



Flat One, Palace Stable Yard
Beaulieu, Hampshire SO42 7YL

✉ clerk@beaulieu-pc.org.uk
☎ 07825 309333

Minutes of Council Meeting
Thursday 19th March 2026, 6.30pm at Beaulieu Village Hall

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Cllr. K. Mans, Cllr. D. Poole, Mr N Barwood, Mrs Pearson, Mrs. N. Deering (Clerk)

2622. Apologies and confirmation of agenda.

Cllr. J. Rowland
Agenda confirmed.

2623. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

Cllr. Hubbard thanked Cllr. Mans at his last meeting, praising his experience and wishing him well in retirement. Cllr. Mans expressed appreciation for working with parish councils, noting their valuable volunteer work and the importance of rural areas. He mentioned that Cllr. Poole is a candidate for his seat and discussed possible government decisions about UAs, which may be determined soon or after May elections. He hopes for the District Councils' view without an extra UA in the north, likely resulting in West Hampshire and Southampton instead of South Hants. The mayor will take office in 2028, and sorting £136m over two years is positive news.
2624.

Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Hubbard passed his onto Cllr. Steele on a planning item in Furzey Lane.

2625. Minutes of Last Meeting

Cllr. Hubbard apologized for the delayed Minutes. Cllr. Hubbard advised reviewing them, highlighting planning issues and suggesting comments be sent to him and the Clerk for revisions. Cllr. Cowie reported ongoing email problems, unable to send messages due to auto-responses. Cllr. Hubbard explained that email quotas require regular deletion or archiving to prevent system issues; the Clerk's quota was increased by Trevor Smith. Everyone should keep their inbox volume down please.
Proposed: Cllr. Dolbear. Seconded: Cllr. Steele All Cllrs. In agreement,

2626. Representatives Report's.

HCC – Report above

Cllr. Poole reported that many issues had already been covered by Cllr. Mans. He noted that further clarity on UA may be available following discussions on Monday and that NFDC has established protocols in place. He advised that the process is complex and largely taking place behind the scenes, and that residents may need reassurance as there is unlikely to be any visible change in the short term.

Discussion turned to the proposed Forestry England parking charges. Cllr. Poole acknowledged the Parish Council's correspondence and expressed frustration at the lack of clear responses and feedback from Forestry England. Cllr. Hubbard asked whether Sir Julian Lewis MP had received a response to his letter. Cllr. Poole confirmed that a response had been received following media engagement and agreed to forward a copy, noting that Beaulieu Parish Council had not yet received

it. Cllr. Hubbard referred to the recent Quadrant meeting attended with Cllr. Reece, where Forestry England had committed to providing risk assessments and further details, which have not yet been received despite follow-up requests. He advised that the Parish Council had therefore submitted an information request and is seeking a pause to the project until adequate information is provided. Cllr. Poole supported this approach, agreeing that it is appropriate to challenge the proposals. He reported that East Boldre Parish Council shares similar concerns. He highlighted early signs of displacement parking at Deerleap/Colbury, with measures already being introduced to restrict parking. Cllr. Dolbear commented that any revenue generated should be reinvested locally. Cllr. Hubbard noted that while Forestry England generates significant income elsewhere, the New Forest is unique due to free-roaming animals, high visitor numbers, and the density of car parks near populated areas. He emphasised that this type of scheme has not previously been implemented in such a context. Cllr. Mans agreed that the New Forest car parks are fundamentally different from those in other areas. Cllr. Poole reported that NFDC councillors had received a briefing from Forestry England, which was robustly challenged, particularly on the lack of concessions for Blue Badge holders and the proposed charging structure. He noted that responses were unclear and that there was considerable concern among councillors. In response to a question from Cllr. Cowie regarding potential leverage, Cllr. Poole indicated that Sir Julian Lewis MP is likely to take further action within the next month and that wider public concern may increase. He also noted that, to date, feedback from the wider public has been relatively limited. Cllr. Hubbard outlined plans to issue a press release and share correspondence via the Parish Council website, as well as to circulate this to other town and parish councils across the New Forest. The intention is to build wider support for the position that the scheme should not proceed without full risk assessments and proper consultation. Cllr. Mans reflected on the formation of the National Park, noting that earlier proposals had also generated significant public opposition, demonstrating the importance of local engagement.

Planning Matter – Update

Cllr. Steele raised a planning issue previously discussed with Cllr. Poole. It was noted that the application had been submitted as a householder application, which limited the level of assessment required. However, given the scale of the proposed building, it would have been more appropriate for it to be submitted as a full application under relevant planning policies. It was considered that the National Park Authority should have identified this at an early stage and advised accordingly, which may have avoided the current situation. While there was sympathy for the applicant, it was noted that approval under the current application could set an undesirable precedent. Cllr. Poole suggested that the application is likely to fail in its current form and that the applicant should consider resubmitting under the correct application type

Police – Reports circulated.

