

**MINUTES**  
**12.09.2023**  
**GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm at Godshill Village Hall.**

Present:

Cllr Fell – Chairman

Cllr Atwill

Cllr Cakebread

Cllr Stammers

Cllr Woodward

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk

Four members of the public

**Litter Warden**

Mrs Boyd advised that there was still lots of litter in the village and it was really bad after the August bank holiday. However, now that the schools have returned, it has reduced by a small amount.

**Public Question Time**

A member of the public asked about the recent news item that Hampshire County Council would not be going ahead with the installation of average speed cameras across the National Park.

A member of the public asked whether there was any news from Wessex Internet on the upgrading of broadband in Godshill.

**44.23 Business Raised During Public Question Time**

Cllr Fell confirmed that the resident was correct in reporting that Hampshire County Council would not be proceeding with the average speed cameras project. Following a discussion, Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner expressing the Council's disappointment that the average speed camera initiative was not going to be pursued, inform her of the 55,000 cars which travel through Godshill every month and ask her if there will be any opportunity in the future to review the decision.

It was also agreed that the Clerk would invite Hampshire Police to attend the November meeting to brief the Council on various matters including speeding and animal accidents.

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had invited the Community Engagement Manager of Wessex Internet to attend the December meeting of the Council.

**45.23 Apologies**

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Atwill seconded and it was RESOLVED to accept Cllr Sanger's apologies due to illness.

**46.23 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.

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

The Clerk confirmed that no dispensation requests had been received.

### **47.23 Minutes**

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July as a correct record.

### **48.23 Planning and Tree Work Applications**

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED to open the meeting to allow residents to speak on the planning applications.

#### **Application No. 23/00958FULL**

#### **Garden Cottage, Southampton Road, Godshill - Replacement dwelling; garage; hardstanding; demolition of existing dwelling; solar panels:**

Following a report from Cllr Atwill and a discussion, she proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council should recommend approval for the application on the following grounds subject to mitigation being provided for the roof lights for it to be compliant with policy SP15 and a condition being added that the porches cannot be infilled which will lead to an increase in floor space:

- It was compliant with policies SP17, DP2, DP18, SP16 and DP35 of the New Forest National Park Local Plan.
- Councillors agreed unanimously that this was a pleasant, modest and sympathetically designed application with a good deal of care and thought given to its Eco credentials with an Air Source heat pump, Solar Panels, swift nesting and bee box proposals.
- Any outside lights, now or in the future, should be limited in number, height and luminosity, and they should be on sensors.

#### **Application No. 23/00925FULL -**

#### **Broadhill Cottage, Broadhill Lane, Blissford - Reconstruction of dwelling; air source heat pump; demolition of garage:**

Following a discussion, Cllr Atwill proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council should recommend approval for the application on the grounds that it was compliant with relevant policies, except policy SP15 Tranquillity.

The Council asked that mitigation be provided for the light which will be emitted upwards from to the two rooflights on the northern kitchen extension and that proper consideration be given to the exterior lights mentioned in the sustainability statement in terms of the height at which they are fitted, style and luminosity so that they are compliant with policy SP15 of the Local Plan.

The Council was reassured that the cob wall was going to be retained and wished to ensure that the work to re-instate it be checked to ensure it was rebuilt as a cob wall. It also noted that the garage was subject to an Enforcement Notice and that it would be demolished.

Cllr Fell closed the meeting to members of the public.

### **49.23 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:

**Defibrillator Training:** The Clerk was awaiting available dates from the Village Hall.

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

**Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks - Free Priority Service Register** – Still awaiting confirmation of a date being booked with the Village Hall.

**Planning Application No. 23/00490 for Jubilee Farm** – There was no update from the planning officer regarding a further consultation.

**Planning Appeal Hearing for Paysanne:** The Inspector's Report was still awaited.

**Pension Re-enrolment:** The Clerk had completed the pension re-enrolment process.

**National Grid application for generator:** The Clerk advised that following a discussion with Cllr Stammers, a grant application was to be submitted to National Grid rather than SSEN as further work needed to be done to establish the best solution for the Village Hall to become a Local Hub at a time of emergency either from flood or power cut.

**Insurance Issue at Clevedon Town Council:** The Clerk made councillors aware of an additional condition being applied by some insurance companies regarding councillors' non-declarations of county court judgements. She advised that she had spoken to the Internal Auditor who had advised that the Council should monitor the changing requirements of the Council's insurance provider.

### 50.23 Conclusion of External Audit

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED to accept the External Auditor's Report and Certificate from BDO LLP in relation to the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022-23 and to consider any actions arising from the Report. The Report confirmed that the External Auditor had no issues to raise in relation to the preparation of the Council's Accounts for 2022-23.

Cllr Woodward proposed a vote of thanks to the Clerk for her work on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022-23 and for providing the additional information to the External Auditor following the Council being the subject of an intermediate audit after the Return had been submitted.

### 51.23 Consultations

- a. To consider a response to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' consultation on proposed changes to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, as amended, to support housing delivery, the agricultural sector, businesses, high streets and open spaces (by 25/09/2023): <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/permitted-developmentrights>

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Council ratify the response already sent on the consultation which had been completed by Cllr Atwill and the Clerk.

- b. To consider a response to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' consultation on proposals to implement the parts of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill which relate to Local plan-making, to make plans simpler, faster to prepare and more accessible (by 18/10/2023): <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/plan-making-reformsconsultation-on-implementation/levelling-up-and-regeneration-billconsultation-on-implementation-of-plan-making-reforms>

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the completion of the consultation be delegated to Cllr Atwill and the Clerk and that the response be in line with the views of the New Forest National Park Authority.

