

MINUTES
05.09.2024
PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 5th September 2024 at 7.30 pm at Godshill Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Woodward – Chairman

Cllr Cakebread

Cllr Sanger

Cllr Stammers

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk

Eight members of the public

Litter Warden: Mrs Sara Boyd advised that she had nothing to report.

Public Question Time

A member of the public expressed concern about the overgrown hedge opposite the entrance to Sandy Balls and the need for it to be cut as it was danger to drivers and pedestrians. He also asked about the locations of the speed indicator devices as in every other village they are located at the beginning and end of the main road.

52.24 Business Raised During Public Question Time

Cllr Woodward advised, following input from Cllr Stammers, that the locations of the speed indicator devices had been determined by Hampshire Highways following a survey. The Parish Council had been told where the devices could be installed.

Cllr Woodward also advised that the removal of the pinch points had been discussed previously and the Clerk had been advised by County Cllr Edward Heron that Hampshire County Council will not fund the removal of measures to reduce speed as funds were very limited. Cllr Sanger suggested that the Council obtain a definitive answer from the local highways engineer as to whether there is any appetite to fund the removal of pinch points.

53.24 Apologies

The Clerk advised that the Chair had not been in contact with her, as was usual, ahead of the meeting and she assumed that he was absent due to a work commitment.

She also advised the former Councillor Barbs Atwill had resigned from the Council and that she had informed the Democratic Services Team at New Forest District Council and was awaiting a notice of vacancy announcement from them. Following a suggestion from Cllr Cakebread that the Council writes to thank her for her service as a councillor, Cllr Sanger suggested that it awaits the Chair's return at the next meeting.

54.24 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.

MINUTES
05.09.2024

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.

55.24 Minutes

Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Sanger seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 5th September 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

56.24 Planning and Tree Work Applications

Cllr Woodward proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED to open the meeting for members of the public to comment on the planning applications.

A member of the public expressed concern about the proximity of one of the buildings proposed to be converted to their house. She said that as of now, without that conversion, noise, music, activities and disturbance from the site was all year round. She said she worked full time and she and her family did need to be able sleep. The disturbance from using the track which ran from Sandy Balls to Southampton Road past her house was also constant. If Sandy Balls were to get permission for this application, they would continue to try to get further permissions for other areas of the site and it just needed to stop.

A member of the public said that the incremental changes seen at the site in the past few years was relentless and an intensification of the site. It was company which was out to make money for its American shareholders. The village has just had the campsite as well at Chamberlain Field and it is seeing a whole host of holiday activities which was not in the interest of the village or the National Park.

A member of the public, who represented the Residents Association at Sandy Balls, said that in lots of areas people were out to get Sandy Balls and their comments had not been constructive or relevant to the application. He said that at the end of the day, they had a business to run. He also said that the amenity buildings when in use during the touring and camping season were used 24 hours a day 7 days a week and there was no comparison with the disturbance caused during that time with any disturbance they may cause when converted.

Cllr Woodward closed the meeting to members of the public.

Application No. 23/00496FULL

Touring Park, Sandy Balls Holiday Centre, Sandy Balls Estate, Godshill -

Conversion of 3no. single storey amenity buildings to 6no. holiday accommodation units:

Following a wide-ranging discussion, Cllr Cakebread proposed, Cllr Stammers seconded, with Cllr Sanger voting against, that Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to object to the application on the following grounds:

- Although the reduction in the capacity of the whole site is recognised, there is over-intensification of the areas of the site where the Amenity buildings are located which will have a detrimental impact on Godshill residents (rather than on Sandy Balls residents).
- All three are located in areas which are on the site's boundaries, with one in particular, Block 3, causing greater disturbance to permanent residents in Godshill village. Extra visitors would bring greater use, including unlawful cycling, of the public walking track along the boundary. This very narrow, steep-sided track is the only vehicular access to property alongside.

MINUTES 05.09.2024

The Council requests that the following conditions be added to the decision notice, should the application be approved:

- A condition for the screening of rooflights in the buildings taking account of Godshill being in a darker skies location of the National Park;
- A condition that no hot tubs/permanent or semi-permanent external amenities are permitted.

