

MINUTES
09.12.2025
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Cllr Fell – Chairman
Cllr Morrison
Cllr Stammers
Cllr Woodward

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk
Three members of the public

Public Question Time

A member of the public advised that she had obtained information from Hampshire County Council that the pavement outside a property was the responsibility of the County Council and not the homeowner.

123.25 Business Raised During Public Question Time

No action was required from the matter raised.

124.25 Apologies

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

125.25 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.

126.25 Minutes

Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Morrison seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 11th November 2025 be approved and signed as a true record.

127.25 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: Edward Heron has been chased regarding the Clerk's email and discussion papers sent to him in October.

Footpaths: The Clerk has left a detailed online message on the countryside access reporting system regarding the lack of action on a number of local issues and a request to speak to an officer. Cllr Woodward suggested that the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society be contacted to see if they could assist in resolving the issues raised.

Following Councillor Parker's correspondence with a local landowner, the kissing gate removed from a footpath and replaced with a stile is no longer available for reinstatement elsewhere.

Signed by the Chairman

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Parish Council Bus Shelter Grant Scheme: The scheme's aim is to 'improve engagement with public transport by improving infrastructure on the local and commercial bus network. The improvement of parish council-owned bus shelter infrastructure will improve awareness of these services by making them more visible to existing and potential passengers with more attractive, improved shelters for waiting in. This, along with an improved passenger experience, aims to increase overall patronage'. Councillors agreed that as the parish's bus shelters were not served by a bus service, it would not be appropriate to make an application.

Bank Accounts: The Clerk has applied for the removal of past signatories on the Unity Bank account and completed an application to open the 6 month investment bond with Cambridge & Counties Bank. Information on Councillor details will be 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 is in the process of being changed to 20i as agreed.

Councillor Email addresses: The Council's webmaster has contacted councillors to provide them with gov.uk emails.

128.25 Village Hall Car Park

To consider the costs received from Tozers solicitors for the transfer of the leasehold ownership of the Car Park to the Village Hall Committee:

Following information provided by the Clerk that Tozers solicitors' fees for the transfer will be approximately £1200 ex VAT, Councillor Peter Stammers advised that the recent view of the Village Hall Committee was that it was unlikely to agree to meeting 50 percent of the cost. It could see little benefit in taking on the lease because in taking it on it would incur added costs with the maintenance of the car park.

Following a discussion, Cllr Stammers agreed to relay the cost to the Committee and to respond with the Committee's formal decision so that in turn the Council could take a decision on whether the transfer is to be pursued at the next meeting.

129.25 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, some of which are to be provided by Cllr Parker:

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Morrison seconded and it was RESOLVED that the combined quote received from Elan City of £3513.32 +VAT for both units be accepted. This price includes the fitting of a solar panel and a GSM/4G unit to both existing SIDS owned by the Council.

A discussion was held on the need to remove a limb of an adjacent tree which would block light to the solar panel once installed on the SID located on the westbound carriageway of Southampton Road. The resident whose land the branch overhung who was present at the meeting said they would give consideration to its removal. It was agreed that alternative locations should be considered with new poles and RAL sockets which would be able to provide maximum light to the solar panels.

130.25 New Forest National Park Local Plan Review Consultation

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

Due to lack of time, Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk was to circulate a response for councillors to consider before 19th December which would be ratified at the January meeting.

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This response would include a request to have a site-specific policy for Sandy Balls Holiday Park and make reference to the importance of progressing the Dark Skies initiative in the National Park.

131.25 Local Government Reorganisation

To consider a response to HM Government's consultation on 'Proposals for local government reorganisation in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (deadline 11th January 2026):

Following circulation of the slides from the recent online presentation provided by New Forest District Council, Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk would circulate a draft response supporting Option 1 for councillors to consider prior to 11th January.

