

MINUTES
12.05.2026
GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7.30 pm at Godshill Village Hall.

Present:

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

County Councillor David Millar (from 8.35 pm)
Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk
Four members of the public

Public Question Time

No questions or statements were raised.

01.26 Election of Chair

Cllr Stammers proposed, Cllr Morrison seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Fell be elected as Chair for the 2026/27 civic year. Cllr Fell signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

02.26 Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Stammers and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Woodward be elected as Vice-Chair for the 2026/27 civic year.

03.26 Business Raised During Public Question Time

No matters were raised.

04.26 Apologies

None.

05.26 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 Parker declared a personal and pecuniary interest in JournoLink, the agency used by the Council to circulate the press release to the press on the issue of fibre to the premises. He also declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in planning application 26/00294FULL.
- b. To consider any **Dispensation Requests** received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered:
The Clerk confirmed that no dispensation requests had been received.

06.26 Minutes

- a. To resolve to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 14th April 2026:
Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Morrison seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and signed as a true record.
- b. To resolve to approve the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on Friday 24th April 2026:

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Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Morrison seconded and it was RESOLVED, with an objection from Cllr Parker, that the Minutes be approved and signed as a true record.

07.26 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report providing information on recent issues and work completed was noted:

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

Footpaths: No response to the Clerk's online messages.

Speed Indicator Devices: Both upgraded devices are back on their posts.

Hampshire Highways: The following response has been received that:

- For queries regarding the location of Speed Indicator Devices the Parish Council can make direct contact with the County Councils Traffic Management Team.
- The provision of gateway signage would need to be implemented through the County Council's Community Funded Initiative.
- The issues surrounding vehicles being swept away from fords during periods of increased rainfall are currently being investigated by the County Councils Casualty Reduction Team. Details of the ford have been passed to them to consider any appropriate measures. Similarly, the County Councils Structures team have requested contractor quotes for the replacement of the second handrail at the ford but have yet to receive this. Please be assured, however, that the team will continue to pursue this.

Residential Bin: No update received from David Millar.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Fell proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the meeting be opened so that members of the public could speak on the planning applications.

08.26 Planning and Tree Work Applications

A member of the public spoke in support of his application at Brookside Cottage and responded to questions from councillors.

Application No 26/00294FULL

Brookside Cottage, Godshill Wood - Ground-mounted solar panels;

Following a discussion, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Stammers seconded and it was RESOLVED, with an abstention from Cllr Parker, that Godshill Parish Council should recommend permission for the application on the grounds that it is compliant with Policy SP14 of the New Forest National Park Local Plan and will have minimal impact on the listed building, its landscape setting and on the wider landscape.

Application No 26/00388FULL

Woodcot, Southampton Road, Godshill - Single storey side extension; external alterations to doors and windows:

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Parker seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council should recommend permission for this application but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.

Application No 26/00452CONS

Larch Row 53, Sandy Balls Holiday Village, Godshill - Fell 1 x Common Oak tree (T1 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.

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Application No 26/00443CONS

Aze N Bee, Southampton Road, Godshill - Fell 1 x group of 4 Ash trees (G1 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.

Application No 26/00494CONS

Brookside, Godshill Wood - selective felling, crown reduction, crown lifting, and thinning of mixed tree species including Maple, Birch, Spruce, Oak, Holly, and deadwood:

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

Cllr Fell closed the meeting to members of the public.

09.26 Standing Orders

To approve revised Standing Orders for 2026/27 in accordance with the National Association of Local Council's current Model Standing Orders:

Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the revised standing orders for 2026/27.

10.26 Financial Regulations

To approve revised Financial Regulations for 2026/27 in accordance with the National Association of Local Council's current Model Financial Regulations:

Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the revised Financial Regulations for 2026/27 with the deletion of the paragraphs referencing petty cash and Council payment cards.

11.26 Annual Subscriptions

To approve the Council's annual subscriptions for 2026/27:

- Hampshire Association and National Association of Local Councils
- Society of Local Council Clerks
- Information Commissioner
- CPRE

Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the annual subscriptions for 2026/27.

12.26 Finance & Governance

To approve the following arrangements:

- a. The signatories on the Council's Bank Accounts & Higher Interest Savings Accounts for which two Councillors must authorise any order for payment:

Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the bank signatories for its accounts.

- b. The continuation of existing Direct Debit payments already set up:

Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to re-approve the existing Direct Debit payments already set up.

13.26 Re-adoption of Policies

To consider and re-adopt the following Parish Council Policies for 2026/27:

- Risk Management Policy and Risk Registers 1-3
- Complaints Procedure and Vexatious Complaints Policy
- Dark Skies Position Statement
- Data Protection Road Map Policy
- Document Retention and Disposal Policy
- General Reserves Policy

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- IT and Email Policy
 - Lone Worker Policy
 - Planning Protocol
 - Policy on Filming, Photographing, Audio Recording & Social Media Reporting of Public Parish Council and Committee Meetings
 - Procedures for handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
 - Policy on Cycling in Godshill
 - Publication Scheme
 - Statement of Internal Control and Annual Review of Effectiveness of Internal Control and Audit
 - Documents pertaining to the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679:
 - Information & Data Protection Policy
 - Document Retention & Disposal Policy
 - Social Media & Electronic Communication Policy
- Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to re-adopt the above policies for 2026/27.

14.26 Asset Register

To consider and review the Parish Council's Asset Register for 2026/27:
Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Council's Asset Register for 2026/27.

