

MINUTES
14.04.2026
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th April 2026 on the rise of the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.50 pm at Godshill Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr Fell – Chairman

Cllr Morrison

Cllr Parker

Cllr Stammers

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk

Eleven members of the public

Public Question Time

A member of the public asked when the Speed Indicator Devices would be returned to the Southampton Road. He also asked why there wasn't a device at the entrance to the village when driving from Fordingbridge as happens in other villages.

A member of the public said that she had heard that the pole for the eastbound speed indicator device was going to be moved due to an overhanging tree branch. She said that as she owned the tree, she did not have any objection to the branch being removed subject to tree works permission being given by the National Park.

A member of the public said that she was not in favour of the branch being removed and that access would be required over her land to remove it. She said that it would be better to move the pole several metres outside the shade of the tree.

A member of the public informed the Council that a contractor from Hampshire Highways came to measure the bridge prior to installing the second handrail.

193.25 Business Raised During Public Question Time

Councillor Fell thanked the residents for their questions and information and responded to the questions as follows:

- The Council's speed indicator devices (SIDs) had recently been returned from being upgraded to solar power from battery and now also had 4G data transmission which would enable the data captured on them to be downloaded more easily.
- The Council could consider the purchase of a further speed indicator device to be located at the entrance of the village by Sandy Balls and he said that perhaps Sandy Balls could help with its funding.
- A request to relocate the poles for both SIDs was currently with Hampshire Highways. He suggested that the Council awaits highways officer proposals as to where the eastbound SID could be installed and if that was unacceptable, then works to remove the tree branch could be considered at that time.

194.25 Apologies

Councillors unanimously approved the apology received from Cllr Woodward due to a personal commitment.

MINUTES 14.04.2026

195.25 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.

196.25 Minutes

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Parker seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 be approved and signed as a true record.

197.25 Clerk's Report

Councillors noted the Clerk's Report as follows:

SIDS on Roger Penny Way: Ollie Adderley at Forestry England has been chased again for a response.

Footpaths: No further response to the Clerks online messages.

Speed Indicator Devices: Both devices have been returned following the upgrade. They will be reinstalled on their existing posts shortly.

Hampshire Highways: The Clerk had received confirmation that the issues she had raised on the relocation of the SID poles, the signage for the fords and bridge handrail and the installation of the gateway signage have been allocated to officers and they have been chased to contact her.

Residential Bin: District Councillor Miller is continuing to pursue this with New Forest District Council.

Noticeboard: The new noticeboard was installed on 30th March by the lengthsman on wooden posts purchased from Cracknell Timber. The Clerk is awaiting the invoice for payment from Cracknell Timber.

198.25 Planning and Tree Works

Tree Works Application No. 26/00369CONS

Wits End, Purlieu Lane, Godshill - Pollard 1 x Oak tree (T1 on the plan)

Prune 1 x Oak tree (T2 on the plan):

Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the decision on the application be left to the Tree Officer.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the meeting be opened to enable the Chair of the Village Hall Committee and owners of the car park to speak on the issue of the car park.

The owners of the car park which was leased to the Council said that they shared the Council's concerns regarding the use of the car park by visitors who did not want to pay to park in the nearby Forestry England car parks. They said that they preferred that the lease be varied to state that it be for hall users only.

The Chair of the Village Hall Committee said that the arrangements for parking in the car park had worked well over the last 14 years but with the changes being implemented by Forestry England, the Committee thought it best for the wording to be changed to hall users only.

MINUTES 14.04.2026

A brief discussion was held on the potential need for a gate but it was agreed that this was not a priority and should await evidence of the need for one once the Forestry England charges had come into effect.

Cllr Fell closed the meeting to the public to enable the Council to consider the use of the car park.

199.25 Village Hall Car Park

- a. To consider the wording of the variation to be made in the Lease for the Car Park following the landowners' support for changes to be made, and in light of the impending car park charges being introduced by Forestry England to all car parks in the New Forest:
Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Morrison seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Council should seek legal advice on the drafting of a Deed of Variation to allow the use of the car park by hall users only.
- b. To consider allocating a sum for the legal costs for drafting a Deed of Variation:
Following advice from the Clerk, Cllr Parker proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the sum of £1500 be set aside in an Earmarked Reserve to fund the Deed of Variation.

200.25 Rubbish Collections and Communication

To consider the outcomes or improvements to the Rural Track Service following District Councillor Millar's intervention and to agree on any further actions:

Cllr Parker reported that the Rural Track Service had improved after the intervention by District Councillor David Millar. He also said that Councillor Millar had pursued the issue of a separate waste bin for the emptying of the public waste bins in the Southampton Road but this was proving difficult because it was regarded as commercial waste.

A brief discussion was held, but no decision taken, with the view that if no solution can be found and NFDC will not supply a separate domestic bin to dispose of the waste, then the bins should be removed.

201.25 Wessex Internet Rollout Delay for Godshill

To receive a report from Councillor Parker on the responses received to letters sent to Sir Desmond Swayne, BDUK and the Chief Executive of Wessex Internet and to agree on any further actions:

Cllr Parker reported that he had not received responses to his letters to BDUK or Wessex Internet. Sir Desmond Swayne would not agree to meet with a representative of the Council until further information had been received from those organisations and only if he considered that from their responses there was merit in a meeting.

Following a discussion, Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Parker would continue to chase the organisations for a response.

