal which in our area would merge Hart with Rushmoor and Basingstoke to create a single northeast Hampshire authority. The County Council has put forward a slightly different proposal which would involve creating a still-larger authority for our area, to include Winchester. The Government now must decide which model to adopt and their response is expected in the new year. Whichever model is adopted, it seems likely that parish councils will need to work even harder to ensure that local issues and concerns are heard at the new unitary authority level.

We also noted that in the meantime, Hart DC has begun the process of drawing up a new local plan for this district, to be implemented in 2028. As a first step they have issued a "call for sites", which is an opportunity for landowners, developers and the public to suggest land for potential future development in the area's new local plan. Suggestions (which must be submitted to Hart by 10 October) can include sites for housing, economic development, community facilities and green infrastructure. Submission of proposed sites does not however guarantee their inclusion in the plan - they will be subject to an evaluation process by Hart and then a public consultation process. The PC will monitor this process carefully and will be ready to comment as necessary.

To read all the latest from HDC (Hart District Council) via their regular Councillor Connect publication and HCC (Hampshire County Council) via Cllr Glen's regular monthly updates visit the PC website www.longsutton.com where both publications can be found.

Also, at the meeting representatives of Lord Wandsworth College gave a short presentation of proposals they are currently working on to install a golf driving range and an overspill car park for 120 cars within the college grounds. They have yet to put forward a planning application for these proposals but expect to do so by the end of the year. The PC asked the LWC reps several questions about the proposals but reserves its position until there is a formal planning application to consider.

We have reached out to the village primary school in order to secure a date for this year's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Look out for the 'hold the date' notice.

Finally, the PC also resolved at the meeting to co-opt Karen Thornton as a councillor to fill the current vacancy on the PC. We are delighted to welcome Karen and look forward to working with her.

The next meeting of the PC is on Thursday 27 November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All parishioners are very welcome - and indeed are encouraged - to attend where mince pies and a glass of festive cheer will be offered.

Long Sutton & Well Parish Council