

MINUTES
12.03.2024
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30 pm at Godshill Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Fell – Chairman (from 7.45 pm)

Cllr Atwill

Cllr Cakebread

Cllr Sanger

Cllr Stammers

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk

Six members of the public

134.23 Election of Chair on the delayed arrival of the Chairman

Cllr Atwill proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Sanger be the Chair of the meeting due to the delayed arrival of Cllr Fell.

135.23 Public Question Time

Litter Warden

Mrs Boyd reported that that she had done some work during the previous week and within an hour the area she had cleared was covered in polystyrene which she had found very frustrating. She also reported the bin in the layby near Godshill Cross was falling apart and ought to be replaced.

She also asked whether any progress had been made on a meeting with the new Manager of Sandy Balls. The Clerk advised that she was unaware of any meeting being held. When Cllr Fell joined the meeting, he confirmed that no meeting had been arranged but advised that he and Cllr Woodward would be arranging a meeting in the coming weeks.

Councillors Phil Woods and David Millar of New Forest District Council introduced themselves as the Ward Councillors for Godshill. This was their first visit as they had found that the Parish Council's meetings coincided with meetings of Fordingbridge Town Council.

They raised awareness of the consultation being conducted by Hampshire County Council on its cost-cutting options for the coming year for which the deadline was 31st March 2024.

136.23 Apologies

Cllr Sanger proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the apology be approved from Cllr Woodward due to illness.

137.23 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 Atwill declared a personal and non-pecuniary meeting in the planning application 24/00048FULL. She left the building for both the discussion and the vote.

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At this point in the meeting Cllr Fell arrived. Cllr Sanger adjourned the meeting briefly to update Cllr Fell and then he took the Chair from Cllr Sanger.

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.

138.23 Minutes

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

139.23 Clerk's Report

Defibrillator Training: The Clerk was in the process of chasing the contractor for more dates.

Waste & Minerals Consultation: A response was submitted on behalf of the Council by 5th March.

Broadhill Cottage: The planning officer has advised that no progress has been made on submitting a revised application as 'the applicants are awaiting the appropriate time to carry out the ecological surveys that are required. It is unlikely that there will be much to report until May'.

Newsletter: The Clerk advised that she was awaiting clarification from Wessex Internet on the number of properties to be upgraded and whether others can be upgraded in addition to those on the list. This has been passed to their funding team. There are no imminent plans for community engagement events but Josh Goodchild will let her know as soon as he has some firm plans.

140.23 Planning and Tree Work Applications:

24/00048FULL - Paysanne, Godshill Wood – Swimming pool and plant house: Following a detailed discussion Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council should recommend Refusal for this application on the following grounds:

- It regards the swimming pool and plant house as further overdevelopment of this site and contrary to Sections 12, 15 and 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework and Policies DP2 DP18, DP37, SP15, SP16 and SP17 of the New Forest National Park Authority Local Plan.
- The Council is very keen to ensure that the historic conditions for this site and the applicant's repeated lack of compliance therewith over a long period are not forgotten by officers or members, particularly as the site is in the nationally protected Western Escarpment Conservation Area of a National Park.
- The swimming pool was built before the house on this site and its construction therefore constitutes intentional unlawful development.
- Contrary to the planning application, the Pump House is not a replacement building. The previous temporary building did not have planning permission and therefore was unlawful. The sizing, measurements and roof heights on the plans are difficult to establish.
- The swimming pool's built location was in an area of the site deemed in need of protection. This is set out clearly in both the 2018 Ecologist's and Arboriculturist's reports. This area was required to be fenced off and protected during the period when the building work for the house was being carried out.
- The plans for the swimming pool do not provide sufficient information on soundness of its design or construction. The Council therefore is unable to assess whether there is a risk of future damage to the surrounding ecology if the pool were to fail and regards this lack of information as a matter of concern.

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- It is also concerned about whether the drainage at the site is sufficient to support the additional pressures of the pool and pump house and the surface water runoff from the large area of patio made from impermeable materials. The plans submitted with the 2018 planning application do not include them, nor did they include any of the other buildings now on the site which also do not have permission after permitted development rights were withdrawn.
- When taking into account the NFNPA's current focus on protecting the environment and ecology within the National Park and the negative impact on the natural environment a pool would have, the Council would question whether it is appropriate to allow for a swimming pool to be installed on this protected site at all.

