

**Exton Parish AGM Meeting
Monday 31st March 2025
At The Shoe Inn, Shoe Lane, Exton at 6.00pm**

MINUTES

APOLOGIES

Jerry Pett
Neil Bolton
Brian Thorpe-Tracey
Morven Thorpe-Tracey
Glynne Bengé
Sarah Bengé
Yvonne Nicholls
Jane Pepys (arriving approx. 7pm)
Bob Miles
Rosemary Miles
Clare Martin
Anne Martin

Meeting opened, Chair welcomed all and thanked the Shoe for accommodating the meeting

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was stated that a correction had been made in the minutes for October 2024.

Passed as a true record. Proposed by Paul Garner. Seconded by Chris Martin.

MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Parish Priorities Statement was submitted on 22 Jan and is available on the SDNPA website (<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/parish-priorities-statements/>). Thanks to Chrissie, Glynne and Helly for getting it done so efficiently.

Planned Village Events

- VE Day 80th Celebrations – Churchyard, 14 June 2025; lunchtime BBQ with meat (hopefully a lamb on the spit) funded from PM funds; more details later
- We are planning another event for Harvest – end Sept.
- Other ideas in the pipeline - Quiz, Charity event, Christmas event. Other ideas welcome.

Chair thanked Kevin and Juliet for their support.

No questions raised regarding Chairman's report.

COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr Malcolm Wallace's update - [HCC Councillor Update - April 2025.pdf](#)

Link to this update also on our website.

Regarding the election of the Mayor as mentioned in the update, a question was asked "how the Mayor will be elected", Malcolm's response "The Mayor would be elected by local government electors".

Official wording from Hampshire County Council website (*"The Combined County Authority would have a Mayor, directly elected by local government electors (which are those eligible to vote in local council elections who are on the electoral register) across the four constituent council areas. The first mayoral election would take place on 7 May 2026. Mayors are typically elected on 4-year terms"*)

Another question raised - What happens to the Mayor of Winchester after the Mayor election"?
Written response from Cllr Malcom Wallace:

"As part of Local Government Reorganisation, it's anticipated that Winchester District will disappear. Most of Winchester District is parished, but currently not the city itself. A process has now started to create a "Town Council" for the city of Winchester. The plan is that the role of Mayor of Winchester will transfer over to the new city of Winchester "Town Council". Currently, the Mayor of Winchester represents the whole of the Winchester District; once the role is transferred to the "Town Council" the mayor will represent the city only".

Question asked "for how long the tips would get a reprieve?". Cllr Malcolm Wallace response "it could be a for few years with the process that they have been through but did not have a timescale for this".

Cllr Malcolm Wallace said that the old 'copper lines' are going to be switched off at some time in the future as they are costing too much to maintain and asked if we have an emergency plan for keeping an eye out on those who rely on a landline phone (Heather to look into this). Asked when this could happen in Exton, response: Preshaw are going to be disconnected at the end of the year, so Exton could be next, but as yet no timescales for when this will happen.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurers note March 2025

- The Annual Accounts, for 2023/24 were audited, internally, by Mr. Richard Pepys, Tithes, Exton on March 27th 2025.
- Income and Spend through the year has been as follows

Opening Balance	31 st March 2024	£3,049
Spend / Income		
Website	2 nd April 2024	£155
George Miles	18 th April 2024	£240
Meon Hall	18 th April 2024	£200
TBA	2 nd July 2024	£30
Website sponsorship	July 2024	£185
Insurance	12 th December 2024	£400
Website email	22 nd January	£40
Website email	20 th February 2025	£13
Precept	2024/5	£675
Closing Balance	31 st March 2025	£2,831

- Copies of all statements and cheque books are available to review, please contact Kevin Robertson, at 1 Crossways to arrange a time
- Our accounts are audited, independently, however I have registered the Parish as Exempt from a limited assurance review, as the monies involved are so small and we have no other assets

HIGHWAYS

Hampshire Highways have refused to reinstate the sign at the Grynch that fell over and disappeared as they consider it not a danger.

