

# MINUTES

14.03.2017

## GODSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Godshill on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 starting at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Cllr Draper - Chairman

Cllr Cakebread

Cllr Fell

Cllr Lintonbon

Cllr Pomphrey

Mrs Bev Cornish – Clerk

Twelve members of the public.

### **Public Session:**

Mr John Boyd expressed his thanks to Cllr Cakebread and the Clerk for the research they had done and their participation at the Licensing Committee meeting for Cypress Log Cabins. He said he would be monitoring the situation now that the application had been approved.

**County Cllr Edward Heron:** Cllr Heron advised that the County Council had awarded a new highways contract to Skanska, a construction company, rather than Amey which will start on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017. They had been very competitive with their bid and wish to diversify having recently won a similar contract in Somerset.

With regard to broadband, Cllr Heron gave a brief update on the recent rolling out of local community schemes which had been privately funded and their costs and said that the County Council would be making an announcement in the next few days regarding the next phase of superfast broadband connection. He also said that the Council was seeing evidence of more and more people making their own provision but the government was likely to ratchet up the requirement of the universal service commitment from the current entitlement of at least 2MB per second to at least 20 MB per second.

**Litter Warden:** Mrs Boyd reported that the fliers for the annual litter pick had been posted through letterboxes. She also said at the pinch point by Sandy Balls had been destroyed in the recent vehicle collision. Furthermore, she said that the litter bin near Blissford was being affected by a fly tipping carpenter who was repeatedly filling it up to the top with their offcuts to the extent that she had not emptied it on two occasions so that it was not filled up with more.

**155.16 To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Draper advised that apologies had been received from Cllr Williams due to a holiday commitment and District Cllr Bill Dow. He also advised that Cllr Thomas unfortunately had resigned due to health issues and a forthcoming operations which would require some time for recuperation. He expressed the Parish Council's thanks to Cllr Thomas for his efforts and contribution to the Parish Council over the last year. The Clerk had put the usual procedure in place to advertise the vacancy

**156.16 To resolve to approve as a true record the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2016:** Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Pomphrey seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 be approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

**157.16 Declarations of Interest:**

- a. **To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers:**

Cllr Draper declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Minutes 166.16 and 167.16 and did not speak or vote when they were considered. He also declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in Application No. CONS/17/0198 for Wildwood and did not vote when it was considered.

- b. **To consider any Dispensation Requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered:** No dispensation requests had been received.

**158.16 To resolve to note Clerk's Report providing information on recent issues and work completed:** Cllr Draper proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the following report be noted:

**19.16 Pitts Wood Bridge:** The Clerk has not received any further update from Richard Burke regarding the installation of a bridge.

**January Public Session: School Lane:** Ms Lucie Cooper of the NPA has carried out a site visit and advised that the issue of the raised bed was not a 'breach of planning control' with regard to Lampton Lodge. The landscaping plan for Lampton Lodge has not yet been approved and so the owner has been asked to provide the landscaping plan in accordance with the landscaping condition in the Decision Notice.

**159.16 Planning and Tree Works Applications:**

**Application No. 17/00170 – Hunters Chase, Castle Hill, Godshill – Two bay carport and logstore (Application for Non Material Amendment to Planning Permission 16/00932):** Cllr Cakebread proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council should recommend approval for this application as it considered the minor amendments to be acceptable.

**Application No. 17/00172 – Land Adjacent to Strawberry Farm, Blissford Road, Godshill - Application under Part 16 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 in respect of the siting and appearance of a Broadband Cabinet (Fordingbridge 21):** The Clerk advised that this application had been withdrawn.

**Application No. CONS/17/0198 – Wildwood, Newgrounds, Godshill – Prune 3 x Oak trees, Fell 1 x Ash tree, Prune 1 x Ash tree:** Cllr Fell proposed, Cllr Pomphrey seconded and it was RESOLVED that decision be left to the Tree Officer.

*At this point in the meeting Cllr Draper proposed, Cllr Lintonbon seconded and it was RESOLVED that standing orders be suspended and the meeting be opened for members of the public to speak.*

Four members of the public spoke in strong objection to the application and said that the application appeared to be applying for permission to remove the conditions which the applicants committed to protect in the arboricultural assessment in their planning application. Another member of the public raised concern that some work had already started without the

necessary permissions in place. Another raised concerns about how the felled trees would be removed from the property and whether the shallow foundations of her property would be affected by numerous large lorries driving up and down the track.

