



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

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

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Thursday 16 July 2026, 6.30pm at Beaulieu Village Hall

Present: Cllrs N. Hubbard (Chair), M. Dolbear (Vice Chair), S. Steele, A. Cowie, C. Knight, S. Reece and J. Rowland.

In attendance: Mr C. McGill and Nicky Deering (Clerk).

2676. Apologies and Confirmation of Agenda

Apologies were received from Cllr D. Poole, Mr N. Barwood and Mrs R. Pearson. The agenda was confirmed.

2677. Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed members and visitors and noted that the Beaulieu Village Fete would take place on Saturday 18 July. He highlighted its importance as the community's principal annual fundraising event.

2678. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Dolbear declared an interest in matters relating to Penerley Farm.

2679. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Chair apologised for the delay in issuing the June minutes, which had resulted from a software problem. The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 June 2026 were approved as a correct record, subject to comments submitted by Cllr Cowie.

Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Dolbear, seconded by Cllr Reece and agreed.

2680. Representatives' Reports

a) Hampshire County Council / New Forest District Council

Cllr Poole had circulated a written update. Members noted that he was continuing discussions regarding lighting in the Forestry England car parks and that a further substantive update was unlikely before September.

The Chair reported that Cllr Poole had spoken with Cllr. Steve Forester of Hampshire Highways, who is proposing to visit the New Forest area. Members agreed that a meeting would be useful to consider the condition and maintenance of the B3054 and adjoining roads, including the effects of high traffic volumes, patch repairs rather than resurfacing, drainage and gutter clearance, damage to verges and highway infrastructure, and pedestrian safety. Particular concerns included narrow footways, loose kerbs, vibration and noise, Palace Lane Hill and Harlick Hill.

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Thursday 16 July 2026, 6.30pm at Beaulieu Village Hall

Resolved: That a meeting be sought with Hampshire Highways, with Cllrs Knight, Dolbear and Cowie invited to participate alongside the Chair and Cllr Poole.

b) **Police**

The police reports previously circulated were noted.

2681. Forestry England Car Parking Charges - Update

The Chair reported that the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Nature had written directly to the Council confirming that DEFRA would review issues arising under the Equality Act in relation to Forestry England's charging scheme. Members welcomed this as a significant development. The Chair had placed the relevant documentation on the Council website and would update the other town and parish councils involved. Council considered that the charging arrangements should remain under review and that any material revised proposals should be subject to proper public consultation. The Chair proposed writing further, referring back to the Minister's mandate and copying the correspondence to the Minister. The Chair proposed circulating draft documents to members for comment before issue.

Resolved: That the Chair circulate the proposed correspondence and, following members' comments, write on behalf of the Council. Proposed by Cllr Dolbear, seconded by Cllr Rowland and agreed.

2682. Council Updates

a) **Playground and Recreation Ground**

Cllrs Cowie and Steele reported that the playground remained in good condition. The latest RoSPA inspection identified no high- or medium-risk items and no equipment requiring immediate repair. The low-risk observations were consistent with the age of the equipment and included minor deterioration to timber, matting and parts of the fencing and gates. Vegetation near the school-side gate required cutting back.

Cllr Steele would walk the site with Cllr Cowie. Members noted that the RoSPA inspection also satisfied the Council's insurance inspection requirement. The Chair thanked both councillors for their continuing work in maintaining the playground.

b) **Road Safety Update - including Penerley Farm**

Members discussed concerns raised by residents about large vehicles entering and leaving Penerley Farm and the associated highway safety issues. Members also raised the recently installed barriers beside the cattle grid; they noted these had now been painted black and were considerably less visually prominent.

Council recognised that Beaulieu is a working rural community and that agricultural and commercial vehicles necessarily use local roads. However, members considered that vehicle speed, particularly through the village and at constrained access points, remained the principal safety concern. Experience with potato lorries had shown that direct engagement with operators could help reduce speeds.