202.25 Alternative Broadband Connectivity Solution for Godshill

To consider a proposal and report from Councillor Stammers on a more immediate solution to broadband connectivity in the parish and to agree on next steps:

Cllr Stammers said that in light of the cancellation of the Wessex Internet project he had thought there was merit in informing residents that there was an alternative to fibre to the cabinet which was Starlink.

MINUTES
14.04.2026

Cllr Fell said that a number of residents were aware of and were paying for Starlink which he considered to be expensive but he personally had only signed up to it as a temporary measure before fibre to the premises was implemented.

It was agreed that Cllr Stammers' report be noted and that the Council would await the responses from BDUK and others as to who would be replacing Wessex Internet in delivering fibre to the premises in the parish.

203.25 Local Government Reorganisation

To consider the outcomes for Hampshire within the Local Government Reorganisation and to consider whether any further actions should be taken:

Following a brief discussion, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Stammers seconded and it was RESOLVED that this item be deferred to a future meeting when more details about the reorganisation was known.

204.25 Finance and Policy

a. Payments

£3,745.58 Elan City UK - For conversion of the Speed Indicator Devices to solar power and 4G data upload.

£36.00 CPRE - Annual membership.

£10.00 - Mr and Mrs Hogbourne – Car park annual rent

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

b. To resolve to approve the sum of £4,889.72 as the Accounts for payment for April:

£		
Elan City	Conversion of Speed Indicator Devices	3,745.58
CPRE	Annual membership	36.00
Mr & Mrs Hogbourne	Car park annual rent	10.00
Hampshire Association of Local Councils	Annual subscription	285.00
B Cornish	April salary	432.77
HMRC	PAYE Jan-March	380.37

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Parker seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Accounts for Payment for April be approved.

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

Current Account: £7,293.02

Deposit Account: £11,258.84

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

205.25 Short Term Investments

To consider opening a Local Council 160 Day Notice Deposit Account with the Hinckley & Rugby Building Society on an interest rate of 3.40% AER following changes made by Cambridge & Counties Bank to the eligibility criteria for accounts which have set the minimum investment to £20,000 and exclude Local Authorities:

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Morrison seconded and it was RESOLVED that the opening of a 160 Day Notice Deposit Account with the Hinckley & Rugby Building Society be approved.

MINUTES 14.04.2026

206.25 Correspondence

Councillors noted the following items of correspondence:

1. Several emails on the outcome of the Local Government Reorganisation advising that Godshill will be served by a new mid-Hampshire council also covering East Hampshire District Council, Winchester City Council and Test Valley Borough Council areas.
2. Email from CPRE inviting members to its Hampshire AGM and Lunch on Saturday 25th April 2026 at 11.30am followed by lunch at Itchen Abbas Village Hall, Main Road, Itchen Abbas, Winchester.
3. Email regarding an online Q&A session with PCC and Chief Constable of Hampshire on 22nd April at 6 pm.
4. Email from a resident regarding the WhatsApp group and how it will be run.
5. Monthly Report from the Leader of Hampshire County Council.
6. Emails from Beaulieu Parish Council regarding the proposed introduction of parking charges by Forestry England.
7. Email from the Council's Internal Auditor confirm that the Internal Audit will take place on Monday 1st June 2026.
8. Email from New Forest District Council advising it will extend the two PSPOs currently in force in the district ie which prohibit lighting fires and barbeques on the open Forest and feeding or petting free roaming animals such as ponies and donkeys for a further 3 years.
9. Email from a resident advising of the parking restrictions being imposed across the National Park when Forestry England implements its parking charges in its car parks.
10. Email from a resident requesting copies of the Council's responses to the NPPF and NFDC local plan consultations.
11. Email from a resident with photos regarding damage being caused to a gate on his land by a local walker who had kicked it to try to gain access through it for his dog. He said he had to ask the walker to put his dog on a lead and had previously exchanged words with the same man explaining that the lack of access was because the stile/gate was near the roadside and it had to stop animals getting in as well as out. He also said that he had recently repaired the stile at the far end of the field after a communication from Hampshire Council regarding its poor state of repair and this had been signed off by the council as being fit for use.

207.25 Outside Bodies and Representation:

New Forest Association of Local Councils: Councillor Fell gave a detailed report on a recent meeting which included:

- The implications of the local government reorganisation on the National Park.
- A representative from the Brockenhurst & New Forest Flood Action Group giving a presentation on flooding and ways to slow river flow in order to mitigate the impact of flood water on land and housing.
- A report from NFDC on the phase 3 waste rollout and an update on the previous 2 phases. 171,500 containers were delivered across phase one and phase two properties. Phase 3 will add another 18,500 households.
- Local Plan review update and an emphasis on councils responding to the Regulation 19 consultation when it takes place in the autumn of 2026.

208.25 Any Other Business:

Use of AI

Cllr Fell expressed concern about the use of AI and alerted councillors to the need to act with caution when putting Parish Council information and data into unrestricted long language models.

MINUTES
14.04.2026

Beaulieu Parish Council action on Forestry England Parking Charges

Cllr Parker reported that his letter, sent as a member of the public, setting out his objections to the way in which the parking charges had been implemented was likely to be published in the forthcoming edition of the New Milton Advertiser.

209.25 Next Meeting

Cllr Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting, the Annual Meeting of the Council, as Tuesday 12th May at 7.30 pm at Godshill Village Hall.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.16 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.