15.26 Insurance

To confirm approval of the arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks.
Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED confirm the arrangements for insurance cover which are renewed annually in December.

16.26 Dates of Meetings

To agree the dates and times of ordinary meetings of the Council for 2026/27:
Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to approve the Council's meeting dates for 2026/27.

17.26 Membership of Outside Bodies

Godshill Parish Council RESOLVED to appoint the following Representatives of Godshill Parish Council:

- a. Godshill Village Hall Committee (x2) – Cllr Stammers
- b. New Forest Consultative Panel (x1) – Any available councillor
- c. Footpath & Rights of Way Officer (x1) – Cllr Fell
- d. New Forest Association of Town & Parish Councils (NFALC) (x1) – Cllr Fell
- e. NFNPA Quadrant meetings (x1) Cllrs Parker and Woodward
- f. Sandy Balls Holiday Centre (x1) Cllrs Fell and Woodward

18.26 New Policy

To consider the adoption of a Generative AI Policy:
Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Parker seconded and it was RESOLVED that the policy drafted by the Clerk be adopted with amendments to include the use of subscriptions to ChatGPT, Claude and Gemini as well as Co-pilot but these subscriptions were not to be funded by the Council.
This resolution was contrary to the advice of the Clerk.

19.26 Fibre to the Premises

To consider any correspondence received and any next steps in relation to the removal of Godshill parish from the scope of Wessex Internet's Project Gigabit contract with BDUK:
Councillor Parker gave a detailed report on the correspondence received and the circulation of the press release, none of which had provided any clarity on any suppliers to replace Wessex Internet.

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The Clerk gave a brief report on a phone call she had received from a resident who said they were pursuing the matter through their government connections and they understood that there would be a positive outcome within the next few weeks rather than months.

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Morrison seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Council's next steps were to await any further press enquiries and further updates provided by the resident.

20.26 Fencing in the Village Hall Car Park

To consider two quotes to replace the fencing on three sides of the car park and to approve one quote:

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Morrison seconded and it was RESOLVED that a quote from RTS fencing of £1600 plus VAT be approved. The work to replace the fencing will be completed in liaison with the Village Hall Committee.

21.26 Deed of Variation

To consider a quote from Tozers solicitors to draft a Deed of Variation to vary the wording of a clause in the Lease for the Village Hall Car park:

Following a report from the Clerk, Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Parker seconded and it was RESOLVED that a quote of £550 plus VAT from Tozers solicitors be approved and that the Deed of Variation and transfer of the Lease to the Village Hall Committee be drafted and completed concurrently.

22.26 Finance and Policy

a. Payments

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

£40.55 – B Cornish for purchase of refreshments for the Annual Parish Meeting

b. To resolve to approve the sum of £473.32 as the Accounts for payment for May.

		£
B Cornish	Refreshments for APM	40.55
B Cornish	May salary	432.77

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Stammers seconded and it was RESOLVED that the payments for May be approved.

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

Current Account: £9,427.80 Deposit Account: £11,258.84

Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Stammers seconded and it was RESOLVED that the bank balances for May be approved.

23.26 Outside Bodies and Representation:

North West Quadrant: Councillor Parker gave a detailed report on a recent meeting from which the key points were as follows:

NFNPA

- New NFNPA website was live with feedback requested.
- No direct impact on NFNPA by the Local Government Reorganisation.
- Coastal Path Route now determined (but not built).

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- Updated Local plan will be considered at 23/7 NPA meeting followed by second period of consultation (reg 19).
- Enforcement cases currently high (300)
- Planning updates:
 - Expect Planning Committee changes under Gov't proposals (eg more officer delegations) although National Parks have been excluded.
 - Fees to be raised to aim for 100% cost recovery.
 - Discussion on provision of affordable housing by NFNPA (80% of market rent).

NFDC

- LGR – Forest now split under 2 unitary authorities.
- Vesting day – 1/4/28, elections in the New Year.
- There may be a request for a Judicial Review.
- Local Plan – Godshill must make sure it resubmits its concerns as part of the regulation 19 consultation and considers collaborating with Hyde PC.
- Waste – positive feedback so far particularly on food. Godshill fed in comments on glass bins with lids and there were comments that the wheelie bin lids are flimsy.

Forestry England

- Amber wild fire warning in place.
- New dog legislation now in place.
- Godshill raised concerns over Asian Hornet.
- Ground nesting bird numbers are positive although Night Jar numbers appear to be in decline.
- Car park parking fees are now live – feedback has been generally positive.
- Hampshire Highways temporary suspension regulations are now in force. Comments were made that a map rather than list would be more helpful.
- Some discussion on issue of “private” tracks and FE licences.
- Brief introduction to the new Ranger Leanne plus informed that Ben Bond is the new Keeper.

24.26 Correspondence

To resolve to note the Correspondence received.

1. Two emails from the New Forest Together campaign asking the Council to consider supporting the campaign and agree to their venues being used for public meetings which are going to be held over the summer months.
2. Emails with the Chair of the Village Hall Committee.

25.26 Any Other Business

Hampshire County Councillor: Cllr Fell offered his congratulations to County Councillor David Millar on his recent election and said that the Parish Council looked forward to working with him.

Parish Lengthsman: The Clerk reported that the Lengthsman will be in the village on 15th May and was to be asked to trim the footpath which crossed land owned by St Giles's Farm.

26.26 Next Meeting

Councillor Fell confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 9th June 2026 to be held at Godshill Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

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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.