Members agreed that the Council should write to New Forest Fruit Farms, note the concerns raised, and ask the company to ensure drivers take appropriate

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Thursday 16 July 2026, 6.30pm at Beaulieu Village Hall

precautions. The letter should address the Penerley Farm access issue alongside the broader problem of vehicle speeds through the village. The possible future use of a Speed Indicator Device in the area was also noted.

Resolved: That a draft letter be circulated to members before being sent to New Forest Fruit Farms. Proposed by Cllr Steele, seconded by Cllr Knight and agreed.

c) **Community Awards Scheme**

The Chair noted that Council had already agreed to sponsor the Community Awards but intended the judging process to be community-led. Nominations would not open until the autumn. The panel should include a broad mix of established and newer residents, with one councillor likely to serve but not normally to chair.

Possible panel members were discussed. Cllr Steele suggested Christine Dare as a potential Chair and agreed to approach her informally. Other possible members might include Evelyn Docherty, Billy-Jane Jenman and Charles Cooke-Hurle. The panel would need to consider further names before finalising.

d) **Governance**

Members considered the draft Chairing Meetings Code of Practice introduced at the previous meeting. The guidance sets out the standards expected of the person chairing a meeting and provides a reference point for councillors and members of the public attending Council and Planning Committee meetings.

Members agreed that, where a meeting was expected to be difficult or well attended, it would be helpful to remind attendees in advance that discussion is conducted through the Chair. The Code should be published on the Council website and, where appropriate, linked from meeting information sent to attendees.

Resolved: That the Chairing Meetings Code of Practice be adopted and published. Proposed by Cllr Dolbear, seconded by Cllr Steele and agreed.

2683. Casual Vacancy Update

The Chair reported that two applications had been received for the casual vacancy. The Clerk would invite both candidates to attend formal interviews in early September, after which Council would make an appointment at its September meeting.

2684. Vice Chair's Annual Review Update

The Vice Chair confirmed that the annual councillor review process would be completed before the September Council meeting.

2685. Public Participation

Mr McGill thanked Council for allowing him to attend. In response to a question from Cllr Steele, he commented that the meeting was relaxed, members engaged well with one another and there was good village engagement.

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Thursday 16 July 2026, 6.30pm at Beaulieu Village Hall

2686. Representatives' Reports

CDA / NFALC / NFCC / Forest Update

Members noted that the pannage season would run from 14 September into November. Advice from the Official Verderer was reiterated, stating that householders are responsible for fencing their property against depastured animals. The Council agreed that a reminder should be posted on the Beaulieu Community WhatsApp group. Cllr Reece offered to provide suitable information from the Official Verderer concerning public behaviour around ponies and other livestock for publication on the Council website and other channels. Members also noted concerns around equine flu and that the New Forest Drive might have been cancelled.

The next Quadrant meeting was due on 11 August. The Chair would be away but had already circulated correspondence concerning Forestry England car parking charges.

Planning

- a) Little Marsh, Park Shore - Summer House: The Planning Committee had considered the lawful development application and concluded that, on the balance of probabilities, the summer house appeared to have been used as ancillary accommodation for at least ten years.
- b) Clobb Gorse Lodge: Members noted the Committee's concerns regarding the proposed three-bay garage. Following a site visit, the proposal was considered excessive in height and footprint, insufficiently subservient to the main dwelling and inconsistent with relevant design and environmental policies, including DP37, DP18 and SP7. An existing two-bay structure was already present on the site.
- c) Bramble Cottage, Furzey Lane: Council had supported the proposed new barn. The original household application had been superseded and the proposal was expected to return as an agricultural building under permitted development.
- d) River House, Dock Lane: Members discussed the application to discharge Condition 18 relating to glazing. Given the property's prominent riverside position, Council remained concerned about light transmission and night-time visual impact. The information submitted did not, in members' view, demonstrate adequately how the proposed glass would perform in practice. Cllr Rowland had discussed the matter with the National Park Authority and further supporting information was considered necessary; a mock-up was suggested as a potentially useful way of assessing the effect.
- e) Penerley Farm: Council noted the outstanding application and confirmed that its earlier representation had been submitted on the basis that, on the balance of probabilities, the relevant buildings had existed for at least ten years. The National Park Authority had reached a different evidential view and the Council's formal role in that matter was now complete. Members nevertheless noted the substantial economic importance of the New Forest Fruit operation to the local community.

