

**MINUTES**  
**13.01.2026**  
**GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.30 pm at Godshill Village Hall.**

Present:

Cllr Fell – Chairman

Cllr Parker

Cllr Woodward

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk

Three members of the public

**Public Question Time**

A member of the public raised concern about the blocked gulleys at the northern end of Woodgreen Road.

A member of the public provided information and spoke in support of their planning application which had not been added to the agenda.

The Council gave delegated authority to the Clerk to submit a response as the deadline had passed and the response sent would be ratified at the February meeting.

**139.25 Business Raised During Public Question Time**

The Clerk was asked to request that the gully tanker visit to clear the gulleys in Woodgreen Road.

**140.25 Apologies**

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the apologies received and the reasons given from Cllrs Morrison and Stammers be accepted.

**141.25 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 Parker declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in aspects to do with Car Parking Financial inclusion through ability to pay via cash as an INED on Safe Voucher Ltd.
- b. To consider any **Dispensation Requests** received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered:  
None.

**142.25 Minutes**

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 be approved and signed as a true record.

**143.25 Clerk's Report**

Councillors noted the Clerk's Report as follows:

**Roger Penny Way Speed Indicator Devices:** Following no response from Edward Heron the Clerk contacted the Verderers but they have advised that the Verderers can only consider proposals in Court which have come via Forestry England. As Forestry England are the land owner, the Parish Council must consult with them first. If Forestry England agree to the SID's being installed on their land they can then bring the proposal to the Court for the consideration of

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the Verderers. The Verderers Clerk has given the Parish Clerk the name of the Land Agent for Forestry England so she will send the paper on to him.

**Footpaths:** No response has yet been received from the Countryside Access Team to the Clerk's detailed online message regarding the lack of action on a number of local issues and a request to speak to an officer. She will also be contacting the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society for assistance.

**Bank Accounts:** Two bank signatories and the Clerk are now online so online payments can be made. The Clerk has completed an application to open a 6 month investment bond with Cambridge & Counties. Information on Councillor details are still needed before the application can be sent off and also details of new signatories will need to be completed on a Unity Bank application along with accompanying documentation.

**Gov.UK Domain Name:** The Council's main registrar for its gov.uk domain name has been changed to 20i as agreed.

**Government Reorganisation Consultation:** A letter was sent to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government which has been acknowledged. It was also sent to the Leader of NFDC and local district councillor who have responded thanking the parish council for its submission.

**Speed Indicator Devices:** Orders have been placed for conversion to solar for the Council's 2 SIDS with 4G upgrades. Following a discussion, the Clerk was asked to contact Hampshire Highways regarding the relocating of the two SID poles to ensure they receive the maximum amount of sun to their solar panels.

**Parish public waste collection:** The Clerk is liaising with the District Councillor on the emptying of the public bins in Southampton Road and the provision of an additional general waste bin.

### 144.25 Flooded Ford Rescue Incident

To consider a proposal from Cllr Fell that the Council:

- a. Writes letters of thanks to the Emergency Services teams and the two residents involved in the hazardous and risky rescue of two drivers, including a local resident, who had attempted to drive through the fast-flowing floodwater at the Ford in Woodgreen Road on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025:  
Following a report and proposal from Cllr Fell and a discussion, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that letters be written to all those who helped at the incident.
  
- b. Writes to Hampshire Highways to request the reinstatement of a second handrail across the Ford which, owing to its absence at the site, had created additional risk for the Emergency Services teams:  
Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that Hampshire Highways be asked to reinstate the second handrail. A member of the public advised that they had photographs of the bridge taken some years ago showing both handrails in place and they would send them to the Clerk.

### 145.25 Depth Marker and Warning Signs for the Ford

To consider a proposal from Cllr Parker that the Council:

- a. Writes to Hampshire Highways to request signage that the ford can be dangerous when flooded and that it puts in place proper depth markers so that at all times day/night the depth can be better gauged by drivers - noting the number of tourists who visit the area and may not be used to these and the number of cars washed off fords across the New Forest:  
Following a discussion, Cllr Parker proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that Hampshire Highways be asked to provide warning signs for both the ford in Woodgreen Road and the ford in Blissford Road. The signs in Woodgreen Road would be located on the poles currently located on the northern and southern approaches to the ford which alert

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drivers to 'Ice'. It was not agreed that depth markers be provided because depth markers are already located at the site.

- b. Consider setting aside a sum in Earmarked Reserves for the purchase and installation of a depth marker or water gauge should Hampshire Highways to agree to the Council's request: Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Council awaits a response from Hampshire Highways to the request for signage and a handrail before allocated reserves. The general view was that signage was likely to be more effective in advising drivers that the ford was dangerous when in flood than a depth gauge in the ford itself.

#### **146.25 Wessex Internet Rollout Delay for Godshill**

To agree next steps and actions following the correspondence received from Wessex Internet advising that the rollout in Godshill has been paused following a review being initiated by Building Digital UK (BDUK):

Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Parker proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Parker would draft letters to Sir Desmond Swayne MP, The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP, Minister of State for Digital Government and Data and Councillor Zoe Huggins BEM, the Portfolio Holder at Hampshire County Council for Hampshire 2050 - Transformation and People.

