

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of
WOODGREEN PARISH COUNCIL held in Woodgreen Reading Room on
Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 7.30pm.**

25/26.92 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), Paul Cleary (Wessex Internet Regional Community Manager).

Apologies for Absence: Janet Richards, NFDC District Councillor.

25/26.93 Declarations of interest: None

25/26.94 Minutes of previous meeting held on 14/10/2025.

25/26.94.1 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.

25/26.94.2 Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items.

Forestry England (FE) - GR and JC will meet Helen Lynch from Forestry England on Thursday 13/11/25, they will discuss the management of the viewpoints at Castle Hill.

25/26.95 Public Participation: No members of the public were present.

25/26.96 Wessex Internet: Paul Cleary (Regional Community Manager, Wiltshire) reported to the PC about the future installation of Full Fibre Broadband into the village. Wessex Internet has been awarded the contract for this area by the government and Woodgreen will be part of the Wiltshire project. The installation will be independent of the Openreach system which is installed in some parts of the village. Where possible Wessex Internet will use existing infrastructure such as poles and ducting, but access agreements will be made with landowners and in some cases, cabling will be installed underground. It is likely that the project will now be undertaken in Dec 2026 and a public meeting will be held prior to this in Woodgreen Village Hall facilitated by Wessex Internet.

25/26.97 Report by New Forest District Councillor: Cllr Richards was unable to attend.

25/26.98 Planning: The following applications were discussed:

Case Number 25/01193TPO
Proposal Prune 1 x Oak tree (Tree is part of W1 of TPO 0069/05)
Site Little Forest, Lower Densome Wood, Woodgreen, SP6 2BE

Case Number 25/01210CONS
Proposal Pollard 1 x Oak tree
Site Birch Holt Cottage, Brook Lane, Woodgreen, SP6 2AZ

Case Number 25/01254CONS
Proposal Fell 1 x dead Hawthorn tree
Site West Winds, High Street, Woodgreen, SP6 2AU

Case Number 25/01257CONS
Proposal Fell 1 x Conifer tree
Site 1, Nursery Cottages, Hale Road, Woodgreen, SP6 2AL

Case Number 25/01271CONS
Proposal Fell 1 x Goat Willow tree
Site 3 Nursery Cottages, Hale Road, Woodgreen, SP6 2AL

Case Number 25/01280CONS
Proposal Fell 1 x Poplar tree, Prune area of large shrubs.
Site Windrush, Woodgreen Common Road, Woodgreen, SP6 2BQ

Case Number 25/01287CONS
Proposal Fell 1 x Poplar tree, Prune 1 x Oak tree.
Site Grace 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.

25/26.99 Meetings Attended:

North West Quadrant Meeting- 20th Oct. JC and HD attended:

Forestry England car parking charges will begin in April 2026 for all car parks in the New Forest; HCC will also bring in charges to their New Forest car parks. There is a concern that increased verge and road parking will occur due to this new policy and FE are digging ditches in many areas of the Forest to help deter this. Additionally, it is understood with there are discussions taking place with HCC to establish measures to prevent on-road parking, there is also discussion about restarting the Western Escarpment Group (which stopped prior to Covid) to discuss the impact of the new parking measures on the Western Escarpment villages. A representative is requested from each village (this does not have to be a parish councillor).

Gilly Jones, New Forest Roads Awareness campaigner will be presenting at the next NW Quadrant meeting. Councillors discussed possible approaches to reduce speeding and animal deaths throughout the Forest, these included the increased use of reflective collars, the introduction of “smart” collars with tech such as tracking facilities; the use of dash cams in vehicles linked to systems where this information can be easily uploaded and shared, and more responsibility by commoners to keep their animals safe.

Steve May - MF spoke with PCSO Steve May for any updated crime information relating to the area - nothing to report.

