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## **Minutes of Council Meeting Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 6.30pm at Beaulieu Village Hall**

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### **Present**

Cllr. N. Hubbard (Chair), Cllr. M. Dolbear (Vice Chair), Cllr. A. Cowie, Cllr. C. Knight, Cllr. S. Steele, Cllr. S. Reece, Cllr. J. Rowland

### **In Attendance**

Mrs Pearson; Mrs N. Deering (Clerk)

### **2635. Apologies and Confirmation of Agenda**

Apologies were received from Cllr. K. Mans, Cllr. D. Poole and Mr N. Barwood. The agenda was confirmed.

### **2636. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2637. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

### **2638. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record.

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr. Dolbear, seconded by Cllr. Steele and agreed unanimously.

### **2639. Representatives' Reports**

Hampshire County Council – Cllr. Mans was not present.  
New Forest District Council – Cllr. Poole was not present.  
Police reports had been circulated.

## **2640. Forestry England Car Parking Charges – Update**

The Chair reported that Forestry England intended to proceed with the introduction of car parking charges on the following Monday. Members discussed concerns regarding the consultation process, legal considerations and the availability of supporting documentation.

The Council discussed correspondence with Forestry England and the need to ensure the Council's concerns were formally recorded. It was noted that Environmental Information requests had been submitted and that certain information may be withheld under exemptions.

Members also discussed verge parking enforcement arrangements and the possible impact of displacement parking within the village.

Resolved: The Council agreed to send a further letter to Forestry England.  
Proposed by Cllr. Cowie, seconded by Cllr. Steele and agreed unanimously.

## **2641. 2026 Annual Parish Meeting Planning**

The Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed for Thursday 15 May 2026 at 6.00pm at Beaulieu Village Hall.

The Council agreed that the meeting should focus on encouraging parishioner engagement and providing updates on High Street parking, planning matters, finance and Forestry England car parking issues. The Police would be invited to provide a short presentation followed by a public question and answer session. Refreshments would be provided.

## **2642. Council Updates**

### Playground and Recreational Field

Cllr. Cowie reported that there was little new to report. The playground bark surface would require topping up and the forthcoming ROSPA inspection in May was noted. A volunteer session was agreed for 9.00am on Saturday.

### Road Safety Update

Members discussed a recent road traffic incident involving a pedestrian. CCTV footage was being reviewed in an attempt to identify the vehicle involved. Members also discussed ongoing road safety concerns and the importance of maintaining effective CCTV arrangements.

### Community Awards Scheme

The Council discussed proposals for a community awards initiative aimed at recognising individuals and organisations making a positive contribution to the parish. Members agreed that the initiative should be community-led, with Parish Council sponsorship and support. Possible categories and launch arrangements were discussed.

## **2643. Public Participation**

Mrs Pearson reported that the lid had become detached from the small roadside waste bin near the bus stop. Concerns were also raised regarding flooding across the pathway and erosion caused by stones being washed away.

## **2644. Representatives' Reports**

Forestry England / NFCC / CDA / NFALC Updates

Members noted further information regarding the Forestry England charging scheme, including the use of ANPR systems and alternative payment arrangements.

### **Planning Update**

Cllr Steele reported the Planning Coimmittee had had considered two planning applications:

1. **Little Marsh**, This proposes relocating the existing access track to the Summer House and Boat House, further to the north, and creating a turning circle at the western end of the track. The new track would be surfaced with hoggin, and the old track sown with meadow seed. It requires the removal of a small section of the existing man-made lake and footbridge. Recommend permission but will go with the NPA's decision. Will confirm when we have the parish briefing and the conservation officer's report. It is not likely to damage the landscape or ecology.
2. **Home Farm**, Replacement roof, new application. Had a site visit. The new proposal is considered a better solution for the refurbishment of this listed building and will help ensure its long-term survival. It will be an improvement on the existing building, so will benefit its curtilage and the Conservation Area, and will have a minimal impact on neighbouring amenity. Recommend permission, but will go with the NPA's decision.

Cllr. Steele also reported that she had received an extension on the Penerley Farm application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the continued occupation of 34 units of seasonal-worker living accommodation, so that it will be considered at the next Planning Committee meeting on May 19th. She proposed a site visit on Thursday May 7th at 11.00 am.

Resolved: Planning update approved.

Proposed by Cllr. Hubbard, seconded by Cllr. Dolbear and agreed unanimously.

### **Asset Management**

Repairs to the bus shelter had been completed and replacement timbers installed.

### **Twinning Garden**

Maintenance works were ongoing and seasonal planting arrangements were being progressed.

### **Speedwatch**

Members discussed proposals to purchase a speed indicator device and the potential for grant funding support.

### **2645. Finance**

Members discussed arrangements for the 2026 AGAR review and agreed that a Finance meeting would be arranged.

The year-end financial position showed a surplus of approximately £3,000, broadly in line with forecasts. Reserved funds for asset management were noted.

Monthly payments were noted.

### **2646. Correspondence**

Correspondence previously circulated was noted.

### **2647. Items for Future Meetings**

No additional items were raised.

### **Action Points**

Responsible	Action
Chair / Clerk	Issue further correspondence to Forestry England setting out the Council's concerns.
Cllr. Reece	Circulate verge parking reporting link to councillors.
Chair / Clerk	Finalise arrangements and agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.
Playground Volunteers	Undertake playground maintenance session and inspect bark surfacing.
Chair / Relevant Members	Review CCTV arrangements relating to recent road traffic incident.
Cllr. Cowie	Consider draft publicity/flyer ideas for the proposed community awards scheme.
Planning Committee	Arrange Pennerley Farm site visit prior to the May meeting.
Chair / Cllr. Steele	Review deposit arrangements and reserves management.
Chair / Cllr. Poole	Discuss possible grant funding for a speed indicator device.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.