

MINUTES
11.11.2025
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Cllr Woodward – Chairman
Cllr Morrison
Cllr Parker
Cllr Stammers

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk
Four members of the public

Litter Warden

Sara Boyd expressed concern about the changeover to the new waste collection service as this would not provide sufficient capacity for the collected litter and she did not wish to have a second bin.

Public Question Time

A member of the public advised that the permanent residents at Sandy Balls had been swapped from Biffa, the Sandy Balls waste contractor which previously collected their waste, to the New Forest District Council waste collection service. She said she had spoken to one of the NFDC operatives who had told her that they were pleased to have new bins as he remained much cleaner when working when compared with the previous arrangements of picking up roadside plastic bags.

A member of the public raised the matter of their mixed species hedge on the edge of the pavement in Southampton Road which was now dead because it had been cut back so much to enable pedestrians to use the footpath.

Councillor Parker advised that the hedge would not be dead and would grow back.

105.25 Business Raised During Public Question Time

No action was required from the matters raised.

106.25 Apologies

Cllr Woodward proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the apology received from Cllr Fell due to a work commitment be accepted.

107.25 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:
None.
- b. To consider any **Dispensation Requests** received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered:
None.

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108.25 Minutes

Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Stammers seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 14th October 2025 be approved and signed as a true record.

109.25 Planning and Tree Works Applications

Application No: 25/01121PATC

New Forest National Park - Application under part 16 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order in respect of proposed telecommunication infrastructure works within the New Forest National Park:

Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Parker seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council recommended permission for the application but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers on the grounds that it supports the integration of rural gigabit projects.

110.25 Clerk's Report

Councillors noted the Clerk's Report as follows:

Blissford Cross: No further response from the resident re Blissford Cross.

Roger Penny Way Speed Indicator Devices: Email and discussion papers sent to County Cllr Edward Heron. It was further agreed that the Clerk should chase Cllr Heron for a response and that any letter to the Verderers should be delayed until after their December meeting.

Waste Collection Service: A letter was sent to Cabinet member for waste at New Forest District Council. A response was received from Cllr Geoffrey Blunden thanking the Council for its feedback and acknowledging that there have been inconsistencies between the District Council's communications and the actual service delivery and giving assurance that he will follow up with the relevant officers and review the issues raised as well as seek clarification on the steps being taken to address them.

Air Ambulance Clothing Bank request: A response was sent declining their request due to lack of parking spaces.

111.25 Village Hall Car Park

To consider a response from the Village Hall Committee to the Council's agreement in principle to transfer its interest in the leasehold ownership of the Village Hall Car Park to Godshill Village Hall and to agree on next steps:

Cllr Stammers reported that the Village Hall Committee had voted to support the proposal for the leasehold ownership to be transferred to the Village Hall. However, the Committee would like more information on the cost in view of the Council's decision that each party should meet half of the costs.

112.25 Speed Indicator Devices

In light of the information received from Apple that the Council's existing Speed Indicator Devices cannot be downloaded to Apple devices, to consider a proposal from Councillor Woodward that the decision to upgrade them to solar power be revisited so that alternative options can be considered:

Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Woodward proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that in the absence of Cllr Fell from the meeting the item should be deferred to the next meeting. Cllr Parker agreed to obtain alternative quotes for SIDs and explore any available grants.

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113.25 Footpaths

To consider a verbal report from Cllr Parker on existing obstructions to the parish's footpaths and to agree any actions to be taken:

Following Cllr Parker's report, the Clerk was asked to write to the Countryside Access Team about the lack of action on the issues raised with them over the last year and to contact the Fordingbridge Town Clerk regard the maintenance of the pedestrian route to Fordingbridge. Cllr Parker agreed to follow up with the landowner the removal of a kissing gate which was replaced with a stile on a Godshill footpath to see if it could be reinstated.

114.25 New Forest National Park Local Plan Review Consultation

To consider a response to the next stage of the draft Local Plan Review which is under consultation from 5th November to 19th December 2025:

Cllr Wooward proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk would prepare a draft response for consideration at the next meeting.

