

MINUTES
14.06.2022
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th June 2022 at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr Fell – Chairman

Cllr Cakebread

Cllr O'Brien

Cllr Stammers

Cllr Williams

Cllr Woodward

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk

Five members of the public

Cllr Fell welcomed everyone to the meeting advised that the meeting was being audio-recorded by the Clerk.

Cllr Edward Heron: Cllr Heron gave a detailed report including:

- Advising of the appointment of a new Council Leader and new Council. His new role was as Cabinet member for Transport and Environment Strategy which did not mean he was responsible for potholes.
- Good progress was being made on the Roger Penny Way average speed camera project. Parishes were likely to be asked for a contribution within the next two months.
- Cllr Russell Oppenheimer was the Cabinet member for footpaths but Cllr Heron was happy to take up matters if he was advised of the local issues.
- His understanding of the progress of broadband was limited but he knew that contracts were still out for tender. The new Project Gigabit scheme involved one project for Hampshire and another for New Forest and he is waiting hear when that has been let and Godshill was in the frame for it. He said BT are still 2 years behind and building schemes which were agreed 18 months ago. They are also finding that the data that they had at the beginning of the scheme was not matching what they were finding on the ground.
- He confirmed that Giganet were a party which was bidding into the Project Gigabit Scheme, although they were finding on the ground that the infrastructure on the ground did not match what they were finding on the ground. They were able to call on BT to remedy that infrastructure but this added additional time to the projects. It also added additional costs to the installation.

Cllr Woodward asked about the electricity network and how the County Council was preparing for the increased impact on the electricity network for residents who wished to upgrade their properties to install heat pumps etc which would require a load survey and these had a backlog of 18 months to be completed.

Cllr Heron said that this was something which central government needed to address.

7.30 pm Public Question Time

A member of the public asked whether the animal casualty signs were accurate in terms of animal deaths for the whole forest or just the B3078.

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Cllr Heron said that it was only for the B3078 and it was a rolling figure from 1st January.

Cllr Woodward advised that the Verderers Court had advised that there had been no casualties for 11 weeks.

Litter Warden: Mrs Sara Boyd said that she had nothing of particular note to report. Although she said that she had informed Sandy Balls that there will be some co-ordination so that they do not do a litter pick on the same week that she is doing a litter pick.

23.22 Co-option

Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr O'Brien seconded and it was RESOLVED that Mr Peter Stammers be co-opted to the Parish Council. He signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

24.22 Business Raised During Public Question Time

No issues were raised which have not received a response.

25.22 Apologies

No apologies were received.

26.22 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:**

No declarations were received.

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.

27.22 Minutes

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes dated 10th May 2022 be approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

28.22 Clerk's Report

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED to note the Clerk's Report providing information on recent issues and work completed:

Litter Warden: Feb 20 Mtg: Cricket Pitch Bin: No further progress on this.

25.20: Parking at Entrance to Newgrounds: The Clerk has chased Sean Marsh again.

36.20: Footpath 772: They have advised that work will be carried out.

58.20: British Telecommunications plc EIR Request: No response has been received from BT regarding the number of visits for repairs to DSLAM Cabinet outside Godshill Village Hall, SP6 2LH.

41.21 Change of Banking Arrangements: Login and passwords still awaited from Unity Bank.

84.21 Blissford Cross Dragons Teeth Works The Grounds Management Co will be sending me a date for the work to be completed shortly. Cllr Woodward said he would chase them up.

161.21 Councillor Vacancies: One Vacancy remained.

175.21 Speaker for Annual Meeting: Kevin Manning has accepted the invitation to attend the December meeting of the Council.

Noticeboard: Completed and awaiting installation by the lengthsman or the council's contractor.

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Defibrillator Training: Still pending. The person previously asked has a new job with Bath & North East Somerset NHS Trust so can't do training. A colleague of the clerk who had a medical doctor from her former parish carry out training has been asked but if this was not possible, a quote would be sourced from the Community Heartbeat Trust.

Litter affecting Animals: Still pending and needs further investigation about how we can direct a litter pick to a location.

Question Time May: Have spoken to Hale and Woodgreen clerk, she has no idea when it is being installed as no information has been provided.

Encampment on the Cricket Pitch: Sean Marsh advised more work will be done to deter travellers from accessing the cricket pitch although it was unclear what precisely was going to be done.

29.22 Planning and Tree Work Applications:

Planning Application No. TPO/22/0227

Forest Brook Farm, Newgrounds, Godshill - Prune 2 x Oak trees Fell / Reduce down to habitat poles x 3 Oak trees

Fell 1 x Blue Atlantic Cedar - T4 conservation area protection

Prune 1 x Blue Atlantic Cedar - T5 Conservation area protection

Fell 1 x Conifer tree - T7 Conservation area protection

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the decision on this application be left to the Tree Officer.

CONS/22/0224

Mayfield House, Blissford Road, Blissford - Prune 1 x Oak tree

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the decision on this application be left to the Tree Officer.

30.22 Internal Auditor's Report

Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to note the Internal Auditor's Report from Fair Account contained within the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

31.22 Annual Governance Statement

Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance Statement contained within the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Part 3 for the year ended 31st March 2022 for submission to the Parish Council's External Auditors.

32.22 Accounting Statements

Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Accounting Statements and Statement of Variances contained within the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Part 3 for the year ended 31st March 2022 for submission to the Parish Council's External Auditors.

33.22 Exercise of Public Rights

Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED approve the dates for the period for the exercise of public rights for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Part 3 for the year ended 31st March 2022 which were from 20th June to 29th July 2022.

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the meeting be opened to members of the public so that they could contribute the debate.

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34.22 BT Digital Voice Switchover

A member of the public gave a detailed report on his experience of being informed that there would be a discontinuation of their landline service from Sky. By the end of 2025 all landlines would not operate from existing telephone lines and that this would be done through the broadband infrastructure. He said that as a result of this he had called other providers and also OfCom from whom he had established that this was being driven by the companies rather than the regulator but that there was a requirement that they needed to make provision for vulnerable people.

He said further that having emailed Sky to advise them that they had an obligation to make provision for vulnerable people, the company had called him to advise that they were aware of their obligation but that they needed to pass all of the tests which meant that a resident had to have really no other way of being able to make contact with the emergency services.

Cllr Heron said that this was a recognised issue, particularly with older people with emergency buttons because it had been assumed that everyone was on superfast broadband. However, even when the electricity supply is cut, there was a means of contacting people in emergency by dialling 112.

Cllr O'Brien advised that she had read that the changeover was being postponed because of the communications issues experience during Storm Eunice earlier in the year.

Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr O'Brien proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that letters should be written highlighting this issue to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. It was also agreed that this issue should be communicated through the Council's newsletter.

35.22 Improvement/Enhancement of Verges

Cllr Cakebread provided information on the CPRE campaign to protect verges. It was agreed that information on the maintenance and protection of verges would be included in a future newsletter.

36.22 Payments

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
£65.00 – Fair Account – For end of year Internal Audit
£130.00 – Lover Repair Café – For materials & labour related to the repair of the Noticeboard.
£450.00 - Mrs S Boyd - Litter Warden first payment

37.22 Finance and Policy:

- a. Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Williams seconded and it was RESOLVED that the accounts for payment for June be approved

		£
Fair Account	Internal Audit Subscription	65.00
Lover Repair Café	Noticeboard refurb	130.00
S Boyd	Litter Warden	450.00
B Cornish	June Salary	345.39

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- b. Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodard seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Bank balances be approved and noted:

Balances Approved and Noted as at 15.06.22

Current Account: £11,447.49 Deposit Account: £584.86

- c. Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodard seconded and it was RESOLVED to note the Budget to Actual Report to 30th June 2022.

38.22 New Code of Conduct

Following a discussion, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr O'Brien seconded and it was RESOLVED that the new Code of Conduct as written and recommended by the Local Government Association be adopted as the Council's Code. Cllr O'Brien asked that an appendix be added setting out the consequences of not acting correctly and what procedure will need to be followed by the New Forest District Council Monitoring Officer. Cllr Woodward asked that councillors renew their Register of Interests and the Clerk advised that this could be done at the Annual Meeting in May each year.

Cllr Cakebread read out a statement which she asked to have included in the Minutes.

Cllr Woodward said that he had heard the recording and did not agree with the statement made by Cllr Cakebread.

Cllr Williams reported that she had submitted the complete original recording.

Cllr Fell stated that the Council accepted Cllr Cakebread's statement and that the Monitoring Officer had ruled on the issue and that as a Council, he was not able to do anything further. He asked that everyone should move on.

39.22 Outside Bodies and Representation:

North West Quadrant: Cllr Cakebread gave a detailed report on a recent meeting:

- The New Forest National Park **Design Guide** was adopted in January and is now an SPD. Parish councils urged to consult it for all planning applications.
- Design awards have been made for outstanding new buildings, including Cameron's Cottage, in Franchises Lodge, now transformed by the RSPB into a nature centre for young people.
- Three new conservation areas are being considered.
- The Western Escarpment Steering Group is going again, with an Action Plan. Hyde PC were congratulated on their Design Statement.
- Dorset CC Development Plan is now at the Options stage. David Illsley to be asked to make strong case for as little housing development as possible close to New Forest because of increased commuting traffic.
- Most forestry work has been in the South of the Forest this year. Storm Eunice brought down 160+ trees, some blocking access to residences.
- A scrap waste site by the A31 has been cleared (working with Police and multiple other agencies) and returned to forest.
- Day of Action (by Police, FE reps, Agister, Verderer) on Roger Penny Way, checking speed, drunk-driving, etc. Speeding go-to training offered instead of ticket. Repeat offenders ticketed.
- Fly-tippers stopped on way to known sites, many found carrying waste and taken to Lyndhurst carpark, no licence documents. Usually 5-10 illegal vehicles found.

