

Whitsbury Parish Council

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held Monday 5th January 2026 at 7pm in Whitsbury Village Hall

Present: *Cllr G Dominey, Cllr S Husher, Cllr G Thompson, Cllr Foreman*

In Attendance: *1 Member of the public, District Cllr Janet Richards and Mrs M Hildreth (Clerk)*

26-001-Attendance and Apologies for Absence- *To receive and record -Cllr C Harper absent*

26-002-Declaration of Interest- *Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011: None*

26-003-Minutes of Previous Meeting- *For Approval & Signature of the minutes of the meeting held 11th NOV 2025. The minutes of the 10th of November meeting were declared correct and signed by the Chairman.*

26-004- Open Public Forum – *The public is invited to speak on items relevant to the parish. This shall take no longer than 15 minutes and time is shared with all speakers. Member of the public reported a post by Lower Grove car park is broken and rotten.*

26-005-Matters Arising- *All items from 10th Nov 2025 have been actioned or will be reported on later in the meeting.*

26-006-Reports – *To hear reports by County and District Councillors, E.Heron and J.Richards – District Cllr Richards did not have a report this time.*

26-007- Policy Adoption- *To discuss and adopt the following policies:*

26-007.1 -Data Protection Policy- Resolved to accept the policy

26-007.2- Data Privacy Policy- Resolved to accept the policy

26-007.3-Freedom of Information Fee Structure- Resolved to accept the policy

26-007.4-IT Policy- Resolved to accept the policy

26-008- Digital and Data Compliance- *To discuss and decide on steps to become compliant with assertion 10 of the Annual Governance Accountability Return – Resolved* to spend £50 initial cost and then £4 a month for a new '.gov.uk' website and emails. The Whitsbury.com website will remain until all information is transferred.

26-009- Asset List- *To review and agree on the asset list – Resolved* to accept list with 2 minor corrections.

26-010-Church Footpath- *To discuss and decide what action to take to improve the footpath-Quote presented of £2950+VAT or £2526 +VAT from 2024. Resolved* to accept new quote if it is in line with inflation. Anything higher to be discussed again at future meeting. Contractor to be asked which option would last longest and that is to one to be used. Cllr Thompson to contact Cllr Harper about the quote and Les Player about the path as it is on church property.

26-011- Local Government Reorganisation-*To discuss and decide – Resolved* to have Cllr Husher fill the survey in on behalf of the Council. A document of pros and cons presented to the Council to be used as representing the Council's opinion of each reorganisation option.

26-012-Fordingbridge Library- *To discuss and decide what might be done to help Fordingbridge library* -Cllr Foreman wrote to Fordingbridge Council about more books or subscriptions for the library. They have written back to say they are not contacting Hampshire County about this currently. Matter to be left at this time. Whitsbury's little lending library is doing well, and all are encouraged to take and give books.

26-013-State of Roads-*To discuss and decide what could be done to encourage road improvements*-The public is encouraged to report potholes on fixmystreet.com or hants.gov.uk/highways/report-a-problem/potholes. Cllrs have reported the diversion signs that have been left, various areas with standing water and any local potholes.

26-014-Handrail- *To have an update on the progression handrail project* -**Resolved** to pay invoice of £471 when received as the handrail has been completed satisfactorily.

26-015-New Forest Design Code- *To have an update on the progression of the working group* -**This is not complete yet but is being actioned. A representative from New Forest to come help advise. Report not due until February.**

26-016- Village Maintenance Group- *To have an update on the organisation of a village maintenance Group* -**A risk assessment has been created to address various kinds of maintenance in the village. These are to be distributed to council members. Projects yet to be decided.**

26-017-Emergency Plan-*Update on the progress of the emergency plan* - **A basic plan is in place. There is a draft created that is available.**

26-018- Alternative public transport-*To have an update on any progression towards a public transport*-**District Cllr Richards will have more information at the next meeting. She does have some costings that were done by Fordingbridge Council.**

26-019-Finance and Clerk's Report-

- Statement of accounts. **As of today, Community Acc- £7068.67, Commercial Inst Acc -£5569.25**
- Road improvements payment. – **Grant payment of £1600 received for road works completed.**

To approve payment of the following accounts:

- Clerk -15 extra hours July-December-£240 **Resolved** to pay for these extra hours

26-020- Budget 2026/27 – To review, discuss and adopt a budget for the 26/27 financial year. **Resolved-** to accept the proposed 26/27 budget with an expenditure of £7218 and a precept of £3000. The precept would equate to a Band D of £27.91.

26-021-Minor Matters and Items for Next Agenda- Councillors to report minor matters and items for future agendas.

- Update on development at Fiddlesticks Farms • Village Show taking place 1 AUG 2026
- Explore '20 is plenty stickers' to be given to place on rubbish bins

Posted 19th January 2026

Next meeting date: **16th March 2026**

Melissa Hildreth, Clerk to the Parish Council

Meeting Dates 2026: 16 March, 18 May (Assembly & ACM), 20 July and 26 October