Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of WOODGREEN PARISH COUNCIL held in Woodgreen Reading Room on Tuesday 11th August 2026 at 7.30pm.

26/27.39 Members present: Lance Benest (LB)(Chair), John Clarke (JC), Helena Datta (HD), Mark Flannigan (MF), Stewart Hall (SH), Guy Raffety (GR) and Pete Skinner(PS).

Also present: Amanda Johnson (Parish Clerk), Janet Richards NFDC District Councillor and Susannah Egleston, Forestry England.

Apologies for Absence: None.

26/27.40 Declarations of interest: None

26/27.41 Minutes of previous meeting held on 09/06/2026.
26/27.41.1 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.
26/27.41.1 Matters arising from previous minutes not appearing as agenda items.
No matters arising.

26/27.42 Public Participation: No members of the public were present

26/27.43 Forestry England - Suzannah Egleston, HLS Project Manager reported on proposed works to restore wetlands in the Millersford area of the Forest. The New Forest supports some of the most important and rare wetland habitats in Europe, however many have been assessed as unfavourable by Natural England. This is predominantly due to historical man-made alterations to the streams including straightening and deepening. Over the last 15 years several areas across the Forest have been restored as part of the Verderers Higher Level Stewardship Scheme – a partnership between Forestry England, the New Forest National Park Authority, Natural England and the Commoners Defence Association. Monitoring of the restored areas has demonstrated how important restoration like this can be and many different species of plant life and wildlife have returned to these areas.
Forestry England is planning further areas to restore and the Millersford area will be one of these. Historical maps show that the main Millersford channel was man-made and is not a natural system. This causes water to flow quickly through deep, straight channels. The project aims to create shallow, slow, meandering channels which will interact with the floodplain and create mires and bogs which are a valuable habitat for many species. Wetter areas will also increase summer grazing and be more climate resilient by slowing the flow of the water during heavy rain periods and holding more water on the land during droughts.
The project will see changes to some bridges and culverts but as the channel will be shallower these will be replaced by ford crossings.
The project is at the very early stages and Forestry England is working with partners to develop further details.
A site visit for parish councillors will be arranged later in the year and more information shared with local communities as the plans develop.

26/27.44 Report by New Forest District Councillor. Cllr Janet Richards reported.
Local Government Reorganisation **-** HCC have challenged the government regarding the proposed new structure of local councils. NFDC are working towards the change (being part of a Mid-Hants authority) which involves the creation of a shadow authority to recruit staff and set a constitution ready for the final changeover in 2028.
NFDC Local Plan review- On 5th August NFDC cabinet agreed a revised approach to preparing the district's new Local Plan. This is likely to be approved at the full council meeting in September.

26/27.45 Planning: To discuss the following application and agree recommendations.

Case Number	26/00790TPO
Proposal	Prune 1 x English Oak tree
Site	White Barn, Densome Wood, Woodgreen, SP6 2QU

Case Number	26/00812TPO
Proposal	Prune 1 x Oak tree
Site	Trim Cottage, Woodgreen Common Road, Woodgreen, SP6 2BD

Case Number	26/00825CONS
Proposal	Reduce 2 x Ash trees to hedge height,Prune 1 x Red Robin tree.
Site	Woodland Cote, Woodgreen Common Road, Woodgreen, SP6 2BQ

Case Number	26/00866TPO
Proposal	Pollard 1 x Ash tree, Prune 1 x Magnolia tree
Site	Ty Gwyn, Lower Densome Wood, Woodgreen, SP6 2BE

HD and PS 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.

26/27.46 Meetings Attended:
Consultative Panel 11th June: LB attended.
New Forest Together (which is now an officially registered Community Interest Company) are continuing to campaign to keep the New Forest District together.
A326 Waterside improvements Scheme - this includes widening some sections of the road, improving junctions and adding more crossings. This would cost £187million.
Forestry England- Charlotte Belcher has now been appointed Recreation Manager.12 parking rangers are in post, some will be trained in PSPO enforcement.
North West Quadrant Meeting: Suzi Egleston reported on the Millersford Project (as minuted). Discussion included ensuring the current cycle tracks join up to create a better route.
Equine flu - pony drifts have been cancelled until the end of August.

