

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

25/26.77 Members present: Lance Benest (LB)(Chair), John Clarke (JC), Helena Datta (HD), Mark Flannigan (MF), Stewart Hall (SH), Guy Rafferty (GR) and Pete Skinner (PS)

Also present: Amanda Johnson (Parish Clerk), Karen Hunt and Lindy Harper from Play Matters

Apologies for Absence: Janet Richards, NFDC District Councillor.

25/26.78 Declarations of interest: None

25/26.79 Defibrillators: Report from Ian Gemmell (Chair of Hale PC) regarding Hale and Woodgreen defibrillators. - Ian Gemmell was unable to attend.

25/26.80 Minutes of previous meeting held on 09/09/2025.

25/26.80.1 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 Chairman.

25/26.80.2 Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items.

Forestry England (FE) - FE will supply some dragons teeth to be used as replacements throughout the village. WPC are in discussion with FE regarding clearing the viewpoint at Castle Hill.

25/26.81 Public Participation: No members of the public were present.

25/26.82 Proposed village play area: Karen Hunt and Lindy Harper updated councillors on the progression of the proposed new play area. Play Matters now have a bank account set up. They have committed that the area to be used for the play area will be the top of Halls Field. The design remains the same and will cover about 250 sq metres. They await the outcome of their resubmission for a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant of £67,200. A planning application has been drafted and a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) report (which must be submitted with the application) has been commissioned. The group will focus on fundraising efforts over the coming months. Play Matters asked the parish council if they would fund, or loan, the £2000 required for the planning application (£800) and the BNG report (£1200).

Following a lengthy discussion, the unanimous feeling of the councillors is that the parish council would like to see Play Matters demonstrate the community engagement for this project through fundraising efforts; they believe this to be a critical aspect of any new project within the village as such events evidence a level of support and engagement by the wider community. Whilst Play Matters have held the view that any fundraising should only take place once planning permission was received the Parish Council felt that was not a prerequisite step, based on other community initiatives it is critical to mobilise and gather support from the village as early as possible to build and maintain support.

As a reminder, WPC have agreed the use of land for this project and have also agreed to pay for the legal costs which will be incurred from the peppercorn lease for the land. The parish council will apply for the planning application on behalf of Play Matters, this will reduce the cost to £400, however the parish council are unable to make any further financial contributions at this stage.

25/26.83 Report by New Forest District Councillor: Cllr Richards was unable to attend.

25/26.84 Planning:

Case Number	25/01097TPO
Proposal	Prune group of roadside Beech and Oak trees, Prune 2 x Beech trees, Remove dead stem from 1 x Oak tree, Prune 1 x Yew tree (Trees are all part of W1 of TPO 69/05)
	Fell 1 x Beech tree, Prune 1 x Holly tree, Fell 2 x Beech trees, Coppice Hazel
Site	Langat House, Densome Wood, Woodgreen, Fordingbridge, SP6 2QU

Case Number	25/01149CONS
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Proposal Prune 1 x Oak tree
 Site 2 Dearley Croft, Hale Road, Woodgreen, SP6 2AH

Case Number 25/00986CONS
 Proposal Fell group of 3 x Birch trees
 Site Knowle House, Woodgreen Common Road, Woodgreen, SP6 2BQ

PS and HD visited all the sites and had no issues with the proposed works and therefore recommended to accept the decision of the National Park Authority Tree Officer. This was unanimously agreed.

25/26.85 Meetings Attended: No meetings were attended.

25/26.86 Speed Indicator Devices in Woodgreen and general speeding throughout the Forest.

WPC is in consultation with HCC and NFDC regarding the installation of posts for the SIDS, this is a very slow process. LB and AJ will continue to liaise with HCC and NFDC to take this project forward.

Councillors expressed their concern at recent animal deaths in the New Forest and would like to liaise with other parishes and Forest organisations to try to reduce the number of deaths. WPC will request an agenda item at the NW Quadrant meeting to discuss this.

25/26.87 Village Maintenance and Parish Council Property (including the cemetery, roads, hedges, footpaths, ditches) :

Fence - Fence repairs along Halls Field will be carried out this winter.

Fallen tree - During high winds a tree fell from Gussy's Copse blocking Common Road. This was cleared very quickly by Nigel Harris and the fence repaired by Jason Steward at a total cost of £249.00.

Hedges - Steve Anton will carry out the annual hedgecutting for WPC.

25/26.88 Cemetery:

A working party was held on Sunday 12th October to tidy some of the older graves which are no longer regularly maintained. Many thanks to Stewart Hall who organised the morning and to the non-councillors who came along to help. A second session will be held on 26th October.

There was evidence that the bins are being used for the disposal of dog waste, this is prohibited and signage will be installed to inform the public.

Two new benches have been installed and an existing bench repaired.

WPC will enter into a contract with NFDC for the collection of business waste from the cemetery; this was signed and will be returned to NFDC to allow collections to take place.

25/26.89 Financial report, Review of Ongoing Budget and approval of payments.

a. **Current Balances -**

- Lloyds Treasurers Account £18,667.01 as at 08.10.2025.
- Lloyds 32 Notice Account £80,984.88 as at 08.10.2025.

Ongoing annual expenditure was noted and approved.

b. **Expenditure:** The following payments were approved.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	METHOD
A.Johnson	Salary - October	445.10		Standing Order
Cutting Edge	Cemetery maintenance - September	180.00		Bank Transfer
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank service charges	4.37		

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	METHOD
SSE Energy	Reading Room Electricity	65.70	3.13	Direct Debit
Amanda Johnson	Office supplies	5.24	0.87	Bank Transfer
Hosting Uk (reimbursed to A. Johnson)	Website fees	43.68	7.28	Bank Transfer (paid by credit card)
Nigel Harris	Emergency tree works	150.00		Bank transfer
TP Jones	Payroll - July - Sept	59.40	9.90	Bank transfer
Jason Steward	Emergency Fence repairs	99.00	16.50	Bank transfer

25/26.90 The following correspondence was noted.

10/09/25 NPA Press Release - Rare ladybirds found in New Forest
15/09/25 NFDC Households in pannage areas to change food caddy location
15/09/25 NFDC NFDC - Council meeting confirms continued roll out of new waste collections.
16/09/25 Forestry England - Nature receives a boost in the Forest
17/09/25 HALC Newsletter
17/09/25 NFDC Cllr Jill Cleary Local Government Reorganisation update.
17/09/25 HCC - Hampshire Forest Partnerships tree and hedge planting funds
18/09/25 NPA - The latest news - Autumn Arrivals
19/09/25 Police and Crime Commissioner - COPS is back October 2nd.
20/09/25 NPA Invitation - Pass the Pedall 2025
23/09/25 NPA welcomes new members
26/09/25 NPA - New Forest Walking Festival
30/09/25 Police and Crime Commissioner - Action on ASB and Rural Crime
01/10/25 NPA - New Forest National Transport Summit, 20th November
01/10/25 NFALC - Minutes of meeting held on 22nd September
02/10/25 Forestry England - Parking rises will help fund vital care for the New Forest
02/10/25 NPA calls for Forestry England car parking income to be reinvested in the Forest
02/10/25 NFDC - Helping the Forest get online with Click and Connect
06/10/25 HCC - Report from Nick Adams-King
07/10/25 HCC - Community led Hampshire Engagement Session 23rd October

25/26.91 Any other business and matters to be raised on the next agenda.

St Boniface Church has requested the use of the Bus Shelter for a Christmas scene - this was approved.

The meeting ended at 22.21

Signed by the Chair

Date

