

Flat One, Palace Stable Yard, Beaulieu, Hampshire SO42 7YL
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Minutes of Council Meeting Thursday 20th November 2025, 6.30pm

Present:

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

In attendance:

Cllr. K. Mans, Mrs. Pearson joined the meeting at 6.55pm. Mrs. N. Deering (Clerk)

2583 Apologies and confirmation of agenda:

Apologies from: Cllr. Cowie, Cllr. Rowland and Cllr. Poole.

The draft agenda previously circulated was confirmed.

2584 Chair's opening remarks

Cllr. Hubbard welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Cllrs. if it would be a good idea to go to Montys after December meeting. All agreed.

2585 Declarations of interest in current agenda

None.

2586 Minutes of last meeting

Cllr. Hubbard said he appreciates comments in advance. Thanked Cllr. Reece for her comments saying there are going to be 10 rangers employed by Forestry England not 11. Cllr. Hubbard will change.

Proposed: Cllr. Dolbear Seconded: Cllr. Reece. Unanimously agreed.

2587 Representatives reports

HCC – Cllr. Hubbard noted that HALC reported a government consultation on LGR, with responses due by 11th January. Cllr. Mans favoured modifying the county's version for cost-effectiveness over savings and will contact local MPs; Cllr. Hubbard will also draft a letter for MP approval at the next meeting. Next year's budget includes funding for an electronic speed sign, following the success of the speed watch programme. Grants from the Police and Crime Commission are only available for larger devices and Cllr. Hubbard asked whether an HCC grant may be possible. Cllr. Mans advised applying promptly. Cllr. Steele inquired about council tax gradings, which may change. Cllr. Hubbard thanked Cllr. Mans.

NFDC - Not present.

Police – An alert was circulated. Cllr. Hubbard reported three calls from police about area thefts; rural crime has drawn police attention, but the impact on local gangs is unclear. There have been no thefts for three or four weeks.

2588 Draft Three Year Plan

Councillor Dolbear chaired the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting. The plan was reviewed and found satisfactory. Inflation was mainly projected at 2.5%, with a few exceptions. The main new item was the proposal to install a solar-powered electronic speed sign on Palace Lane hill, with an option for additional posts in high-risk areas (subject to Beaulieu Estate agreement). The proposal is to purchase one sign first and consider a second maybe in subsequent years. Regulatory compliance, installation distances, and bi-directional data collection must be verified.

The proposed precept is £22,332 (2025/26: £19,469), an increase of £2.70 per year for a Band D household (a 7.5% increase). Please email Cllr. Hubbard or the Clerk with any questions. Pending adjustments, adoption and Precept inclusion are planned for next month.

2589 Council Updates

- **Playground & Recreational Field:** Mrs. Pearson reported that Cllr. Cowie inquired about benches and goal posts. Lord Montagu agreed, provided the Headmistress also approves. Benches will need paving slabs, and goal posts must be movable for other field activities. Cllr. Hubbard stressed that these proposals are not in the BPC's 3 year plan, but understood FOBS has some funds. Comment that wooden benches have a shorter lifespan, while metal ones are more costly but would last longer and with low maintenance. Security is a key concern for the new Headmistress; currently, the playing field is locked until 6pm and open on weekends, with the main gate also locked. As winter approaches, access is less of an issue. Discussions with school staff included security measures, preventing children from leaving, fencing, and possibly installing CCTV due to limited barriers. Cllr. Steele said Cllr. Cowie did check and there is a strut on the enclosed swing which she has repaired and will ask Paul Deakin to tighten. Do not think it needs a new seat, but need to monitor it. Agreed the playground is in good shape. May need to get a quote for the cradle at some stage. Said the top of the little gate, the wood is degrading, think someone tried to climb over it. It is the one that looks down the track. Mrs. Pearson noted this.
- **Councillor Training Update:** Clerk said the next Knowledge & Core Skills course is fully booked and next one is in March. Cllr. Hubbard asked Clerk to reserve two places for Cllrs. Knight and Reece, who will confirm availability.
- **Electronic banking:** Cllr. Hubbard noted that two months after sending the forms, the bank had not received them. This is being re-submitted. Getting the Clerk set up remains a priority.
- **Data protection** – Cllr. Hubbard confirmed the website is complete and set up the Clerk on parish email via iPad in under 10 minutes. As already advised access to the new email accounts is available through Google with a password (also already supplied), no app required. Personal email addresses should not be used in future please. Cllrs. Dolbear, Knight, and Reece still need to switch; they should notify all council members by email once done.
- **BPC Identity** – Cllr. Hubbard noted that the council currently lacks an identity or logo. Creating one is not a high priority and must not incur any significant cost. With AI tools, design specs can be created easily and an example was circulated. For a logo representing the community, it was suggested to highlight up to four items: history with the abbey, New Forest, commoning, farming, the river including reference to historical boat building and also

