

Exton Parish Meeting
Monday 16th March 2026
At The Shoe Inn, Shoe Lane, Exton at 6.00pm

MINUTES

Meeting opened, Chair welcomed all.

APOLOGIES

Shaw and Jo Somers
Kevin and Sue Robertson
Chris Martin
Charles and Tina Blackmore
David Frere-Cooke
Karen Rowsell
Jill Cassels
Rosemarie and Bob Miles
Sarah Bengé

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Passed as a true record. Proposed by Paul Garner. Seconded by Steve Reed.

MATTERS NOT ARISING ON THE AGENDA

Village Fete

Kit Ellen gave update on how preparations for the fete were progressing. The date of the village fete confirmed for Saturday 11th July to be held in Glynne Bengé's paddock and car parking in David-Frere-Cooke's paddock. A first committee meeting had already taken place and another follow on meeting to be organised again soon. Notes of what had been discussed and any actions had been sent to the committee.

The chair mentioned that the focus for fundraising (idea raised by Sue Robertson) could be to renovate the bells in the St Peter and St Paul Church Exton to get them ringing again. All agreed this would a fantastic idea.

Kit to prioritise clearer promotion for the village fete etc. ensuring everyone knows the date location and details

Church Update

Richard expressed his thanks to all those who contribute to the church through cleaning and flower arranging and is extremely grateful to everyone who helps. Richard asked for volunteers to step forward to help with a variety of other tasks as currently there is only a small team serving on the Parochial Church Council. If you can help please contact Richard at rpepys@gmail.com

Other Updates

It was reported that Felicity Hindson (previous County Councillor for Hampshire County Council) had passed away. The attendees formally recognised her excellent contribution to the village and to the South Downs.

Jennie reported that the daffodils throughout the village are flourishing and highlighted that the initial planting at the village entrance was suggested by Felicity Hindson, and following Jennie's recommendation wild daffodils were planted instead of hybrid ones, these were a contribution made by Felicity

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

“Chairman Fred Langdale presented the following report to the meeting”:

I was elected Chairman of the Exton and Preshaw Parish Meeting last November, and since then things have been relatively quiet. That has, however, given us the opportunity to clarify how we will approach certain matters going forward.

In particular, we have agreed that all planning and licensing applications affecting the parish will be clearly advertised so that everyone is properly informed. For example, my first email to the parish, titled Letter to the Parish, sent on 2nd December/ I also forwarded an email invitation 20th January, from Droxford Parish to inform residents about the Corhampton Golf Course meeting, which took place at Droxford Village Hall on 24th January at 9:30 am. As a Parish Meeting, we do not comment on or submit representations regarding these applications as a body. Individual residents are, of course, entirely free to express their own views through the appropriate channels.

We are also posting any relevant information to the parish on the parish website. There is a good deal of useful information on there, and we will continue to keep it up to date. At present, however, the website is not widely used. It is possible to see how many times it is accessed, though not by whom, and so far those visits are largely from Jack, who updates the noticeboard, and from me. I would encourage residents to make use of it as a source of information.

I would like to make an effort over the coming year to bring people together where we can. There are no major national or royal occasions in the calendar this year to gather around, as there have been in the past, so I hope a couple of smaller ideas might appeal.

One is to organise an evening at The Shoe Inn to share and discuss some of the metal detecting finds recovered from Exton Park Vineyard. David FC has kindly given me a few names of people to speak to who may have knowledge of the finds, and I hope this will make for an interesting and sociable evening.

Another idea is to arrange a walk around the parish boundary. It would be a good opportunity to see the extent of the parish and enjoy the landscape together in good company. I feel this would be best done in the spring.

Emails to follow to gauge interest and cement dates.

Of course, we also have the Exton Village Fete to look forward to on the 11th of July, and I understand that great plans are already in motion.

I hope these occasions will provide opportunities for people to come together, and I welcome any other ideas that residents may have.

