West Itchenor Parish Council
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Minutes of a meeting of West Itchenor Parish Council held on Monday 14 September 2026 at Itchenor Memorial Hall commencing at 6.00 pm.

Present: Mr R Dyer, Mr L Keep, Mr C Mead-Briggs, Mr A Spencer (Chairman)
Mr P Taylor,

In attendance: Mrs C Smith (Clerk), Mrs I Mayne (WSCC), 4 members of the public.

72/26C Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

73/26C Public session.

A member of the public advised they had circulated to Councillors a report on the preservation of the Chalkdock Marsh path over the next 25 years. The Itchenor Society had set up a working group to review the options to preserve the path, and they were now looking for support from the Parish Council.

It was noted that the Haskoning report commissioned by the Conservancy had also been circulated along with a report from the Itchenor Society.

Councillors raised concerns about the Haskoning Report which had clearly stated that large parts of the path inaccessible at times. The current footpath was not sustainable in its current position. The report looks to re-naturalise the sea line and the retention of the path doesn't do this.

The notes presented expressed concern that allowing the current footpath to fall away would mean a deterioration of the salt marsh, but the Haskoning Report contradict this.

A member of the public suggested that if path had been maintained these problems wouldn't exist. They also highlighted the inclusion of additional areas of salt marsh. They expressed concern that there is a lovely path that had been allowed to deteriorate.

Councillors highlighted issues with the proposal.

- Given the policy of looking longer term than 25 years this proposal was not likely to succeed.
- Natural England would not allow this. There had only been two projects agreed and both went to the Secretary of State for approval. The only reason the project was allowed was due to the threat to human habitation.

The Parish Council agreed that given these issues, it could not support the proposal being put forward and suggested a more detailed plan was considered.

74/26C District and County Councillor reports on matters affecting the Parish.

Mrs Mayne reported that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) now on hold whilst it is reviewed. There will be District Council elections in May 2027, and the County Council will continue as normal.

Mrs Mayne had advised on the addition of 20mph signs. A question was raised as to whether 20 mph roundels could be put onto the road surface and Mrs Mayne will investigate this.

An update on the major Stockbridge Road closure due to start on 10 October was given and it was noted that on behalf of residents Mrs Mayne had asked for clarification on a large number of matters related to the closure.

Applications for secondary school places was now open. The deadline for applications was 31 October.

Two members of the public left the meeting.

75/26C Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence. Were received and accepted from Cllr S Taylor.

76/26C Councillor Vacancy

No-one had come forward.

77/26C Declarations of Interest.

Declarations of interest.

Cllr P Taylor declared a personal interest in the sea wall updates.

Dispensation requests made to the Parish Clerk

None.

78/26C Minutes

On a proposal from Cllr Spencer, it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Prish Council meeting held on the 27 July 2026 are confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting and they are signed by the Chairman.

79/26C Actions update.

Nothing to report.

80/26C Planning Committee meetings

The Minutes of previous Planning Committee meetings were noted. An update was given on the Planning meeting prior to the meeting.

81/26C The Common.

Cllr Keep raised the matter of the culvert on the Common and suggested that the Parish Council should look at having a surveyor identify boundaries to determine riparian ownership. It was noted that the only definitive maps are land registry maps. It might be better to ask a surveyor to confirm a property boundary is same as the Land Registry map. Where people have pushed their boundary out, they may be responsible for clearance of the culvert. It was agreed that Cllr Keep and Cllr Mead-briggs would get appropriate quotes for this work.

82/26C Environment Working Group.

Work had taken place on trees on the common, as well as a willow and four Alders around the pond. Cllr Dyer expressed an interest in getting a working plan for south side of the common. People are dumping grass cutting etc in the area. The Hazels need to be coppiced in regular rotation. Cllr Dyrer agreed to put together an action plan as well discussing the area with Jane Reeve (Manhood Wildlife Group).
It was noted that there were some dead elms on s bend which were starting to fall. Cllr Dyer would speak to Donald Pick about these.

83/26C External meetings

None to report

84/26C The sea wall.

Since the supportive pre-app response from CDC, the working group have researched the reports required to support a planning app. The likely to cost is expected to be £150/200K. The Environment Agency has have offered a meeting. A detailed letter has gone to the EA along with questions to be asked for consideration. Natural England have given a helpful response to support a planning application. The group are currently awaiting proposals on design and ecology. A meeting was held with Land & Water regarding access.

Residents in the village intend to set up a trust that could provide money for planning, with an application to the Charity Commission going in shortly. The EA has not scheduled extra work yet although there was an inspection last week. There has been further movement in the concrete slabs since the 2024 movement. Photos showing this will also go to EA

85/26C Policy Adoption and Review.

All policies had been circulated for review prior to the meeting. It was noted that the website and contact details on the General Privacy Notice required updating.

On a proposal from Cllr Spencer, it was **RESOLVED** that the policies presented are confirmed as up to date and are suitable for continued use.
Privacy Notice
Common Management Policy
Community Engagement Strategy
Strategic Plan
Investment Policy

86/26C Clerks Report.

The Clerk gave an update on the All-Parishes meeting on 12 October 2026. Cllr Spencer would attend. SWiSh and GLAM meetings had been scheduled the following week. Details to be sent to Cllr Dyer and Cllr Keep.
A further update on the forthcoming road closure at Stockbridge was given. It was noted that Southern Gas networks had sent out a leaflet highlighting the details and it was agreed that the Council should request further copies for residents.

87/26C Finance.

External Audit report
The Clerk reported that the External Auditor had no comments to make about this year's Audit. The Notice for the conclusion of the Audit had been posted on the website and noticeboards.

Increase in salary scales effective 1 April 2026
It was noted that the increase in Local Government pay scales had been agreed and should be back dated to 1 April 2026 and implemented with immediate effect.

Schedule of Payments and Receipts
On a proposal from Cllr Spencer, it was **RESOLVED** that the schedule of payments totalling £5213.83 be authorised for payment.

Bank reconciliation
On a proposal from Cllr Spencer, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation.

Budget monitoring statement
A review of the budget to date was undertaken. On a proposal from Cllr Spencer, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget monitoring statement.

88/26C Items for the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Mead-Briggs raised the issue of the latest District Council consultation on the Local Plan and put forward a case for all development to go around Tangmere.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman