

MINUTES
14.03.2023
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr Fell – Chairman

Cllr Atwill

Cllr Cakebread

Cllr Stammers (until 9 pm)

Cllr Woodward

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk

Nine members of the public

Mr Lee Knight, the New Forest Keeper gave everyone present a detailed briefing about his role and what he can do as a representative of Forestry England. He said he had been a Keeper for nearly 7 years and he was the local contact for any issues relating to injured wildlife, fly tipping, wild camping and anti-social behaviour. There were 8 Keepers currently in the forest with 2 further Keepers about to join the team.

Over the winter, his main responsibility was to deer management and as spring approaches it was to ensure that the nesting birds were protected as the first few lapwings and curlews were turning up now. The car parks at Ogdens and Ocknell will be closed during this period to ensure as many birds can be fledged as possible as the numbers had fallen considerably in the last 20 years.

He said that the confirmation that the Public Space Protection Orders were about to come into force for barbeques and the feeding of animals was a positive and would hopefully prevent further damage to the forest and to its animals.

Cllr Stammers asked if any action was going to be taken on the widening of tracks across the forest, such as those near the Godshill Inclosure, which were going to get wider and wider with the greater pressure of visitors and cause further damage to the forest if no work to repair them was done. Mr Knight asked Cllr Stammers to contact him with further details and he would follow these up with him.

A member of the public said that it was important for the community to work with the Keepers and that the help was not just one way so if there were any matters on which residents and the Parish Council could help him with, he should not hesitate to ask.

Cllr Fell thanked Mr Knight for attending and for his contribution to the meeting.

Litter Warden

Mrs Boyd said that the litter was increasing by the week. She said that she was also 'told off' by the officer at NFDC dealing with fly tipping for moving some large cans which have been thrown in the hedge and which she had reported to enable them to be collected more easily. She said that apparently if you move fly tipped items, you are then responsible for disposing of them. She confirmed that NFDC had later collected them after further discussions.

7.30 pm Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

Signed by the Chairman

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132.22 Business Raised During Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

133.22 Apologies

No apologies were received.

134.22 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.**

Cllr Cakebread declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Minute 126.22 and left the room for the discussions and vote.

Cllr Atwill declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Minute 131.22 and did not speak or vote on the item.

Cllr Woodward declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Minute 131.22 and did not speak or vote on the item.

- 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.

135.22 Minutes

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14th February 2023 be approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

136.22 Clerk's Report

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

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.

Defibrillator Training: The Clerk advised that a booking for training was waiting in queue as Community Heartbeat Trust has a long waiting list. She was asked to investigate First Aid training from other providers rather than dedicated defibrillator training.

65.22 Platinum Jubilee Tree: Awaiting permission from Verderers and Forestry England.

74.22 Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks - Free Priority Service Register – Awaiting confirmation of a date.

98.22 Pinch Points: Item on the Agenda following a response from Cllr Heron as follows: *'Given the highly constrained County Council highways budget, non-maintenance issues are prioritised based safety related issues. This would apply equally to the removal of measures as it does with requests for new or additional measures. Unless the Council's highways safety team considered the removal of the current pinch points as being a priority for road safety purposes, generally meaning that there has been a number of serious incidents where the Police investigation report had identified the pinch points as being a significant contributory factor, then funding is unlikely to be available for their removal.'*

127.22 National Planning Policy Framework: A response compiled by Cllr Atwill and the Clerk was submitted on 2nd March.

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137.22 Planning and Tree Work Applications:

Planning Application, No 22/00986/FULL

Bracken Cottage, Blissford Road, Blissford - Outbuilding; re-profiling of gravel driveway and parking area; terrace (demolition of 1no existing outbuilding): Following receipt of an email from the planning officer to the application that he was investigating the matters raised in query on the application and no further update had been received, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Atwill seconded and it was RESOLVED that the application be deferred to the next meeting.

Tree Works Application No 23/00293/CONS

Former Chapel, Purlieu Lane, Godshill - Fell 1 x Cherry tree: Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Atwill seconded and it was RESOLVED that a decision on this application be left to the Tree Officer.

138.22 Planning Inspectorate Planning Appeal APP/B9506/W/22/3312865

Sandy Balls Holiday Centre - Application for removal of condition 15 of Planning Permission 18/00139 to allow occupation of all units for 12 months per year

Following a discussion, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Stammers seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should draft a response which endorsed the clear decision to refuse and the reasons for it made by the New Forest National Park Authority's Planning Committee at its meeting held on 19th July 2022. It was also agreed that the Parish Council's statement read out by the Clerk at the Planning Committee meeting be sent as an appendix to its response.

Cllr Cakebread left the room for the discussion and vote.

139.22 Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2023/24

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve the appointment of Mr Paul Reynolds of Fair Account as the Parish Council's Internal Auditors for 2023/24.

140.22 Risk Registers Review

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED approve the Council's Risk Registers setting out the Council's identified risks and the ways in which they will be treated.

141.22 Work for Lengthsman

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve the Clerk's delegated authority to spend up to £175.00 for the purchase and installation by the Lengthsman of a replacement post for the broken post supporting the two-way gate on the footpath in Purlieu Lane.

142.22 Speed Indicator Devices and Defibrillator

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve the allocation of the sum of £250 for the purchase of 2 replacement batteries for the Speed Indicator Devices and a replacement battery and new defibrillator pads for the Defibrillator.

143.22 New Forest National Park Authority Planning Committee Complaint

Following a brief discussion and reflecting the comments already made by councillors and residents who had either attended the meeting or watched the recording of it, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Stammers seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should draft a letter of complaint to the Chief Executive of the NFNPA regarding the behaviour and advice given by the Executive Director (Strategy and Planning) at the July 2022 and January 2023 meetings of the Planning Committee in relation to the planning application for Paysanne, Godshill Wood.

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144.22 Pinch Points

Following a discussion and taking into account the response from County Cllr Edward Heron to the Parish Council's request for guidance on the priority in terms of funding which Hampshire Highways would place on a request to remove the pinch points (as set out in Minute 136.22 above), Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that no further action be taken at this time.

145.22 Finance and Policy:

a. Payments

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

£450.00 Mrs S Boyd – For her role as Litter Warden

£57.60 Ionos – for Web Hosting from Jan-March 2023

£160.78 Mrs B Cornish - Clerk's annual expenses for home working, travel, phone, internet and stationery.

£36.00 – CPRE annual subscription

£35.00 Information Commissioner registration annual fee

b. To resolve to approve the sum of £1,054.60 as the Accounts for payment for March:

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the sum of £1,054.60 be approved as the Accounts for payment for March:

£		
Mrs S Boyd	Litter Warden	450.00
B Cornish	Annual Expenses	160.78
Ionos	Web Hosting	57.60
CPRE	Annual Subscription	36.00
ICO	Annual Registration	35.00
B Cornish	March salary	372.82

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

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

Current Account: £9777.09 Deposit Account: £618.57

d. To resolve to approve the Budget to Actual Report as at 31st March 2023.

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Budget to Actual Report be approved.

e. To resolve to approve the virements up to 31st March 2023.

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the virements for the year be approved.

f. To resolve to approve Earmarked Reserves up to 31st March 2023.

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Earmarked Reserves up to 31st March 2023 be approved.

g. To resolve to approve the appointment of Cllrs Atwill and Stammers as signatories on the Council's bank account:

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllrs Atwill and Stammers be added as signatories to the Council's bank account.

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146.22 Outside Bodies and Representation:

Police Liaison Meeting: Cllr Atwill gave a detailed report on a recent meeting of local parishes with a representative of Hampshire Police which was hosted by Fordingbridge Town Council with the key points set out as follows:

- Crime is relatively low in Fordingbridge and anti-social has dropped from the same 3 month period last year. There aren't as many calls to these issues currently although this is likely to increase as the weather improves.
- There are currently 2 police constables and one PCSO deployed to Fordingbridge and these are supported by the team at Ringwood (this is a Sergeant, 4 PCs and 4 PCSOs)
- Regular visits to the town will be taking place (and do at the moment) however due to shift patterns the team can't be specific around a patrol on one evening a week (they don't always work later in the week).
- Patrols at the Recreation Ground is part of the patrol plan for the team and they will be there.
- CCTV in the Car Park has been agreed in principle and awaiting a response of timings for this to be put in place. This will unfortunately have to wait until after local elections.
- Improving lighting around the bookshop has been discussed with council and NFDC – there would need to be some tree trimming to make this as useful as possible.
- A surgery is being arranged – details will be advertised soon.
- For Godshill specifically – there is nothing of concern at this time. The only issue seems to be occasional thefts from sheds and garages – the team are offering marking for people's property if this is wanted.

Following a brief discussion, Cllr Atwill said she would follow up the marking of property but that is not done at a venue for reasons of security.

North West Quadrant: Cllr Woodward gave a detailed report on a recent meeting at which there had been updates from the Net Zero and Rural Community Co-ordinator, Forestry England and the Executive Director of Planning and Strategy. The key points of note regarding net zero were that the National Park uses a higher level of carbon than elsewhere in the country. He said the figures were staggering on net zero but the local statistics were interesting in that the energy usage of an average New Forest resident is 17% higher than the UK average and the carbon footprint of an average New Forest resident is 28% higher than the UK average.

Sandy Balls Holiday Centre Meeting: Cllrs Fell gave a brief report on a recent meeting with the new General Manager at Sandy Balls. The issues covered were noise, light pollution and dark skies, the Centre's planning application and respite for affected neighbours, tree works, outdoor events/ reduction in late night events/demographic of customers, the potential for Cinema headphones and silent discos, broadband, working together on the environments and the management of the pinch points and road signs during deliveries.

Cllr Fell said that he and Cllr Woodward had asked that 6 monthly meetings be held between the Parish Council and the Manager and he had agreed to the request.

147.22 Correspondence

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

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1. New Forest District Council (NFDC) has set their element of the 2023/24 Council Tax at £193.99 per year, per household (Band D property) at their Full Council meeting on 27 February 2023. The £5.63 a year increase is a 2.99% rise on the 2022/23 Council Tax.
2. Two letters and an email from residents regarding their objections to the appeal for Sandy Balls.
3. The Future is Community-Owned – ‘We the Power’ free film screening and Q&A discussion
Location: Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood BH24 1DW
Date: Tuesday 28 March 2023 Time: 6:45-9pm
4. The Secretary of State for the Environment has announced that the New Forest National Park will receive an additional one-off payment this financial year to support increasing costs. The extra £440,000 will help deliver the ambitious Re:New Forest Partnership Plan for the National Park, focusing on climate, nature, people, place and partnership. The award is part of an additional £4.4 million which will be provided to the country’s 10 National Park Authorities to support vital services.
5. Two emails from a resident regarding the effects of leaf blowers.
6. Lighting, Biodiversity and Health - Dark Skies Talk hosted by Steve Tonkin and by Fordingbridge Greener Living on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 at The Annex, Avonway Community Centre, Fordingbridge. SP6 1JF 7.30pm

148.22 Any Other Business:

Annual Parish Meeting Dark Skies Presentation: The Clerk and councillors were asked to advertise this as widely as possible to other councils and to residents.

149.22 Next Meeting

Cllr Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 11th April 2023 to be held at Godshill Village Hall at 7.45 pm, after the Annual Parish Meeting which will start at 7.00 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.13 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.