25/26.100 Defibrillators: The Woodgreen defibrillator, situated at the Community Shop, will probably require replacement in the next few years. Woodgreen PC funds the consumables for the defib and reconfirmed responsibility and ownership for the defib on behalf of the parish. A new team of 5 First Responders has been set up in Hale and Woodgreen and WPC will ask Suzie McNulty to the meeting in Jan to advise the parish council how this operates and to discuss timescale and costs for renewal of the existing equipment.

25/26.101 Village Maintenance and Parish Council Property (including the cemetery, roads, hedges, footpaths, ditches):

Lengthsman - The Lengthsman will be working in the village on 24th November; jobs will include replacing dragon’s teeth, clearing the organic rubbish at the cemetery and clearing brambles at the bottom of Grace Lane.

Roads - Woodgreen PC continues to liaise with HCC regarding the installation of Speed Indicator Devices. NFDC owns a sleeve (to hold a post) which is outside Castle Rise however they will not authorise the use of this socket by WPC due to liability issues. It was therefore agreed to site a SID further down the hill on an existing signpost outside Orchard Close. This will require the purchase of a post extension at £250; this was unanimously agreed. WPC will discuss with NFDC the possibility of taking ownership of the sleeve outside Castle Rise.

Steels Drove - There is currently one padlock left on the gate at the top of Steel’s Drove, AJ will check in with residents regarding the secureness of the gate.

25/26.102 Cemetery:

A second working party was held on Sunday 26th October to tidy some of the older graves which are no longer maintained.

25/26.103 Hale and Woodgreen Magazine - The Hale and Woodgreen magazine is making a loss each year. A request for a £250 donation was unanimously approved and a pledge was made to transfer the funds when they are required. This will be factored into future budgets. The magazine would welcome more donations from parishioners.

25/26.104 Christmas Tree Festival: It was agreed to approve the purchase of a Christmas tree and any associated costs for entry into the Woodgreen Christmas Tree Festival to be held in St. Boniface Church. The festival will be launched at 11am on Friday 12th December during the festive Fair Trade coffee morning.

25/26.105 Financial report, Review of Ongoing Budget and approval of payments.

a. **Current Balances -**

- Lloyds Treasurers Account £17,603.83 as at 03.11.2025.
- Lloyds 32 Notice Account £81,114.78 as at 06.11.2025.

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 - November	445.10		Standing Order
Cutting Edge	Cemetery maintenance - October	180.00		Bank Transfer
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank service charges	4.25		
R. England	Installation of benches	298.00		Bank Transfer
HMRC	Quarterly fees	31.71		Bank Transfer
NFDC (reimbursed to S.Hall)	Waste bags	24.00		Bank Transfer
ICO	Data Protection Registration Certificate.	47.00		Direct Debit

25/26.106 The following correspondence was noted.

- 17/10/2025 NPA - New Chair for the New forest National Park Authority
- 17/10/2025 NPA - Step into Autumn with the New Forest walking festival.
- 17/10/2025 NPA - Have your say in the New Forest National Park Authority residents survey.
- 21/10/2025 NFDC - Road Safety Funding Opportunities
- 22/10/2025 Rural Services Network - Training for Digital Landline Switchover.
- 28/10/2025 HCC - Free Standard Tree Scheme
- 31/10/2025 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner - October Newsletter
- 03/11/2025 Flow Update
- 03/11/2025 HCC - Report from Nick Adams-King
- 05/11/2025 HCC- Budget consultation for 2026/27
- 05/11/2025 Police and Crime Commissioner - survey on council tax funding for policing.
- 05/11/2025 NPA - Local Plan Review - Have your say.

25/26.107 Any other business and matters to be raised on the next agenda.

The SSE contract to supply electricity to the Reading Room ends on the 30th November, a new contract has been secured with British Gas which is significantly cheaper.

After the recent theft of the wheels from the Breamore School minibus, Andrew McLeod arranged for these to be replaced at no cost; many thanks to him for this.

Next meeting Tuesday December 16th at 7.30pm. - Budget and precept for 27/27 and Local Plan Review.

The meeting ended at 21.40

Signed by the Chair

Date

