West Meon and Warnford Care Group was set up some years ago to provide transport for the inhabitants of West Meon, Warnford and Woodlands to and from medical appointments when they are unable to drive themselves or have nobody they can call on to help. The scheme is part of the Good Neighbours Network of the Diocese of Portsmouth. At present we have nine volunteer drivers, all of whom have DBS clearance. Through the GNN we have public liability and employer insurance. We ask the people we transport to make a contribution towards petrol,

We are also able to help with the provision of personal alarms (life lines) and with their annual cost which is considerably more of a drain on out resources than than the 45p per mile reimbursed to the drivers to cover the petrol. The life lines can make a considerable difference to vulnerable people living on their own. We anticipate a significant rise in the cost of providing these due to the digitilisation of telephones.

The reorganisation of hospital services is likely to mean longer journeys to appointments, for instance to Basingstoke. There have been for some time threats to cut the 67 bus service which, if they are carried out will make life more difficult for villages along the route.

We are asking Warnford for a grant of £100.

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Virginia de Cosson

OCTOBER 2025

Chair, West Meon and Warnford Care Group

Enclosed: Accounts, Draft Budget 2026/29