Heather advised that we can buy our own sign out of our funds at an approximate cost of £150.00, this excludes the post. The sign will be a blue sign showing 'not suitable for heavy vehicles.'

All were in favour of purchasing the sign. Kevin and Steve agreed to erect sign.

The condition of Beacon Hill Lane has been reported. The response was 'only 1 pothole meets investigatory level at this time based on depth. However, the stretch of road will be monitored in line with safety inspection schedule criteria.'

Heather has added a note to the existing case asking if they could repair the rest of the verge whilst there.

Heather wanted it noted that she does not have any more weight as Chairman when it comes to reporting issues to Highways.

Thank you to Steve for re-erecting the fallen down directional sign on the White Way at the junction of Beacon Hill Lane.



Heather raised concerns about the parking and the condition of the roads. Heather said that from talking to Cllr Malcolm Wallace it is very difficult to get anything done by Hampshire Highways for financial reasons as well as practical considerations. For example, we cannot have yellow lines if not policed.

Jerry Pett and Cllr Malcolm Wallace advised the Chairman if the village felt strongly about parking some of our money could be spent putting a proposal together to submit to Highways to try and find a way of doing something. The cost would have to be raised from our precept and there is no guarantee we could get this done.

Comment made that any parking restrictions may prevent residents from parking and may simply move one area of congestion to another.

Suggestion made that the flints could be reinstated alongside Shoe Lane that were put in after the flooding, however this action may still not deter people from parking there.

It was mentioned that Larrymore Cottages have had cars parked in the parking bays at the weekend making it difficult for the residents of Larrymore Cottages to use these spaces. Issues with parking in these spaces need to be reported to the Council as they are Council owned properties.

Other problem areas mentioned in the village, on the corner of Allens Farm Lane, outside the Crossways.

It was suggested we could make the lane along Shoe Lane wider using tarmac, allowing more room for cars to park thereby making it easier for vehicles to drive by safely.

Comments were made "think we may have to put up with it and be happy that we live in such a lovely place".

An action for Heather, Steve and Kevin to walk round the village to see if there is anything that could be done and consider putting a proposal together with costings. The village would have to fund it ourselves.

It was suggested that the Shoe could be approached for ideas to improve parking by their clientele. Heather to take this as an action to speak with Patrick and Annabelle.

FOOTPATHS

It was reported that the footpath past the stud is now in as good a condition as it can be. All the trees have been cut back around the stile and the gate is now shut.

It was reported that there has been talk on the Meonstoke Chat that motorbikes have been riding on the footpath by Garden Hill Lane. It was confirmed by the grid reference 630215 that this is an Exton footpath (image below). It was suggested a sign could be erected but would anyone take any interest in the sign. Agreed we would keep our eye on it and see how many people are using it for the wrong reasons. Jennie to speak with Jerry Pett.

630215



CHURCH UPDATE FROM RICHARD

The Revd Jill Kingston has been appointed to the Meon Valley Parishes and her full ministry will be in the Bridge Benefice. She will serve out her notice at St Francis, Leigh Park, and be licensed on 16 June 2025. Her first official Sunday service will be at Exton's Patronal Festival on 29 June.

The Meonstoke Fête c'tee has made the suggestion that the fete should alternate every year between Exton and Meonstoke, rather than every two years. Comments please, in the first instance to Richard Pepys, rpepys@gmail.com or to Juliet Reed".

It was asked how the proceeds are divided from the Fete. Richard explained that Corhampton get 10%, Exton 45% and Meonstoke 45%. This was agreed a long time ago.

Church Electoral roll - Thank you to Juliet for emailing out the form to everyone.

PRESHAW

No representative from Preshaw

MEON HALL

Financial Status - £118,774.00

Donations/grants received - £500 from Meonstoke and Corhampton Parish Council and £200 from Exton Meeting.