Given the confusion caused by the masterplan map and in view of the repurposing of the Amenity buildings which would support them, the Council also asks that the permissions for the touring/camping sites marked on the map be formally withdrawn. It also seeks clarification on the restoration of the areas where lodges are to be removed and whether another play area will be created.

The Council noted the applicant's commitment in its Design and Access Statement that it '*intends to have more detailed discussions with the Planning Authority throughout the remainder of the design and planning consultation period, to ensure that all parties are satisfied that the scheme meets their respective requirements*'.

Application No. 24/00904FULL

Godshill Wood Farm, Woodgreen Road, Godshill - Extension to existing agricultural barn:

Following a discussion, Cllr Cakebread proposed, Cllr Stammers seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council should recommend permission for this application on the grounds that it was compliant with policy, should help reduce pollution of the two local rivers from slurry and dung and, in its location, it would have a minimal impact on the landscape.

Application No. 24/00991CONS

Hunters Chase, Castle Hill, Godshill Wood - Fell 1 x Cherry tree (T1 on the plan) Reduce 1 x Holly tree to hedge height (T2 on the plan) Prune 1 x Oak tree (T3 on the plan) Prune row of Beech trees (G4 on the plan):

Cllr Cakebread proposed, Cllr Stammers seconded and it was RESOLVED that the decision on the application be left to the Tree Officer.

57.24 Clerk's Report

Exercise of Public Rights to Inspect the Council's Accounts: No requests had been received to inspect the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and annual accounts.

Plaque request: The plaque was installed by the lengthsman on 22nd July.

Lengthsman: Marcus has cut the footpath raised at the last meeting. The hedge in the Southampton Road raised at the last meeting was also cut in 2 sessions.

Gateways: The Clerk advised that she had posted a message on the New Forest clerks Facebook forum set up by NFALC regarding the effectiveness of gateways in the New Forest villages. Four clerks had responded advising that they had been ineffective in reducing speeding in their parishes.

58.24 Consultation - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

To consider a response to the consultation on 'Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system':

Following a proposal from Cllr Sanger, seconded by Cllr Woodward, it was RESOLVED that a response be sent to the consultation which supported the response sent by the New Forest National Park Authority but also that additional responses be added on the following topics/questions:

MINUTES 05.09.2024

1. 2.2 - Godshill Parish Council welcomes the proposal that National Parks will continue to be areas that national policy states should be protected, with great weight attached to conserving and enhancing their landscape, scenic beauty and cultural heritage.
2. 2.5 - The Council reiterates the NFNPA's concern that the pressure of housing and the housing need figures which generate it comes from pressure on the boundaries of the National Park but not from the National Park area itself.
3. 2.8 – The Council considers that the New Forest National Park could be sensitive to renewable resources which are achieved in a sensitive way.
4. 2.10 and 2.11 - The Council supports planning fees for householder planning applications being set so that they meet the average cost recovery levels. The fee of £528 is a very small percentage of the overall cost of building or extending a house. It would not support fees for tree works applications.

59.24 Replacement Noticeboard

To consider a report from the Clerk suggested designs and costs for a new noticeboard to be installed in the layby in Southampton Road:

Following a discussion on the three quotes provided for a noticeboard, Cllr Sanger proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Council purchases the oak noticeboard from Greenbarnes without a header at the net cost of £764.62 plus £250 for resin posts and that it be installed by the Lengthsman.

60.24 Lengthsman

The task agreed for the Lengthsman when he visits on 23rd September was to install the replacement dragons teeth at Blissford Cross which had been damaged following a collision with a vehicle.

Cllr Woodward proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED to open the meeting again for members of the public to comment on following agenda item.

A member of the public, who represented the Residents Association at Sandy Balls, said that he had received a number of reports from residents who said that they had been pleased with the way in which the camping had been managed. These included residents who had objected to the application seeking permission for it who were actually going to write to the General Manager at Sandy Balls to tell them what a good job they had done. He also questioned whether there really was an issue that the toilet facility had remained on site beyond the end of the camping. He said further that he would be very disappointed if the Parish Council were to write to complain about the site but if it did, this would be typical of the Council's constant criticism of the Sandy Balls site.

A member of the public said that the camping had been a lot better than expected. He believed that the removal of the equipment on the land had been requested but Sandy Balls's contractor had not yet removed it.

Cllr Woodward closed the meeting to members of the public.

Cllr Woodward advised that he had photographic evidence to show that the toilet facility was in place on 30th July and he had a photograph taken on 30th August showing the site as unoccupied. He also said that he had reported to the General Manager that the date of occupation started when the amenity equipment was put on site, whereas the General Manager believed that it started when camping commences on site. He had also asked people on the site about feedback on the camping and had not received any complaints. The general feeling had been that the management of the camping had gone well.

MINUTES
05.09.2024

61.24 28 Day Use of Chamberlain Field, Southampton Road, Godshill

To consider a proposal from Cllr Cakebread to send a letter of complaint to the New Forest National Park Authority regarding the site exceeding its 28 day permitted development rights for camping:

Following a wide-ranging discussion and guidance from Cllr Sanger that if there is a breach, this can be reported to the Enforcement Officer and this did not need to be the Clerk or a member of the Parish Council who reported it, Cllr Woodward proposed from the Chair that the Council awaits clarification from the Enforcement Officer on the questions it had raised about compliance as per the Article 4 direction on 28-day camping.

Cllr Woodward proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED to open the meeting again for members of the public to comment on following agenda item.

62.24 Footpath and hedges along the Southampton Road

Cllr Woodward gave a brief report on the concerns raised with him about the poor condition and narrowing pedestrian area of the pavement due to vegetation growth and earth between Crystal Hollow and the Village Hall which had resulted in people in wheelchairs having to drive to the Hall rather than using the pavement to get there. He said residents had written to Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council but with no outcome.

Two members of the public raised concerns about the overgrown vegetation from hedges and from the pavement which was a health and safety hazard for pedestrians and particularly those using wheelchairs and parents with buggies and prams which had to step into the road.

Cllr Sanger proposed that the Clerk contacts the local District Councillors to see if this can be acted on by them and to relay the concerns of residents about the inability of people with disabilities to use the pavement. This was seconded by Cllr Woodward and approved unanimously.

The Clerk was also asked to write to the property opposite Sandy Balls to ask the owner to cut their hedge which was causing drivers to be blinded when driving around the bend past Sandy Balls towards Fordingbridge and this was causing a hazard for oncoming drivers for cars turning into Sandy Balls. Councillors noted that there had been a recent accident with a cyclist because the driver turning into Sandy Balls could not see the oncoming cyclist.

63.24 Finance and Policy:

a. Payments

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

£114.00 - Ionos - Webhosting for May-August 2024

£15.59 - Zoom for the Clerk to join meeting held on 9th July 2024

b. To resolve to approve the sum of £931.09 as the Accounts for payment for September.

		£
Ionos	Website hosting April-August	104.00
Zoom	Meeting hosting	15.59
B Cornish	August salary	400.75
B Cornish	September salary	400.75

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

MINUTES
05.09.2024

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

Balances to be Approved and Noted as at 05.09.24

Current Account: £5,249.89 Deposit Account: £10,722.40

Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Sanger seconded and it was RESOLVED that the account balances for September be approved.

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

Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Cakebread seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Budget to Actual Report to 30th September 2024 be approved.

64.24 Correspondence

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

1. New Forest District Council (NFDC) is seeking residents' comments as part of their Polling Districts and Places Review consultation. The Polling Districts and Places Review aims to evaluate the suitability of existing polling stations with a focus on their geographical location, accessibility, and the facilities they provide. The consultation is open to all residents of the New Forest district, link page: <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/districtsandplacesreview2024>.

65.24 Any Other Business

Dark Skies Leaflet: Cllr Cakebread said she would be distributing some leaflets from Steve Tonkin from the Cranborne Chase National Landscape on Dark Skies.

66.24 Next Meeting

Cllr Woodward confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 8th October 2024 to be held at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.43 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.