26/27.47 Proposed roadside footpath to Breamore:
LB and SH met with Andy Aitken, HCC West Hampshire Area Countryside Access Manager, who is responsible for the current improvements being made to the Breamore railway line path. He was very enthusiastic about the proposal as it could also act as an add-on to the railway line project.
He was also very much aware that in creating the path that it does not encourage motorists to increase their speed along that 40-mph stretch as cutting back the verge the road would appear much wider.
The project will be assigned to a team member who will be available from October to take the project further and help with obtaining grants and other funding. SH will liaise with Breamore Estate regarding the section which will require verge widening.

26/27.48 Speed Indicator Devices: The second SID has been installed along the road to Breamore. WPC are awaiting the delivery of 2 further posts before the SID can be placed in the 2 other designated locations. Reactions to the SIDs by road users have been very positive.

26/27.49 Risk Management scheme: The risk management scheme was approved and all parish council property has been assessed for risk. Two benches on the green are in need of repair.

26/27.50 Village Maintenance and Parish Council Property (including the cemetery, roads, hedges, footpaths, ditches) :
Lengthsman - The Lengthsman will be working in the village on Monday 17th August, Jobs will include hedge cutting and bramble clearance. The footpath at the bottom of Steels Drove is narrow due to abandoned cars parked there so the hedge will be cut to improve the access.
Water supply to the shop - The water supply to the shop is currently on a parish council account (although paid by the shop). The clerk will request that this is changed to a separate shop account.

26/27.51 Financial report, Review of Ongoing Budget and approval of payments:

a. **Current Balances -**
Lloyds Treasurers Account £11,142.00 as at 06.08.2026.
Lloyds 32 Notice Account £82,262.06 as at 06.08.2026.
Up to date accounts were approved and balances noted.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	METHOD
A.Johnson	Salary - June and July	360.10 and 360.30		Bank Transfer
ICCM	Annual subscription	110.00		Bank Transfer
British Gas	Reading Room supply June and July-	12.69 and 13.88		Direct Debit
Cutting Edge	Cemetery cut- June and July	180.00 and 70.00		Bank Transfer
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank service charges	4.25		Direct Debit
TP Jones	Payroll - April to June	59.40		Bank Transfer

26/27.52 Consultations and Correspondence up to 05/08/2026 and any urgent correspondence received after the agenda was finalised and not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.
The following correspondence was noted.
27/06/26 Forestry England **-** New exhibition tells the untold story of the Lumberjills
05/07/26 NFDC - Leader issues update on next phase of local government reorganisation.
10/07/26 NPA - Next steps for the New forest National Park local plan Review.
13/07/26 NPA Newsletter - The heat is on in the Forest.
14/07/26 Bremore Railway Line - Update on project.
14/07/26 New Forest Together - Campaign update.
21/07/26 Woodgreen Community Shop - Notice of AGM on 26th August.
22/07/26 NPA - More than 50 businesses join New Forest Drive Safe Campaign
26/07/26 New Forest Association - Working to Protect the New Forest.
27/07/26 Beaulieu PC, Cllr Hubbard - FE Car parking proposals
28/07/26 NFDC - Cabinet to review approach to Local Plan
31/07/26 Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (2026) Adoption Statement
03/08/26 NPA - Have your say on Regulation 19 Local Plan
03/08/26 HCC Councillor - Report
05/08/26 NFDC - Cabinet approves revised approach to Local Plan Review.
Parishioner emails:
15/07/26 Email regarding white van parked near a junction.
This issue was reported to local police for action, however the owners of the vehicle have subsequently moved and the van is no longer parked at this location.
22/07/26 Email regarding overgrown pathway.
Following discussion over options to resolve this issue it was agreed that the lengthsman would be contacted to help. This will be actioned (see 26/27.50)
25/07/26 Email regarding proposed works in the Forest.
*A lengthy discussion with FE representative provided further detailed information see 2*6/27.43 Forestry England
28/07/26 Email regarding Highways issues.
Since the potholes are not on the highway, these are not the responsibility of HCC. The clerk will therefore contact NFDC regarding potholes outside St. Georges Cottages

26/26.53 Any other business and matters to be raised on the next agenda.
Regulation 19 Local Plan - WPC response to the current consultation.

Date of next meeting: Ordinary Parish Council Meeting - Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room

The meeting ended at 21.20pm

Signed by the Chair ……..

Date ……...