An anonymous donation of £1,600.00 was received to supplement the general maintenance of the grounds.

A quote from Solstice for installation of a 14kw system of solar panels has been agreed, at an approximate cost of £20,000.00. Work to begin in the coming months.

Bookings are satisfactory. An extra levy has been introduced for hirers for electricity and kitchen use.

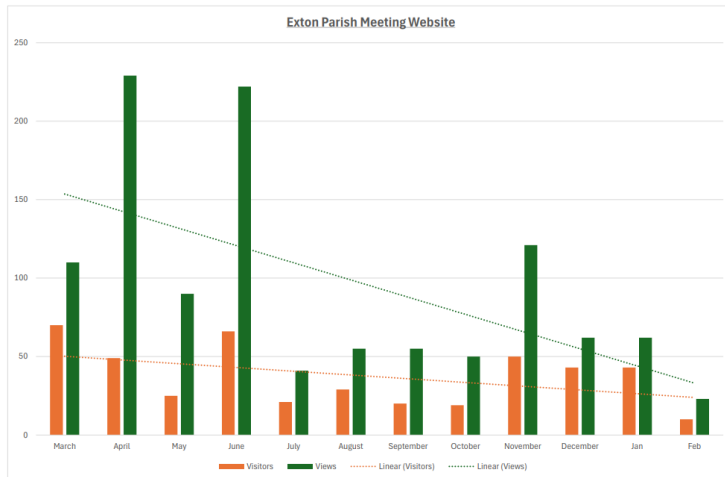
200 Club lottery now has 352 members.

A new water meter has been installed enabling remote monthly readings by the water company.

John Dobby is retiring from resident trustee duties and Phil Bury has agreed to take over.

VILLAGE WEBSITE

Our village website has been up and running for over a year. Heather pointed out that every month the monthly Council reports are uploaded. We have paid for 5 years with the help of our sponsors. Heather encouraged everyone to use it.



Juliet to send out link to website.

GREENING INITIATIVE

David gave a quick explanation of the 5 categories for the Greening Campaign (these can be found on our website) and requested the latest Greening meeting notes be added to the minutes.

[Greening notes 19th March - Meeting Notes 2025.docx](#)

[March notes Nature Network.docx](#)

It was agreed that £50.00 will be given from the village funds for the initial joining fee and a further £50.00 in support of the greening campaign. Kevin needs to know who send the funds to. It was explained that someone from Meonstoke is looking at a draft constitution that will allow a bank account to be opened. It will be a simple form of organisation which is an unincorporated association. Bank account details to be shared with Kevin when known.

ELECTION – CHAIRMAN, TREASURER AND SECRETARY

Heather (Chairman), Kevin (Treasurer) and Juliet (Secretary) happy to continue.

AOB

Defibrillator stickers – We have been sent stickers to alert people where the Defibrillator is located. It was agreed the stickers would be placed on Chrissie and David Frere's gate (opposite Church Lane), the Church notice board, the Grynch on the new sign, the village shop, the bus stop outside the Crossways and The Shoe,

Lin Mellor to arrange another Defib session which will also cover first aid.

Juliet to notify people who do not have internet of this session.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 27th October 2025

ACTIONS FROM MEETING

Include a reference to the Exton WhatsApp group in the covering email sent out for the Minutes	Juliet
Switching off the old copper lines – Emergency plan for those who rely on landline	Heather
Erect sign at the Grynch	Kevin and Steve
Parking issues around the village	Heather, Kevin and Steve
The Shoe Inn Parking	Heather
Garden Hill Lane (footpath) and the motorbikes using it. Jennie to speak with Jerry Pett (Action).	Jennie
Action for Juliet to send out link to website	Juliet
Sighting of Defib stickers	Kevin
Defib session to include first aid	Lin
Notify those who do not have internet of the Defib/First aid session	Juliet