

MINUTES

11.02.20

GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall, Godshill on Tuesday 11th February 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr Fell - Chairman
Cllr Cakebread
Cllr O'Brien
Cllr Phillips
Cllr Williams
Cllr Woodward

Mrs Bev Cornish - Clerk
Seven members of the public.

Public Session:

A parishioner reported a possible breach of planning for a property in Southampton Road. He said could not recall permission being given for the work currently being carried out.

A parishioner expressed his strong objection to the planning application for Pound Bottom. He said he recognised that the work needed to be completed but when he bought his property he had sought confirmation from the NPA that it would be closed within a defined number of years. He said that to find it would take yet another year for work to be completed was both frustrating and unacceptable.

Litter Warden: Mrs Boyd reported that there continued to be a lot of litter in the village and visitors to the cricket pitch were still leaving behind their bags full of dog waste rather than taking them home. The Clerk agreed to chase up Forestry England on the installation of the replacement bin.

Mrs Boyd also reported that she would be organising the annual litter pick for Sunday 7th June 2020 as this would be after the bank holiday weekend and a time when there was historically a large amount of litter.

145.19 To receive apologies for absence: The Clerk advised that she had received an apology from Cllr Pomphrey due to a personal commitment. Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the apologies be noted.

146.19 Declarations of Interest:

a. To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers:

Cllrs O'Brien and Williams declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in planning application on 20/00005 by virtue of their relationship with the applicant and did not speak or vote when the application was discussed.

b. To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered:

The Clerk confirmed that she had received no dispensation requests.

147.19 To resolve to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 14th January 2019: Cllr Cakebread proposed, Cllr Williams seconded and it was RESOLVED, with 1 abstention from Cllr Fell, that the Minutes be approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

148.19 To resolve to refer any business raised by the public in public discussion, and any other matters or items of information from councillors, to a future meeting or to resolve to agree on any other action: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should make enquiries regarding the possible breach of planning at the property in Southampton Road.

149.19 To resolve to note Clerk's Report providing information on recent issues and work completed: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk's report be noted as follows:

81.19 Defibrillator Training: The Village Hall has been booked and the date of Friday 21st February confirmed for defibrillator training with Ben Murley.

108.19 Speed Indicator Devices: The 3 batteries have been delivered and the Clerk is awaiting a response to/guidance on questions on the configuration of the devices.

136.19, 137.19 & 138.19: Consultations: The Clerk and Cllr Cakebread sent responses on behalf of the Council to the consultations on the NFDC Local Plan, New Forest National Park's draft Revised Habitat Mitigation Scheme and the Dorset Heathland Framework.

139.19 Lengthsman: The Lengthsman had carried out all the tasks requested.

143.19: Fencing around the Southampton Road Cattlegrid: The Clerk has liaised with the Clerk to the Verderers to continue to report the reinstatement of the fence. It is showing online as 'in progress'.

150.19 Planning and Tree Work Applications:

Application No. 19/00958

Pound Bottom Landfill Site, Forest Road, Redlynch - Application to vary conditions to revise restoration completion date and conditions 4,5,6,7,9,11 and 12: Following a report from Cllr Cakebread, she proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council should recommend refusal for the reasons listed below but would accept the decision reached by the Officers under their delegated powers.

1. Timing and Lack of Forward Planning

The Parish Council is astonished by the late submission of the planning application.

There is no information within the application on the reasons for the miscalculation of quantities and timing. At what point did the applicants become aware that they would need to import another 25,000 tonnes of soil? It is obvious that this must have been known well before mid-December 2019.

The Applicants have been permitted to use an area within the site for storage, so why have they not gradually brought in an adequate amount throughout the many years they have known it would be required?

As each section of valuable topsoil was removed when excavation was first started, was it set aside carefully for eventual replacement, as was suggested would be the case? If not, why not?

2. Availability of materials

For the past few years there has been a plethora of construction sites all over the country, largely because of the Government's drive for more housing, so there should have been no shortage of suitable soil. Of course, this may have been dependent on the price the applicants are willing to pay.

3. Late submission and reliability of information

The late publication of the Method Statement Summary shows that the intention is to deliver the 25,000 tonnes of soil in a two-month "campaign" starting on 3 February.

Assuming that not a single lorry-trip is allowed on Sundays and Bank Holidays, this works out as follows:

$25,000t \div 20t \text{ lorry} = \text{capacity} \div 46 \text{ days} = 27.193 \text{ loads per day} \times 2 \text{ trips per load including return empty} = 54.346 \text{ per day} \div 10 \text{ hours per day} = 5.5 \text{ per hour}$. Roughly one lorry passing every 6 minutes.