I would like to thank everyone for the offers of support in my roll. Kevin for standing in while we complete the handover of the treasury to Lizzie McGilveray, Jack, our Vice Chairman, for organising the website and providing valuable advice, and, of course, our Secretary, Juliet, for forwarding all relevant emails and gently keeping me on track with tasks that need attention.

BETHANY MORTON – FRIENDS OF FRIENDS FESTIVAL, ST CLAIRS FARM, BIG BOOT LAKE (Introduction to the event)

Bethany Morton introduced herself and provided an overview of the festival (more detailed information on the festival can be found on village website).
<https://extonparishmeeting.com/notice-reports>

Bethany explained she had come along to put people's minds at rest in case of any noise problems or parking issues which she did not anticipate as they would have decibel counters to monitor noise levels and there was adequate parking for the anticipated guests (approximately 1000 people).

The age range for the festival is roughly 20 to 35.

Bethany was also looking for interest from anyone who wanted to supply food and clothes stalls at the festival.

COUNCIL REPORT

HCC Councillor Update (March 2026)

WCC Parish Report March 2026

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurers note March 2026

- Income and Spend, year-to-date, has been as follows

Opening Balance	27 th October 2025	£2,478
Spend / Income		
Insurance	19 th December 2025	£536
Bank charges	20 th December 2025	£5
Bank charges	20 th February 2026	£10
Domain registration	26 th February 2026	£13
Closing Balance	3 rd March	£1,914

- Copies of all statements and cheque books are available to review, please contact Lizzie McGilveray , after March 21st
- These accounts will be handed over to the incoming Treasurer

HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS

The Chair and the attendees expressed their sincere thanks to Jennie for her dedication as a Footpath officer over many years, following her decision to step down from the role. Brian-Thorpe Tracey had kindly agreed to cover the position on an interim basis.

Post meeting update: Fred Langdale has since volunteered to take on the role of Footpath Officer on a permanent basis

Jennie reported that the footpath running up from the Stud to Corhampton Lane Farm that has trees blocking the path in several areas she has spoken to Maxim and he is looking into rectifying this.

PRESHAW

There were no updates to report from Preshaw in the absence of a representative.

MEON HALL

Meon Hall 11/03/2026 - Update from last meeting.

Financial status:

At 19th January the total monetary assets stood at £114,446.85

There was an anonymous donation of £2000 in November and a £1000 legacy from Mrs Pauline Quarendon.

The Beetle drive made a surplus of £800.

The 200 club had 302 members.

Bookings were reported to be progressing as expected.

VILLAGE WEBSITE

Jack highlighted the website is updated frequently and encourages everyone to check it regularly and invites feedback on any content you would like added.

GREENING INITIATIVE

Brian Thorpe-Tracey provided the following summary of the activities of the Meonstoke, Exton and Corhampton Greening Campaign:

- Terena Plowright leads the MEC Greening Initiative
- Aim is to support sustainable environmental enhancing initiatives to combat and/or manage climate change
- Comprises 5 'pillars': waste prevention; health impacts; energy efficiency; cycle the seed; nature networks
- **Waste prevention:** 2 villagers being trained by HCC 'waste prevention team'; refill store directory established; repair cafe partnering arrangements being developed
- **Health impacts:** stalls taken at village fete and garden club events, general information dissemination e.g. Individual heat control and 'tick management'
- **Energy efficiency:** two thermal cameras obtained for use and users trained including SR & RP in Exton, homes can be surveyed for heat leakage; access to 'My home made better' grouping of construction professionals to provide free advice;

heat pump event earlier in month, 2 further events (see village website) 23 March security of energy supply; 25 March 7.00 Meon Hall 'Energy landscape workshop'