It was also agreed that the Chairman would write to Charlie Ware of Wessex Internet and the Clerk would make contact with a local resident who had previously made enquiries on broadband in Godshill on behalf of the Parish Council in his role as a member of the House of Lords.

#### **147.25 Forestry England Parking Charges**

Ahead of the January North West Quadrant meeting, to consider a request from Cllr Woodward that the Council considers its stance on Forestry England's proposed charges for its car parks in the New Forest National Park due to take effect from April 2026, and taking account of Cllr Parker's analysis of Forestry England's existing 'local schemes':

Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Parker proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that as it was inevitable that Forestry England were going to implement parking charges, the Council would support them but with the request that a local parking charges scheme is made available together with a discount scheme for people on benefits or no income. The view was that the NFDC parking clocks scheme works well with local residents and a similar scheme should be in place for the car parks owned by Forestry England.

It was also agreed that the draft discussions papers written by Cllr Parker on:

- a. Financial Inclusion and Forestry England parking charges
  - b. Financial Inclusion and fair pricing
  - c. Local Annual Parking Memberships: Benchmarking for the New Forest
- be sent to the parish and town council representative members of the New Forest National Park North West Quadrant ahead of the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

It was further agreed that Cllr Parker's discussion paper on Speed Indicator Devices on the Roger Penny way should be sent to Richard Burke of Forestry England.

#### **148.25 Dropbox**

To consider a proposal from Cllr Woodward that greater use is made of Dropbox by the Council and that any training needs are identified:

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A discussion was held on the difficulties Cllr Woodward had experienced in keeping track of councillor comments and documents through the numerous emails sent by councillors. He proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that all documents under discussion should be loaded to Dropbox by the author for councillors to review, rather than be sent on email and that the system previously used of loading all documents to Dropbox ahead of a meeting be reinstated. If councillors wished to receive training or refresher training on how to use Dropbox, they were asked to contact the Clerk.

#### **149.25 Village Hall Car Park**

To consider the response from the Committee of Godshill Village Hall to the quoted legal costs for the transfer of the leasehold ownership of the Car Park to the Village Hall Committee which will be met equally by the Parish Council and the Committee:  
Following a discussion, Cllr Fell proposed from Chair and it was RESOLVED that the item be deferred to next meeting to await Cllr Stammers report from the Village Hall Committee.

#### **150.25 Godshill Village Hall Hire**

To approve the Hire Agreement for the use of the Village Hall for Parish Council meetings in 2026:

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Hire Agreement be approved and that the annual fee for 2026 of £237.60 be approved and paid on receipt of an invoice.

#### **151.25 Local Government Reorganisation**

To ratify the Council's response to HM Government's consultation on 'Proposals for local government reorganisation in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton':  
Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the response be ratified.

#### **152.25 Footpaths**

To consider any actions which have been identified on local footpaths and where appropriate consider budget implications around expenditure for improvements to access and use:  
A detailed discussion was held on footpaths including the waterlogged issues on Footpath 772 and the lack of access on Footpath 773. It was agreed that the Council should await the response from the Countryside Access Team and any help offered by the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society. If there is no action then the issues should be raised again after March 2026.

#### **153.25 Policies**

To approve a Publication Scheme for the Council:  
Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Publication Scheme be approved.

#### **154.25 Finance and Policy**

##### **a. Payments**

£150.12 – Ionos Cloud Ltd – for web hosting July-December 2025  
£30.00 – 20i – Change of registrar of Domain Name.

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

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**b. To resolve to approve the sum of £993.26 as the Accounts for payment for January:**

		£
Ionos	Webhosting	150.12
20i	Domain name registrar	494.42
B Cornish	January salary	432.77
HMRC	Tax & Employer NHI Contributions	380.37

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

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

Current Account: £10,873.91                      Deposit Account: 11,201.07 (Interest of £61.39)

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

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

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following grants be approved:

- Make Memories Matter - Local dementia day centre - £150
- SERV Wessex – the Blood Bikers - £150

**155.25 Correspondence**

Councillors noted the following items of correspondence:

1. Hampshire County Council – Notification of that the M27 underpass works were completed a day ahead of schedule.
2. NFDC – Emails and slides re the Local Govt Organisation. Including emails from the leader of NFDC thanking the Parish Council for its response.
3. NFALC – Agenda for NFALC Meeting at 6pm on 26th January 2026.
4. Email from National Grid advising of the Mannington to Nursling Overhead Line Refurbishment being carried out by Balfour Beatty. They will be refurbishing sections of the overhead after partially undertaking the refurbishment in 2023-2024. The route, consisting of 115 pylons, begins at their substation in Mannington, runs across the north of the New Forest National Park, and ends at our substation in Nursling. They will refurbish each circuit separately to allow electricity provision to be maintained throughout the Project.

**156.25 Any Other Business**

**Glass Box Waste Collection:** Cllr Parker asked the Clerk to chase up the Cabinet member at NFDC on the matter of the continued incorrect communication on the dates for the collection of glass in Godshill Wood.

**157.25 Next Meeting**

Cllr Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to be held at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 10.09 pm.

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*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.*