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Thursday 16 July 2026, 6.30pm at Beaulieu Village Hall

- f) Hayters Mead and 1 The Hummicks were also noted as current planning matters.

Asset Management

Cllr Cowie reported on the Beaulieu Village Hall AGM. Car park works included removing a tree and old earth, with one additional parking space expected and replacement planting proposed. The BVHT committee would clarify whether any planning permission was required.

The Village Hall was considering further improvements, including air-conditioning and increased use as a wedding venue. Members noted the potential benefits and the need for the Hall to consider any planning, licensing and Estate requirements.

Twinning Garden

The hose had not yet been relocated, and the dry weather was making watering demanding. Cllr Steele and Lindy Shanks were watering approximately twice each week. The Clerk was asked to thank Mrs Shanks for her work and asked whether a wider watering rota could be arranged. The position regarding possible other paid assistance remained outstanding.

Speedwatch

The Chair reported that a speed enforcement van had recently operated at the top of Palace Lane Hill. Members reiterated the need to progress grant applications towards the purchase of Speed Indicator Devices.

2687. Finance

The monthly finance report was received and noted. Expenditure remained in line with expectations.

The schedule of payments presented to Council included:

Payee	Amount / note
RoSPA	As invoiced [£247.20]
Clerk	£307.67
Beaulieu Village Hall	£60.00 - approved; invoice to be chased
Paul Deakin	£55.50
HALC	As invoiced [£378.00]
Krystal Hosting Ltd	£247.18 - paid by the Chair's debit card and reimbursed with approval

Members agreed that the Council should obtain its own debit card to avoid the need for councillors to incur card expenditure personally on the Council's behalf.

Resolved: That the payments be approved. Proposed by Cllr Dolbear, seconded by Cllr Reece and agreed.

2688. Correspondence

Correspondence previously circulated, including Clerks & Councils Direct, was noted.

2689. Items for Future Meetings

The next Planning Committee meeting would be held on Monday 14 September and the next full Council meeting on Thursday 17 September 2026.

The meeting closed at 7.41pm.

Minutes of the Council Meeting

Thursday 16 July 2026, 6.30pm at Beaulieu Village Hall

Action Points

Responsible	Action
Chair / Cllr Poole	Arrange a meeting with Hampshire Highways; include Cllrs Knight, Dolbear and Cowie as appropriate.
Chair	Circulate the draft Forestry England / DEFRA correspondence and issue it following members' comments.
Cllrs Steele / Cowie	Walk the playground site and follow up the low-risk RoSPA observations, including vegetation near the school-side gate.
Chair	Circulate and send the agreed road-safety letter to New Forest Fruit Farms.
Cllr Steele	Approach Christine Dare informally regarding possible chairing of the Community Awards panel.
Chair / Members	Continue to identify and establish a Community Awards judging panel before nominations open in the autumn.
Clerk	Publish the Chairing Meetings Code of Practice and use it when circulating information for potentially difficult or well-attended meetings.
Clerk / Chair	Arrange interviews for the two casual-vacancy candidates in early September.
Vice Chair	Complete the annual councillor reviews before the September Council meeting.
Clerk	Post a panning / fence-against reminder on the Beaulieu Community WhatsApp group.
Cllr Reece	Provide suitable Official Verderer guidance on behaviour around ponies/livestock for Council publication.
Cllr Cowie	Clarify the planning position for the Village Hall car-park works.
Clerk	Thank Mrs Shanks for her work on the Twinning Garden and ask about a wider watering rota.
Chair / Clerk	Progress grant applications for Speed Indicator Devices.
Clerk / Chair	Arrange a Council debit card.