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**52.23 Lengthsman's Contract**

Following a short verbal report from the Clerk on a meeting held at Fordingbridge Town Council to provide clarification on the work the Lengthsman was able to do, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Atwill seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve the signing of the Lead Parish and Associate Parish Lengthsman Contract for 2023/24.

**53.23 Dark Skies Adviser**

Following a discussion on Cllr Atwill's proposal to appoint Mr Kevin Manning CPhys MInstP MIAM as the Council's adviser, Cllr Woodward counter-proposed that on matters of dark skies and light pollution the Council should consult Mr Manning and other bodies as appropriate. This was seconded by Cllr Fell and RESOLVED unanimously.

**54.23 Adoption of Policies**

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED to adopt the following policies with an amendment to the Lone Work Policy being that Councillors be added to it:

- Statement of Internal Control and Annual Review of Effectiveness of Internal Control and Audit
- Document Retention and Disposal Policy
- Lone Worker Policy

**55.23 Finance and Policy:**

**a. Payments**

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

£57.60 Ionos - Web hosting July to September

£250.78 Hampshire Association of Local Councils – Annual Subscription

£62.16 - Society of Local Council Clerks – Annual Subscription

**b. To resolve to approve the sum of £1,116.58 as the Accounts for payment for September:**

|           |                                 | £      |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Ionos     | Web hosting - July to September | 57.60  |
| HALC      | Annual Subscription             | 250.78 |
| SLCC      | Annual Subscription             | 62.16  |
| B Cornish | August and September salaries   | 746.04 |

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the sum of £1,116.58 be approved as the Accounts for payment for September.

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

**Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 12.09.23**

Current Account: £11,615.81      Deposit Account: £621.47

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

**d. To resolve to approve the Budget to Actual Report to 30th September 2023.**

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

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### 56.23 Outside Bodies and Representation:

**NPA Planning Committee Meeting:** Cllr Atwill gave a detailed report on the meeting of the Committee held in July at which the planning application for Arniss Farm was refused and the Council's recommendation upheld.

She said that in the statement made to the Committee, Godshill Parish Council strongly supported the NPA's aim to acquire International Dark Sky Reserve Status (already been achieved by a lesser designated site nearby, that of the Cranborne Chase AONB), and asked the Committee to consider that if permissions are given for applications such as these without heeding Policies put in place precisely to protect dark skies in the National Park, there is a concern that over time their incremental impact may mean it can never be achieved. The Council therefore asked the Committee to apply the policies it has in place to protect the special qualities of the National Park and to refuse the application for its non-compliance with Policies DP2f and SP15 of its Local Plan.

The Clerk also advised that one of the Committee's councillors objected to the design of the balcony and did not consider that it was appropriate for the Western Escarpment Conservation Area so it was refused on design as well as non-compliance with policy SP15.

**Briefing on New Forest Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):** Cllr Woodward gave a short verbal report on a recent briefing given by Hampshire County Council. He said that there is now a draft plan which will be put out to consultation by the end of the year. It is being funded by the Department of Transport and there is no local funding. The focus is on commuting and school runs but the New Forest is competing with much larger areas with higher populations.

Cllr Woodward further advised that the section of the plan on walking had identified the potential for Fordingbridge to be pedestrian only and work was being done with Fordingbridge Town Council. The key issue was funding and whether the New Forest would be successful in its bid against areas with greater populations.

**NPA Planning Training:** Cllrs Atwill, Cakebread and Woodward gave a detailed report collectively on the recent training event hosted by the National Park Authority at Brockenhurst Village Hall which was well attended. The key points from the event were:

- There were 5 presentations with each having a very brief Q&A session after it, with the scope of questions being very limited.
- The NPA receives about 900 applications a year which are dealt with on limited resources.
- It is funded by fixed funding which doesn't change, unlike Hampshire County Council.
- The issue of Dark Skies is being progressed through work with the Cranborne Chase AONB.
- There is a benefit to speed up action by the Enforcement Team if several people submit a complaint rather than one person submitting a collective complaint.
- It was confirmed that Ian BurrIDGE had headed up the validation team since April 2023 following queries raised about the accuracy of the validation process in which incorrect plans and missing documents were continuing to be noted by councillors. The process was robust and any concerns about applications should be raised with the case officer. Applications which are validated will have met the standard requirements despite concerns being raised about plans being accepted when they were confusing.

Following a further discussion, Cllr Atwill proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Council sends some feedback on the meeting to Steve Avery and the Planning

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Committee. This could also be sent to the other New Forest parishes and towns with a view to establishing whether there would be a consensus in forming a 'Planning Group/Forum' with others where issues on planning and lighting concerns can be raised and discussed, with a view to giving councils some 'group power' on concerns which they share. This may necessitate a regular zoom meeting, either monthly or quarterly as agreed.

### 57.23 Correspondence

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

1. September Copy of Waymark.
2. Email from resident regarding Garmin directing cyclists across Deadman's hill.
3. CPRE Summer update
4. Information on Solar Together Hampshire

### 58.23 Any Other Business.

**Community Energy Project:** Cllr Woodward said that he attended a meeting between the community energy group and NFDC, although the NPA were absent. Again he said that the project numbers required for it to be successful was a membership of 80,000 and then you need schools ie large daytime users of electricity.

**Litter Pickers of the New Forest:** Cllr Woodward drew the attention of the meeting to this group which had a Facebook page. The Clerk said she would investigate and possibly add it to the website.

**Signs:** Cllr Fell said there was a proliferation of signs across the village where the events they were advertising had been held. He said he would remove them.

**Footpaths:** Cllr Fell asked that the Community Access Team be asked to look at the footpath at the bottom of Woodgreen Road beside the Ford. It was very tricky to walk.

It was also agreed that the footpaths would be walked to identified gates which needed repair or replacement.

### 59.23 Next Meeting

Cllr Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.50 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.*