2627. Local Government Reorganisation - Discussed above.

2628. 2026 Annual Meeting Planning – Community Awards Proposal

Cllr. Hubbard introduced a proposal for the Parish Council to sponsor a community awards scheme to recognise and celebrate local achievements. He suggested that, rather than being run directly by the Parish Council, the scheme could be independently judged by a panel drawn from across the community, with the Parish Council acting as sponsor. Indicative award categories discussed included Community Champion, Leadership Award, Volunteer of the Year, Contribution to the Community, and Community Organisation of the Year. It was suggested that awards could potentially be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting or a similar community event. Councillors were generally supportive of the principle. Cllr. Reece noted that such a scheme could increase engagement and encourage wider participation in community activities. Cllr. Steele raised a practical point regarding timing and presentation of the awards. Cllr. Cowie sought clarification on the purpose of the initiative. In response, Cllr. Hubbard emphasised that the aim is to recognise success, strengthen community cohesion, and encourage positive contributions. It was also noted that similar initiatives can help foster a stronger sense of community identity. Members of the public present were supportive,

highlighting the value of recognition and the potential to improve community engagement. It was also noted that once established, the scheme would be expected to continue annually. Cllr. Hubbard invited councillors to give further thought to the proposal, including suggesting potential judges, and confirmed that the item will be brought back to a future meeting for further consideration.

Wessex Internet Public Meeting: Cllr. Hubbard reported that discussions have taken place with Wessex Internet regarding a public meeting for residents. It was agreed to provisionally hold the meeting at the Village Hall on Wednesday 20 May at 6:00pm. The meeting will include a presentation from Wessex Internet (approximately 25 minutes) followed by a Q&A session. Representatives from the police will also be invited. Good attendance is anticipated and arrangements will be made to manage numbers appropriately.

2629. Council Updates

Road Safety Update

Cllr. Cowie reported a meeting with representatives from Hampshire Byways, which provided limited assistance but suggested contacting Highways to confirm when a formal safety assessment was last undertaken. Cllr. Hubbard noted that a Highways officer had previously attended a Parish Council meeting and will seek to identify and contact them. He also reported that a Speed Data Recorder (SDR) is available, although confirmation from Highways is awaited. It was proposed to install the SDR at Harlicks Hill near the Farm Shop, subject to identifying a suitable post. Cllr. Hubbard will follow up and confirm arrangements.

Playground and Recreational Field

Cllr. Cowie reported no significant issues and noted a reduction in litter. A gate matter has been raised with Mrs. Pearson.

Cllr. Steele advised that bark is required ahead of the forthcoming RoSPA inspection, and the Clerk will arrange this for May. A volunteer working party will be organised, with a date to be agreed.

Councillor Training Update

Cllrs. Knight and Reece attended the Knowledge and Core Skills course, which was reported to be very beneficial.

Electronic Banking Update

Cllr. Hubbard reported that the Clerk has not yet been fully set up for electronic banking. Lloyds Bank has also not completed the requested removal of former signatories. Cllrs. Hubbard and Steele will arrange for this to be completed.

Data Protection

All councillors now have Parish Council email addresses. The Clerk's electronic files, including email and Microsoft files, are fully backed up to iCloud on her new computer, and the password for this access has been shared with the chair, who will keep it secure.

Forestry England Car Parking Charges

Cllr. Hubbard referred to the draft letter previously circulated. Councillors discussed ongoing concerns regarding the scheme, including lack of information, safety risks, and impacts on vulnerable groups. It was noted that Forestry England has not provided information previously committed to, which was considered unacceptable. Concerns were also raised regarding the scale of implementation, enforcement capacity, and early evidence of vandalism and displacement parking. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should continue to apply pressure and be seen to take reasonable steps to raise concerns. It was agreed to:

- Send the letter to Forestry England and relevant parties
- Issue a press release
- Circulate correspondence to other New Forest town and parish councils
- Write to the Information Commissioner's Office
- Consider writing to the police regarding safety concerns

Mr. Barwood offered to provide additional contact details to support wider distribution.

Public Participation

None.

Cllr. Hubbard thanked Mrs. Pearson and Mr. Barwood for attending.

Representatives' Reports

Cllr. Reece reported concerns regarding visitors feeding and interacting with ponies and suggested engaging local businesses to help raise awareness. It was agreed to explore this further. Cllr. Hubbard noted that wider community information may be better suited to the existing village website, which is hopefully to be managed locally. A meeting has been arranged with Mr. Bishop-Western to discuss future development. Cllr. Reece also highlighted local environmental talks, noting that attendance has been low.

Planning Update

Cllr. Steele reported that the Planning Committee had met prior to the Parish Council meeting.

- **Spearbed Copse:** Application for discharge of conditions reviewed; concerns raised regarding materials. A site visit will be arranged and the Planning Officer asked to delay determination.
- **Hides Field:** Further ecological information (crested newt survey) received; Parish Council will note and respond accordingly.
- **Little Marsh:** Deferred to next month.
- **Home Farm:** Extension granted; minor amendments noted. A site visit will be arranged.

Asset Management

Cllr. Steele reported that the bus shelter works are expected to be completed shortly.

Twinning Garden

Maintenance of the gravel path is required due to weed growth. Mrs. Pearson will arrange appropriate treatment.

Speedwatch

Cllr. Hubbard reported that locations and actions are being compiled.

Finance

Cllr. Hubbard reported that finances remain on track, with a bank balance of £26,014.

Payments approved:

- Beaulieu Village Hall – £75.00
- Paul Deakin – £129.50
- CET Room Hire – £19.20
- Bus shelter works – approved
- NFDC litter bin emptying (£5,374.73 + VAT) to be approved for payment next month.

Correspondence

Noted: Clerks & Councils Direct, Elan City, Glasdon brochure, and notification regarding Scott Cottage (Housing Association property). Details to be published on the website and noticeboard.

Items for Future Meetings

None.

Meeting closed at 8:15pm