

MINUTES
09.09.2025
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 7.30 pm at Godshill Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Fell – Chairman
Cllr Parker
Cllr Stammers
Cllr Morrison
Cllr Woodward

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk
Two members of the public

Public Question Time:

A member of the public raised the issue of the proposed charges to park in car parks in the National Park in 2026. He asked whether there would be subscription scheme which would allow for discounts.

Cllr Woodward advised that there was to be an update on car parking at the next North West Quadrant meeting in October. He said that he was aware that they did not want parking machines installed but the income from the parking would find more rangers who would act as parking enforcement officers and travel to the car parks across the forest. He also said that the biggest issue he could see from the introduction of parking was the increase in verge parking.

A member of the public asked about the parking around outside a property in the Southampton Road which had eroded the verge over a number of years. She also commented on the planting up of the area around the eastern cattle grid which she did not regard as a sufficient enhancement and should be improved. She asked Councillors to look at the area.

Cllr Woodward advised the meeting that Mrs Boyd had sent her apologies but was concerned how the bags of litter she collected in the village could be removed after the changes had been made to the waste collection process by New Forest District Council, particularly in peak holiday periods when there was a lot of litter.

The Clerk agreed to contact the District Councillors to enquire whether an additional bin could be supplied.

66.25 Co-option

To consider an application from Jemma Morrison to be co-opted to the Council to fill the existing vacancy:

Following Cllr Morrison's brief verbal application to be co-opted, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that she be co-opted to the Council. She signed her Declaration of Accept of Office.

67.25 Apologies

No apologies were received.

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68.25 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 Stammers declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Minute 72.25 as a trustee of the Village Hall.

- b. **To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered:**

None.

69.25 Minutes

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Parker seconded and it was RESOLVED to approve as a true record the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 24th July 2025.

70.25 Planning and Tree Work Applications

Application No: 25/00964CONS

Land Adjacent to Godshill Village Hall, Woodgreen Road, Godshill -

Fell Group of Sycamore and Ash trees (G1 on the plan), Fell 1 x Ash tree (T1 on the plan). Prune 1 x Field Maple tree (T2 on the plan):

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

71.25 Clerk's Report

Councillors noted the following report from the Clerk:

Southampton Road: Awaiting a response from the officer.

Consultations: The agreed responses were submitted on the Local Government Reorganisation and the Public Space Protection Order extension.

Meeting with David Illsley: This meeting was postponed on the day of the meeting with a plan to rearrange it.

Broadband: A further response was sent to Wessex Internet following a draft written by Councillor Parker and agreed by councillors. A response was received on 28th August with the list of properties included in the upgrade.

Following a discussion, Cllr Parker agreed to draft a website post, a poster and an email to the distribution list of residents who had expressed an interest in FTTP.

External Audit: The External Auditor's Report and Certificate was received and an item is on the agenda.

Blissford Cross: No further response had been received from the resident re Blissford Cross.

Lengthsman: The lengthsman completed the installation of the kissing gate on a footpath between Arniss Farm and St Giles Farm on Friday 25th July.

Defibrillator training dates: The training provider, Salamander Safety Training Solutions, has confirmed the date of Tuesday 14th October for the defibrillator familiarisation sessions. He's happy to provide 2 sessions if they are needed from 4.30/5 pm.

72.25 Village Hall Car Park

To consider a proposal from Councillor Woodward to transfer the leasehold ownership of the Village Hall Car Park to the Godshill Village Hall:

Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Council agreed in principle for the leasehold ownership to be transferred to the Village Hall Committee subject to the agreement of the Committee and agreement that it meets 50 percent of the legal fees incurred for the transfer.

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73.25 WhatsApp Community Group

To consider a proposal from Councillor Woodward that a Community Group be set up on WhatsApp with the purpose of relaying information to residents, subject to permissions being received that they agree to their data being held by the Council:

Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the principle of setting up a WhatsApp Community Group be approved with it being on an "announcement-only" basis. It was agreed that the Village Hall Centenary open afternoon would be an opportunity to engage the views of residents on this. The Clerk agreed to look at example policies for such a group being set up.