current-day recreational boating. Response to the example was supportive with comments to make the church more accurately resemble the BAC and also include a clearer reference to farming. Cllr. Cowie agreed to help in this activity.

2590 Public participation

Mrs. Pearson said she was going to see the Police and Crime Commissioner on Thursday and mentioned the lack of response until recently. She said it's about rural crime. Cllr. Hubbard asked if she could mention access to speed device grants. She also said she got back to Cllr. Cowie about the 'walking man' warning on the road by the bridge. The council approved Cllr. Cowie speaking to HCC and the Estate and reporting back to the council on options.

2591 Committee & representative's reports

CDA/NFALK/NFCC/ Forest update - Cllr. Reece attended meetings about new car park charges and noted that there is a lack of clarity on charging rates etc. Nigel Stone (NPA) agreed that Forestry England should write to each parish outlining proposals and risk assessments for areas like Hatchet Pond, and share findings with the Clerk. Reece suggested Richard Burke attend parish meetings regarding overflow parking. Parking revenue will go to the wider FE Southern region, not just to the NF. Cllr. Steele shared from the Sustainable Transport meeting that there is a push toward cycling over driving, but no responsibility for providing buses.

Planning Update –

25/01086 and 25/01087LBC – Montagu Arms Hotel, Palace Lane, Beaulieu. SO42 7ZL - Installation of bi-fold doors on the eastern elevation of the Terrace Restaurant.

BPC recommend permission for the following reasons but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's officers under their delegated powers. 1) Proposal unlikely to damage the fabric of the listed property. 2) The proposal not felt to impact negatively on the Conservation Area or neighbouring properties.

25/01126 FULL – Harford House, Harford Heath, Beaulieu. SO42 7YL – Ground mounted solar array; associated cabling.

BPC recommends permission for the following reasons but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's officers under their delegated powers. 1) The proposal is felt to be compliant with SP14 as is modest in size and designed to service the needs of the dwelling. 2) The proposal is not visible from public view.

Asset Management – Bus Shelter, Cllr. Steele said Messrs Smith and Braithwaite have examined the bus shelter and provided a quote of £700 + VAT. They would like to remove the existing roof and replace the timbers, with a quote of £420.00, making the total estimated cost £1,120 + VAT, with a 20-year guarantee. Cllr. Steele mentioned she would forward the details to Mrs. Pearson. Cllr. Hubbard suggested that the Beaulieu Settled Estate contribute 50% of the pre-VAT cost as the shelter was not a parish council asset. Cllr. Hubbard proposed to approve the work subject to Mrs. Pearson confirming the Estate's position.

Proposed: Cllr. Hubbard

Seconded: Cllr. Dolbear

Twinning Garden – Cllr. Hubbard said its dormant and in good shape at the moment. Cllr. Steele has written to volunteers. Mrs. Pearson said the children will grow bedding plants and the Estate will supply the plug plants. Mrs. Hale very keen and says it is educational.

Speed Watch – Nothing to report.

2592 Finance

Monthly Finance Report circulated. Cllr. Hubbard said in line with budget with a £1,642 net loss for the month. Asset Management costs are mainly playground. Written to Mr. Morley re Twinning garden costs, requesting a 50% contribution of £187. VAT claim to be submitted by the end of December.

Bank Payments to approve. BVH £210 including October. Paul Deakin £92.50, Clerk £292.65, HMRC £10.80, HALC £53.50. Royal British Legion - in the past, we have donated £70; this year, we propose a better wreath and suggest £100. Ashdown Software £69.58

Proposed: Cllr. Reece

Seconded: Cllr. Steele Unanimously agreed.

2593 Correspondence

Clerks & Councils Direct, Glasdon Brochure, ICO Security Number and confirmation of payment

2594 Items for future meetings – None.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm.