

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of  
WOODGREEN PARISH COUNCIL held in Woodgreen Reading Room on  
Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 7.30pm.**

**25/26.36 Members present:** Lance Benest (LB)(Chair), John Clarke (JC), Mark Flannigan (MF), Stewart Hall (SH), Pete Skinner (PS) and Guy Raffety (GR).

**Also present:** Amanda Johnson (Parish Clerk), Janet Richards NFDC District Councillor, Karen Hunt representing Play Matters.

**Apologies for Absence:** Helena Datta (HD)

**25/26.37 Declarations of interest:** None

**25/26.38 Minutes of previous meeting held on 10/06/2025.**

**25/26.38.1** 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.

**25/26.38.1 Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items.**

Signage for St Georges Cottages - WPC contacted both HCC and NFDC regarding installing signage for St Georges Cottages in response to a parishioner enquiry. The response was the following - *The collection of properties named as St Georges Cottages is not a designated street name, the street which St Georges Cottages are addressed into is Hale Road, this means that it is the joint owner's responsibility to install and maintain adequate property name signage for this collection of properties, not the Local Authority.*

**25/26.39 Public Participation:** No members of the public were present

**25/26.40 Proposed Woodgreen Playground:** Karen Hunt updated councillors on the progress of the proposed play area. Play Matters met with representatives of the shop, the village hall and WPC and, in a separate meeting, representatives of Hall House. Concerns were raised at both meetings which led the group to consider siting the play area at the top of Halls Field. Play Matters met a local planning officer to discuss locations and he did not favour an option at the top of Halls Field. LB will contact the officer to discuss the reasoning behind this.

Play Matters will now prepare the necessary information to submit a planning application and a bid for CIL funding from NFDC.

**25/26.41 Report by New Forest District Councillor:** Cllr Richards updated WPC on the situation with local government reorganisation which was discussed under 25/26.42.

Rubbish collections - JR enquired how the new rubbish/recycling system has been. Councillors reported that there have been some issues possibly due to the village being split in two phases (the majority of properties will not begin the new system until October).

**25/26.42 Local Government Re-organisation:**

Councils in Hampshire are required by the government to submit proposals by the end of September that include the geographical areas new councils would serve. A number of options have been prepared for public and stakeholder engagement. The options for the NFDC area are:

OPTION 1: A single new council serving residents and businesses of New Forest, Test Valley, Winchester and East Hampshire.

OPTION 2: A single new council serving residents of New Forest, Southampton and Eastleigh.

OPTION 3: One new council serving residents of Southampton and Eastleigh along with some New Forest areas including Marchwood, Hythe and Dibden and Fawley at the Waterside, as well as the communities of Totton and Eling.

HCC will submit a different option and the government will decide on how to move forward.

NFDC strongly supports Option 1 seeing it as the only natural fit for the area, residents and businesses. All parishioners are able to contribute by completing the consultation before 27th July.

This is available on the NFDC website and Woodgreen PC website. For any further information please contact the clerk.

Woodgreen PC agreed to respond to the consultation in support of Option 1. AJ will action.

**25/26.43 Planning:** To discuss the following application and agree recommendations.

Case Number 25/00668CONS  
 Proposal Prune 1 x Hawthorn tree, Fell 1 x Golden Cypress tree  
 Site Wild Close, Woodgreen Common Road, Woodgreen SP6 2QX

Case Number 25/00668CONS  
 Proposal Prune 1 x English Oak tree  
 Site New Forest Close, Woodgreen Common Road, Woodgreen SP6 2QU

PS and JC 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.

**25/26.44 Meetings Attended:**

*Breamore Railway Line Improvements Open Evening 20th May* - SH attended. The evening outlined plans to improve the railway line for access, heritage and wildlife.

**25/26.45 Speed Indicator Devices:** The license to install Speed Indicators within the village has been issued by HCC, signed and returned. A quote has been received from the chosen provider and a bid for CIL funding will now be submitted.

**25/26.46 Village Maintenance and Parish Council Property (including the cemetery, roads, hedges, footpaths, ditches) :**

*Benches* - SH has placed an order with Harrod Horticultural for 2 benches to replace those in the cemetery. The benches will need to be installed by a contractor.

*Fence* - Fence repairs are required at Halls Field. LB will contact Jason Steward for a start date.

*Cemetery* - LB will get a quote for jet washing the railings.

*Signs* - The wooden signs have been made and will be installed around the village by councillors.

**25/26.47 Financial report, Review of Ongoing Budget and approval of payments:**

a. **Current Balances -**

- Lloyds Treasurers Account £15,303.50 as at 02.07.2025.
- Lloyds 32 Notice Account £80,555.38 as at 02.07.2025.

Ongoing annual expenditure was noted and approved.

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 - July                         | 433.90   |        | Standing Order |
| SSE                               | Reading Room Electricity              | 66.43    |        | Direct Debit   |
| South West Water                  | Cemetery water supply                 | 33.11    |        | Bank Transfer  |
| Harrod UK                         | Replacement benches for the cemetery. | 2,516.43 | 419.41 | Bank Transfer  |
| Screwfix (reimbursed to J.Clarke) | Screws for signs                      | 54.68    | 9.11   | Bank Transfer  |

| PAYEE                          | DESCRIPTION                  | AMOUNT | VAT   | METHOD        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|-------|---------------|
| Cutting Edge                   | Cemetery cut- June           | 180.00 |       | Bank Transfer |
| Lloyds Bank                    | Monthly bank service charges | 4.25   |       | Bank Transfer |
| Jeff Butt & Co                 | Internal Audit               | 260.00 |       | Bank Transfer |
| NHS (Wessex Rehab)             | Wooden Road Signs            | 354.00 | 59.00 | Bank Transfer |
| TP Jones & Co                  | Payroll (April to June)      | 59.40  | 9.90  | Bank Transfer |
| Amanda Johnson<br>(reimbursed) | Postage                      | 3.15   |       | Bank Transfer |
| HMRC                           | NI Contributions             | 3.09   |       | Bank Transfer |

**25/26.48 Consultations and Correspondence up to 03/07/2025 and any urgent correspondence received after the agenda was finalised and not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.**

**The following was noted.**

- 11/06/2025 NFALC Minutes following meeting on 29/05/2025
- 11/06/2025 New Forest Association - June Newsletter
- 11/06/2025 NFDC - New waste service gets off to a strong start.
- 12/06/2025 National Park Authority - Newsletter
- 20/06/2025 Ann Sevier- Notes on planning committee applications
- 25/06/2025 NFDC - Response regarding signage of St Georges cottages.
- 25/06/2025 HALC - June/July Newsletter
- 26/06/2025 Sandleheath Parish Council - Neighbourhood Plan Consultation
- 30/06/2025 HCC - 2 Local Government Reorganisation events.
- 30/06/2025 NFDC - Consultation on Local Government Reorganisation
- 30/06/2025 National Park Authority - Showtime in the Forest.
- 30/06/2025 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner - June Newsletter

**Parishioner emails**

08/07/2025

Parishioner email regarding a license application at the Horse and Groom.

MF answered queries but left the room while discussion occurred. Woodgreen Parish Council had not been notified of this application by NFDC and will seek for further clarity as the information available on the website is limited.

**25/26.49 Any other business and matters to be raised on the next agenda.** None received.

Pylons - National Grid will be returning in Spring 2026 to complete the pylon refurbishment.

Full Fibre Broadband - Wessex Internet have stated that they plan to hold a meeting in Woodgreen in the coming months regarding the installation of full fibre broadband.

The meeting ended at 21.15

Signed by the Chair .....

Date .....