**Application No. CONS/17/0217 - Paysanne, Godshill Wood,**

Fell 1 x Group of Western Red Cedar and Cypress trees

Fell 1 x Group of Willow tree and Western Red Cedar trees

Fell 1 x Goat Willow

Fell 1 x Group of Monterey Cypress, Western Red Cedar and Oak trees

Prune 1 x Magnolia tree

Fell 1 x Group of Sitka Spruce and Western Red Cedar trees

Following a detailed report from Cllr Cakebread, she proposed, Cllr Draper seconded and it was RESOLVED that whilst it has no objection to the pruning of the Magnolia tree, Godshill Parish Council should raise strong objection to this application on the following grounds:

1. The application contradicts Condition 14 of the Decision Notice for Planning Application 16/00828 regarding the protection of retained trees as shown on the plans within the tree root protection fencing. It is also not specific enough in terms of the locations of the trees to be felled, which may lead to incorrect work being carried out. (In particular the Parish Council is concerned to protect the oak tree closest to the proposed temporary access, which is not mentioned in Group 1 but has already had at least one large branch removed.)
2. For both Planning Applications 16/00828 and 16/00392 the NPA Tree Officer comments in his reports on the importance of safeguarding the "Visual amenities of the area" by retaining all trees within the tree root protection areas as set out in the arboricultural statements. Many of those trees would be felled as part the above application. Furthermore, an extract from paragraph 6.1 of the amended Arboricultural Impact Assessment for planning application 16/00392 states the following:

*'The retained trees will enhance the site, providing a degree of screening for views from nearby properties, and maintaining a sense of seclusion and privacy. With good separations from trees, well-considered aspects and private amenity space designed to take account of trees, the size of the trees and their relationships with the dwelling means that they will not be perceived as unduly dominant. In general, it will be in the interests of the new occupants of the dwelling to retain trees in order to retain seclusion and privacy. The Council will be able to resist unreasonable applications for tree work, with such decisions likely to be supported at appeal.'*

and from Paragraph 8.2 of the same document produced by Jonathan Fulcher DipArb FARborA for the applicants:

*'If adequate precautions to fully protect the retained trees are implemented as recommended in this report and as may be reasonably required by consent conditions the overall impact of the proposal on local amenity will be low and limited to the short term only.'*

Whilst it could be claimed that many of the trees concerned are individually unimportant, the Parish Council considers their grouping to be important for safeguarding the visual amenities of the area, helping the new dwelling to merge into the background and providing very important softening of the outlines of the proposed garage/outhouse building as set out in Planning Application 16/00828, which would stand stark and dominating without them.

Godshill Parish Council wishes to point out that the required Arboricultural Method Statement has yet to be received, is not included with this application and work to the trees given permission in the planning application has already started.

3. This application is contrary to Condition 5 of the Decision Notice which clearly states that 'no development shall take place until a scheme of landscaping of the site shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the New Forest National Park Authority.

As no landscaping plan has been submitted thus far, the Parish Council is unable to determine whether there are any plans to replace any of these well-established trees. It would assert, however, that any replacement trees would not provide adequate screening for many years to come.

4. The Bat Report for Planning Application 16/00828 states: "Bat foraging and commuting activity was recorded along all site boundaries ...and it is important that this use of the site is not disrupted."
5. Furthermore, Condition 14 of the Decision Notice states that the tree root protection measures shall be erected prior to the construction of the temporary access. Despite this condition, work on the temporary access has already started and should be halted until the tree root protection fencing is in place.

When Godshill Parish Council drew the applicants' agent's attention to the difficulties which the fencing would cause for construction logistics, he gave assurance that these difficulties would easily be overcome by the use of small vehicles such as dumper trucks. Large numbers of mature trees should not be removed simply to alleviate construction logistics problems.

6. When concerns were voiced at the time of the planning application that the removal of the big ash tree could cause rainwater drainage problems, reassurance was given that as there were so many other surrounding trees to take up the water, no drainage problems would occur. Godshill Parish Council is concerned that this reassurance may not apply if the northern boundary trees are removed.
7. Point 11.5 of the Committee Report states that the dwelling does not form part of the "street scene", and is viewed in isolation of other surrounding buildings. The Arboriculturist's report paragraph 3.1 which will have influenced this statement is set out below:

*"The significant trees and vegetation relating to the proposed development are the trees and informal hedging along the road frontage of the site, along the east side of the garden and occasional individual trees along and near the east, south and west boundaries. The setting of the site is rural and although there are other dwellings along the unadopted lane, the general character is of trees, vegetation and small pastures, all very secluded and quiet."*

Unfortunately, however, if the removal of the trees on the northern boundary is permitted, the new buildings will certainly become part of the "street scene", very obvious to view from the access track as well as from the properties above.

Godshill Parish Council deplores what it regards as an immoral practice of submitting a Tree Works application following an approved planning application which breaks all commitments and promises made in that planning application's documents in what now appear only to have been submitted in order to gain planning permission.

Granting permission for the removal of more than 30 prominent major trees within a protected area would be likely to set a precedent which could be enthusiastically taken up in other well-wooded sites to the detriment of the landscape and environment.

**160.16 Following a request of County Cllr Edward Heron, to consider whether to support an application to the Department of Transport for the installation of Average Speed Cameras on the B3078 for the purpose of reducing animal deaths and to consider possible locations:** Following a brief discussion and comments from Cllr Heron, Cllr Draper proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that Godshill Parish Council should give its support in principle to the proposal.

