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11.02.2025
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th February 2025 at 7.30 pm at Godshill Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Fell – Chairman

Cllr Stammers

Cllr Woodward

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk

Seven members of the public

Vicky Missen, Senior Engagement Manager, Wessex Internet gave a brief update and responded to questions on the installation of fibre to the premises (FTTP) in Godshill. She said that they were:

- In the processing of delivering FTTP to 10,000 across Wiltshire and the New Forest and had delivered about a third of that number so far.
- Restricted to working in the summer months in the New Forest because the fibre has to go under the River Avon at Breamore. She appreciated that it was frustrating to have a delay but the current date for delivering FTTP was during the late summer of 2026.
- Have been trying to use the existing BT infrastructure but what they are finding is some of the routes are collapsed, very shallow or blocked and so they are working with landowners to use the most cost-effective routes.
- No survey has been carried out in the village so far as she is aware. However, she would check if an initial survey had been done.
- They have to fulfil the Government's contract to install FTTP to 10,000 properties, including 250 properties in Godshill, by the end of 2026. Delays may cause the company not to meet that deadline but she would check whether Ofgem could take action if the company was in breach of contract if it missed the deadline.

Cllr Fell thanked Ms Missen for attending the meeting.

Mike Richardson, Project Manager for Sandleheath Traffic Action, gave an extensive and detailed presentation and responded to numerous questions on the development of and actions agreed in its Traffic Action Plan to reduce speeding in Sandleheath. The measures included:

- New traffic management measures to increase driver awareness and influence driver behaviours such as entry points, parking bay markings by the village shop, chicanes, seating areas to give a more 'village feel' when driving through the village.
- Tree planting and seating to enhance the village environment and create a village centre.
- Additional traditional signage.

Significant assistance and 'in principle' support had been provided by highways officers at Hampshire County Council. From the outset the project team had insisted on a face-to-face meeting with officers to discuss the proposed plans. The plans had been very well supported by the community.

The overall cost of the Traffic Action Plan will be in the region of £370k for which the Council had already been awarded £99,934k by NFDC from its Community Infrastructure Levy fund. This would enable phase 1 of the plan to be implemented.

Cllr Fell thanked Mr Richardson for a very thought-provoking presentation.

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

Public Question Time:

No further questions were raised.

116.24 Business Raised During Public Question Time

No further questions were raised.

117.24 Apologies

No apologies were received.

118.24 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.**

None.

- 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.

119.24 Minutes

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st January 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

120.24 Clerk's Report

To resolve to note the Clerk's Report providing information on recent issues and work completed.

- Replacement Noticeboard: The noticeboard was installed by the Parish Lengthsman.
- Councillor Vacancy: NFDC has advised that the Council is now free to co-opt to the vacancy left by Mrs Cakebread's resignation.
- Southampton Road: The Council is still awaiting a response from the highways officer.
- Meeting with Steve Avery: The Clerk has chased Mr Avery for dates for a meeting.

121.24 Planning and Tree Work Applications

Cllr Fell opened the meeting for members of the public to speak on the planning applications.

The applicant spoke at length and responded to questions from councillors on Application No 24/01269FULL and also plans for how the conservatory would be constructed once a further planning permission had been sought. He also expressed concern about comments made by a resident to his other application which inferred that he had misled the Council and he asked councillors to confirm whether they thought they had been misled. Cllr Fell said that he felt he had not been misled.

Application No 24/01269FULL – Revised Plans

The Cottage, Road Through Godshill Wood Hamlet, Godshill Wood - Single storey side and rear extensions; alteration to fenestration:

Following a discussion, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council should recommend permission for this application on the grounds that the plans sufficiently mitigated the concerns councillors had raised on the conservatory and its

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impact on the neighbourhood amenity, the 'street scene' across the value and on the dark skies in one of the darkest areas of the National Park.

Application 25/00087TPO

Forest Brook Farm, Newgrounds, Godshill - Fell 7 x Conifer trees (Conservation area protection) Prune 7 x English Oak trees (Part of G9 of TPO/0032/03)

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the decision on this application be left to the Tree Officer.

Application 25/00092CONS

Long Orchard, Godshill Wood - Prune 1 x Spruce tree (T1 on the plan).

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the decision on this application be left to the Tree Officer.

Application No 25/00104CONS

Hunters Chase, Castle Hill, Godshill Wood - Fell 1 x Conifer tree (T1 on the plan).

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the decision on this application be left to the Tree Officer.

122.24 Consultations

- a. To consider a response to the New Forest National Park's consultation on the review of the New Forest National Park Local Plan (deadline 18th March 2025).
Councillor Fell proposed from the Chair that this be considered at the next meeting.

- b. To consider a response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's consultation on 'Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England' (deadline 26th February 2025).
Councillor Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that councillors would respond as individuals to the consultation.

123.24 Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2025/26

To resolve to approve the appointment of Mr Paul Reynolds of Fair Account as the Parish Council's Internal Auditors for 2025/26:

Councillor Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that Fair Account be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditors for 2025/26.

124.24 Finance and Policy:

a. Payments

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
£475.00 Ms S Boyd – For her work as Litter Warden
£46.68 Cracknell Timber – For posts and mortar to install new Noticeboard in Southampton Road.

b. To resolve to approve the sum of £940.88 as the Accounts for payment for February:

Mrs Boyd	Litter warden payment	475.00
Cracknell Timber	Posts for noticeboard	46.68
B Cornish	February salary	419.20

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

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

Current Account: £5,851.90 Deposit Account: £10,943.54

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

125.24 Correspondence

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

1. Several emails regarding a planning application.
2. A request for a recording of the last meeting which was provided.
3. Email from a resident regarding a light shining from a lodge in Sandy Balls.
4. Email from Hampshire Highways regarding the M27 Junction 10 improvement scheme.
5. New Forest Association – February Newsletter.
6. Newsletter from the Minstead Trust.
7. Invitation from Chairman of NFDC to Chairman for him and his guest to attend his Civic Service, taking place on Sunday 23rd March at 3.00 pm at St Mary Magdalene Church, Church Street, New Milton.

126.24 Any Other Business:

Wessex Internet: Cllr Woodward suggested that the Council puts on record with the company its dissatisfaction with the delay in the promised installation of FTTP in Godshill. This is to be followed up with County Councillor Edward Heron and officers at Hampshire County Council. The Clerk was also asked to try to obtain an update from BT Openreach as to its plans for installing FTTP in Godshill.

June Council meeting: Cllr Woodward asked if it was possible to move the date of the June meeting due to his existing commitment on the date of the meeting and the need for all three councillors to attend to ensure the meeting is quorate.

Recording of meetings: Cllr Woodward asked that an item be added to the next agenda for the Council to consider whether to continue to record its meetings.

127.24 Next Meeting

Cllr Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 11th March 2025 to be held at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20 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.