The Council knows from experience of similar "campaigns" that this means continuous HGV traffic, lorries never out of sight for ten hours a day, passing each other on the narrow roads by using the verges to avoid having to slow down. It has no information about the route(s) to be taken but believe that this will probably be confined to the Cadnam road through Brook and passing parish residents in Boundary Cottage. Could the impact of the deliveries be shared by lorries being routed via Downton, from the A36 and through Nomansland and from the A338 through Godshill?

Furthermore, how much can the Council trust the information provided? It has on many occasions been emphatically assured that all waste deposits ceased on 31st December 2017. Indeed, for example, on 17th September 2019 a letter online from Michael Jones to David Williams on behalf of the applicants, includes the words, "In particular, now that the site has been capped". Yet this application includes capping work on some cells still awaiting completion. The Applicants still "need to liaise with lining company for availability." Why has the specialised plastic sheeting not already been purchased?

4. Clarifications needed:

What does 'minimal' mean? And what would be the maximum number of lorries per day?

What does 'from this point onwards' mean? Does this mean the end of May or end of August?

Is enforcement of very strict conditions possible?

- a. that applicants conform strictly to all working time restrictions;
- b. that the working practices adhere strictly to conditions for mitigation of nuisance;
- c. that a penalty be imposed for failure to complete in time;
- d. no lorry movements on Saturday afternoons, Sundays and Bank Holidays; and
- e. no lorry movements outside permitted hours. (Although experience shows that lorries start arriving long before 7 am which must be prevented.)

5. Strict supervision needed

Because of the site's past history, and the reluctance of the NPA to enforce conditions, Godshill Parish Council requests that supervision be imposed to ensure that conditions are complied with, with a penalty for failure to complete by the completion date. This may counteract the historical lack of urgency to complete the project.

National Park Authority officers cannot be expected to be at the site daily, so Godshill Parish Council requests that the applicants be required to pay in advance for this very full supervision, as a condition of any permission, including continuous marshalling control of the lorry traffic at intervals along the whole route during the delivery 'campaign', to spot and penalise any drivers failing to slow sufficiently to pass each other at passing places.

6. Financial compensation for damage to highways

Before the Pound Bottom project started, the verges on the narrow B3080 were protected by bunds to discourage encroachment by traffic. However, Pound Bottom traffic rapidly destroyed these bunds, as well as the edges of the roads, which had to be repaired, resulting in widening.

Obviously, a 2-month campaign will cause considerable damage to the New Forest roads and verges and so a substantial financial contribution to the cost of further repairs should be exacted, rather than passing these costs on to Hampshire taxpayers.

7. Requirement for Mitigation

Lastly, although the work within the site causes little disturbance to residents, the transport of soils across the New Forest National park causes noise, road and verge damage, dust, diesel fumes, risk to animals and other unpleasantness which have been endured for far too many years already. It may not seem possible but the fact is that residents do have to pick up litter which they see escaping from the lorries to prevent ingestion by Forest animals. This experience contradicts the claim that measures are in place which prevent such nuisances.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the meeting be opened to allow the applicant to speak and respond to questions.

Application No 20/00005 - Paysanne, Godshill Wood - Retention and completion of swimming pool; plant/pump house:

There followed a detailed and robust exchange between Cllr Cakebread and the applicant with requests for information on the construction of the swimming pool in view of its impact on the landscape and the steeply sloping topography of the site and also the installation of other wooden buildings on the site which it was argued were contrary to the condition contained in a previous planning permission.

The applicant said that the application was being submitted so that users of the pool did not have to use the house to change, the building wouldn't affect anyone and the pump/pool house was similar to other properties in Godshill which had swimming pools and changing areas. He also reported that he had been in contact with planning officers and they had advised him that the wooden buildings did not require planning permission.

Following a discussion, Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Phillips seconded and it was RESOLVED, with 1 abstention from Cllr Cakebread that Godshill Parish Council should recommend that it was happy to accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's officers under their delegated powers.

Application No CONS/20/0027 - Kingfisher Cottage, Blissford Road, Blissford - Prune 1 x group of 4 Poplar trees Prune 1 x Fir tree: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the decision be left to the Tree Officer.

Application No TPO/20/0068

Fig Cottage, Southampton Road, Godshill – Fell 1 x Ash Tree: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the decision be left to the Tree Officer.

151.19 To consider a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England’s consultation on the New Forest District Council Electoral Review, taking account of the proposal from Hyde Parish Council to form a ‘Rural Ward’ comprising rural parishes from within the North West Quadrant area of the New Forest: Following a short report from the Clerk, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that a joint submission from the parishes of Godshill, Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley, Hale, Hyde, and Woodgreen be approved unanimously and that the finalising and submission of the response be delegated to the Clerk.

152.19 To consider a response to Wiltshire Council’s consultation on the Salisbury Central Area Framework: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the response be delegated to Cllr Cakebread and the Clerk.

