

MINUTES
10.02.2026
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.30 pm at Godshill Village Hall.

Present:

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

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk
Three members of the public

Public Question Time

A resident commented that the mobile home belonging to a former resident who had died had been removed from the land he owned. She said it was really sad that it had to be removed because there were many young commoners who could not afford to live in the parish. She acknowledged that a condition of the planning appeal decision allowed for the resident to remain on the site, which was agricultural land, until his death and therefore there was no means of allowing the mobile home to remain.

A resident raised the issues of the drains at both the northern and southern ends of Woodgreen Road. The Chairman advised that following the report at the last meeting, coincidentally Hampshire Highways had visited Woodgreen Road to clear the drains on the day after the meeting. The resident said that he had talked to the homeowner at the northern end of Woodgreen Road regarding the clearing of the gully outside his house.

A discussion was held on the number of markers/bollards located at the ford in Woodgreen Road. A member of the public said that there used to be eight. The Chairman said that he had only ever known there to be six.

Cllr Parker reported that in his 'pre-action' correspondence with Hampshire County Council, following the incident where he had driven his car into the flooded ford in Woodgreen Road and had to be rescued, he'd sought information on its risk assessments and maintenance. He advised that there no risk assessments had been carried out and only standard road maintenance.

158.25 Business Raised During Public Question Time

It was agreed that no actions were required following public question time.

159.25 Apologies

None.

160.25 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.

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

161.25 Minutes

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 13th January 2026 be approved and signed as a true record.

162.25 Clerk's Report

Councillors noted the Clerk's Report as follows:

SIDS on Roger Penny Way: An email with the discussion paper had been sent to Mr Ollie Adderley at Forestry England.

Footpaths: The new bridge's gate has been repaired.

No further response has been received to the Clerk's online message and no response either from the Ringwood & Fordingbridge footpath society about advice on making contact with the Countryside Access Team.

Speed Indicator Devices: Invoices have been received for the conversion to solar of the Council's 2 SIDS with 4G upgrades and for new locking nuts. The Clerk has sought advice on packaging and they've said it should be wrapped in bubble wrap and cardboard and shipped without the batteries.

Proposal for Village Hall to take on the lease of the Car Park: A response has been received from the Chairperson of the Committee who advises that they are carrying out the refurbishment of the stage and surrounding area and have no surplus funds to carry out the necessary maintenance work which is required to the Car Park at the moment. It was appreciated that when the Lease was granted to the Parish Council it was the Council's intention that at some stage it would be transferred to the Trustees of the Village Hall. However, whilst in principle this would be a good idea, the Committee does not have the funds to deal with any present or future maintenance of the car park.

Rescue Incident: All letters were sent to the agreed organisations and to the local people involved.

Residential Bin: The Clerk has spoken to the District Councillor who advises that anyone can order an additional domestic bin. The Clerk was asked to get back in contact with him to ascertain how an additional black bin could be obtained as a normal residential household requesting an additional bin is often refused.

Signage Letter: A letter has been sent to Hampshire Highways to the officer who Phil Wood recommended the Clerk should write to regarding signage for the fords and also the relocations of the SID poles.

Letter to CEO of Openreach: A letter was drafted for a resident to send. However, the email address provided was incorrect. Cllr Parker confirmed that he would provide it to the Clerk again.

SERV Wessex The Chair has confirmed that a representative of the organisation can give a presentation on what it does at the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 14th March.

163.25 Planning and Tree Works

To ratify the Council's comments on the following planning application:

Planning Application No. 25/01355FULL

Ytene Gardens, Southampton Road, Godshill - Replacements and alterations to roof, cladding, doors and windows; wall structure repairs:

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following response be ratified:

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Godshill Parish Council resolved to support the application on the grounds that it was compliant with Policies SP16 and SP17 of the New Forest National Park Local Plan. Councillors wished to comment that the changes are largely an updating of the 100 year old dwelling to enable it to be retained and used in the 21st Century and they were supportive of the applicant's aim of preserving it.

164.25 Wessex Internet Rollout Delay for Godshill

To agree next steps and actions following the correspondence sent and received on the pausing of the Building Digital UK (BDUK) to install Fibre to the Premises in Godshill:

Following a discussion, Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED that Cllr Parker will draft a letter to British Digital UK. Cllr Parker advised he will wait a further week for responses from Sir Desmond Swayne MP and the Minister at the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. He was also awaiting a response from the Chief Executive of BT Openreach but that it has been forwarded to their corporate complaints team who were not following up.

165.25 Forestry England Parking Charges

- a. To receive a report from Councillor Woodward and Councillor Parker on the discussions held at the recent North West Quadrant meeting on Forestry England Parking Charges:
Cllrs Woodward and Parker gave a detailed report on the recent meeting at which they said that the representative for Forestry England had not been very forthcoming with their explanations and answers to questions on the decisions which had been taken on car parking charges in the New Forest National Park. The key points from the discussion were:
 - There would not be a local scheme. The national scheme allows for two cars, not with simultaneous use, on one yearly ticket.
 - Forestry England has the necessary legal power to issue parking tickets.
 - Active commoners (6 cars allowed) and Forestry England/National Park volunteers would be exempt from car parking charges.

