

Application for a Grant for West Meon and Warnford Parish News for 2026/7

The Parish News is still delivered free of charge 11 times a year to every house in Warnford and West Meon. It is provided by the Parochial Church Councils of both Churches as a service to the community, and includes articles and details of events by villagers, clubs and societies, as well as church news. More contributions would be most welcome. The magazine is delivered by volunteers, kindly coordinated by Jane Waller. It is now available online as well as being delivered.

Both PCCs believe that a paper copy is useful to many people who would never go online to browse for local information. It is considered more people would read something 'lying on the kitchen table' than would actively look online. It also gives advertisers greater exposure and therefore they have more incentive to place an advertisement. West Meon Parish Council was consulted in 2023 and they were adamant that they wanted to keep a hard copy.

The two churches will be reviewing the format and frequency of publication next year. One idea under consideration is to go to a larger format, possibly in colour, published two monthly. It would be extremely helpful to have some feedback from this meeting, or from individuals.

The magazine is funded by advertising revenue, donations and grants from WPM and WMPC. We are extremely grateful for the support from the Parish Council and Parish Meeting. West Meon gave £250 this year and an application for next year for the same amount is being made. The remaining shortfall will be met by the PCCs of both churches. Our printers have kept their costs the same for this year. There is however still a likely shortfall next year of approximately £3110 between income and production costs.

Helena Gomm continues to work hard managing the advertising and recruiting new advertisers and all but one of the available slots are currently full. We have used a conservative figure in next year's budget because there are always changes in the advertisers.

Because the magazine is provided by the parish churches, the costs and revenue for the magazine are included in the West Meon Church accounts. The Church's year end is 31st December. The 2026 budget has not yet been agreed by the PCC, but the figures below are what are expected to be in it.

| | 2024 Actual | 2025 Forecast | 2026 Budget |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Advertising | 3613 | 3366 | 3400 |
| Donations | 62 | 50 | 50 |
| Grants | 450 | 450 | 450 |
| Total Income | 4125 | 3866 | 3900 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Printing & editorial | 6864 | 6740 | 6960 |
| Distribution | 34 | 45 | 50 |
| Total Expenses | 6898 | 6785 | 7010 |
| Shortfall | -2773 | -2919 | -3110 |

I would be happy to supply copies of the Church accounts on request.

Each issue of the magazine carries one page of information from the West Meon Parish Council and the Warnford Parish Meeting and another page of useful details for contacting local government officials as agreed with WMPC and WPM. These pages are an important means of communication which, as advertising, would cost £1,360 *pa*. The combined grants do not cover the actual cost of these pages.

The PCCs are extremely grateful for the donations which Warnford Parish Meeting (and WMPC) has made in the past to keep the Parish News viable and is once again requesting a contribution to the costs of production. The churches are committed to providing this important community newsletter to all in the villages without charge. The continuing support of the Parish Meeting and others is necessary for this to be sustainable in the future.

We would be very grateful if the Parish Meeting would once again make a grant of £200 for 2026 and very much hope that the Meeting will find this acceptable. In view of our rising costs if the meeting felt inclined to increase the size of the grant we would be most grateful.

On behalf of Warnford and West Meon Parochial Church Councils

Buffy Morris, Treasurer, West Meon PCC buffymorris54@gmail.com

Edwin Grimshaw, Treasurer, Warnford PCC edwin@ekgrimshaw.co.uk

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