74.25 New Registrar for the Council's .gov.uk domain name

To approve the application to alternative registrars in light of HCI Data Ltd's notification that it plans to cease being a registrar of .gov.uk domain names at the end of 2025:

Following a discussion, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Council transfer to the Registrars 20i following positive feedback from the Clerk on their being the Registrars for a number of years for Tisbury Parish Council.

75.25 Safer New Forest Partnership Survey

To consider a request from the Safer New Forest Partnership participate in completing its annual community consultation regarding crime and disorder in the area:

Councillors approved comments to be made on the issues of rural outbuilding thefts, noise, speeding, the need for ANPR cameras on the forest's boundaries, the lack of youth provision and some anti-social behaviour at Castle Hill.

76.25 Replacement Noticeboard

To consider the purchase of another new noticeboard to be installed adjacent to the Village Hall: Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that a second noticeboard be purchased from Greenbarnes in the same form as purchased in 2024 but with a header section which includes the words 'Godshill Parish Council'. The cost will be met from the Council's existing Earmarked Reserve of £1,000.

77.25 Lengthsman

To agree the tasks for the Lengthsman when he visits on 22nd September

Councillors agreed two tasks to be included on the worksheet and agreed to contact the Clerk should they be alerted to any other tasks by residents.

78.25 Godshill Village Hall Centenary Open Afternoon

To consider the presentation materials for the Godshill Parish Council table at the Open Afternoon on Sunday 14th September:

The draft presentation slides prepared by the Clerk were approved with minor changes and with agreement that a form be added to capture residents' interest in joining the Community WhatsApp group.

79.25 Conclusion of External Audit

To resolve to accept the External Auditor's Report and Certificate from BDO LLP in relation to the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2024-25 and to consider any actions arising from the Report:

Councillors Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Audit report be noted with there be no follow up actions to be taken.

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80.25 Finance and Policy

a. To resolve to approve the following payments:

Councillor Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the following payment be approved:

£252.00 – BDO LLP - for the Annual External Audit

b. To resolve to approve the sum of £1,155.66 as the Accounts for payment for September.

		£
BDO LLP	External Audit	68.40
B Cornish	August salary	419.40
B Cornish	September salary and backpay	484.46

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

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

Current Account: £8,236.14

Deposit Account: 11,012.44

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

d. To resolve to approve the Budget to Actual Report to 30th September 2025:

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

81.25 Correspondence

Councillors noted the following items of correspondence:

1. NFDC – Several emails regarding the Local Government Reorganisation and several emails regarding the roll out of the new waste service.
2. NFALC – Minutes of the AGM and notice of the next meeting to be held on Monday 22nd September at 6 pm at Appletree Court and online.
3. Hampshire County Council – An email from the Countryside Service advising of the extension to the Order to temporarily close part of Godshill Footpath 770 to enable bridge replacement works to take place.
4. Hampshire Association of Local Councils – Notice of the Hampshire ALC AGM and Annual Conference on Wednesday 22nd October 2025 9.30am – 4.00pm at the MacDonald Botley Park Hotel and Spa, Botley.
5. Exchange of emails between a resident and the General Manager of Sandy Balls regarding a noise complaint.
6. NW Quadrant – an email from Cllr Ann Sevier asking about the enthusiasm to revive the Western Escarpment Conservation Area Steering Group which David Illsley is happy to speak on at the next meeting on 20th October.
7. Receipt of a signed side letter with lease from the new owners of the land beside the Village Hall.
8. The September edition of Waymark from the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society.

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82.25 Any Other Business:

Footpaths: Cllr Parker raised the issue of the lack of access on several footpaths and on not receiving feedback from the Countryside Access Team to the reports he had submitted online.

Speed Indicator Devices: Cllr Woodward asked that an item on the data from the Council's SIDS be added to the next agenda.

83.25 Next Meeting

Councillor Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 14th October 2025 to be held at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Part 2 Exempt Matters – Staffing

84.25 The Chair to propose the following resolution – ‘That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they be instructed to withdraw in view of the confidential nature of the business on staffing about to be transacted’.

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the meeting be closed to the press and public.

85.25 National Salary Award

To consider and resolve to approve the salary award and backdated payments for the Clerk for the period from 1st April 2025 in accordance with the National Association of Local Council's document 'National Salary Award 2025' and accordance with her Employment Contract: Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the award and backdated payments be approved.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.57 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.