115.25 Parish Council Bus Shelter Grant Scheme

To consider submitting an application to Hampshire County Council for a grant towards the refurbishment or replacement of the Parish Council's existing owned bus shelters:

The Clerk was asked to investigate the Grant Scheme and the costs of replacement bus shelters which were in keeping with the Western Escarpment Conservation Area.

116.25 Police and Crime Commissioner's Emerging Needs Fund

To consider submitting an application for a grant which aligns with the Commissioner's focus on the theme of Road Safety. Automatic Speed Indicator Devices are not eligible for funding under this grant opportunity:

It was agreed that the grant available was beyond the affordability of the Council.

117.25 Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2026/27

To resolve to approve the appointment of Mr Tim Light of Lighter Touch to complete the Internal Audit for the financial year 2025/26 and to approve a letter of engagement:

Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Morrison seconded and it was RESOLVED that Lighter Touch be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditors to complete the AGAR for 2025/26.

118.25 Finance and Policy

a. Bank Accounts

- i. To approve the signatories on the Cambridge & Counties Bank fixed rate business bond account:
Cllr Woodward proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED to add all councillors as signatories.
- ii. To approve the adding of a further signatory to the Unity Trust Bank Account:
Cllr Woodward proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED to add Councillors Morrison, Parker and Stammers as signatories.
- iii. To confirm that the Clerk should process the removal of past councillors from the Unity Trust Bank Account:
Cllr Woodward proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that all past councillors be removed.

b. To resolve to approve the sum of £432.77 as the Accounts for payment for November:

		£
B Cornish	November salary	432.77

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

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

Current Account: £13,984.81 Deposit Account: 11,139.68

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

d. To consider items to be added to the draft budget for 2026/27 ahead of the December meeting:

Councillors agreed to send suggestions to the Clerk for inclusion in the budget.

119.25 Outside Bodies and Representation:

New Forest National Park Authority: Cllr Woodward and the Clerk gave a detailed report on a recent meeting with Mr David Illsley, Interim Head of Planning and Place for the Authority. A number matters were discussed including:

- the Local Plan Review
- the extent of expansion of Sandy Balls in future years and how this could be reflected in the current review of the Local Plan.
- the Local Government Re-organisation and how this would affect the National Park.
- local enforcement matters and the need for an update on current cases in terms of the implementation of the previously issued enforcement notices.
- dark skies.

North West Quadrant: Cllr Woodward gave a detailed report on a recent meeting which covered the matters of Forestry England and the implementation of car parking charges, the reformation of the Western Escarpment Conservation Area group and the local government re-organisation.

Godshill Village Hall: Cllr Stammers said he did not have much more to report than the matter of the transfer of the leaseholder ownership of the car park.

120.25 Correspondence

Councillors noted the following items of correspondence:

1. New Forest District Council – Notification of a temporary event notice for 31.12.25 for Godshill Village Hall for a community New Year's Eve party from 22:30 to 02:00.
2. NFDC – Notification of a temporary event notice for Godshill Pottery Christmas Open Studio 29th to the 30th November 2025 1000 hrs to 2000 hrs.
3. New Forest National Park Authority – Email advising of a residents' survey which ends on 30th November.
4. NFDC – Email offering line-marking services for parish and town councils.
5. New Forest Association of Local Councils – Agenda for a meeting to be held on Wednesday 12th November at 6 pm at Appletree Court and online.
6. CPRE – Email advising of some hedge laying courses for Hampshire residents.
7. Rural Services Network - Digital Landline Switchover - Free training and resources for rural areas to help with the digital switchover. They request that a call is made to the BT team to schedule a training session to best suit our needs.
8. Email from a resident regarding the unacceptable noise at Sandy Balls during Halloween week.

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121.25 Any Other Business.

Newsletter: It was suggested that a newsletter be produced in the New Year for distribution to residents. Cllr Parker said he would send items for it to the Clerk.

122.25 Next Meeting

Councillor Woodward confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 9th December 2025 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.