

**MINUTES**  
**13.02.2024**  
**GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30 pm at Godshill Village Hall.**

Present:

Cllr Fell – Chairman

Cllr Cakebread

Cllr Sanger

Cllr Stammers

Cllr Woodward

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk

Three members of the public

**118.23 Public Question Time**

A member of the public asked whether there was any news on the Broadhill Cottage planning application which had been deferred by the New Forest National Park Authority's Planning Committee at its December meeting.

**119.23 Business Raised During Public Question Time**

The Clerk advised that she had not received any information on Broadhill Cottage since the meeting but would contact the Planning Officer to find out what progress had been made on it.

**120.23 Apologies**

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the apologies be approved from Cllr Atwill due to illness.

**121.23 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 of interest were received.

**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.

**122.23 Minutes**

Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 subject to the removal of the sentence 'Councillors also did not consider that an air source heat pump was an appropriate way of heating the building' from Minute 114.23 in order not to give a misleading impression that the Council was opposed to air source heat pumps.

**123.23 Clerk's Report**

**Clerk's Report:**

**Defibrillator Training:** The contractor is unable to visit in March so the Clerk was awaiting some April dates.

**Electoral Commission correspondence:** The Electoral Commission has advised that National Park elections are beyond its remit and therefore cannot advise. The officer advised that she would forward the concerns on to the team, particularly the fact that the National Park had

Signed by the Chairman

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claimed 'legal privilege' when asked under the Freedom of Information Act for details of the process of the election.

**SID Posts:** Cllr Fell advised that he had been in correspondence with the Hampshire Highways Officer who had installed the posts regarding the height of the posts and the post installed outside the 30mph limit. He said that she had advised that any works to be done could only be done when funds allowed. It was agreed that a decision needed to be made on the location where the post needed to be moved. The Clerk suggested that this be done when the Gateway signs are installed as this could be done by the contractor.

Cllr Stammers advised that there was already a NAL (Non-Illuminated Retention) socket for a post which was installed previously and this was located opposite Ridge Farm.

Cllr Sanger suggested that the locations of all of the sockets be registered so that the knowledge of where they are is retained for when councillors leave the Council.

**Half year audit:** The half year audit was due to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. However, the auditor was unavailable due to a family bereavement. This will now be done remotely once he was back at work.

### 124.23 Planning and Tree Work Applications:

#### Planning Application No 23/01620/FULL

**Arniss Farm, Southampton Road, Godshill - First floor balcony** – Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council should maintain its objection to this application on the grounds that the proposed balcony, by virtue of its location, scale and design would be at odds with the rural character and appearance of the Western Escarpment Conservation Area and would lead to an increase in light pollution to the detriment of the tranquillity and special qualities of the New Forest National Park, contrary to Policies DP2, DP18, SP15 and SP16 of the New Forest National Park Local Plan 2016- 2036.

The Council wished to comment further as follows:

- The Council's objection to the previous application has not been addressed by the proposed addition of 5 decorative planters to the balcony. They would have little or no effect on mitigating the light spill due in part to the height of the patio doors. In addition, there can be no guarantee that they will be permanent, and their retention would not be enforceable.
- Whilst a condition against external lights without further permission is welcomed, it should be recognised that large expanses of glazing at height can be as light polluting as exterior lights.
- The Council does not agree that the patio doors are replacing a window, and therefore come under permitted development. This is not the case as evidenced by Drawing no. 22214/01. The proposal is for the addition of New Patio Doors to be fitted at first floor level where there was previously No window. This is a material change to the dwelling.
- Introducing a new light source, with the resulting light pollution cannot be described as having a neutral effect in the Western Escarpment Conservation Area.
- As previously explained at the NFNPA Planning Committee meeting in July 2023, the light spill would occur in multiple directions, including upwards.
- The glass balcony would have detrimental impact on local wildlife, particularly birds and bats.

### 125.23 Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan - Partial Update - Regulation 19 (Proposed Submission) Consultation from 9 January 2024 to 5 March 2024:

Cllr Sanger proposed, Cllr Stammers seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Council should submit a response which supports the response submitted by Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council.

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**126.23 Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2024/25**

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 2024/25.

**127.23 Newsletter**

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Newsletter be approved in its current form but in the knowledge that further minor work and amendments were needed before it could be published and circulated. It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact Wessex Internet to clarify the source of the list of properties to be upgraded.

**128.23 Dark Skies and Light Pollution**

In the absence of Cllr Atwill, Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

**129.23 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 – Litter Warden second payment

**b. To give consideration and resolve to agree on the organisations to which a grant may be awarded:**

Following a discussion and comments from Cllrs Fell, Stammers and Sanger, Cllr Sanger proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that £50 be approved for the Citizens Advice Bureau New Forest and £50 to SERV Wessex Blood Bikes.

**c. To resolve to approve the sum of £850.75 as the Accounts for payment for February.**

		£
Mrs S Boyd	Pinch point maintenance	172.00
B Cornish	February salary	400.75

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

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

**Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 13.02.24**

Current Account: £3,520.20                      Deposit Account: £10,649.39

Plus £18 bonus as an Ionos customer for recommending the company to another parish council.

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

**130.23 Outside Bodies and Representation:**

**North West Quadrant:** Councillors noted the report sent to the Council by a councillor at Whiteparish Parish Council who attended the meeting. The key discussions points were:

- Landowners mainly Forestry England, Hampshire County Council and the National Trust - car parks positioning needs to be reviewed on the SSSI/SAC and also that landowners want to charge for the car parks.

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- Verderers under the New Forest Acts of Parliament (primary legislation) can stop anything which affects the grazing.
- The National Park has to give planning permission if the car parks are made bigger or smaller as it is a landscape feature and is considered an engineering activity.
- Traffic order required for yellow lines and then who is going to enforce.
- The process is for the FE, HCC, NT, NPA and the Verderers to agree what needs to be done to look after the forest and how they can bring the people with them.

**New Forest Association of Local Council:** Cllr Fell gave a brief report on a recent meeting which was attended by a number of clerks. They agreed to set up a clerks' network and also a clerks Facebook page so that local clerks could communicate with each other on matters of concern. It was also agreed that a policy would be created for the NFALC group so that councils know where to go when issues arise.

### 131.23 Correspondence

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

1. Email providing NFALC minutes for the meeting on 18th January.
2. Email from NFDC advising that it was trialling new CCTV camera technology in Fordingbridge. This forms part of the council's commitment to maintaining low crime levels in rural communities.
3. Email from NFDC enclosing a 'flooding briefing note'.

### 132.23 Any Other Business.

**Household Recycling Centre:** Cllr Sanger asked the Clerk to seek clarification on whether the local Centre at Somerley was being closed or whether there were restrictions on opening hours. It was considered that the consequences of it being closed would be an increase in fly-tipping in the National Park.

**Paysanne:** Cllr Stammers raised the matter of the work needing to be done to the property to comply with the outcomes of the Appeals. Cllr Sanger advised that the Council should ask the New Forest National Park Authority to keep it informed regularly of the applicant's compliance with the decisions made by the Planning Inspectorate.

### 133.23 Next Meeting

Cllr Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 12th March 2024 to be held at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45 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.*