132.25 Litter Collection in the parish

To consider how the litter collected in the parish will be disposed of in light of the change to the waste collection service:

Following a discussion, Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that if New Forest District Council were unable to suggest an acceptable solution for disposing of litter generated in the parish, when the litter warden did not wish to host an additional bin, then the Council's 3 bins will be removed and all future litter collection will be left to NFDC and Hampshire Highways to deal with. The Council's view was that it could not be classed as commercial waste when large Air B&Bs in the village were able to have domestic bins as part of the new waste collection service rather than be required to pay for commercial waste collections.

133.25 Policies – IT and Email Policy

Cllr Woodward proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the policy be approved but the Clerk was asked to check whether any reference to the Council's website should be included in it.

134.25 Annual Insurance

To approve the quote from Arthur J Gallagher for £494.42 for the annual insurance premium as provided by Hiscox:

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the annual insurance premium be approved.

135.25 Finance and Policy

a. Payments

£1,190.45 – Greenbarnes for new wooden noticeboard for Woodgreen Road

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

b. To resolve to approve the sum of £2,117.64 as the Accounts for payment for

December:		£
Greenbarnes	Noticeboard	1190.45
Arthur J Gallagher	Annual Insurance	494.42
B Cornish	December salary	432.77

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

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

Current Account: £11,867.17 Deposit Account: 11,139.68

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

d. To resolve to note the Budget to Actual Report to 31st December 2025:

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Budget to Actual Report be approved.

e. Budget 2026-27 - To consider and resolve to approve the draft 3-year budget submitted by the Clerk:

Following a review of the budget lines and the outturn for 2025/26, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that a budget of £14,063 be set for 2026-27.

f. Precept 2026-27 - To resolve to agree a precept demand for submission to New Forest District Council.

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that a Precept of £14,063 be approved which was an increase of 0.03% on 2025-26 and a Band D figure of £59.87.

g. To consider and resolve to approve the Earmarked Reserves of the Parish Council.

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Earmarked Reserves of the Council be approved at a total of £11,013, with a single change to the Earmarked Reserve for Gateway Signage which was to be increased from £4,000 to £4,500.

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

Following the receipt of an email from a local organisation seeking a contribution, the Clerk was asked to go back to them to ask whether the Council could support a specific event or activity. Councillors agreed to consider the awarding of that and any other grants at the January meeting once more information had been received.

136.25 Correspondence

Councillors noted the following items of correspondence:

1. Hampshire County Councillor Edward Heron – A report advising that he wishes to resign as a councillor and should the elections be held next May, he will not re-stand.
2. Hampshire Association of Local Councils – November newsletter.
3. Hampshire County Council – Notification of the closure of the M27 between Junctions 9 and 11 from 8pm on Wednesday 24 December until 4am on Sunday 4 January. The one-off closure of this section is necessary to deliver a new underpass that will be constructed using a timesaving engineering technique, replacing what would otherwise have been many months of lane restrictions, speed limits, and overnight works.
4. New Forest NPA – A note from David Illsley, the Interim Head of Planning, regarding a number of planning issues.
5. Fordingbridge Town Council – An email enclosing Lengthsman dates up to May 2026.
6. NFDC – A press release advising of the Christmas and New Year recycling and rubbish collection date changes.
7. NFDC Consultation on re-adopting the PSPOs in place for fires and the feeding of animals. The Clerk completed the Council's response to support their re-adoption.

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8. NFNPA – Decision for application 25/01121PATC – 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 - Notification from the planning officer that the application has been approved without conditions.
9. Sandy Balls – a number of email exchanges between a resident and the Entertainment Director regarding excessive noise causing a disturbance.
10. NFALC – Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November.

137.25 Any Other Business.

Items for the next meeting: Cllr Woodward asked that the following Agenda items:

Parking charges ahead of the North West Quadrant meeting

The use of Dropbox by councillors.

138.25 Next Meeting

Councillor Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 13th January 2026 to be held at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.25 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.