

MINUTES
10.10.2023
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th October at 7.30 pm at Godshill Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Fell – Chairman

Cllr Cakebread

Cllr Sanger

Cllr Woodward

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk

Six members of the public

Litter Warden

Mrs Boyd said she had nothing new to report. People were still dumping bags by the bin in the layby but this wasn't able to be stopped unless it was witnessed by someone.

Public Question Time

No matters were raised by members of the public.

60.23 Business Raised During Public Question Time

No matters were raised by members of the public.

61.23 Apologies

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Sanger seconded and it was RESOLVED to accept the apologies from Cllr Atwill and Cllr Stammers for reasons of illness.

62.23 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:**

Cllr Woodward declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest as a neighbour in the Tree Works application for St Giles's farm.

- 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.

63.23 Minutes

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 12th September as a correct record, subject to the additional words being added at the end of the comments on the Broadhill Cottage planning application 'The Council also noted the historical importance of the linear site and its ecology, particularly the ancient hedge at the site'.

The Clerk also agreed to add a square boxed note to ask the reader to refer to the Minutes of the October meeting with regard to the Council's revised response to the application which was based on additional information subsequently received.

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64.23 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.

Two members of the public spoke in detailed strong objection to the planning application for Broadhill Cottage.

Application No. 23/00925FULL -

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

Following a discussion, and on the basis of receiving additional information on the planning application to that which was considered at the September meeting, Cllr Sanger proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council should recommend refusal for the application on the following grounds and for the additional comments to be taken into account:

Firstly, there are important documents missing from this application, which the Council believes should have been submitted prior to validation:

1. Biodiversity Checklist/Survey and Report
 2. Drainage plan
 3. Construction Method Statement
- A Biodiversity Checklist/Survey and Report is a Mandatory Local Requirement. The current state of both the dwelling and the site is providing a potential home to a great many creatures, including bats and other protected species. It would therefore be anticipated that a full Ecological Survey will likely be required (after the correct completion of a biodiversity checklist), and therefore No works should take place on the site before all necessary assessments and documents have been published and the application approved.
 - The Application form states that the site is connected to the main sewer - this is Not correct.
 - The Case Officer's report suggests that the drainage plan is provided before commencement of works as a condition. The Council considers this to be less than satisfactory for an NDHA and would expect to see plans detailing the drainage proposals for both foul and surface water prior to determination of the application.
 - There is no Construction Method Statement which should include details including:
 - The times/days when construction work is permitted.
 - How noise and pollution will be controlled
 - These should be considered under SP15 Tranquillity
 - How, and with what vehicle size and weight restrictions, materials and waste will access and leave the site.
 - Whether site access will be from the eastern or western end of Broadhill Lane, or both.
 - It does not appear that turning vehicles on the site would be an easy task and therefore reversing vehicles along the narrow lane may be necessary.
 - How will the lane, verges, any ditches and hedgerows be protected from harm?

Secondly, the Council could not understand how an air source heat pump was suitable and could provide sufficient heat for this type of property and considered it to be incompatible with the retaining of the cob wall.

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.

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It also asks that if, as stated in the application, the cob wall cannot be retained, that a condition be applied to the decision notice that any amendment to the construction of the property be achieved through an additional application for amendment and not through delegated officer approval.

The Council asked that mitigation be provided for the light which will be emitted upwards from 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.

It noted that the garage was subject to an Enforcement Notice and that it would be demolished.

Application No. 23/01135FULL

Bracken Cottage, Blissford Road, Blissford - Re-configure domestic curtilage boundary to rear of dwelling; pond; re-site existing outbuilding to extend existing stable building:

Following a discussion, Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Council was minded to approve the application subject to further clarification:

- How access would be gained to the triangular area of agricultural land in the north eastern area of the site.
- The area near to where the stables are to be relocated has recently had a large number of holly trees removed. This will cause the stables once erected to appear more prominent in the landscape and along the public footpath. The Council would therefore recommend that the outline of the stables be softened with native hedging.

Application No. 23/01255CONS

St Giles Farm, Southampton Road, Godshill - Fell 1 x Hybrid Poplar tree:

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the decision on the application be left to the Tree Officer.

Cllr Fell closed the meeting to members of the public.

65.23 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 still awaiting hall free dates from the Village Hall which the bookings secretary had promised to send by 11th October.

Application No. 23/00490/FULL Jubilee Farm, Purlieu Lane, Godshill – there will be a further consultation but the Council had yet to be notified about it.

Paysanne Hearing: No news on this from the Planning Inspectorate.

National Grid application for generator: The Clerk was to arrange a site visit with an adviser prior to an application being submitted.

Hampshire Police: PC SO Steve May cannot make the dates of our meetings as he's on an early shift through to January 2024. The Clerk advised that he was agreeable to joining the defibrillator awareness course which would be held in the early evening once a date was known.

Wessex Internet: Community Engagement Manager has confirmed for 12th December Christmas meeting.