- **Cycling the seed:** partnering with the 'National Seed Bank' to replenish and rejuvenate the stock - about 30 villagers involved, 1500 new seeds returned - noted as an exemplary performance; participants gardens visited to pass on tips on how to grow 'food' efficiently; TP has and is able to give talk on importance of Heritage seeds.
- **Nature networks:** Plan to create continuous natural corridors between the three Nationally recognised Nature Reserves impacting the Parishes; Parish wide mapping exercise undertaken by volunteers 22nr 1 km squares surveyed, now being processed to produce a digital map; gaps in nature network identified and with consent of Stocks Lane Farm, 40M of new hedgerow established adjacent SDW and a further 40M of overrun hedgerow refurbished, planting stock funded by grant from WCC and planted by volunteers 21/22 February with significant contribution from Extonions!; ongoing model - funds from grants, PC, PM and fete, labour provided by volunteers; partnering with HLOWNT who have provided through GC free advice to local river frontager with respect to rewilding.
- All info on village website; more volunteers required - please make known to Exton core team of JW, DFC,BTT

AOB

- A concern submitted via email prior to the meeting was raised regarding increased traffic volume and speeding through the village, specifically at Beacon Hill. The attendees talked about preserving our village feel and expressed a preference for avoiding excessive signage around the village. It was noted that while official signs require Highways authority approval, that as a village we could erect our own signs, if we decided to so, without permission from Highways
- Jerry Pett and Neil Bolton reported on a recent scrutiny meeting attended by the Police where discussions focussed on the use of speed cameras and the tendency for drivers to accelerate immediately upon leaving speed-restricted zones. (e.g. exiting West Meon). The Police were asked to consider further experimentation with "pinch points" to naturally slow traffic.
- Brian Thorpe-Tracey to clear foliage around the width advisory sign at the White Way sign to ensure the sign is clearly visible.
- A question was raised by Jane regarding a recent segment heard on Gardeners question time about new rules coming into effect where Councils have to recycle flower pots if they are not black from 1st April.

In response to the question raised at the meeting, Councillor Malcolm Wallace has provided the following information:

"There has been some coverage suggesting that councils will begin recycling plastic plant pots from 1 April as part of the Government's Simpler Recycling initiative. However, although the national policy technically begins on that date, Hampshire will not be able to introduce these new recycling materials straight away.

Hampshire County Council needs to build and commission a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) capable of sorting the wider range of plastics required under the new system. Until that new facility is operational – which

is expected to take around two years – Hampshire's recycling centres and kerbside collections cannot recycle plastic plant pots, including black pots.

In the meantime:

Flower pots can still be taken to HWRCs, but they will be disposed of rather than recycled.

Many garden centres do offer plant-pot recycling schemes, so residents may be able to recycle them locally. It's best to check with individual centres before travelling, as participation varies by site".

- Councillors at the meeting asked how everyone was finding the new food waste collections and the consensus was the scheme is working well.
- Update on Postal Voting provided by Neil Bolton: The postal vote application process has changed and it is now much easier to apply online using a smartphone. The online application takes roughly 10 minutes and you will need to have your National Insurance number and passport details ready to use as ID. Deadline for receipt of Postal Vote Applications is 5.00 pm on Tuesday 21st April 2026.
- Planning – It was suggested that the list of planning applications received by the Chairman are put on the village notice board and the relevant village applications are highlighted for ease of reference.
- Greening Initiative – Brian mentioned it would be great to see more volunteers get involved. The group meets every third Monday for anyone interested. More information on the village website.
- Angie asked if another get together could be arranged in the middle of summer (similar to the successful event held in the Paddock last year) Fred, Jack and Juliet to take away as an action to investigate the feasibility for this event.

End of meeting.

Date of next meeting yet to be agreed.

The Minutes of the last meeting are on the notice board and on the village website.

Actions from Meeting

Kit Ellen	Prioritise clearer promotion for the village fete etc. ensuring everyone knows the date location and details
Brian Thorpe-Tracey	Clear foliage around the width advisory sign at the White way sign to ensure the sign is clearly visible
Fred Langdale	Put planning applications on village notice board
Fred, Jack and Juliet	Look at feasibility of holding a summer event