- b. To consider a proposal from Councillor Parker that the Council's sends a letter to Sir Desmond Swayne MP and other relevant bodies/ministers regarding Forestry England's proposed Car Parking charges and its confirmation that it will not be setting up a local scheme, or offering cash access and for them to raise the matter with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs/the Forestry Commission in view local schemes operating in other areas of England/ in conflict with the Governments own National Financial inclusion policy:
Following a lengthy discussion, Cllr Parker proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Parker should draft letters to Sir Desmond Swayne MP and other relevant bodies. It was agreed that the letters should include the suggestion that ANPR cameras could be installed on the boundaries of the National Park. As well as being a more efficient means of revenue generation and traffic management, this was to avoid further damage than had already been caused to valuable grazing land by the recent extensive ditching and the installation of dragon's teeth along the key forest roads to deter on-road and verge parking once the charges come into effect.

166.25 Village Hall Car Park

- a. 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 Parker proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED, with an abstention from Cllr Stammers, that the Council will offer the Committee two options regarding the car park:

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1. The transfer of the ownership without a contribution from the Committee to the legal fees and with the maintenance being carried out prior to the transfer.
 2. If this is not accepted then advice should be passed to the Committee that the Council will charge it £250 a year for the use and maintenance of the car park as it was agreed that Councillors didn't think it appropriate for Parish residents to be subsidising Village Hall users.
- b. To consider a proposal from Councillor Stammers that the Council arranges to carry out some maintenance to the surfacing in the Car Park:
It was agreed that the car park needed re-grading with hoggin material. The Clerk said she would check with colleagues for any recommended local contractors. Also discussed was the potential for rental charges to be made to a local business whose clients regularly use the car park and a coded entry gate to be installed as it was likely to be used by more visitors to the area once Forestry England charges come into force. It was also agreed that the Council should revisit the agreement with the new field owners as it was agreed that they would leave the car park in good order once they finished their recent access work.

167.25 Consultations

a. **National Planning Policy Framework Consultation**

To consider a response to the HM Government consultation on a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other changes to the planning system (deadline 10th March 2026):

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should submit a response on the Council's behalf taking account of the protection of the National Park, telecom infrastructure, tranquillity and the consequential impact of traffic crossing through the National Park which had been generated by housing on its boundaries.

b. **New Forest District Council Local Plan Review**

To consider a response to NFDC's Local Plan Review consultation on

Regulation 18 Spatial Options and Policy Direction (deadline 20th March 2026):

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk will draft a response for consideration at the next meeting.

168.25 Finance and Policy

a. **Payments**

£475 – Mrs S Boyd – Litter Warden

£59.69 - Locking nuts for Speed Indicator Devices

£470.40 - Collection & Delivery of Speed Indicator Devices from Godshill to Elan City & initial assessment

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

b. **To resolve to approve the sum of £2,628.31 as the Accounts for payment for February including a late-received invoice from Greenbarnes:**

		£
S Boyd	Litter Warden 2 nd payment	475.00
Elan City Ltd	Locking nuts for SID	59.69
Elan City Ltd	SID collection & assessment	470.40
Greenbarnes	New Noticeboard	1190.45
B Cornish	February salary	432.77

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

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

Current Account: £8,245.60 Deposit Account: £11,201.07

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

d. To approve the setting up of a monthly Direct Debit on the Council's Unity Bank Current Account for Ionos Cloud Ltd for webhosting:

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Woodward seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Direct Debit be set up.

169.25 Outside Bodies and Representation:

North West Quadrant: Councillor Woodward gave a further report on the rest of the North West Quadrant meeting which included:

- A report from Gilly Jones on the increase in animal deaths across the forest. She encouraged everyone to 'lead by example' as a high number of the deaths had been caused by locals. She also advised that the best number to call for anyone involved in an accident with an animal was 999.
- A discussion on the Local Plan Review consultation.
- News that the local ranger had moved to the Peak District.
- Information from NFDC that the Mayoral elections had been delayed and Phase 3 of the new Waste Collection Service would be implemented shortly.

170.25 Correspondence

Councillors noted the following items of correspondence:

1. Hampshire Police – Emails from the Local Chief Inspector and the Chief Constable thanking the Council for its letter of thanks regarding the rescue incident at the ford in mid-December.
2. Email from resident thanking the Council for thanking him.
3. Email from a resident asking if the Parish Council is intending to discuss the several extracts which have been passed to her from local newspapers on development proposals for the area.
4. NFDC – Email notifying the Council of the consultation on the Spatial Options and Policy Direction Plan which sets out the council's emerging vision, preferred policy directions and options for how future development needs, such as housing, jobs, infrastructure and the natural environment, could be planned for across the district. It does not present final policies or allocate sites, and the council is seeking public feedback at this stage before the detailed draft Local Plan is prepared. A six-week public consultation will run from Friday 6 February to Friday 20 March.

171.25 Any Other Business.

Godshill Inclosure Car Park: Cllr Parker advised that he had met an officer from Forestry England who was looking after the maintenance of the car parks. Trimming work was being done and there were plans to re-surface the car park. He said it would be a good idea to get in contact with her.

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WhatsApp Group: Cllr Parker said he would locate an old phone for the Clerk to use to set up the local WhatsApp Group.

Affordable Housing: Cllr Stammers suggested that the Council consider the options for local affordable housing as there may be local exception sites available.

Drone Survey for Deer: A resident advised that drone surveys were being carried out in the area across to the A36 to assess the numbers and locations of deer.

172.25 Next Meeting

Cllr Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 10th March 2026 to be held at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.53 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.