BEAULIEU
PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Council Meeting

Thursday 15 October 2026, 6.30pm · Beaulieu Village Hall

Present: Cllrs M. Dolbear (Vice Chair), S. Steele, C. Knight, S. Reece, D. Tyers and A. Cowie (from 6.45pm).

In attendance: Cllr D. Poole; Ms N. Carass (Go New Forest); Mrs N. Deering (Clerk).

2705. Apologies and confirmation of agenda

Apologies were received from Cllr N. Hubbard and Ms R. Rogers (Go New Forest). The agenda was confirmed.

2706. Vice Chair's opening remarks

Cllr Dolbear welcomed those present.

2707. Declarations of interest

Cllr Hubbard had declared an interest in the planning application for Brock Cottage, Furzey Lane.

2708. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved. Proposed: Cllr Steele; seconded: Cllr Tyers. Agreed unanimously.

2709. Representatives' reports

HCC/NFDC: Cllr Poole reported continuing financial pressures at Hampshire County Council and efforts to address the backlog of highway repairs. He confirmed that NFDC had not decided whether to withdraw its commercial waste collection service; a public consultation was under way ahead of budget decisions. Councillors stressed the importance of the service to High Street traders, particularly given the lack of space for individual bins. Cllr Poole encouraged the Council and businesses to respond formally and undertook to share the consultation link and closing date.

Cllr Poole had pursued the Council's request for advance notice of High Street sweeping with senior NFDC officers. He also supported the Council's draft correspondence on local highway and lighting matters. Councillors raised blocked drainage connections despite gully clearance; Cllr Poole agreed to investigate. Traffic counters had recently appeared near Leygreen and Hilltop. Progress on speed indicator devices was reported, with NFDC Community Safety now involved. A request for a meeting with HCC Highways was included in the Council's proposed letter.

Police: The report was available on the Council website.

2710. Go New Forest – High Street promotion

The Council welcomed Ms Nic Carass, who outlined Go New Forest's work promoting the area and its proposal for a digital campaign highlighting Beaulieu's independent High Street businesses. Councillors emphasised the importance of supporting local traders, particularly following difficult trading conditions, while recognising the need to manage visitor pressures and parking sensitively.

The proposed campaign would feature approximately ten businesses through online editorial and social media content, with the potential for an initial Christmas focus and subsequent updates. Go New Forest would liaise directly with traders to develop the material, with the Parish Council providing support. The financial proposal was considered under minute 2716.

2711. Approval of correspondence and Annual Parish Meeting

The Council considered draft letters to HCC, NFDC and a parishioner. It agreed to defer the car park lighting letter pending Cllr Hubbard's return, to allow the wording to reflect the wider concerns raised. Proposed: Cllr Steele; seconded: Cllr Tyers. Agreed unanimously.

The letter to the parishioner was approved for issue. Cllr. Cowie suggested further consideration of pedestrian safety, and it was agreed that, subject to agreeing revised wording with Cllr. Hubbard on his return, the letter is approved for issue. Proposed: Cllr. Tyers; seconded: Cllr. Reece. Agreed unanimously.

The Annual Parish Meeting was confirmed for Saturday 1 May 2027 at 6.00pm in Beaulieu Village Hall, with Lord Montagu attending. The Council approved the flyer for the parish magazine. Proposed: Cllr Reece; seconded: Cllr Steele. Agreed unanimously.

2712. Council updates

Emergency and Community Resilience Plan: Cllr Tyers reported on a productive initial meeting involving representatives of the Council, Beaulieu Estate, Beaulieu Primary School, Countryside Education Trust, Fire Brigade and a parishioner. Work would focus on key risks, notably fire, prolonged power outages and severe weather, together with practical communication arrangements, including during loss of power. Cllr Steele would assist with communications. Experience from Brockenhurst was also being considered.

CCTV: The Council had received estimates for servicing and repairs, including investigation of the High Street camera. Bellord & Brown had indicated that its internet connection might offer a solution to existing connectivity difficulties. Potential additional CCTV coverage at Fire Station Lane was being explored separately. The Council approved the service and repair work, all of which has been budgeted. Proposed: Cllr Reece; seconded: Cllr Cowie. Agreed unanimously.

Playground and recreation field: Cllr Cowie reported a rotten gatepost at the playground entrance nearest the High Street and continuing dog fouling near the double gate. Action: Clerk to ask Mrs Pearson about repair of the gatepost.

Community Awards: Mrs Christine Dare had agreed to chair the independent judging committee and would recruit its members. The scheme and nomination materials were being prepared for launch, including distribution through the parish magazine and online nominations.

Forestry England car park charging: The Council awaited a substantive response from Defra to the matters raised and would continue to follow up. A forthcoming South East Quadrant meeting was noted.

Casual vacancy: No applications had yet been received. Councillors were encouraged to identify potential candidates. Additional support for the Planning Committee was also sought, potentially from a non-councillor member.

2713. Vice Chair's annual review

Councillors were asked to send further comments to Cllr Dolbear. The review would return to the November agenda.

2714. Public participation

None.

2715. Other representatives' reports, planning and assets

CDA/NFALC/NFCC/Forest: No updates.

Planning – Brock Cottage, Furzey Lane: The Council considered proposals including a single-storey extension, rooflights, alterations to the annexe and fenestration, a greenhouse, air-source heat pump and demolition of the conservatory. It recommended permission, while accepting a decision by New Forest National Park Authority officers under delegated powers, on the following grounds:

1. The main dwelling proposals were considered appropriate to this non-designated heritage asset and compliant with DP36 regarding habitable space.
2. The annexe proposals were supported subject to compliance with DP36 and an overall increase in habitable space of no more than 30%.
3. The greenhouse was considered subservient to the main dwelling and compliant with DP37; its siting was left to the National Park Authority.
4. Overall, the proposals were considered sympathetic to the natural and historic environment, with limited impact on local character.

Proposed: Cllr Reece; seconded: Cllr Dolbear. Agreed unanimously.

Royal Mail parcel box: The planning officer's initial view was that the single unit benefited from permitted development rights and did not materially affect the conservation area or nearby listed buildings. The Council noted that additional units could raise different considerations.

Asset management and Twinning Garden: Cllr Steele asked Cllr Cowie to assist in organising a rolling three-month maintenance rota following Linda Dearing's retirement from that role. Autumn maintenance was planned.

2716. Finance and governance

Banking: The Council approved applications for three Lloyds Bank debit cards for Cllrs Hubbard and Steele and the Clerk. Proposed: Cllr Reece; seconded: Cllr Tyers. Agreed unanimously.

Monthly finance report: The Vice Chair reported that the Council's finances remained healthy. Payments reported were: Clerk's salary £296.67; Beaulieu Village Hall £60.00; Paul Deakin £55.50.

Remembrance wreath: Expenditure of up to £100 was approved. Proposed: Cllr Reece; seconded: Cllr Steele. Agreed unanimously.

Go New Forest: The Council considered available budget flexibility and the proposed promotional package for independent High Street traders. It agreed that the activity should be trader-led, with Go New Forest working directly with participating businesses. Cllr Tyers would prepare a brief setting out the objectives. Proposed: Cllr Tyers; seconded: Cllr Steele. Agreed unanimously.

The Council approved expenditure of £1,000 for the digital promotion package, stated to have a value of £1,250. Proposed: Cllr Steele; seconded: Cllr Tyers. Agreed unanimously.

2717. Correspondence

The Council noted Mr Hartwell's letter concerning stock fencing and wire. Action: Cllr Dolbear to forward it to the Estate.

2718. Items for future meetings

None. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.