**161.16 To consider and resolve to agree on any comments to make on the route and plans for the New Forest Sportive on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017 being run by UK Cycling Events:** Cllr Draper proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that no specific comments be made. Cllr Cakebread asked all councillors and members of the public present to ensure that they look out for and keep a record of any breaches of the highway code as well as any other incidents.

**162.16 To consider and resolve to agree a response to the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel on the efforts of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to tackle rural crime across the parish:** Following a brief discussion, Cllr Draper proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Fell be delegated the authority to respond on the Parish Council's behalf.

**163.16 To consider and resolve to agree a response to the Department of Transport's consultation on the 'Benefits of Drones to the UK Economy':** Following a brief discussion, Cllr Draper proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Fell was the best qualified member to respond and that he be delegated the authority to respond on the Parish Council's behalf.

**164.16 To consider an email from Ms Lucie Cooper of the NPA regarding the planting of a native hedge along the northern boundary of the Village Hall Car Park and to resolve to approve a planting scheme in order to be compliant with the planning permission:** Cllr Draper proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council should be compliant with the requirements of the planning permission and that a native hedge be planted in the autumn in accordance with the National Park's 'Native species hedgerow planting guide'.

**165.16 To consider and resolve to agree on any tasks for the Parish Lengthsman for his March visit:** Cllr Draper proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should respond saying that there were no tasks for this month. She should also contact Mr Peter Stammers to pursue the repairs to the kissing gates on the footpaths.

**166.16 To resolve to approve the following payments:**  
**£10.00 - Cllr Draper – For refreshments for the December meeting.**  
**£77.94 – Viking – Printer cartridges and ream of paper.**  
**£31.10 - 1&1 Internet Ltd – Website annual web hosting from April 2016 - payment to Mrs B Cornish.**  
**£145.80 - Mrs B Cornish – For annual Home working allowance, Phone, postage and travel to Lyndhurst for Licensing meeting & two NFALC meetings at Lyndhurst.**

Cllr Cakebread proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the payments be approved.

**167.16 Finance and Policy:**

**a. To resolve to approve the payment of the Accounts:** Cllr Lintonbon proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

	£	Cheque No.
Cllr C Draper - For December refreshments	10.00	100509
Viking - Printer cartridges and paper	77.94	100510
B Cornish - 1&1 web hosting	31.10	100511
B Cornish - Annual expenses	145.80	100511
B Cornish – March Salary	313.40	100512

**b. To resolve to approve the Bank balances – Cheque and Reserve Accounts:** Cllr Cakebread proposed, Cllr Fell seconded and it was resolved that the following balances be approved and noted:

Current Account: £12,424.09 Deposit Account: £579.62

**168.16 Outside Bodies and Representation:**

**Licensing Committee:** Cllr Cakebread gave a very brief report on a recent meeting at which the Premises Licence for Cypress Log Cabins was approved. She said that the Parish Council was given additional evidence from the applicants on her arrival at the meeting and although she and the Clerk were given extra time to read it and consider a response, it was not really sufficient. However, she said that she had done her best and the Committee had not appeared to take account of any of the issues raised by the Parish Council or by Mr Boyd.

**Western Escarpment Conservation Area Steering Group:** Cllr Draper proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

**169.16 To resolve to note the Correspondence received:** Cllr Draper proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted:

1. New Forest National Park Authority – An email from the Policy Team advising of the Authority's recent 'Call for Brownfield Sites', running from 22 February to 5 April 2017.
2. Mr Michael Paul – An email following a telephone call stating that he is acting for Away Resorts and is being asked to explore the building of a connection between Sandy Balls and the main sewer at Fordingbridge.
3. New Forest National Park Authority – An email from Mr David Illsley enclosing a summary of the responses received during the public consultation held on the National Park Authority's *draft Local Plan 2016-2036* late last year.
4. New Forest District Council – An email from Ms Lucy Buis advising of New Forest District Council has been awarded Community Housing Funds from Central Government. The funding has been provided to authorities who have a large proportion of second homes in their area and whether the Parish Council is interested in receiving any information about Community Led Housing models as a form of delivering housing in the Parish.
5. Friends of the New Forest – An email advising of the AGM being held in Minstead Village Hall on Saturday 22nd April at 10.00am.
6. Rotary Club of Fordingbridge – An email seeking nominations for the Rotary Club of Fordingbridge Citizen of the Year Award 2017.

7. Mr M LeRiche – An email seeking clarification on speaking at a Parish Council meeting and a request for a copy of the January Minutes.

**170.16 Any Other Business:** No issues were raised.

**171.16 Next meeting:** Cllr Draper confirmed the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 11th April 2017.

With no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

*Members of the Council considered the foregoing in the matters in consideration of their duties: Equal Opportunities, (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability); Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, and Human Rights.*