141.23 Dark Skies and Light Pollution

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Sanger seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council Position Statement on Dark Skies and Light Pollution be approved. This had been drafted by Cllr Atwill and the Clerk with guidance from Mr David Illsley of the New Forest National Park Authority. The Clerk advised that it will be posted on the Council's website and sent to the New Forest National Park Authority so that officers could advise planning applicants from Godshill of the existence of the statement.

Cllr Fell and Sanger congratulated Cllr Atwill and the Clerk on the good work they had done on the statement.

142.23 Risk Registers Review

To review the Council's Risk Registers setting out the Council's identified risks, the ways in which they will be treated and to resolve to approve and note any changes:

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Atwill seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Council's review of its Risk Registers be approved.

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Council Asset Register be approved which was unchanged from the 2022/23 financial year.

143.23 NW Quadrant Elections

To consider a draft letter to the new Chair of the New Forest National Park Authority in light of the correspondence from Steve Avery, Executive Director (Strategy & Planning):

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED unanimously that the letter be approved and that in addition to the Chair of the NFNPA, it be sent to the other Quadrant Councils and to the Chair of the New Forest Association of Local Councils.

144.23 Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project

To consider a letter from Hedgehogs R Us with a request to purchase a box of hedgehog highway surrounds at a cost of £150 and to make them available for residents:

Following a brief discussion, Cllr Atwill proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that this project was more appropriate for an urban environment than a national park. However, if residents were interested in purchasing a box, they could contact the Clerk for more information.

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145.23 Finance and Policy:

a. Payments

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

£114.00 HCI Data – Renewal of godshillparishcouncil.gov.uk domain name for 2 years.

£68.40 Ionos – for Web Hosting from Jan-March 2024

£234.08 Mrs B Cornish - Clerk's annual expenses for home working, travel, phone, internet, stationery and Christmas meeting refreshments costs.

£36.00 – CPRE annual subscription

b. To resolve to approve the sum of £853.43 as the Accounts for payment for March:

		£
HCI Data Ltd	Domain Name renewal	114.00
Ionos	Web hosting Jan-March	68.40
CPRE	Annual Subscription	36.00
B Cornish	Annual Expenses	234.08
B Cornish	March salary	400.75

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

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

Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 12.03.24

Current Account: £2,644.90 Deposit Account: £10,649.39

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

d. To resolve to approve the Budget to Actual Report as at 31st March 2024:

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

e. To resolve to approve the virements up to 31st March 2024:

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 2024:

Cllr Stammers suggested that instead of funding a tree, that the monies be used instead to put a commemorative jubilee gateway sign at the entrances to the village. This was agreed by all present.

Cllr Stammers suggested and it was also agreed that the Council contacts other villages first which have installed gateway signs to establish whether they made any difference to the speed of vehicles.

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED further that separate Earmarked Reserves be created as follows:

£600 for a new waste bin for the layby at Godshill Cross, £1,000 for a new noticeboard in the layby at Sandy Balls and £1,000 towards a new Solar Speed Indicator Device.

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Cllr Woods of NFDC suggested that the Council could apply to Dean Brunton at NFDC for CIL funding for new bins.

146.23 Correspondence

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

1. Email from Ringwood Town Council advising that with the agreement of the New Forest Association of Local Councils Derek Biggs is organising a Seminar on the issues of illegal encampments on Council Land. The event is being held at Ringwood Town Council offices at 10am Friday 26th April 2024. The course will last about 2 hours and the price is £10 per person to cover running costs for the event.
2. Email from NFNPA advising that there is a new email for the planning department which is planning@newforestnpa.gov.uk
3. The March edition of Waymark from the Fordingbridge and Ringwood Footpath Society.
4. Letters received providing comments on the planning application for Paysanne.
5. Forestry England – Press Release encouraging people to keep to paths during the ground nesting birds breeding season – This is to be added to the Council's website.
6. Notification of a meeting of NFALC at 7 pm on 18th March 2024.

147.23 Any Other Business.

Hampshire County Council Budget Consultation: The Clerk was asked to circulate a link to the consultation for councillors to both comment individually and for a Council response to be agreed.

Footpaths - gates and stiles: Cllr Stammers raised the issue of stiles which were not easy to climb over and gates for which the latches no longer worked. Cllr Fell agreed that he would walk the footpaths again and record which stiles and gates needed attention.

148.23 Next Meeting

Cllr Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 9th April 2024 to be held at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm. This meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish meeting to be held at 7 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 8.40 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.