

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of
WOODGREEN PARISH COUNCIL held in Woodgreen Reading Room on
Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.30pm.**

24/25.126 Members present: John Clarke (JC)(Chair), Helena Datta (HD), Mark Flannigan (MF), Stewart Hall (SH) and Guy Rafferty (GR).

Also present: Amanda Johnson (Clerk), Janet Richards, NFDC District Councillor and David Illsley, Planning Policy Manager, National Park Authority.

Apologies for Absence: Lance Benest (LB) and Pete Skinner (PS)

24/25.127 Declarations of interest: None

24/25.128 Minutes of previous meeting held on 10/12/2024.

24/25.128.1 Following a review of the minutes, it was then unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

24/25.128.1 Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items.

Hedging - Most hedges within the village have now been cut back.

Play Matters - The group will update WPC at the next meeting. It was agreed that LB and GR should take on the role of contact between WPC and Play Matters. .

24/25.129 Public Participation: None

24/25.130 David Illsley, Policy Manager, National Park Authority:

David Illsley (DI) gave an update on current planning policy within the National Park.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) issued by the government in December 2024 contained no change at all for National Parks; they will still have the highest level of protection. The NPPF does outline increases in the number of houses planned to be built for example, NFDC will have a revised target of 1501 homes per year. This will inevitably put pressure on the National Park, particularly in some of the larger villages like Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst and Ashurst. Villages such as Woodgreen would continue to only see development such as replacement dwellings, commoner's cottages or Rural Exception Sites.

The Local Plan (2019-2036) will undergo a partial review which will start in Feb/March and will involve public consultation. A drop-in session in which members of the public will be able to talk to NPA planning staff will be held in the North West Quadrant area in spring.

Dark Skies - Cllrs questioned how the Dark Skies are protected in the New Forest. DI answered that it is very difficult to govern the amount of light produced as lights themselves do not require planning permission. It is often very site specific as the impact of lighting is much more in certain areas. However, the Design Guide does offer suggestions on how best to reduce light pollution through good design.

Incidental habitable accommodation and the 30% rule - The 30% rule (limits residential development so that any dwelling can only be expanded by 30% of the original floor area in 1982) is becoming increasingly difficult for planners with many planning agents always looking for loopholes. This leads to much planning officers' time being spent on calculating rather than planning. There is scope for a review and a change to a more user-friendly policy.

DI stated that the National Park Planning Committee annually visits some sites which they have previously discussed and decided upon; Woodgreen PC asked DI to extend an invitation to the committee to visit some sites in Woodgreen.

24/25.131 Report by New Forest District Councillor.

Cllr Richards reported on the current government plan for devolution following the White Paper published in December. Discussions are at an early stage but Hampshire CC plans to apply for the Government's Devolution Priority Programme which would make it one of the first councils to be included. This would see the creation of a new Strategic Authority (led by an elected Mayor) covering Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight and below that 4 larger unitary

authorities. Each authority would be approx 500,000 residents so therefore NFDC would need to join with other areas to form a larger authority. Town and parish councils will not be affected.

24/25.132 Meetings Attended: None

24/25.133 Village Maintenance and Parish Council Property (including the cemetery, roads, hedges, footpaths, ditches) including the planting of 6 elm trees:

Permissive path - The permissive path (behind the shop) is becoming overgrown with grass; some rock salt has been put down as a trial to act as a weed killer. If successful more will be applied.

Elm trees - 6 elm trees have been received as part of the Hampshire Forest Partnership, these will be planted along the edge of Halls Field. Suitable tree guards will be required to protect them from the sheep.

24/25.134 Financial - Review of Ongoing Budget, Approval of payments and Approval of budget and precept for 2025/26.

Current Balances -

- Lloyds Treasurers Account £17,082.60 as at 08.01.2025;
- Lloyds 32 Notice Account £79,693.39 as at 08.01.2025;

b. **Expenditure:** Invoices received since the last meeting to be approved & payments authorised to include (& not limited to):

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	METHOD
A.Johnson	Salary - December	430.30		Bank Transfer
Cutting Edge	Cemetery maintenance - December tidy	90.00		Bank Transfer
Anton Agricultural	Hedge cutting	324.00	54.00	Bank Transfer
SLCC	Annual subscription (shared equally with Hale PC).	95.00		Bank Transfer
SSE	Electricity - Reading Room	247.13		Direct Debit
John Clarke	Rock salt	8.50		Bank Transfer

24/25.135 Consultations and Correspondence up to 08/01/2025

The following correspondence was noted.

- 09/12/2024 - NPA - Latest news from the National Park
- 10/12/2024 - Hampshire Highways - Change of date of repairs to Breamore Bridge
- 12/12/2024 - HALC December Newsletter
- 15/12/2024 - FLOW December update
- 16/12/2024 - NFDC expresses concern over National Planning Policy Framework
- 20/12/2024 - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner - December Newsletter
- 23/12/2024 - NFDC - Where to recycle Christmas trees (Published on WPC website)
- 03/01/2025 - NFDC - NFDC responds to devolution discussions for Hampshire
- 06/01/2024 - NALC - Chairs open letter to parish and town councils.

Parishioner emails

11/12/2024 Email regarding Lower Densome Wood *Clerk responded*

24/25.136 Any other business and matters to be raised on the next agenda.

Budget - A review of any surplus budget and possible spend on village signage.

Date of next meeting - Feb 11th 2025 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

Signed by the Chair

Date