

WHITSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING AT 7.00PM ON 27TH MARCH 2023 IN WHITSBURY VILLAGE HALL

1. Attendance Register, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllr G Thompson (Chairman), Cllr C Harper, Cllr H Sutton, Cllr G Dominey

Apologies: Cllr D Bellini

In Attendance: Mr & Mrs Ambrose, Mr C Cobb-Smith, Mr S Husher, Mrs J Kinsey, Mrs S Locock,
Cllr E Heron (HCC and NFDC), Mr E Hale (Clerk)

No Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the current Council before elections

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 9th January 2023

Accepted as a true record. The Chairman signed the previous minutes to confirm this

3. Items raised by Members of the Public.

A request to paint over road markings at the Downs road junction has been raised with HCC

4. Report by HCC and NFDC Cllr Heron

Cllr Heron said how important it is to record any road issues on the HCC website, and there is now an App 'pick my street' for this. He can find out more details on any reported issues if you have the number. Cllr Heron said this would be his last meeting as the NFDC Councillor but he will continue as HCC Councillor for this area and will still attend meetings when he is available

5. Coronation Celebrations

Mrs Locock gave an update on village plans for Sunday 7th May. The village will give mugs to all children and these will also be available to buy. At 11am there will be a Church service. At 2pm there will be chariot racing using wheelbarrows or similar transport with prizes for best decorated in age groups. Ladies hats and men's bow ties will also be judged. There will be egg throwing and a tug-of-war. There will not be teas but a barbeque from 5.30pm at The Cartwheel which will be free to residents. At 6pm the National Anthem will be played and the cake cut by the oldest resident. During the evening a bonfire will be lit on the gallops with £1,000 of fireworks. Funding is from the Village Hall and there will be full details in the next Newsletter. Cllr Thompson thanked Mrs Locock

6. Financial Report and Payments

The current balances in the accounts are £10,630.54 and £2,494.78, making a total of £13,125.32. The current account has reduced by £17.68 following a payment of £217.68 to Mr S Husher for Village Plan printing, but a grant of £200 towards these costs received from Cllr E Heron. The Clerk asked for approval of a £71.86 payment to Mr Husher for website hosting, which was approved

7. Planning Applications

No current consultations. There has been an application for works to five trees at 1 St Leonards View. Councillors discussed the proposals but did not wish to object

8. Village Plan

The Chairman raised the following items for review:

Emergency Contacts. Mr Cobb-Smith said there would be numbers for four villagers published who will be available to respond if any residents have emergencies. Cllr Heron said other villages have similar arrangements, and may have boxes of emergency equipment available in their Village Halls

Events. The monthly soup mornings and coffee mornings have been well attended and are examples of the response to the request for events from the village consultation. Some events have raised funds for charity

Litter Picking. Mr Husher said the last pick was cancelled as much litter had already been collected by a resident. He also asked to clarify if the Council insurance would cover this. Cllr Thompson said he thought it would be covered providing it has been arranged as a Parish Council event

9. Whitsbury World

Mr Husher said the wild verge has a barrier around it to prevent accidental cutting

10. Speed Reduction

Cllr Dominey said HCC have submitted updated proposals for traffic calming with a quote of £4,900 for them to carry out the work. Cllr Sutton asked if the 30mph limit could be extended, but Cllr Heron said this would need a Traffic Regulation Order, which would cost around £15,000. He said he could provide a grant of up to 50% of traffic calming costs, but he could not fund TROs as villages must pay for those themselves. There have been examples where residents have objected to works after schemes have started and work has had to stop, which increases costs. Cllr Harper said he would support 'Slow' markings on roads but did not want signs as this would make the village more urban. Cllr Heron said white lines along road edges can increase speed of traffic as drivers feel more secure. Councillors agreed to discuss this more at the next meeting

11. Broadband

Cllr Dominey said the contract is still due to be awarded in April 2023. Cllr Heron said the New Forest has a separate contract as this is the only way to reach many areas. The main Hampshire contract is likely to provide services to urban areas as these are cheaper to achieve targets

12. Correspondence

The Clerk had received a grant application from New Forest Disability Services. Councillors agreed all the Parish grant funds would be paid to Citizens Advice as this has a local service for villagers

13. Any Other Business

Whitsbury Green. Cllr Thompson had asked if the development in Fordingbridge should be allowed to use this name. It seems there are no restrictions on what names developers use but NFDC will set the final street names. Cllr Harper had also spoken to Pennyfarthing about this

Jim Dyer Funds. Cllr Sutton asked if there could be an open Village Meeting to discuss this money. Cllr Thompson agreed and suggested residents submit proposals. Cllr Sutton to organise this

Play Area. Cllr Harper asked if children could play at the new Open Space. Councillors agreed the area is available for this but there is no parking nearby

Open Space Cutting. The Clerk asked if the number of cuts could be agreed with Mr Colborne as this is a major Parish Council expense. Cllr Harper agreed to discuss this with Mr Colborne

14. Next Meeting

7pm on Wednesday 24th May. This is a revised date as not all Councillors can attend earlier dates Other meetings will be on Mondays 31st July and 30th October 2023.

This meeting closed at 8.20pm

Edward Hale 30.03.2023