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- Dog-walkers using Forest for business causing problems. Dog Owners Group working in key locations. Discussion on need for licensing. Volunteers needed for education on ground-nesting birds, etc. Vacancies for seasonal rangers' jobs – advertise.
- Climate change Aim for net zero in Forest. All planning applications to demonstrate. Outreach to all residents re their own carbon footprint, and resources provided for businesses. See: WWF personal carbon 5-minute footprint test online; Carbon Trust website.
- Peat maps needed to establish health of Forest. How much needs restoration? Quality of carbon storage? Prevent drying-out (retain water by restoring meanders), etc. Land-based solutions. Salt-marsh regeneration also important.
- Government grant for landowners to farm in keeping with nature. Tree-planting, etc. See also Sustainable Community Fund.

Godshill Village Hall: Cllr Williams gave a detailed report on the Jubilee event which was attended by 76 people. She said it had been a great success with many people attending who had not been to an event before.

Broadband Project: Cllr Fell gave a detailed report following a meeting on a motorbike trip with the founder of Giganet. He said sent him the details of the Council's project and attended a presentation at Downton Parish Council on 12th June on their project to install fibre to the property in 1460 properties in Downton between June and November 2022. The speeds provided were 150, 300 and 900 megabytes. The speeds were symmetrical ie download was the same as upload and this could be provided at around £40 per month for 900 MB once the infrastructure is installed. The service was free for a year to assist customers from extracting from their existing contracts.

Cllr Fell said that he was awaiting further information from them and would report back once more information was available. He said once more information was available he would invite the company to a meeting.

40.22 Correspondence

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted:

1. NPA
 - Follow up documents from the NW Quadrant meeting from David Illsley.
2. Fordingbridge and Ringwood Footpath Society – June copy of Waymark.

41.22 Any Other Business.

Outstanding Items: Cllr Fell asked that a rolling list of tasks as yet not completed be provided each month such as defibrillator training, speed signs etc.

Jubilee Tree: Cllr O'Brien asked that progress be made on the installation of the Jubilee tree.

Police Marking of Equipment: Cllr Woodward advised that he would advise on the name of the local CPT PCSO to seek guidance on the security marking of equipment.

Hard Drive: Cllr Stammers advised that the hard drive back up to be purchased should be in the region of 16 terabytes.

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42.22 Next Meeting

Cllr Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 12th July 2022 to be held on at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.40 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.

Statement made by Cllr Cakebread

We have just agreed that council members promise to “act with integrity and honesty” and “treat all persons fairly and with respect.” So what can we do when we have proof that one member has broken this promise? It is complicated, but please allow me to set out an example.

It is on record that there have been issues raised about comments made by a Cllr during last October’s parish council meeting. I asked for the minutes of that meeting to record that this Cllr had ‘found the neighbours’ objections unreasonable’.

The Cllr in question has claimed to have access to a recording of the complete October council meeting. For ease of reference let’s call that original recording **Track A**.

In the December meeting this Cllr played a soundtrack, which we can call **Track B**. It did not start until a after the part of the Cllr’s speech which had disrespected the neighbours.

I was then harangued and challenged to identify when specific words had been used by the Cllr, but of course they weren’t in the section we had been allowed to hear. Despite bullying barracking, I did try to point out, that the beginning of the Cllrs’ comments was missing, but I was ignored.

Many people present, including the Chairman, appeared initially to be deceived by this cleverly orchestrated provision of incomplete evidence, which convinced them that the Cllr had not used disrespectful language in October.

The Cllr then publicly denigrated me – saying I should apologise and resign for having eventually complied with the Cllr’s own oft-repeated e-mail requests to list the unpleasant words I had noted. This was in private correspondence initiated by the Cllr, who dramatically read out my message to the public meeting. I have never publicly repeated those words, so the assault on my character and the attempt to force me off the council were completely unjustified, hurtful and damaging to the council as well as myself.

In fact, Track B did still demonstrate what I had requested be minuted - so my request was accurate and entirely reasonable.

The next day I asked the Cllr for the complete Track A, but instead the Cllr eventually sent an ‘over-recording’, which was crucially incomplete and contained obvious evidence that it had been created with the help of two other persons – let’s call this **Track C**.

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Later, this Cllr misinformed the Monitoring Officer in writing, that Track C contained the complete record of the council's October discussion on planning matters.

Even now, more recently, this Cllr has responded to a request from the Clerk for the complete original Track A by providing yet another version, **Track D**, which has also identifiably been edited. **Track A has still not been made available.**

Incontrovertible evidence of this repeated disinformation is available - within tracks C and D themselves, and related correspondence, and is corroborated by other witnesses including the Clerk.

I request that Godshill PC record this statement and hope that we shall never again have to deal with such an issue - given the agreement Cllrs have now undertaken.

To repeat my opening question: what should we do in any similar possible future situation?