153.19 To resolve to approve the appointment of Mr Tim Light of Fair Account as the Parish Council’s Internal Auditor for 2020/21: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that Mr Tim Light of Fair Account as the Parish Council’s Internal Auditor for 2020/21.

154.19 To resolve to approve that two Speed Indicator Devices to the value of £3,645 be added to the Council’s Asset Register: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Speed Indicator Devices be added to the Asset Register.

155.19 To consider and resolve to approve the submission of a planning application to New Forest National Park Authority to seek ‘advertising consent’ for the installation of a Village Hall ‘Private Car Park – For Village Hall Users Only’ sign at the cost of £66: Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr O’Brien seconded and it was RESOLVED that the submission of a planning application be approved.

156.19 To agree a revised date for the Annual Parish Meeting for 2020: Following a brief discussion, Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the date of the Annual Parish Meeting be confirmed as Tuesday 21st April 2020 at 7 pm.

157.19 To resolve to approve the purchase of a ‘Private Car Park - For Village Hall Users Only’ sign at the size of 600 mm x520 mm from Blissford Signs up to a cost of £150: Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that the sign be approved but councillors acknowledged that this was subject to planning permission being granted for its installation.

158.19 To resolve to approve the following payments:

£160.00 - Fair Account - For completion of the half year internal audit.

£475.00 - Mrs Sara Boyd - 2nd Payment for her Litter Warden role.

£6.44 - Fordingbridge Town Council - Lengthsman materials - gate spring.

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr O’Brien seconded and it was RESOLVED that the payments be approved.

MINUTES

11.02.20

159.19 Finance and Policy:

a. To resolve to approve the sum of £971.85 as the Accounts for payment for February.

	£	Cheque No.
Fair Account	160.00	100653
Mrs Sara Boyd	475.00	100655
Fordingbridge Town Council	6.44	100656
B Cornish – February salary	330.41	100657

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr O'Brien seconded and it was RESOLVED that the accounts for payment be approved.

b. To resolve to approve the Bank balances - Cheque and Reserve Accounts:

Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 11.02.20

Current Account: £6,317.66 Deposit Account: £581.12

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the balances be approved and noted.

160.19 Outside Bodies and Representation:

New Forest Association of Local Councils: Cllr Fell gave a detailed report on a recent meeting at which there had been discussions on:

- the Local Government Boundary Commission's review of the New Forest;
- the Safer New Forest Partnership had confirmed its key priorities as: children at risk, modern slavery & human trafficking, drug & alcohol related harm and domestic abuse;
- Steve Avery had given a brief update on planning issues and Agriculture and Environment Bills going through Parliament which were likely to influence the future of the Forest.
- Climate Change and how this was to be addressed by the National Park Authority at its forthcoming meeting.

Western Escarpment Conservation Area Steering Group: Cllr O'Brien gave a detailed report on a recent meeting at which there had been discussions on:

- the new Local Plan;
- the work to be undertaken to list the local important but undesignated buildings;
- the outcomes of several Appeals to the Planning Inspectorate; and
- the work being done by Ringwood Town Council to address climate change.

Superfast Broadband: Cllr Fell gave a brief report on the progress of gathering responses to a questionnaire seeking residents' interest in joining the Council in making an application to the Rural Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme. He said he had received over 70 responses and the Clerk would be submitting them to the Community Fibre Team at Openreach to generate a revised quote. He also said that residents would be kept updated by email but a meeting would be called in due course when the new quote was known in order to consider next steps.

Village Hall Committee: Cllr Williams gave a brief report on a recent meeting at which the installation of solar panels on the roof of the hall was considered.

161.19 To resolve to note the Correspondence received: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted:

1. NFNPA

- An email advising that an Enforcement Notice for Homestead Cottage following dismissal of the appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.
- An email advising that the New Forest National Park Local Plan 2016 – 2036 (adopted August 2019) is available to view on the Park's website at:
<https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/>
- An email advising that the next NW Quadrant Meeting will be held on the 9 March at 7pm at Fordingbridge Town Hall.

2. Hampshire County Council

- An email seeking information on the ownership of bus shelters in parishes.

162.19 Any Other Business:

Livestock Notices: Cllr Phillips advised that the CDA had produced signs alerting members of the public to keep their and their dog's distance from livestock in the Forest and that it is a criminal offence to 'worry' livestock. She thought it would be worthwhile putting up the signs in several prominent places in Godshill.

Drain in Woodgreen Road: Cllr Fell advised that he and his neighbours had reported further damage to the drain in Woodgreen Road whose water outflow was the cause of frequent accidents and upturned vehicles when the temperature dropped below zero. The Clerk advised that she would contact the highways engineer to arrange a site visit.

163.19 Next meeting: Cllr Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 10th March 2020.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Members of the Council considered the foregoing in the matters in consideration of their duties: Equal Opportunities, (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability); Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, and Human Rights.