

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of
WOODGREEN PARISH COUNCIL held in Woodgreen Reading Room on
Tuesday 16th December 2025 at 7.30pm.**

25/26.108 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), Janet Richards, NFDC District Councillor.

Apologies for Absence: None

25/26.109 Declarations of interest: None

25/26.110 Minutes of previous meeting held on 11/11/2025.

25/26.110.1 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.

25/26.110.2 Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items.

Steels Drove - AJ will talk to residents regarding the secureness of the gate.

25/26.111 Public Participation: No members of the public were present.

25/26.112 Report by New Forest District Councillor:

Cllr Janet Richards outlined the current government consultation for Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire - NFDC favours Option 1. The consultation runs until 11th Jan and all residents are encouraged to participate at: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/hampshire-isle-of-wight-portsmouth-southampton/consultation/>.

25/26.98 Planning: The following applications were discussed:

Case Number	25/01371CONS
Proposal	Prune 2 x Ash trees, Prune group of 3 x Hazel trees, Prune 1 x Apple tree
Site	Ashfield, Brook Lane, Woodgreen, Fordingbridge, SP6 2AZ

Case Number	25/01409CONS
Proposal	Fell 1 x Oak tree, Prune 1 x Yew tree, Prune 2 x Rowan trees
Site	Squirrels, Warren Copse, Woodgreen, SP6 2QY

Case Number	25/01416CONS
Proposal	Prune 1 x Beech tree, Fell 1 x Palm tree
Site	None Go By, The Common, Woodgreen, SP6 2BB

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.

25/26.114 Meetings Attended:

Village Trust Meeting - SH attended. It was agreed that the housing association which owns Hall House (Stonewater) will no longer be a member of the trust as they have not sent a representative for many years.

Local Plan Review - AJ attended an online briefing. There is currently a review of the adopted New Forest National Park Local Plan. The main updates are to the climate change and transportation chapters, plus 3 new settlements have been identified for housing needs - Woodfalls, Landford and Bartley.

Digital and Data Compliance Training - AJ attended an online course. This outlined changes which will be made in the 2025/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return when councils will be required to show increased compliance relating to digital data and GDPR. This will be a future agenda item.

25/26.115 Consultations:

NFDC - Extension to Public Spaces Protection Orders (Deadline 19th Dec)

WPC agreed to support the extension of the current PSPOs AJ to submit the response.

National Park Authority - Draft Local Plan Consultation (Deadline 19th Dec)

LB will submit a response on behalf of WPC.

Government - Proposal for Local Government Re-organisation in Hampshire (Deadline 11th Jan)

WPC to support Option 1 (the option favoured by NFDC). LB to submit a response.

HCC - Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Main Modifications Consultation (Deadline 12th Feb)

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

25/26.116 Speed Indicator Devices: Woodgreen Parish Council were successful in a CIL bid to NFDC and have received £6573.00 towards installing Speed Indicator Devices in the village. Cllrs discussed various options and specifications and agreed to purchase 2 Speed Indicator Devices (with both battery and solar options) which will be placed in 4 locations in the village. Posts will be installed by Hampshire Highways and details are being finalised with them. It was unanimously agreed to fund, in addition to the received grant, a further £2500.00 (approx) for this project.

25/26.117 Village Maintenance and Parish Council Property (including the cemetery, roads, hedges, footpaths, ditches) :

Hedges - Hedges have been cut back (along Breamore Road and other areas) and the brambles at the bottom of Grace Lane were cut back by the Lengthsman.

Outside village hall - There are large puddles where the edge of the road meets the village hall carpark, the boundary between the two may benefit from some groundworks e.g. installation of gullies. This will be discussed with Hampshire Highways.

Ditches - The ditches which run in the fields behind the High Street were cleaned out some years ago by residents. This would benefit from being repeated. JC will action.

25/26.118 Financial report, Review of Ongoing Budget and approval of payments.

a. **Current Balances** -

Lloyds Treasurers Account £16,572.06 as at 05.12.2025.

- Lloyds 32 Notice Account £81,240.56 as at 05.12.2025.

Ongoing annual expenditure and current balances were noted and approved.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	METHOD
A.Johnson	Salary - December	445.10		Standing Order
Cutting Edge	Cemetery maintenance - November	180.00		Bank Transfer
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank service charges	4.67		
J. Steward	Fence repairs	348.00	58.00	BACS
Pennon	Water bill for cemetery	33.11		BACS

c.A budget was proposed by SH which was discussed. The budget for 2026/27 was **RESOLVED** and unanimously agreed resulting in an agreed precept for 2026/27 of £11,360.00, an increase of 3.55 %. AJ will submit this information to NFDC.

25/26.119 The following correspondence was noted.

15/11/2025 HCC - Cllr Heron Report

17/11/2025 NPA - The New Forest Marque celebrates a year of growth

17/11/2025 NFDC - Free parking days in the lead up to Christmas

18/11/2025 HALC - November Newsletter
19/11/2025 NFDC Cllr Jill Cleary - The Future of Public Services for the Forest.
20/11/2025 HALC - Local Government Reorganisation
24/11/2025 Forestry England - Upcoming changes to car parking charges
25/11/2025 NFDC - Changes to Christmas and New Year rubbish and recycling dates
28/22/2025 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner - Newsletter November
03/12/2025 NFDC plans permanent behind-the-gate collections in livestock areas
04/12/2025 NFDC Over £1 million boost for New Forest Community projects.
04/12/2025 NFALC - Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November.
08/122025 NFDC - Towns and Parish Local Government Reorganisation Briefing
Parishioner Emails
27/11/2025 Email regarding signage in Densome Wood. - Signs have been placed in the village to show the official footpaths and droves however it was agreed that as Densome Wood is a private road this would not be actioned by the parish council.

25/26.120 Any other business and matters to be raised on the next agenda.

Suzie McNulty will talk on the new First Responders Group which has been set up in Hale and Woodgreen.

Next meeting Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7.30pm

The meeting ended at 21.10

Signed by the Chair

Date