Local plan-making Consultation: Cllr Atwill and the Clerk had started the response the consultation had become increasingly more complicated as it progressed. They will revisit it before the submission deadline of 18th October.

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Lengthsman: The signed contract had been returned to Fordingbridge Town Council. During his recent visit, the Lengthsman had cleared Godshill Cross and the layby opposite Woodgreen Road and had also removed weeds on the pavement from Godshill Cross to Sandy Balls which were a trip hazard.

66.23 NPA Quadrant Elections

The Clerk gave a detailed report on the outcome of the NW Quadrant Election. She advised that despite there being a clear winner of the election, with the winning candidate receiving 50 percent more votes from the NW Quadrant parishes than the other candidate, in fact, DEFRA had confirmed the appointment of the unsuccessful candidate to the New Forest National Park Authority to represent the NW Quadrant parishes.

She advised that she had submitted Freedom of Information requests to DEFRA and the NFNPA regarding the process followed for the election and had asked the Hampshire Association of Local Councils about how it had followed the process and the changes made to it.

Following a discussion, Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Council should await the outcome of the FOI requests but in the meantime contact the other parishes within the NW Quadrant to seek their views of the outcome. Once these were known, the Council could consider whether to make a formal complaint.

67.23 Consultations

To consider a response to Wiltshire Council's consultation on the pre-submission Draft Wiltshire Local Plan. (deadline 22/11/2023)

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8048/Current-consultation-Reg-19-autumn-2023>

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that a response be delegated to Cllr Atwill and the Clerk. It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact David Illsley at the NFNPA to align the Council's response with that of the NFNPA.

68.23 Council Statement on Dark Skies and Light Pollution

Following consideration of a proposal from Cllr Atwill that the Council adopts a statement on its stance on Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Godshill parish specifically and on Dark Skies and Light Pollution generally across the New Forest National Park, councillors agreed the following:

- For the statement to be a clarification of what the Council wishes to see in terms of protection for Dark Skies;
- For the statement to provide guidance to residents and planning applicants on the Council's expectations of how properties and applications will comply with National and Local Plan policies in terms of Dark Skies and light pollution;
- To seek advice on the finalised statement/policy from David Illsley at the NFNPA and to ask what the NFNPA would like to see in the Council's policy.

69.23 Adoption of Policies

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED to adopt the Dignity at Work Policy and for the Clerk to seek further guidance from the SLCC and NALC on the Complaints and Vexatious Complaints policies with regard to potential amendments regarding the conducting of an independent investigation by an outside body at the Appeal stage of a complaint. Those policies will be re-considered when that guidance had been provided.

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70.23 Civility and Respect Pledge

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Sanger seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council signs up to the Civility and Respect Pledge from the National Association of Local Councils and Society of Local Council Clerks:

Statement
Our council has agreed that it will treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations, and volunteers, with civility and respect in their role.
Our council has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff.
Our council has signed up to Code of Conduct for councillors.
Our council has good governance arrangements in place including, staff contracts, and a dignity at work policy.
Our council will commit to seeking professional help in the early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
Our council will commit to calling out bullying and harassment when if and when it happens.
Our council will continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model/champion council e.g., via the Local Council Award Scheme.
Our council supports the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge, including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

71.23 Finance and Policy:

a. Payments

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED to approve the following payment:
£252.00 – BDO LLP – External Audit

b. To resolve to approve the sum of £904.82 as the Accounts for payment for October.

	£
BDO LLP External Audit	252.00
B Cornish October salary	373.02
HMRC Clerk's tax July, Aug, Sept	279.80

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED the Accounts for payment for October be approved.

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

Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 10.10.23

Current Account: £10,710.99 Deposit Account: £621.47

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

72.23 Outside Bodies and Representation:

New Forest Association of Local Councils: Cllr Fell apologised that he had been unable to attend the meeting due to a work commitment but advised that he would circulate the Minutes to councillors when they were available.

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73.23 Correspondence

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

1. A report from County Councillor Edward Heron. The Clerk was asked to post it onto the Council's website and to circulate to residents on the agenda circulation list.
2. Emails and a letter regarding a planning application.
3. An invitation from Hyde Village Hall for an open afternoon between 1pm and 3pm on Friday 20th October for tea and biscuits and a look round the newly refurbished Hall.
4. Emails from Defra and NPA confirming receipt of FOI requests and advising that they will respond to them within 20 working days.
5. Email from HALC confirming receipt of request for Legal Opinion on NQ Quadrant election process.
6. Email from Avon Churches re Remembrance Sunday on Sunday 12 November and also on Saturday 11th November at 10.50 am at Stuckton Road Cemetery there will be a short Remembrance Day Service with the reading out of the names of service men and women buried there and the two-minute silence. All are welcome.

74.23 Any Other Business

Sandy Balls Appeal Decision: Cllr Woodward asked councillors to read the Planning Inspector's decision to dismiss the Appeal which he had found interesting.

75.23 Next Meeting

Cllr Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 14th November 2023 at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.33 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.